Middle School Programs

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Dear Families,

I'm delighted that your search for a unique educational experience has led you to Wellington! Our middle school is a dynamic, vibrant environment where every student is known, supported, and challenged to be their best self each day — inside and outside the classroom.

Wellington's mission and values are at the heart of our work. Through authentic and engaging learning experiences, we help students find their purpose and realize their potential for tomorrow's world. This is a school that meets young people with unconditional positive regard, an approach that builds a relational foundation upon which students can take risks and embrace academic challenge. Our team embodies the enduring belief that authentic partnerships and open communication between the adults at school and the adults at home elevate academic outcomes and nurture belonging for all. And our entrepreneurial spirit of curiosity, authenticity, and ambition imbues our work with a growth mindset and emphasis on lifelong learning that is crucial for young people.

We believe in educating the whole child, which means that learning also extends beyond the classroom walls. Trips at each grade level and our winter ski program offer unique opportunities for the experiential learning and relationship building that are hallmarks of the Wellington experience. I beam with pride as I see young people connecting authentically with one another in our entirely student-led house program — a testament to Wellington's commitment to student voice, agency, and autonomy. Our athletics and performing arts offerings mean that everyone has an opportunity to flourish. There are so many ways to be a Jag!

At Wellington, students have opportunities to elevate their voices and pursue their passions in a supportive space that challenges them to take risks and think big. Our middle school is imbued with curiosity and joyful energy — in the classrooms, in the dining room, on the fields, in the commons, and in the halls. I invite you to learn more about the middle school experience in the pages ahead, and I encourage you to visit us in person so that you can see for yourself what makes this a thriving community of learners. All it takes is one day to see it in action and become enraptured.

Sincerely,



Louis Frank
Head of Middle School

Our Mission

We help students find their purpose and realize their potential for tomorrow's world.

Our Values

- **Be Curious**
- **Be Yourself**
- **Be Ambitious**
- **Be Empathetic**
- **Be Responsible**



Portrait of a Wellington Graduate

The attributes of our graduates shape curriculum and programming at every age.

We Engage in the Journey

We wholeheartedly take ownership of our educational journey, committing to the lifelong pursuit of knowledge fueled by our passion and curiosity.

We Celebrate Individuality

We proudly embrace our individuality, celebrating the unique qualities that make us who we are while knowing we are part of a unified whole.

We Value Diversity

We thoughtfully seek to understand different perspectives, knowing that diversity of all kinds opens our minds and deepens our experiences.

We Radiate Confidence

We approach challenges with positivity and determination, grounded in self-confidence.

We Drive Change

We advocate for ourselves and others, using our voices to drive positive change and empower those around us.



The Middle School Experience

Wellington's Middle School experience is designed to honor the complexity, curiosity, and growing independence of adolescence while staying deeply committed to a holistic view of each learner.

In a dynamic and supportive environment, students are known, seen, and celebrated for who they are. Relationships form the foundation of our work; teachers meet students with unconditional positive regard and a relentless belief in their potential. Within this framework of trust and belonging, students are encouraged to take risks, embrace academic challenge, and explore new ideas. Our community is built around joy, voice, and connections, and it is evident in student-led activities like the House program, robust athletics and performing arts opportunities, and experiences that extend beyond the classroom.

We know that a strong academic foundation is essential, and we build it intentionally so students have the skills and confidence to explore ideas deeply and think critically. In all subject areas, instruction is informed by ongoing assessment and designed to meet students where they are, ensuring high challenge and high support. Students engage in authentic, inquiry-based learning that begins with their questions and leads to meaningful problem-solving, collaboration, and real-world application. Through interdisciplinary dives, enrichment clubs, and classroom experiences driven by curiosity, students are challenged to think critically and creatively. Our Middle School is a place where students are not only preparing for the next stage of learning; they are discovering who they are and how they can make an impact in their communities and the world.

COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

At Wellington, middle school students don't just follow rules; they help define and create the culture. In 2025, a student-faculty committee created a set of community expectations rooted in our values of authenticity, responsibility, curiosity, ambition, and empathy. These expectations guide daily life and give students tangible ways to practice independence, accountability, and care for others.

Because the expectations were shaped by students themselves, they are not just guidelines but commitments, building a community where every middle schooler can belong, grow, and thrive. At the heart of this framework are five tenets:

- When we can be ourselves, we create a place where everyone matters.
- When we are responsible, we take initiative and do the right thing.
- When we are curious, we ask "What's next?"
- When we are ambitious, we do not settle. We strive.
- When we are empathetic, we support each other.

These expectations prepare students not only for success in middle school, but for a lifetime of purposeful learning and leadership.

STUDENT LIFE

Middle school at Wellington is designed with students at the center. Beyond academics, we believe these years are about belonging, exploration, and joy. Every child is known, supported, and encouraged to take risks, try new things, and discover their passions.

Students shape the culture through voice and choice: they join affinity and coalition groups, take part in more than 30 different clubs, and select from over 50 Dive"courses that range from robotics to constitutional law, jazz band to psychology. Independent research projects, student-driven initiatives, and opportunities for public speaking and leadership are woven into the life of the school.

Athletics, theatre, and music are integral to student life, with nearly 80% of middle schoolers participating in at least one sport. Annual trips—from wilderness design in 5th grade and overnight camping at Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center in 6th, to Washington, D.C., and Chicago in 7th and 8th—help students build independence, connect with peers, and expand their world. Programs like Winter Ski and the Wonderbus bring adventure and discovery beyond the classroom. At Wellington, student life isn't just an add-on; it's central to how students grow in confidence, compassion, and community.

Examples of student involvement for all middle school grades include:

- **Affinity & Coalition Groups** – A Foot in 2 Places, Families in Separate Homes, Boys of Color, Female Students of Color, GSA, and more.
- **Athletics** – Organized teams and training groups across fall, winter, and spring seasons.
- **Clubs** – Student-driven offerings supervised by faculty.
- **Theatre** – Annual middle school production with opportunities on stage and backstage.
- **8th Grade Leaders** – Student leadership group that plans and runs morning meetings, spirit weeks, house meetings, and other traditions.
- **Peer Mentors** – Middle schoolers mentor younger peers and receive support from upper school students.

ADVISORY

The advisory program is a cornerstone of the middle school experience, providing students with consistent support, connection, and community throughout the year. Each student belongs to an advisory group of about 12 classmates in the same grade, guided by a teacher who serves as advocate, mentor, and home base. With three daily touchpoints, advisors know their students well and act as a bridge between home and school, supporting both personal and academic growth.

Throughout the year, advisors lead lessons designed to help students thrive both inside and outside the classroom. Topics include executive function and metacognitive skills such as goal setting, time management, and reflection, as well as social-emotional learning focused on building friendships, managing conflict, balancing technology use, and regulating emotions. Students also build portfolios to showcase their achievements, track growth, and prepare for student-led conversations during parent-teacher conferences.

Our advisory program allows us to:

- Create a culture of belonging where dignity and empathy guide relationships.
- Foster well-being and connection so that every student feels known and supported.
- Strengthen communication among students, families, and teachers.
- Cultivate leadership and purpose by encouraging service and community-building activities.

Developed in collaboration with Wellington faculty and counselors—and informed by student feedback and research—advisory is where middle schoolers learn to understand, own, and direct their learning while practicing the skills that help them flourish in adolescence and beyond.

HOUSE SYSTEM

The Wellington Middle School House System contributes to our positive, joyful school culture and helps students build connection, confidence, and character. Each student is sorted into one of five mixed-age Houses: Bugle House of Joy, Duke House of Spirit, Jag House of Courage, Leap House of Unity, or 1982 House of Creativity. We cultivate leadership in our students by training a group of eighth graders who lead their House with pride and enthusiasm. Throughout the year, Houses engage in friendly competition for the House Cup. Students earn points for their House by living our values out loud. On Fridays, students gather in Houses to do an activity together or to compete in a friendly House competition. Most importantly, Wellington students cheer for each other each and every day because we believe in building a culture where each student knows that they can be themselves. We are Five Houses, One Family.

AFTER-SCHOOL SUPERVISION

After-school supervision is fee-based and available for students in grades 5–8 from 3:30–6 p.m. Students enjoy a snack, outdoor recess time, and light homework help, if needed.

