

Welcome to Chestnut Hill Academy!

Dear Families,

As the Head of School, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to our community. At Chestnut Hill Academy, we believe that every student has the potential to become a visionary leader, and our mission is to nurture that potential in a supportive and enriching environment by developing global leaders, problem solvers, and life-long learners, one child at a time.

In this look book, you will discover the unique opportunities that await your child. Our innovative curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, collaboration, and ethical decision-making, equipping students with the skills they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Our dedicated faculty are not just educators; they are mentors who inspire and challenge students to pursue their passions and develop their unique voices.

We understand that choosing the right school for your child is a significant decision. We invite you to explore our vibrant community, learn about our diverse programs, and see how we foster a culture of leadership that extends beyond the classroom. Whether through service learning, extracurricular activities, or student-led initiatives, we empower our students to make a positive impact both locally and globally.

Thank you for considering Chestnut Hill Academy as the next step in your child's educational journey. We look forward to partnering with you in cultivating the future leaders of tomorrow.

Holly Senaga

Head of School

Lindsey Roseland

Assistant Principal





Admissions Viewbook

2024-2025

A peek at our program

The academic program at CHA is rigorous yet flexible, designed to accommodate the varying readiness and abilities of each child. We emphasize core subjects alongside co-curricular activities such as Spanish, Music, Art, Computer Science, Physical Education, and Library. Our approach also prioritizes the holistic development of each student, focusing on their attitudes and values, which are just as essential as mastering specific academic skills.

Language Arts

From Kindergarten through 5th grade, students at CHA cultivate fundamental skills in reading, writing, grammar, speaking, and critical thinking. Throughout their educational journey, they engage in structured programs such as Handwriting Without Tears, Daily 5 Café, Wired for Reading, and Writer’s Workshop.

Beginning in 1st grade, students at CHA are working at an accelerated pace, typically working one grade level ahead.

"Chestnut Hill Academy has been a wonderful education, both academically and emotionally for our daughter. We have felt included in our daughter's education and received excellent communications from the faculty and teachers. She will be moving on to her next education opportunity well-rounded, independent and an avid learner."

Social Studies

At CHA, students engage with the TCi Social Studies curriculum, supplemented by multi-disciplinary and hands-on projects that facilitate real-world application of concepts. In 4th grade, they use a Washington-state history curriculum called Washington, My Home. Additionally, each grade completes the required OSPI unit from "Since Time Immemorial," allowing students to learn about the First Nations of our region through their own narratives.



Math

Our students engage with Dimensions Math, part of the Singapore Math Curriculum. Through hands-on learning experiences, they develop proficiency in problem-solving, reasoning, communication, and the application of mathematics across various subjects. Our curriculum encompasses a comprehensive range of mathematical topics, including algebra, probability, geometry, measurement, numeration, patterns, and operations.

All students are placed in leveled math groups, working in curriculum at, or one year above, grade-level.

Science

At CHA, our students utilize Mystery Science as their primary science curriculum. Throughout their educational journey, they will participate in hands-on experiences exploring physical, life, earth, and space sciences. Employing the 5E instructional model, students will formulate hypotheses, gather evidence to support their claims, and draw conclusions through practical experimentation.

Furthermore, students across all grade levels engage with Engineering is Elementary to deepen their understanding of the engineering process.





Specialist Classes

During their time at CHA, our students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of specialist classes. Specialist classes are a wonderful opportunity for students to get exposure in areas outside of academics. All students will attend each specialist class twice a week.

Our specialist teachers add richness and depth to our curriculum through classes listed below.



Art

Computer Science

Music

Library

P.E.

Spanish



Extended Day Program

Our extended day program is available for all CHA students. AM extended day runs from 7:30-8:30 AM and is a great time for students to spend time with one another and get settled in for the day. PM extended care runs from 3:30-5:30 PM. During this time, Instructional Assistants in each grade level implement a daily routine that includes a snack break (with students required to bring their own nut-free snacks), a brief recess, and a lesson designed to enhance the Leader In Me program within the Extended Day Programs.

Extracurricular activities

CHA offers a variety of extracurricular classes for students to participate afterschool. Some include:

- Music
- Art Club
- Chess
- Karate
- Mandarin
- Soccer
- Yoga
- And Many More!

