St. Martin's
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

2026-2027
Middle School
Curriculum Guide

St. Martin's Episcopal School
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The Middle School program at St. Martin's Episcopal School serves grades five through eight and is designed to support students' academic, physical, artistic, and spiritual growth during these transformative years. As an Episcopal school, we honor each student's individuality and foster a nurturing environment where intellectual curiosity thrives, personal values are cultivated, and students are guided toward becoming responsible, ethical leaders.

Our curriculum is carefully crafted to balance academic rigor with opportunities for creative expression, physical development, and personal growth, preparing students for the challenges of high school and beyond. Through small class sizes and a commitment to whole-child development, St. Martin's students grow into thoughtful, well-rounded individuals ready to engage meaningfully with the world.

Goals of the Middle School Program at St. Martin's:

- Foster academic growth, leadership, and spiritual development in a supportive and challenging learning environment that helps students discover and embrace their purpose.
- Ensure that every student feels seen and valued as a child of God by creating lessons that celebrate diverse perspectives, nurture fairness and inclusion, and honor the dignity of each individual.
- Nurture creativity, critical thinking, and innovation by combining interdisciplinary learning with technology and hands-on projects, enabling students to solve problems and apply their knowledge in real-world situations.
- Cultivate leaders who, through service projects, collaborative teamwork, and reflective learning, grow in compassion, inclusion, and social responsibility, and who are prepared to guide others with kindness and empathy in an interconnected world.
- Equip students with the executive functioning skills essential for managing their academic tasks, such as time management, organization, and effective study techniques, while promoting

independence and self-discipline—skills that are valuable both in the classroom and beyond.
- Build a strong partnership between school and home by keeping parents actively engaged and well-informed, creating a community that nurtures both academic success and personal growth for every student.

Middle School Programming
We provide educational programs that complement the core academic curriculum and reflect our commitment to the development of the whole child. Our programs encourage students to engage deeply with their learning, explore their passions, and develop important life skills.

Core Academic Classes by Grade Level

Click the grade level below for more detailed descriptions of the curriculum at each grade level.

5th Grade **6th Grade** **7th Grade** **8th Grade**

Experiential Learning
Experiential Learning is woven into the fabric of the Middle School program, offering students opportunities to take their academic knowledge beyond the classroom walls. From grades 5 through 8, students participate in a series of community field trips, retreats, and overnight, multi-day learning experiences that connect classroom lessons to real-world applications. These carefully curated trips are designed to foster personal development, leadership, and teamwork, all while immersing students in diverse environments, from historical landmarks to natural ecosystems.

Each year, students embark on overnight trips that are directly tied to curriculum. Overnight trips engage students in outdoor education, historical tours, and team-building activities that reinforce invaluable life skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving. Trips to Washington, D.C., and The Grand Canyon round out the middle school experience, providing lasting memories of their time at St. Martin's.

These shared experiences strengthen bonds among peers and teachers, creating a sense of community and trust. At St. Martin's, these trips are an integral part of holistic education, and the inclusion of costs in tuition ensures that all students can take part in these transformative experiences.

Interdisciplinary Projects

Building on St. Martin's tradition of hands-on, experiential learning that begins in Early Childhood and Lower School, interdisciplinary projects at each grade level immerse middle school students in collaborative, inquiry-based learning that develops critical thinking and teamwork skills. By integrating content from multiple subject areas, these projects connect classroom learning to real-world challenges and adapt to students' interests each year. This flexible, student-centered approach encourages inquiry, iteration, and creativity, ensuring that each project reflects the school's mission and values as well as the passions and perspectives of our students. Inspired by real-world problems, these cross-curricular projects invite students to consider multiple perspectives and develop comprehensive solutions. Many projects culminate in a community event where students showcase their work, fostering school pride, unity, and a shared sense of accomplishment.

Advisory Program

Our Advisory Program serves as a daily touchpoint for middle school students, offering a structured and supportive environment to start their day with intention. Each morning begins with a devotion, setting a reflective tone rooted in Episcopal values. After devotion, students engage in a brief activity, followed by reflection. This time helps students ground themselves spiritually and mentally, providing space for personal reflection and collective focus.

The Advisory Program touches on key themes that are central to the St. Martin's mission, including community building, inclusion, and social-emotional learning. Advisors facilitate discussions that address personal and academic growth, exploring topics like empathy, leadership, and responsibility.

This program fosters strong relationships between students and their advisors, encouraging trust, open communication, and personal accountability. By addressing academic and social-emotional needs, our Advisory Program supports the whole child, ensuring that students feel seen, heard, and valued as they navigate their middle school years.

Community Time

Community Time is a vital part of middle school life, bringing students together for meaningful conversations, engaging presentations, and shared experiences that strengthen our sense of belonging. Designed to emphasize unity and connection, these gatherings highlight the values of inclusion and collective reflection. Activities vary throughout the year and align with broader school themes such as leadership, civic responsibility, and global awareness. Guest speakers offer valuable perspectives on social, cultural, and ethical issues, while interactive events and group projects encourage collaboration and foster a strong, supportive community spirit.

Middle School Clubs

Middle school students are given the opportunity to choose from a wide selection of clubs that happen once a month during Community Time. Clubs are designed around student interest each year and provide students the opportunity to pursue a specific passion or broaden their interests. Yearbook, Warrior TV, Chess, Cheer, Baking, Pinewood Derby, Pickleball, Japanese, and Creative Writing are just a few of the clubs that have been popular, but offerings change from year to year as student interests evolve.