LEAP DAYS

LEAP Days occur on Wednesdays of five-day weeks, creating a pause in the ABCD class schedule. These days are dedicated to Learning, Exploration, and Projects—planned by grade-level teams to provide academic support and challenge, student choice, and novel experiences for the community to enjoy together. They give students the time and space to deepen their learning, strengthen community, and pursue passions beyond the traditional schedule.

The morning features **advisory and four core academic periods,** giving students a consistent foundation while keeping community, well-being, and curiosity at the center.

- **Advisory** – Advisors lead lessons on executive function, goal setting, and reflection alongside social-emotional topics such as building healthy friendships, navigating conflict, managing technology, and regulating emotions. These responsive lessons ensure every student feels seen, supported, and empowered to own their learning.

In the afternoon, students move into experiences that make LEAP Days a hallmark of Wellington's Middle School:

- **Clubs** – Students connect with peers and teachers across grade levels through shared interests, with offerings such as Chess, Plant Club, Literary Magazine, Creative Café, Puzzles and Logic, and many more!
- **Dives** – Elective classes designed around student and faculty passions. Students choose two Dives in the fall and two in the spring, with recent offerings ranging from Rocketry, Robotics, and Constitutional Law to Pop Music, Psychology, and Watercolor & Mixed Media.

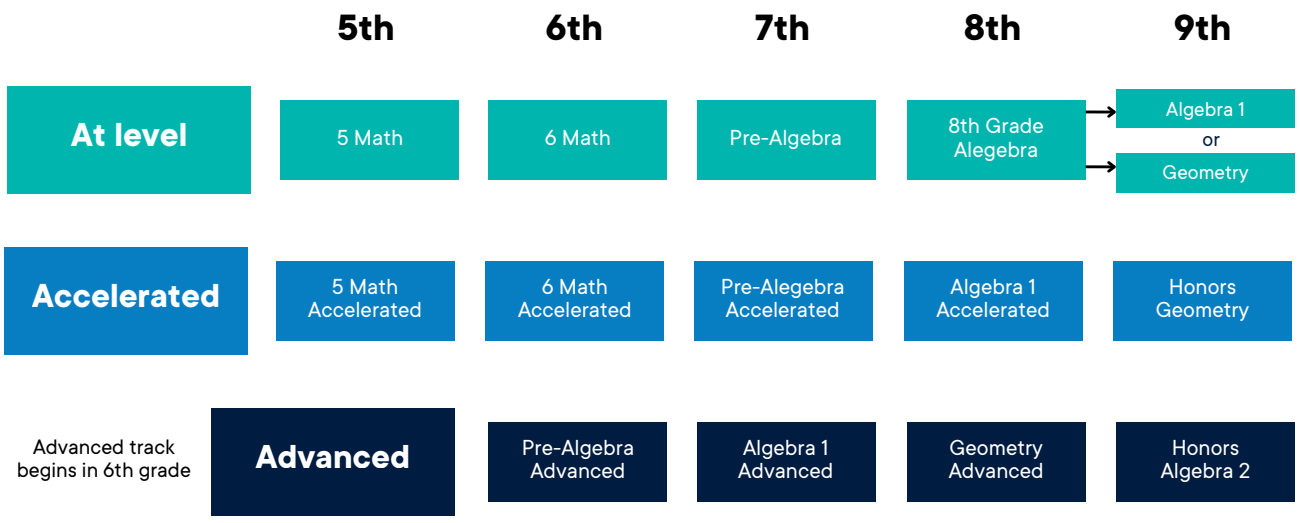
Families, faculty, and students consistently highlight LEAP Days as a defining feature of Wellington's Middle School—a day when curiosity, connection, and creativity come alive.



Differentiation in the Middle School

At Wellington, differentiation is not just a strategy. It is an essential part of how we teach, assess, and support students in Middle School. We recognize that learners grow at different paces and in different ways, and our job as educators is to meet students where they are and help them stretch to where they can go. This happens both structurally and instructionally through multiple pathways and through the daily decisions our teachers make in the classroom.

In mathematics, students follow one of three pathways based on their readiness and mastery of foundational concepts. These pathways allow students to move at the right pace for them, with opportunities to accelerate as they demonstrate deeper understanding.



For students seeking additional academic challenge in the humanities, we offer Honors Humanities courses beginning in seventh grade, where they engage with more complex texts and ideas in a rigorous, discussion-based format. Beyond these formal structures, differentiation also happens through the nuanced, relationship-based teaching that defines Wellington. Teachers know their students deeply, not just by a single test score, but by who they are as learners and people. Throughout the year, students have multiple opportunities to offer feedback on their learning through The Wellington Initiative; our teachers use this feedback to inform instruction so that students are as engaged as possible.

Assessment in the Middle School

Assessment at Wellington is ongoing, purposeful, and varied. Nationally normed assessments provide insight into individual growth and broader trends across a grade level or division. However, we believe that the most powerful data comes from daily formative assessments: observations, student work, check-ins, discussions, and in-class tasks. These touchpoints help us adjust instruction in real time, tailoring lessons to support understanding and push thinking forward. Summative assessments, whether in the form of tests, projects, or performance tasks, invite students to apply their knowledge and reflect on what they've learned, both about the content and themselves as learners.

We also believe that students should be partners in their own growth. Throughout the year, students engage in self-reflection and provide feedback on their level of challenge, engagement, and interest across subjects. One way we track this is through a student engagement tool that asks students to plot their sense of challenge and love of learning on an axis, helping both them and their teachers better understand how to deepen motivation and learning. This kind of metacognition builds ownership and agency, and ensures our classrooms are places where students feel stretched, supported, and seen. We use assessment and feedback not just to measure learning but to inspire it, helping every student become their best academic self.