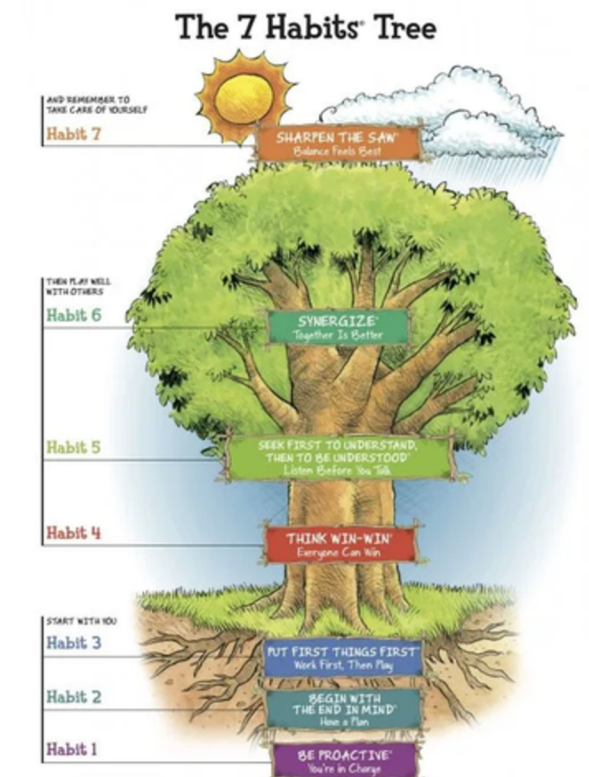
Camp

Childcare is available to all CHA students during conference days and intersession. Campers enjoy themed weeks filled with diverse activities exploring art, technology, science, music and more!



Leadership

As a Leader in Me school, Chestnut Hill Academy is committed to the development of the whole child. Leader in Me is a K-12 comprehensive school improvement model that fosters collaboration between educators and families to develop students into capable leaders. By cultivating a leadership culture within schools, administrators and staff can align efforts with parents/guardians, reinforcing shared values and principles at home. This partnership ultimately prepares students for success in college, careers, and life. Chestnut Hill Academy has been implementing the Leader in Me program since 2009.



Learning Beyond the Classroom

At CHA, we encourage our students to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Students in grades K-5 have the opportunity to participate in field trips, which may include both local excursions and longer, overnight experiences. Local field trips are designed to align with the curriculum and may involve visits to museums, farms, theater performances, and similar activities.

Our 4th and 5th grade students will have the opportunity to participate in an extended overnight trip during the spring semester. Fourth graders will visit Islandwood Environmental Education School on Bainbridge Island for a four-day experience that allows them to explore the wonders of the natural world and understand the positive impact they can have on their environment. Fifth graders will embark on a week-long trip to Washington, D.C., aligned with their civics curriculum. During this visit, they will deepen their knowledge of the nation's capital, explore historic sites, and gain insights into government systems.

Ski Program

A highlight of the CHA experience is our ski program, which runs for five weeks each January and February. Each week, students travel by bus to the Summit at Snoqualmie for morning ski lessons, followed by lunch in the lodge and an afternoon of skiing before returning home.

No prior skiing experience is required, as many students are beginners while others have several years of experience. Regardless of skill level, our community comes together for enjoyable days filled with memorable experiences.



"My children have attended Chestnut Hill Academy since Kindergarten. You will not find a more inclusive, rigorous, and character building primary education provider in the greater Seattle area."



Lunch Program

At Chestnut Hill Academy, we prioritize the health and well-being of our students, recognizing that nutrition is fundamental to their daily lives. Our students benefit from a diverse selection of well-balanced and enjoyable meals, prepared in our on-site commercial-grade kitchen. Our menu features a broad spectrum of ingredients and cultural influences, ensuring that students experience a variety of cuisines from around the world.

Students have the option to either pre-order a lunch or bring a packed lunch from home.

At Chestnut Hill Academy, we aim to create a pleasant and social lunchtime experience for our students.



CHA Community

At Chestnut Hill Academy, we recognize that community is central to our mission. Our community-building events and volunteer opportunities not only foster connections among parents but also cultivate a vibrant environment for families to thrive collectively. During their time at CHA, students and families will have the chance to participate in various community-building events, including:

- Popsicle Party
- Chippy Picnic Parties
- Fall Festival
- Math Night
- Festival of Peace and Light
- Field Day
- Rock the Walk
- Scholastic Book Fair
- 3rd-5th Grade School Musicals
- And Many More!