Service Learning

Service learning is an integral part of our mission to educate the whole child, spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally. At St. Martin's, the Service Learning program builds essential leadership skills, encouraging students to take initiative, work collaboratively, and understand the importance of civic engagement. Service to others is a reflection of Episcopal faith and values. Through service learning, students have opportunities to apply what they learn in the classroom to meaningful real-world experiences, living out the teachings of compassion, generosity, and empathy.

All students participate in divisional and grade-level service projects throughout the year. These initiatives are developmentally tailored to each age group, offering students hands-on experiences that foster a deeper understanding of community needs and social responsibility. Middle school students work with Good Samaritan Health Center, The Atlanta Mission, The University of Georgia's Marine Institute, and local animal shelters.

Leadership Development
The middle school years offer exciting opportunities for leadership, and we encourage students to take on guiding roles that actively shape a positive and inclusive school culture. Through participation in Student Council, Student Vestry, Honor Society, and Student Ambassadors, students learn the importance of responsibility, integrity, and decision-making. Beyond the classroom, leadership continues to grow in extracurricular programs such as clubs and athletics, where students strengthen essential skills that prepare them for success in high school and beyond.

Weekly Chapel & Religion Classes
Every week, middle school students gather to worship, read scripture, hear a chapel talk and sing hymns. The chapel format pulls from the rich diversity of liturgies from The Episcopal Church. Students can participate in chapel as acolytes, lectors, officiants, and chalice bearers. The student vestry offers additional leadership opportunities such as ushering, sacristy duties, and planning of services.

Meaningful and academically substantive religion courses are taught in 5th-8th grade focusing on Church History, Old Testament, New Testament, World Religions, Philosophy and Ethics. Middle School students learn ways to apply Biblical principles in everyday situations and connect Biblical insights with their own.

Kairos Learning Center
St. Martin's Episcopal School offers a unique learning environment for students in grades 1–8 diagnosed with dyslexia through its Kairos program. *Kairos*, an ancient Greek word meaning "the critical or opportune moment," reflects the program's mission to support students at just the right time in their learning journey. In middle school, the goal of Kairos is to help students manage the increasing demands of their academic responsibilities. The approach shifts from intensive remediation to a learning support model tailored to the evolving needs of older students.

For 5th and 6th grade students, Kairos provides small-group English Language Arts instruction (6:1 student-teacher ratio) along with Literacy Lab, which takes the place of a world language course. Literacy Lab reinforces

foundational language skills, including comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure, paragraph development, and essay writing.

In 7th grade, students rejoin their grade-level peers for English while completing their final year of small-group Literacy Lab in lieu of a world language. By 8th grade, students remain in full grade-level English classes and replace world language with a small-group Study Skills course focused on executive functioning skills such as organization, time management, planning, prioritization, test-taking strategies, and self-advocacy.

Additional support—including math assistance and after-school study sessions—is available to ensure that Kairos students continue building the skills, confidence, and independence they need for long-term academic success.

High School Placement Support

A student's years at St. Martin's are a journey of personal growth, exploration, and academic preparation for the future. Through dynamic learning experiences, extracurricular opportunities, and spiritual development, our 8th grade graduates leave ready to embrace the next chapter with confidence.

High School Placement support provides students with meaningful opportunities to explore their options. They meet admissions teams from local independent and boarding schools, participate in on-campus visits and shadow days, and engage in conversations that allow them to ask thoughtful questions and gain firsthand insight into potential schools.

Families are guided every step of the way with resources and personalized support. From understanding deadlines and requirements to making informed decisions, families benefit from both group sessions and individualized meetings that address each student's unique goals and needs.

At the heart of this process is the SSAT Preparation and Interview Skills class, which equips students with effective test-taking strategies while also strengthening self-advocacy, communication, and interview skills. Together, these layers of support ensure that every St. Martin's graduate is fully

prepared—with the tools, resources, and confidence needed to succeed in high school and beyond.

Technology Integration

Through our 1:1 laptop program, every middle school student is equipped with a personal device that supports personalized learning and the use of advanced digital tools across all disciplines. A dedicated digital literacy program teaches research, media, and responsible technology use, while emerging opportunities like AI integration emphasize ethics and innovation. Together, these experiences equip students with the adaptability, confidence, and skills they need to thrive in high school and beyond.

After-School Programming

Athletics:
Middle school students enjoy a wide range of athletic opportunities throughout the school year. Fifth graders can participate in intramural offerings, while students in grades 6–8 may join competitive teams. Fall sports include Girls Volleyball, Boys Soccer, and Boys and Girls Cross Country; winter features Boys and Girls Basketball; and spring brings Boys Baseball, Boys and Girls Tennis, Boys and Girls Golf, and co-ed Flag Football. With “A,” “B,” and “C” team options, our programs welcome athletes of all skill levels, from beginners to advanced players. Through participation, students not only build physical fitness but also develop teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship, skills that extend well beyond the playing field.

Drama and Performing Arts:
St. Martin’s offers an outstanding after-school performing arts program that invites students to immerse themselves in musical theater and the performing arts. Through opportunities in acting, stagecraft, and production, students discover and develop their creative talents. Whether participating in school plays or performance projects, they gain confidence, strengthen teamwork, and express themselves artistically. The program culminates in dynamic performances where students proudly share their growth and accomplishments with the school community. These after-school opportunities not only nurture creativity but also encourage personal growth, skill development, and a deepened sense of belonging at St. Martin’s.