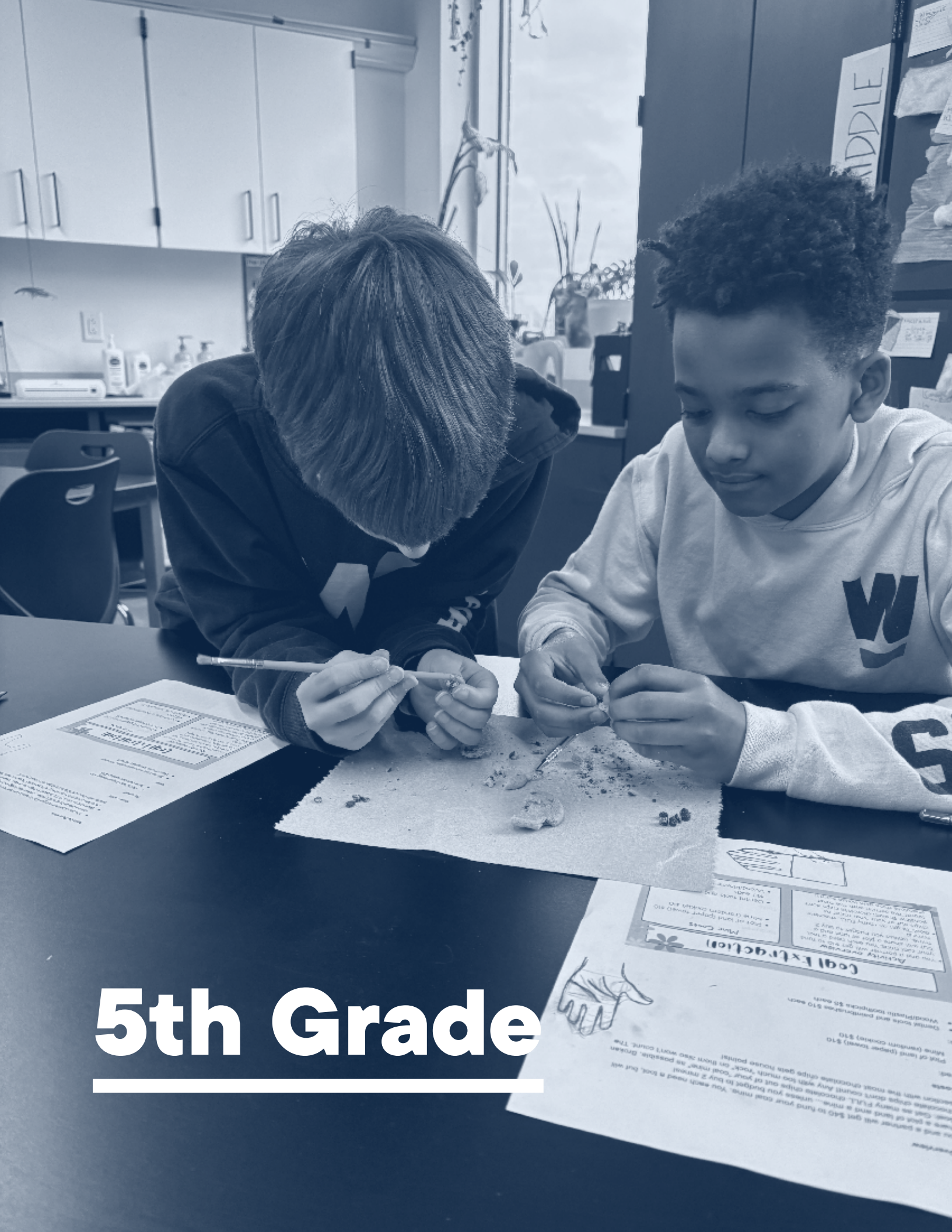


2026–2027 Daily Schedule

	A	B	C	D
8:00–8:25	Advisory Flex	Advisory Flex	Advisory Flex	Advisory Flex
8:25–8:35	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting
8:40–9:35	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1
9:40–10:35	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
10:35–10:50	Morning Break	Morning Break	Morning Break	Morning Break
10:55–11:50	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
11:50–12:20	Supervised Study	Supervised Study	Supervised Study	Supervised Study
12:20–1:05	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
1:10–2:05	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4
2:10–3:05	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5
3:10–3:35	Advisory Check-Out	Advisory Check-Out	Advisory Check-Out	House Meeting

LEAP Day Schedule

	LEAP
8:00–8:25	Flex
8:25–8:55	Advisory
9:00–9:40	Period 1
9:45–10:25	Period 2
10:30–10:45	Morning Break
10:50–11:30	Period 3
11:35–12:15	Period 4
12:20–1:05	Lunch/Recess
1:10–1:40	Clubs
1:45–2:30	Dive 1
2:35–3:20	Dive 2
3:25–3:35	Check-Out



5th Grade

THE 5TH GRADE EXPERIENCE

Wellington's 5th grade provides a head start to middle school. Through a nurturing and academically challenging program, students learn the skills and mindsets for a smooth middle school transition. The core coursework includes: language arts, math, science, social studies, and French. Our 1:1 Chromebook approach means essential technology skills are seamlessly integrated into courses for every student. Outdoor education is a key piece to the 5th grade school year. Throughout the year, the 5th grade takes part in a hands-on earth science program at Stratford Ecological Center.

In addition to helping students develop academic success, we want our students to have choices and opportunities to try new passions and to learn the skills that help them flourish. All 5th grade students independently follow their academic curiosities in the deep dive research class, Explorers of the World. Every student takes visual arts and has the choice of band, choir, and strings. 5th graders might find and develop their individual voice by performing on stage in the middle school play, or by taking part in our award-winning robotics and cybersecurity teams. Framed around growth mindsets, character development, peer support, and study skills, the Advisory program provides a close knit home base for each student in this critical transition school year.

English/Language Arts

5th Grade English is a year-long course designed to strengthen students' reading, writing, and communication skills while encouraging creativity and curiosity. Through novels, short stories, poetry, and original writing projects, students will learn to analyze texts, develop clear and purposeful writing, and express ideas with confidence. Our work emphasizes reading comprehension, the writing process, and the use of figurative language to create vivid descriptions. Students will practice different types of writing, including literary analysis, creative narratives, memoirs, and persuasive pieces, while also growing as speakers and listeners through class discussions and presentations.

Math

In 5th Grade Math, students deepen their conceptual understanding and procedural fluency across multiple domains. Students will extend their knowledge of the base-ten system by working with whole numbers to 10,000,000, applying place value concepts, rounding, estimation, and powers of ten to problem-solving contexts. Students will strengthen their skills with fractions by using all four operations, as well as connecting fractions, decimals, and percents through conversions. Algebra basics will be introduced, along with ratios, area calculations, and interpreting data through graphs and tables. Emphasis will be placed on solving real-world word problems, helping students apply mathematical thinking in meaningful ways.

Math Accelerated

5th Grade Math Accelerated covers the full 5th grade math curriculum more deeply and at a faster pace. The students in this accelerated class will move more quickly through core skills, allowing time to explore advanced problem-solving, enrichment challenges, and connections to real-world applications. Emphasis will be placed on mathematical reasoning, critical thinking, and flexible strategies for approaching complex problems.

Social Studies

In 5th Grade Social Studies, students build foundational geographic knowledge, develop critical thinking skills, and explore a wide range of global perspectives. While the primary focus of the curriculum centers on the Western Hemisphere, the course takes a globally minded approach. Students will make meaningful global connections throughout the year, learning to view the world through the lenses of geographers, anthropologists, and historians.

Science

In 5th Grade Science, students will explore energy through the study of ecology, weather, electricity, and nutrition and digestion. Students will work on developing their executive functioning skills by coming to class prepared with all supplies, following instructions as posted, and asking questions to learn more about the world around them.

World Language Exploration

In 5th Grade World Language Exploration, students build on the speaking and listening activities developed and practiced throughout the lower school curriculum and incorporate reading and writing activities to build a stronger connection to the written word. Topics and themes include greetings and introductions, food, paying for meals, and talking about time, dates, seasons, and weather.

Physical Education

In 5th grade physical education, students develop physical skills, teamwork, and confidence through many activities. The program emphasizes the joy of movement and encourages students to find fun in being active. Students will be introduced to new skills, practice good sportsmanship, and learn to work with others in both cooperative and competitive settings. Through games, drills, and challenges, students will develop important life skills such as leadership, responsibility, and respect for themselves and others.

Visual Art

In 5th Grade Art, students will explore the building blocks of visual expression through drawing, painting, and sculpture. Using materials like pencil, watercolor, clay, and charcoal, students will learn to observe closely, experiment boldly, and build confidence in their creative ideas.

PERFORMING ARTS

Students rotate through band, strings, and choir for the first four weeks of school before deciding which class to pursue for the rest of the year.

Band

In 5th Grade Band, the goal is for each student to find a strong connection to a musical instrument and begin to lay a foundation for future musical success. Students begin to learn about musical notation, pitch, and rhythm. The class is designed to help students gain confidence and empathy as they begin their exploration of instrumental music.

Strings

In 5th Grade Strings, students will build a strong foundation on their instrument, focusing on proper posture, bow technique, and producing a clear, confident tone. They will develop music literacy skills while exploring elements of music theory, music history, and global musical traditions.

Choir

In 5th Grade Choir, students will begin learning to sing together, starting with rounds and simple melodies and gradually exploring two- and three-part harmonies. They will focus on developing strong vocal technique, listening skills, and teamwork while performing a variety of songs in preparation for concerts and other school performances.

KEY EXPERIENCES

Middle School Ski

The Middle School ski program occurs over five weeks during the winter. All students take a ski or snowboard lesson and then spend time with their peers practicing skills, as well as strengthening Middle School bonds. Learning a lifelong sport and taking risks are key components of this program, which encourages a growth mindset.

Explorers of the World

Explorers of the World is a student-centered, deep-dive research project class for all 5th grade students. Students select an area of interest and develop essential questions to drive their academic research. The project culminates in a presentation that demonstrates their understanding of the topic. This experience magnifies research skills, project management skills, intrinsic motivation, public speaking, analyzing data, and synthesizing conclusions.

Build a Canoe Week

During Build a Canoe Week, 5th grade students partner with the Urban Wilderness Program to construct a functional canoe by hand. The experience connects directly to their study of Gary Paulsen's *Hatchet*, bringing the novel's themes of resilience, problem-solving, independence, and connection to nature to life. As students design, measure, and build, they apply learning across disciplines while developing woodworking skills and strengthening their planning, organization, collaboration, adaptability, and perseverance. The project culminates in a paddle trip, where students launch the canoe they built and reflect on the individual strengths, shared responsibility, and teamwork that made the journey possible.