CHA at a Glance

368 students enrolled K-5th grade
 16 students per class on average
 7 years average teaching experience amongst staff
 58% of teaching staff have a master's degree
 26 languages
 28 zip codes
 34 nationalities
 Differentiated curriculum
 Computer lab
 10,000 volume library
 Art Studio
 Gymnasium
 Hours of Operation: 7:30-5:30 PM

"The emphasis on leadership is one of the hallmarks of CHA. There are several programs but what is more impressive is how leadership is embedded into the daily culture and climate of the school. Students are expected to take ownership of their actions and develop a bias for moral and social action. It is evident in all aspects of student - teacher - faculty interaction."

A
 Leader in Me™
 School

Diversity and Inclusion

The CHA community is diverse and inclusive, comprising children, families, and faculty from over 40 countries. It aims to create a culture that values every individual, celebrating unique differences across various dimensions, including race, culture, religion, ability, age, family structure, gender, ethnicity, economic status, appearance, and other protected classes. Every year, we invite families to share their cultural celebrations with our community through presentations, performances, craft engagements, and more!





The Journey at CHA

K

Unique Experiences and Enrichment:

- "Market Day" - exploration of goods and services
- 100th Day of School
- Superflex social learning with Dr. Gusty-Lee Boulware
- Mystery Readers

1

Unique Experiences and Enrichment:

- Accelerated ELA curriculum begins
- Students begin eating in the Cafe
- Students begin using academic planners
- Superflex social learning with Dr. Gusty-Lee Boulware

2

Unique Experiences and Enrichment:

- Teachers begin specializing in subject-area instruction
- Invention Convention
- "Data Detectives" leadership role

3

Unique Experiences and Enrichment:

- Cursive handwriting instruction begins
- Morning announcements
- Singing at Bellevue Square
- She-ros, Mothers, and Others Brunch
- Donuts with Daddies and Dear Ones
- Students participate in Spring Musicals

4

Unique Experiences and Enrichment:

- Students go to Islandwood's outdoor environmental education overnight trip
- Green Team
- Social Studies focus on WA State First Nations

5

Unique Experiences and Enrichment

- Students go to WA DC
- Hall of Leaders Wax Museum
- Planning Snowcoming Week
- Organization of school-wide Food Drive
- Student Lighthouse
- Introduction of Latin for vocabulary development.
- Hi-5 Club





Admissions at CHA

Chestnut Hill Academy opens its online application process for the following year on September 1, but you can submit an inquiry [here](#) at any time. Submitting an inquiry is the first step in connecting with our admissions team. During this step, you'll create an account on Ravenna which is where you'll schedule a tour and submit your application materials.

Age Requirements: Kindergarten applicants must be 5 by August 31st to be considered for the following school year.

Student Admission Visit

K-1st Grade: Students applying for Kindergarten or 1st Grade will come in for one hour as part of a small group experience, and to assess general social-emotional and academic skills.

2nd-5th grade: "Chipmunk for a Day" - Students applying for 2nd-5th grade will come to visit in the classroom from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM to experience a day in the life as a CHA Student, in addition to an assessment with our admissions team.



Application Checklist

Chestnut Hill Academy currently uses Ravenna as its online admissions platform. Through Ravenna, you'll be able to complete an application, submit all necessary forms, register for any tours or open house events, and sign up for your child's student admission visit.

Inquire and apply

- ☐ Complete a family profile on [Ravenna](#)
- ☐ Attend a Tour or Open House. You can self-register for any available date on your Ravenna profile.
- ☐ Submit an application and fee on Ravenna.

Teacher Evaluation Forms

- ☐ Submit a teacher recommendation form on Ravenna. This should be completed by your child's current teacher.
- ☐ 1st-5th Grade: Submit school transcripts.

Student Admission Visit

- ☐ Schedule a student admission visit- K-1st grade.
- ☐ Schedule a "Chipmunk for a Day" visit: 2nd-5th grade.

Timeline

- September- Applications open
- October 26- Open House
- January 4- Open House
- January 17- Application deadline
- January 24- Deadline for all supplemental application materials.
- March 21- Admission decisions are sent to all families.
- March 28- Deadline for Enrollment Agreements for families.





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