Grades 5 & 8 Buddy Program

The Buddy Program fosters community, belonging, and leadership across the Middle School as students meet regularly for activities, conversations, and shared experiences. For 5th graders, it provides encouragement and support as they transition into Middle School, while 8th graders develop responsibility, empathy, and mentoring skills.



6th Grade

THE 6TH GRADE EXPERIENCE

With one year of Middle School complete, Wellington's 6th graders continue to develop their academic, social-emotional, and character skills through a balanced and engaging program. 6th grade coursework includes: language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, French, music, art, and physical education. In addition, students can select from a variety of trimester classes based on personal interest or budding passion. School-issued Chromebooks allow students to access a myriad of technologies in the classroom as they cultivate critical digital literacy skills and responsibility. As 6th graders, students have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports, the annual Middle School play, robotics, and cybersecurity. A beloved 6th grade curricular highlight is a three-day experiential learning field trip to Cuyahoga Valley National Park where students explore scientific themes in the watershed and woods. At school, the Advisory program serves as a constant throughout the year, fostering authentic connections among peers and giving each student a sense of feeling known and affirmed.

English/Language Arts

6th Grade English builds confidence and skill in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language study (vocabulary and grammar). Students read closely, apply literary terms, and think critically as they analyze texts. Through anchor texts and differentiated literature choices, they practice close reading and annotation to deepen understanding. Vocabulary instruction focuses on Latin and Greek roots to strengthen word knowledge, along with targeted word studies drawn from class reading. Grammar is taught in connection with writing so students can see how rules enhance their own work. Writing instruction follows the full process (brainstorming, drafting, revising, and editing) and includes narrative, informational, argumentative, and poetic forms. Major units of study highlight figurative language, short stories and literary terms, Notice and Note fiction signposts, the five-paragraph essay, and Lois Lowry's *The Giver.*

Math

In 6th Grade Math, students extend previously learned skills into the study of fractions, decimals, ratios, and basic geometry. The course emphasizes problem-solving skills and logical reasoning, laying the groundwork for more advanced mathematical studies.

Math Accelerated

6th Grade Math Accelerated covers the full 6th grade curriculum more deeply and at a faster pace. The students in this accelerated class will move through core skills including fractions, decimals, negative integers, ratios, and linear functions. Students will build problem-solving skills, learn to work with data, and explore the fundamentals of algebra, setting a solid foundation for future math studies.

Pre-Algebra Advanced

Pre-Algebra Advanced is a foundation course that prepares students for the study of algebra. In this course, students study basic arithmetic operations, fractions, decimals, percentages, and are introduced concepts such as variables, expressions, and simple equations. The course emphasizes problem-solving skills and logical reasoning, laying the groundwork for more advanced mathematical studies. Students also explore basic geometry concepts and the relationship between numbers.

Social Studies

6th Grade Social Studies *(Systems, Selves, and the Future)* is an inquiry-based course that helps students understand the world around them and their place in it. Students will explore culture, geography, religion, government, resources, technology, and contemporary issues, with an emphasis on the Eastern Hemisphere. Throughout the year, students will use three lenses: *Systems* (How does this work?), *Selves* (How does this shape people?), and *The Future* (How is this changing?). Through discussion, research, fieldwork, simulations, projects, and community experiences, students will build the critical thinking, perspective-taking, and problem-solving skills needed to thoughtfully engage with tomorrow's world.

Science

In 6th Grade Science, students explore topics such as water, anthropods, living things, cells, genetics, the circulatory systems, the skeletal and muscular system, and space. They also take an in-depth look at the scientific method and design processes. Students demonstrate their learning through various projects, lab experiments, discussions, debates, and small-group collaborations. The 6th grade camp experience at Cuyahoga Valley National Park offers students the opportunity to explore water and freshwater ecosystems in a real-world setting where the classroom comes alive.

World Language Exploration

In 6th Grade World Language Exploration, students explore the grammar, culture, and richness of all three languages offered at Wellington. Students rotate through one trimester each of French, Latin, and Spanish, allowing them to experience the rhythm, structure, and culture of three distinct languages before making an informed decision about which one to pursue more deeply in grade 7.

Physical Education

In 6th Grade Physical Education, students learn the skills needed to competently engage in sports and physical activities beyond the classroom. The program emphasizes the joy of effort in physical activities, adding elements of fun and enjoyment through active participation. Through the course, students develop problem-solving skills and social skills such as independence, responsibility, leadership, cooperation, and sportsmanship.

Visual Art

In 6th Grade Art, students will expand their artistic toolkit by working with new techniques and materials such as block printing, acrylic painting, and charcoal figure studies. Students will focus on creative problem-solving, composition, and refining craftsmanship as they take greater ownership of their artistic process.

PERFORMING ARTS

Band

In 6th Grade Band, musicians expand their command of their respective instruments and their understanding of independence within a large ensemble. Students encounter an expanded range of pitches and rhythmic notation, an increased emphasis on independent musical lines, and a deeper understanding of how music is expressed through performance.

Strings

In 6th Grade Strings, students will expand their technical skills and musical understanding. They will explore new finger patterns, accidentals such as B-flat, and more complex rhythms, while continuing to refine posture, bowing, and tone. Students will also deepen their knowledge of music theory, history, and world music, applying these concepts in performance and ensemble settings.

Choir

In 6th Grade Choir, students will build on foundational skills and expand their vocal range, exploring more complex harmonies, phrasing, and expressive techniques. They will deepen their understanding of musical concepts and style while performing diverse repertoire, preparing for advanced ensemble work and more challenging concert experiences.

Theatre Arts

In Theatre Arts class, students build foundational performance skills through movement, creativity, and collaboration. They begin with basic blocking and theatre shorthand to understand where and why actors move on stage, then use those skills to tell clear stories using only the body and facial expressions through tableau and pantomime. As the course progresses, students explore both structured and unstructured improvisation, developing confidence, creativity, quick-thinking, and strong ensemble skills. Every day includes new collaborative theatre games and team-building challenges designed to strengthen performance skills while creating a fun, supportive class cohort. No previous theatre experience required!

KEY EXPERIENCES

Middle School Ski

The Middle School ski program occurs over five weeks during the winter. All students take a ski or snowboard lesson and then spend time with their peers practicing skills, as well as strengthening Middle School bonds. Learning a lifelong sport and taking risks are key components of this program, which encourages a growth mindset.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

6th graders continue their study of science outside of the classroom during a three-day trip to Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This trip includes a very thorough study of the watershed and provides real-life experiences such as pond-dipping, night hikes, hands-on classroom activities, and an extensive study of how the watershed has changed since the formation of the park.


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Welcome to 7th Grade! We're glad yo
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7th Grade

THE 7TH GRADE EXPERIENCE

7th grade is a time of incredible developmental growth and the perfect opportunity to cultivate strategic and healthy habits while stoking curiosity. Students are guided to apply the routines and study skills learned in 5th and 6th grade to support educational benchmarks. 7th grade hosts the Middle School milestone trip to our country's capital. Major projects such as sharing research during Volcano Week, writing a colonial newspaper, and the AIR (Argument. Interpretation. Research.) project in English are rites of passage.

English/Language Arts

7th Grade English is a year-long exploration of literature, writing, and communication designed to strengthen students' skills as readers, writers, speakers, and thinkers. Students will read across genres while practicing the craft of writing in many forms, from literary analysis and creative writing to research-based essays. By the end of the year, students will not only have developed a stronger command of grammar, vocabulary, and literary elements, but also a deeper appreciation for how writers shape meaning and how readers can respond thoughtfully to texts

LYCEUM: The Justice Docket to Honors Humanities Elective

In this course, ideas are tested, voices are heard, and every student gets a turn to lead. Inspired by the original Athenian Lyceum, this course is designed for thinkers, creators, and curious minds who want to go deeper. Students explore the theme of justice across literature, history, and philosophy. Using independent texts such as *Cry, The Beloved Country, The Crucible, Billy Budd, Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*, and *A Lesson Before Dying*, students will examine how justice is pursued, distorted, or denied. By year's end, each student will contribute to a compiled Casebook of Justice, a portfolio that blends analysis, creativity, and conviction into a final statement of what justice means in their own words.

Pre-Algebra

In this foundational course, students strengthen their skills with arithmetic operations, fractions, decimals, and percentages, while building an understanding of variables, expressions, equations, and inequalities. The course also introduces concepts in geometry, probability, and statistics, encouraging problem solving, logical reasoning, and real-world application. By the end of the course, students will have a strong mathematical foundation and the confidence to tackle more advanced studies in algebra.

Pre-Algebra Accelerated

In this rigorous and fast-paced course, students cover pre-algebra concepts such as statistics and probability, congruency and transformations, surface area, and volume. Students then dive into Algebra 1 concepts such as expressions, equations, inequalities, linear functions, systems of equations, exponents, and exponential functions, emphasizing problem-solving, logical reasoning, and real-world applications. By the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation in algebraic thinking and the confidence to tackle advanced mathematics courses.

Algebra 1 Advanced

In this rigorous course, students explore linear equations, inequalities, functions, and systems of equations and inequalities. They will develop fluency with polynomials, factoring, and quadratic functions, while beginning work with exponential relationships, statistics, and probability. The course emphasizes problem-solving, logical reasoning, and connections to real-world situations. By the course's end, students will have a strong understanding of algebraic concepts and the confidence to succeed in higher-level mathematics such as Geometry and Algebra II.

Social Studies

In 7th Grade Social Studies, students study United States history from colonial migration to the end of the Civil War. Students will examine how geography shaped exploration and settlement, how economic systems influenced colonial and national development, and how foundational ideas of government and citizenship were formed. This course will also provide a foundation for understanding the structure and powers of the U.S. government through study of the Constitution.

Science

7th Grade Science includes two main areas of study: Earth science and chemistry with health. This course emphasizes observation, critical thinking, and the scientific method, preparing students for more advanced science studies. Students will engage in hands-on activities, engaging projects, experiments, and discussions to build a solid foundation in both physical and life sciences.

Physical Education

In 7th Grade Physical Education, students will refine and expand their athletic skills, applying strategies and techniques in a variety of team and individual activities. The program emphasizes personal growth, healthy competition, and the development of leadership and teamwork skills. Students will engage in problem-solving challenges and take increasing responsibility for their own participation and effort.

Visual Art

In 7th Grade Art, students will think and work like artists and critics. They will explore studio practices, art history, and visual culture while creating original works that reflect personal ideas. Through writing, research, and critique, students will learn to interpret meaning, communicate intent, and evaluate their own and others' artwork with growing insight.

WORLD LANGUAGES

French

In 7th Grade French, students elevate their command of the French language, fostering essential skills in listening, reading, speaking, and writing through a comprehensive and interactive curriculum. The course emphasizes hands-on engagement with the language, incorporating a variety of classroom discussions, group projects, and self-directed assignments to build confidence towards the path of acquisition. Students will enhance their understanding of French while exploring cultural contexts.

Latin

In 7th Grade Latin, students are introduced to the Latin language, with emphasis on interpretive communication. Through a variety of methods and authentic resources, students will interact with comprehensible Latin. Additionally, students will begin to delve into the world of the Ancient Mediterranean, including history, culture, geography/topography, and the basics of archaeology.

Spanish

In 7th Grade Spanish, students build on the foundation of the target language, with focus on interpretive communication skills. Through a variety of methods and authentic resources, students will interact with comprehensible Spanish. By focusing on input, the students will acquire a great deal of language that, in turn, will develop and enhance language production. They will also build on their vocabulary and mechanics.

PERFORMING ARTS

Band

In 7th and 8th Grade Band, students continue to hone their skills as musicians with a focus on developing both as individual performers and as a full ensemble. Strengthening understanding of rhythmic figures, tone production, instrument technique, and musical interpretation are points of emphasis throughout our year. Students learn through exploring, growing through challenges, and supporting each other as they build a dynamic and exciting ensemble.

Strings

In 7th and 8th Grade Strings, students continue to hone their skills as musicians by focusing on developing both as individual performers and as a full ensemble. The focus of this course is strengthening the understanding of rhythmic figures, tone production, instrument technique, and musical interpretation.

Choir

In 7th and 8th Grade Choir, students grow in ensemble singing through increasingly challenging rounds, melodies, and multi-part music, including two and three-part harmonies. Students learn more in-depth music theory concepts, enhancing their understanding and application of solfege, sight-singing, and overall musicianship. A diverse repertoire spanning various styles and traditions will prepare students for concerts and performance opportunities throughout the year.

KEY EXPERIENCES

A.I.R. Project

Through this capstone project, students practice three critical skills: argument, interpretation, and research. Students choose one area of focus and are challenged to approach the topic in a variety of ways, including two full-length essays (persuasive and expository); an interpretation of an image, data set, or text; and a presentation of their findings and insights at the culminating A.I.R. Expo.

Middle School Ski

The Middle School ski program occurs over five weeks during the winter. All students take a ski or snowboard lesson and then spend time with their peers practicing skills, as well as strengthening Middle School bonds. Learning a lifelong sport and taking risks are key components of this program, which encourages a growth mindset.

Washington, D.C.

Students experience American history in the past as well as history in the making on a four-day trip to Colonial Williamsburg and Washington, D.C. The experience ties directly into the 7th grade social studies curriculum and also serves to strengthen student independence through out-of-state travel with classmates.




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8th Grade

THE 8TH GRADE EXPERIENCE

8th grade at Wellington is a pivotal year in our students' journey when we focus on two main points in addition to their academic coursework and social development. The first focus of the 8th grade is to prepare our students for what lies ahead in Upper School and beyond. Students are challenged academically, supported as they practice new academic skills, and guided through essential social and emotional lessons that will give them the tools they need to succeed in the future. Our goal is for students to leave Middle School with a broader cultural understanding of the world and confidence in their ability to navigate it successfully. The second focus is exposing students to a variety of world cultures through our academic curriculum and providing them opportunities to experience more. One way we accomplish this is through an immersive trip to Chicago where students explore a rich and diverse metropolitan culture. Students also complete an International Week Project, selecting a country or city to research extensively in order to share their findings with an audience of peers and adults.

English/Language Arts

In 8th Grade English, members of the English teaching team offer different units of study that share common goals in reading, conversation, and writing. At various points, students will have opportunities to elect units or texts based on their interests; at other times, teachers will create flexible groups based on students' readiness and the skills they are prepared to develop next. These groupings are responsive and temporary rather than fixed, allowing students to work with different teachers, encounter a range of texts and approaches, and receive an appropriate level of challenge and support while also elevating student voice and choice through dynamic course design.

LYCEUM: The Codex to Honors Humanities Elective

In this course, ideas are tested, voices are heard, and every student gets a turn to lead. Inspired by the original Athenian Lyceum, this course is designed for thinkers, creators, and curious minds who want to go deeper. The Codex is the centerpiece of this course, acting as a compass to help students chart their path through archetypes, figurative language, translation, and world literature while reflecting on their own ideas and connections. By year's end, each student will have built a Codex that records their intellectual journey and completed the Double Helix Finale: a deep literary analysis and an original creative opus demonstrating mastery of symbolism, structure, imagery, and theme.

8th Grade Algebra

In Algebra 1, students are introduced to the core concepts of linear algebra, focusing on solving and graphing linear equations, inequalities, and systems of equations, with an emphasis on real-world applications. Students explore variables, slope, literal equations, and parallel and perpendicular lines to build a solid foundation in linear relationships. The course progresses to exponents, covering multiplication and division properties, rational notation, and scientific notation. Additionally, students learn to factor quadratic expressions, including special products like difference of squares and perfect square trinomials, to solve quadratic equations.

Algebra 1 Accelerated

In Algebra 1 Accelerated, students are introduced to the fundamental concepts of algebra, focusing on solving linear equations, inequalities, and systems of equations. The course covers topics such as variables, expressions, functions, and graphing, with an emphasis on real-world applications. Students develop problem-solving skills through hands-on practice and logical reasoning. By the end of the course, they have a solid foundation for advanced mathematics courses.

Geometry Advanced

In Geometry, students are introduced to the fundamental concepts of shapes, sizes, and spatial relationships in two and three dimensions while integrating algebraic principles. Through interactive lessons and hands-on activities, students explore points, lines, angles, triangles, circles, and polygons, applying algebraic techniques to solve geometric problems. The course emphasizes geometric proofs, transformations, and real-world applications to strengthen critical thinking and problem-solving skills. By the end, students master geometric principles and their algebraic connections, building a solid foundation for upper school mathematics.

Social Studies

In 8th Grade Social Studies, students explore the foundations of early societies and their lasting impacts on the world. Over the three trimesters, they investigate key civilizations, including Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, the Indus Valley, China, Greece, Rome, and

Mesoamerica, while developing critical-thinking and historical-analysis skills. Students work on projects, participate in debates, and complete journal entries to encourage reflection and analysis while developing their voice on the page and in conversation.

Science

In 8th Grade Science, students focus on the physical aspects of science as well as chemistry and fundamental concepts of the nature of science. This course emphasizes application of mathematic skills and physical science concepts in various scenarios, requiring critical thinking skills. Students learn how to think critically and formally structure findings in the form of lab reports.

Physical Education

In 8th Grade Physical Education, students will focus on advanced skill development, strategic thinking, and personal fitness management. They will participate in diverse physical activities, from team sports to individual challenges, and will take ownership of their performance, goal-setting, and improvement. The course promotes lifelong wellness habits, leadership, cooperation, and the ability to adapt skills and strategies in dynamic physical situations.

Visual Art

In 8th Grade Art, students will synthesize their artistic knowledge into independent, concept-driven work. They will explore global and cultural perspectives, connect art to broader disciplines, and draw on

personal experiences to develop thematic portfolios. Reflection, critique, and research will help students deepen their understanding of art's power to express ideas and shape the world around them.

WORLD LANGUAGES

French

In 8th Grade French, students will strengthen their proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing while engaging more independently with the language. They will create original written and spoken work, participate in advanced discussions, and complete self-directed projects to apply and expand their skills. Students will also deepen their understanding of French-speaking cultures, making meaningful connections between language and real-world cultural contexts.

Latin

In 8th Grade Latin, students build a foundation in Latin language and culture through a focus on grammar, reading comprehension, vocabulary, and English derivatives. Readings and discussions about the daily life of a Roman family help students learn about the structure of both English and Latin sentences. This class balances listening, reading, and writing to help students understand linguistic structures in Latin and English, promote cultural awareness, and engage students in critical thinking. Students also have the opportunity to delve into various topics such as Greek and Roman mythology, as well as Roman history.

Spanish

In 8th Grade Spanish, students will expand their language skills with an emphasis on interpersonal and presentational communication. Using authentic resources and varied methods, students will engage more independently with comprehensible Spanish, increasing both their vocabulary and grammatical accuracy. They will apply their knowledge to create original written and spoken work, while exploring cultural perspectives and contexts to deepen their understanding of the Spanish-speaking world.

PERFORMING ARTS

Band

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Theatre Arts

In Theatre Arts class, students build foundational performance skills through movement, creativity, and collaboration. They begin with basic blocking and theatre shorthand to understand where and why actors move on stage, then use those skills to tell clear stories using only the body and facial expressions through tableau and pantomime. As the course progresses, students explore both structured and unstructured improvisation, developing confidence, creativity, quick-thinking, and strong ensemble skills. Every day includes new collaborative theatre games and team-building challenges designed to strengthen performance skills while creating a fun, supportive class cohort. No previous theatre experience required!

KEY EXPERIENCES

Chicago

This four-day travel adventure allows 8th graders to experience a diverse and multicultural city as they seek to understand their place in the world. Students explore architectural and historical features of the city, ethnic neighborhoods, museums, major city landmarks, and much more. Students are immersed in the culture through food, performing arts, entertainment, and history. As the final class trip in Middle School, students are encouraged to fully engage in all aspects of travel, as well as practice and refine their communication and leadership skills.

Middle School Ski

The Middle School ski program occurs over five weeks during the winter. All students take a ski or snowboard lesson and then spend time with their peers practicing skills, as well as strengthening Middle School bonds. Learning a lifelong sport and taking risks are key components of this program, which encourages a growth mindset.

Grades 5 & 8 Buddy Program

The Buddy Program fosters community, belonging, and leadership across the Middle School as students meet regularly for activities, conversations, and shared experiences. For 5th graders, it provides encouragement and support as they transition into middle school, while 8th graders develop responsibility, empathy, and mentoring skills.

8th Grade Leaders

8th grade students have the opportunity to lead their peers as a House Captain through the Middle School House System. Students go through an application process that includes a written component, interview, and letter of recommendation. Once selected, 8th grade leaders serve as positive role models, run morning meetings, plan spirit weeks, and lead weekly House activities to help build a positive, joyful, inclusive culture in the Middle School.


BE RESPONSIBLE
BE YOURSELF
HETIC
How can we help students feel
confident being themselves at
does responsibility look like toward
f? Toward classmates? Teachers?
or look like in a
cial setting?
What does it look like when students expres
themselves while still being respectful of
actions" at
g when someone is
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if they're different from
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DIVE

DIVE

In Dive courses, student interests and teacher expertise intersect in engaging and meaningful ways. Students take four Dive classes each year – two in the fall and two in the spring. The electives are non-graded as teachers strive to help students develop intrinsic motivation that comes from the satisfaction of learning something for their own benefit, rather than for a letter grade. Below are curricular offerings of overviews of recent Dive offerings.

CURRICULAR OVERVIEW

American Sign Language

This course introduces participants to basic conversational sign language including beginning ASL signs as well as Deaf culture and history. Lessons include the manual alphabet, basic grammar, signs, fingerspelling, numbers, and cultural information related to the Deaf Community. Learning ASL and its components, naturally connect participants to the Deaf Community, giving them a better understanding of the issues and challenges that they face, daily.

Can You DIY?

Think you can make it yourself? In this hands-on DIVE, students will explore the world of DIY (Do-It-Yourself) by creating a variety of unique projects using different materials, tools, and techniques. From personalized décor and accessories to creative crafts and functional items, each class offers a new opportunity to design, build, and create something to take home. Along the way, students will build creativity, problem-solving skills, and confidence. No prior experience is needed—just curiosity and a willingness to create!

Cities

In the Cities DIVE, our work begins with the creation of imaginary bronze age communities - that is human settlements that students imagine, map out, and describe in writing. These imaginary settings have their sizes and shapes determined by rolls of the dice which tell how much water is available, how mountainous the location is, how much forest is around, and so on. Over time, each settlement comes into view more clearly as students create maps and figure out crucial aspects of the town's economy and political structure. Students write scripts that capture slices of life in their town and ultimately engage in trade with other cities to meet the needs of their people. In the second stage of this DIVE, a party of imagined characters moves from one of the imagined communities that have been created to another. Extra points go to those in the adventuring party who are able to make the most compelling or relevant connections to social studies content.

Constitutional Law (Full-Year Course)

This course is designed for students who enjoy politics, debate, and American history. In Constitutional Law, you will acquire "legal literacy" through an interactive exploration of the United States Supreme Court. We will focus on cases that have advanced to the highest court in the land and involve the interpretation of the U.S. Constitution. You will read actual Supreme Court opinions, gain insight into the inner workings of the Justices' chambers and develop your own legal arguments through our moot court proceedings. Along the way, we will explore questions such as: What limits, if any, should there be on free speech in the United States? What does equal treatment under the law look like? Should we interpret the Constitution according to the Framers' original intent, or should we view it as a living document? Be prepared to strengthen your writing, critical reading, and public speaking skills throughout this engaging seminar!

Decorative and Functional Ceramics

In this dive course, you'll explore the art of hand-built pottery inspired by rich Mexican traditions! You'll craft a coil pot inspired by the potters of Atzompa, Oaxaca, a decorative Talavera relief tile, and whimsical alebrije sculptures modeled after the woodcarvers of San Martín Tilcajete. Discover the fascinating history and cultural significance behind each project as you create.

Drawing and Painting People

We will take a deep dive into the art of drawing people, focusing on some of the most challenging and expressive parts of the human figure: **faces, hands, and feet.** We'll begin with pencil and learn techniques for proportion, shape, shading, and capturing expression and movement. As we build confidence, we'll branch out into different artistic mediums and experiment with new styles and approaches. No previous drawing experience is required—just a willingness to observe, experiment, and get creative!

Gods, Heroes, and Legends: Greek and Roman Mythology

In Gods, Heroes and Legends: Greek and Roman mythology, you will read and learn the great myths of ancient Greece and Rome: the birth of the gods, the adventures of legendary heroes, and the monsters and quests that shaped classical storytelling. You'll act out myths to bring characters and conflicts to life, examine what these stories reveal about ancient beliefs and values, and see how they still influence art, language, and pop culture today. Along the way, you'll build toward testing your knowledge in the National Junior Classical League's National Mythology Exam through Excellence Through Classics. If you enjoy stories, performance, or exploring the myths behind legends still told today, this class is for you!

Haunted History & the Science of Scares

Why are we fascinated by creepy places, scary symbols, strange objects, nightmares, and things that go bump in the night? Explore the history and science behind what scares us, why our brains sometimes love being scared, and how ordinary things become creepy over time. We'll investigate, question, and uncover what's real, what's misunderstood, and what remains a mystery.

Improv Comedy

Get ready to think on your feet, unleash your imagination, and laugh a lot! In this high-energy, hands-on dive, students will explore the basics of improv comedy through games, scene challenges, and collaborative storytelling. They'll practice listening closely, building on one another's ideas, creating memorable characters, and turning unexpected moments into opportunities. Along the way, students will strengthen confidence, creativity, communication, and teamwork in a supportive, low-pressure environment. No acting or comedy experience is needed; just a willingness to say "yes, and," take creative risks, and have fun!

Into the Woods: Create a Wellington Story Walk

Bring a story to life in Wellington's very own woods! We'll interview some of our youngest students, use their ideas and imaginations to write an original children's story, and then illustrate and transform it into a Story Walk for our community to enjoy. Bring your creativity, writing, drawing, and ideas as we create something together that will live beyond our dive!

Learning to Lead

Warren Bennis once said, "The most dangerous leadership myth is that leaders are born – that there is a genetic factor to leadership. That's nonsense; in fact, the opposite is true. Leaders are made rather than born." In this course, we will unpack this idea and embrace the notion that there is a leader in each of us. This course will focus on how to help young people build their capacity for leadership. There will be time for personal reflection and goal setting, teamwork, visits from local leaders, and skill development.

Lit Mag

Join us in elevating Wellington's Middle School Lit Mag to the next level! Together, we'll create a public-facing publication that showcases the creativity, humor, opinions, and voices of our 5th–8th grade community. The Lit Mag may include short stories, poetry, comics, artwork, riddles, interviews, opinion pieces, and more. You'll have the chance to create original content, discover and edit student work, interview members of the Wellington community, design pages, brainstorm puzzles and features, and help market the finished publication. Whether you're a writer, artist, comedian, journalist, designer, puzzle-maker, interviewer, or simply someone with a great idea, there's a role for you!

Mic'd Up: A Podcasting Dive (Recording and Production)

Dive into the world of podcasting through a hands-on, collaborative experience. Students will work together to brainstorm ideas, write scripts, conduct interviews, record conversations, and edit a weekly podcast episode for online publication. Along the way, they will explore the many roles involved in podcast production, including hosting, storytelling, sound design, and promotion. First-time podcasters are always welcome, while returning students can continue sharpening their skills, taking on greater leadership, and diving deeper into the creative process.

National Junior Honor Society

National Junior Honor Society is a weekly leadership and service-learning course for students in grades 6–8 who are interested in strengthening their school and wider community. Students will explore the five pillars of NJHS—scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship—while learning to collaborate, communicate, make thoughtful decisions, and design meaningful service projects. Students are welcome to apply and will participate in a membership selection process. Students earning an academic average of 85% or higher and consistently demonstrating Wellington's Engaged Learner Metrics will receive close consideration. Academic achievement, however, is only one part of the selection process. Evidence of leadership, compassion, character, citizenship, service, personal growth, and a willingness to contribute positively to the community will also be valued. This course is not only for students who already see themselves as accomplished leaders; it is also for students who are ready to grow, take responsibility, and discover how their individual strengths can make a difference.

Newsies Jr. The Middle School Musical

As many of you already know, this year's Middle School Musical will be Newsies Jr.! What you may not know is that we are introducing a new rehearsal model designed to minimize conflicts with Wellington athletics and other after-school activities. Most rehearsals will take place during the school day through this DIVE, with only a limited number of required rehearsals outside of school hours.

Paper Roller Coasters

In this class students will work in a small group to build a paper rollercoaster out of nothing but paper and tape. Groups will put their knowledge of physics to the test as they design and build a coaster in our class competition. Students will purchase building supplies using fictitious money. Points are awarded for various achievements such as uphill parts of the track, roller coaster height and excitement factor. Points are deducted for every dollar spent. If you love design challenges, this DIVE is for you!

Red Cross CPR Certification

Learn essential lifesaving skills through a combination of instructor-led lessons, videos, demonstrations, and hands-on practice. Students will learn how to recognize an emergency, respond appropriately, perform high-quality CPR, and use an AED (automated external defibrillator). The course will emphasize practical skills and give students opportunities to practice techniques in a supportive, hands-on setting.

Robotics: Engineering and Design

Join a community of creators! This course is designed for everyone—from those just getting started to students with prior robotics experience looking to work with Arduino and Raspberry Pi microcontrollers. Working in collaborative teams, you will design and build custom robots using VEX IQ and other hardware to solve diverse engineering challenges. From engineering Sumo robots to mastering Combat robotics, our focus is on creative problem-solving and durable design. No matter your skill level, bring your imagination and help us build the future

So You Wanna Be a DM?": How to Run a Legendary D&D Campaign

"So You Wanna Be a DM?" focuses on strategies for successfully leading campaigns of the tabletop roleplaying game Dungeons and Dragons. The course will highlight techniques and best practices for running games, including leadership skills, clear communication, fostering teamwork, building empathy, resolving conflicts, and creative problem solving. Students will explore these themes as both players and Dungeon Masters (DMs).

Sports Media: The Art of the Take

Sports are about more than the game; they're about the stories, personalities, and opinions that shape how fans experience them. In this course, students will explore the world of sports media by studying different types of sports personalities, from analysts and insiders to comedians, hot

take artists, and superfans. Along the way, they'll develop skills in communication, storytelling, media literacy, and digital content creation. The course culminates in students producing their own sports podcast or video segment, using the sports media style that best fits their voice.

Sporty STEM: The Science and Math Behind Sports

Get ready to explore the exciting intersection of athletics and academics in Sporty STEM! This hands-on, high-energy course combines the thrill of sports with the power of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Students will dive into real-world applications of math and science concepts through a variety of popular sports, including boxing, football, baseball, softball, golf, tennis, cornhole, basketball, and pickleball. Whether you're a mathlete, an athlete, or both, this course will show how numbers and physics are at play in every pass, pitch, and point. Students will build critical thinking skills, sharpen their scientific reasoning, and gain a new appreciation for the STEM behind the sports they love. Come play and explore.

The Gordon Korman Fan Club

Get ready for an author visit this fall from best-selling author Gordon Korman! In this interactive elective, students will dive into Korman's iconic novels, like *Restart* and *Slacker*, and explore how he launched his writing career as a 7th grader. Beyond reading and discussion, students will work in creative teams to script, film, and edit digital media, including cinematic book trailers and trivia shorts, to build excitement across the Lower and Middle School communities.

The Investor's Mindset

What separates successful investors from everyone else? In this DIVE, students will discover how great investors think by exploring the stock market, analyzing real companies, and uncovering the power of compound growth. Through interactive simulations, investment challenges, and real-world case studies, students will learn how businesses create value, why long-term thinking matters, and how small investments can grow over time. Along the way, they'll apply mathematical concepts such as percentages, exponential growth, and data analysis while developing the critical thinking, patience, and decision-making skills that form the foundation of successful investing.

The Social Playbook

This isn't your grandma's etiquette class; it's a high-energy bootcamp for real life where you'll compete in Conversation Jenga, solve mysteries in an Emotional Intelligence Escape Room, and master the art of the perfect apology through improv. Discover how to spot a digital drama before it starts, read body language like a detective, and turn awkward silences into epic conversations. Plus, you'll get to plan and attend the ultimate luncheon—a fancy formal event thar Madame Mercurio and Madame Fencl will cater.

TREK The National Parks

Ready to hit the (virtual) road and explore the wildest, weirdest, and most breathtaking places in the U.S.? In this class, you'll take a journey through America's National Parks—from the famous giants like Yellowstone and Yosemite to hidden gems you've probably never heard of (hello, Dry Tortugas!). Each week, we'll "visit" a new park and uncover what makes it awesome: jaw-dropping landscapes, crazy wildlife, deep history, and the challenges these wild places face today (wildfires, overcrowding, disappearing glaciers—you name it). You'll play games, research, solve clues, and take virtual hikes. For your final project, you'll plan an epic adventure to a real park and create a custom travel guide to share with others.

Watercolors: People, Places, Things

Explore the possibilities of watercolor by painting a variety of subjects—from people and places to everyday objects. We'll begin by reviewing essential watercolor techniques, then learn how to break down reference images into manageable steps and develop a plan for creating successful, expressive paintings.

Zoology 101

Do you love animals? Are you interested in working with animals in your career? Zoology 101 is a great place to start. Starting with the basics, students will dive into the animal world and explore classification, adaptation, and details about particular species. In addition, students will learn more about how to protect our wildlife and participate in conservation efforts to ensure the survival of these amazing animals.


Speedy Sneakers
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Athletics

ATHLETICS PHILOSOPHY

Skill development and a balance between participation and increased competition are the primary focuses of middle school athletics. The goal is for each student to receive some playing time during each contest, and every child is encouraged to join a Wellington athletic team. Coaches and athletes work to create an inclusive and energetic team environment while thoroughly preparing for the transition to upper school athletics.

JUMP START PROGRAM - SPORTS PERFORMANCE TRAINING

The Wellington Sports Performance Program seeks to inspire character, competition, and commitment while creating improved movement quality, strength, speed, and agility of student-athletes.

The purpose of the Jump Start Program (JSP) is to increase body control, improve strength and speed, and decrease the risk of injuries. The JSP also introduces the middle school athlete to the movements used and standards held in the Upper School Sports Performance Program, helping to ease the transition to upper school athletics. The primary emphasis of JSP is on learning, enjoyment, and effort as opposed to the performance focus in upper school sessions. Each session will include speed and agility work, body awareness exercises, and some technique-focused resistance training.

Sport Offerings

A wide variety of sports are offered at Wellington.

*6th-grade participation in these sports is dependent on interest and roster availability.

Fall

Boys Soccer (grades 7–8)
Girls Soccer (grades 6–8)
Girls Tennis (grades 6–8)*
Coed Golf (grades 6–8)*
Boys Cross Country (grades 6–8)*
Girls Cross Country (grades 6–8)*
Girls Volleyball (grades 7–8)



Winter

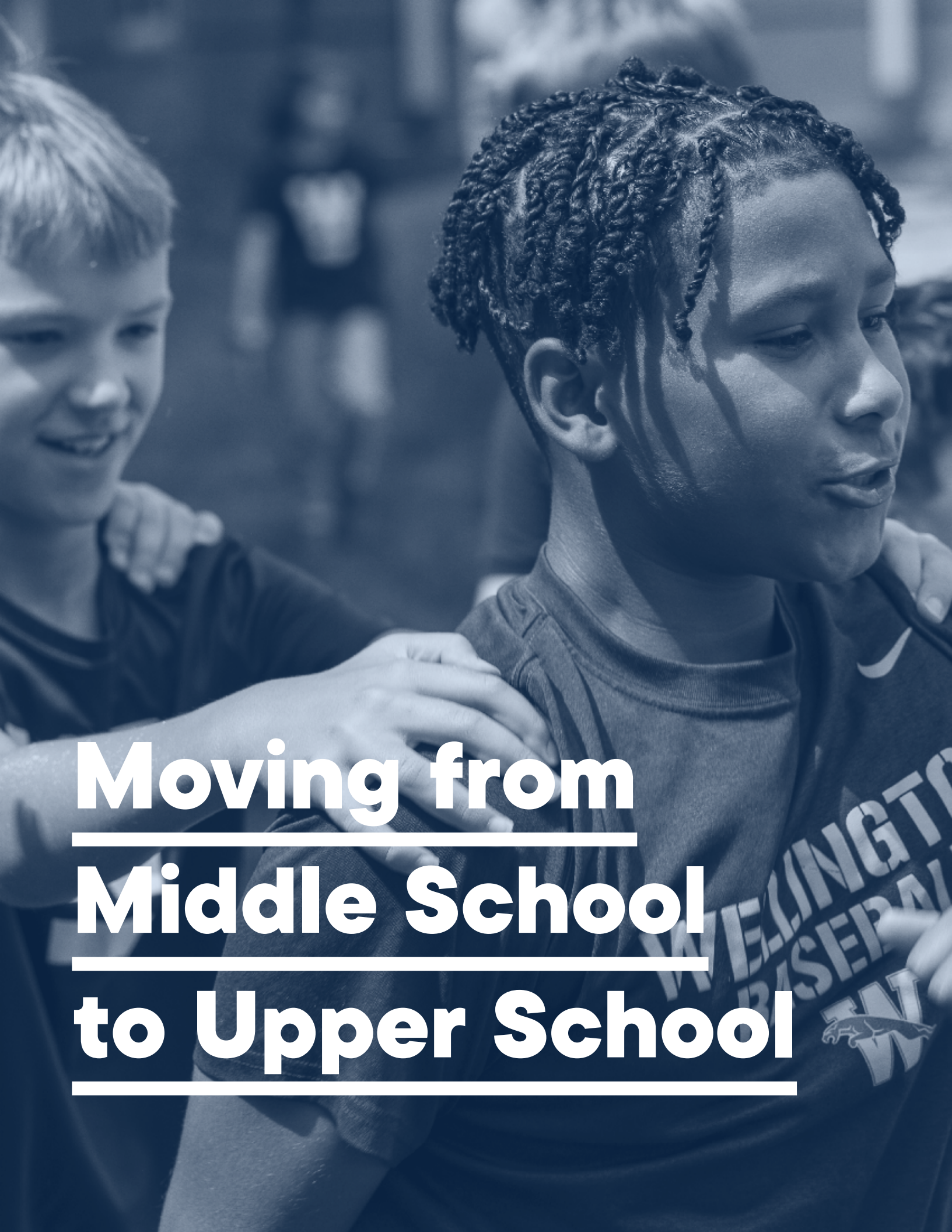
Boys Basketball (grades 5–8)
Girls Basketball (grades 5–8)
Boys Swimming (grades 6–8)
Girls Swimming (grades 6–8)



Spring

Baseball (grades 6–8)
Softball (grades 6–8)
Girls Lacrosse (grades 6–8)
Boys Tennis (grades 6–8)*
Boys Track and Field (grades 6–8)
Girls Track and Field (grades 6–8)





Moving from Middle School to Upper School

Wellington's Middle School experience bridges the transition from foundational learning to academic ownership, preparing students for the depth and responsibility of Upper School.

As Middle School students grow in confidence, they begin to take fuller ownership of their academic journey. They've learned how to navigate challenge, manage multiple responsibilities, and reflect on themselves as learners. Through opportunities like leadership in the House program, Dive and clubs, and grade-level trips, students develop the habits of mind and personal agency necessary for success in Upper School. They are ready to deepen their engagement, sharpen their thinking, and expand their impact.

Throughout Middle School, students build essential habits and perspectives that form the bridge to Upper School success, including:

- Strengthening metacognitive skills and setting personal learning goals
- Using feedback to iterate and grow
- Practicing academic risk-taking and embracing productive struggle
- Collaborating effectively with peers and adults
- Honing executive function skills through long-term projects and increased expectations
- Articulating their thinking in writing, discussion, and presentations
- Making connections across disciplines through interdisciplinary Dives
- Reflecting on their identity, values, and role within the community
- Pursuing areas of interest through electives, clubs, and independent projects
- Balancing academics, arts, athletics, and wellness with increasing independence

By the end of eighth grade, Wellington students are confident, capable, and curious learners, ready to step into the deeper intellectual challenges and expanded leadership opportunities of Upper School.



Wellington

Founded in 1982 by a group of local entrepreneurs as Columbus' first coeducational independent school, The Wellington School is dedicated to helping students in preschool through grade 12 find their purpose and realize their potential for tomorrow's world.

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