



Making the Most of **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

A RESEARCH-DRIVEN, PROVEN
APPROACH TO HIGH
SCHOOL PREP

A Parent Guide to Columbia Academy's
Middle School Experience Grades 5-8

ColumbiaAcademy.com

 **Columbia Academy**
Creative Teaching. Meaningful Learning.





MIDDLE SCHOOL

ONE FOOT IN CHILDHOOD.
ONE FOOT IN ADOLESCENCE.

During these pivotal years, how do you keep your child grounded while also building up their confidence?

That's where we come in, walking alongside you as you and your child navigate middle school.

Columbia Academy's middle school program is intentionally designed (and consistently revised) so that students graduate both academically prepared as well as socially and emotionally ready to tackle high school, college, careers, and community involvement. Character development is woven into every aspect of our student experience — allowing your child to discover the best version of themselves, and how to make the most of their gifts and abilities. We provide the opportunity to build their competency and mastery, instilling self-confidence and self-awareness and setting them up for future success.

As a parent of a middle schooler, you'll find we're always working to refine and improve our curriculum and instructional approach so our teachers can continue to meet the diverse needs of their students. Because we have the advantage of small class sizes and an intimate environment, our teachers know how their students learn best. Every student is known by name in our classrooms and hallways, and we are interested and invested in their success on and off campus.

We look forward to partnering with you during these critical years as we work together to ensure your child is ready for their next chapter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [410.312.5233](tel:410.312.5233) or admissions@columbiaacademy.com.

Sincerely,

Jon Swider

Jon Swider,
Head of School

**CORE SUBJECTS &
SPECIALS**



ELECTIVES



**IMPARTING
*WISDOM.***

**INSPIRING
*POSSIBILITIES.***

From fifth grade to the capstone experience of eighth grade, Columbia Academy students are deep-diving into content and starting to choose subjects that intrigue them. They're applying what they're learning across disciplines as well as asking questions, thinking critically, and exploring new material.

**STUDENT
LEADERSHIP**



**THE 8TH GRADE
CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE**

**MONTHLY
FIELD TRIPS**



KNOWLEDGE +
CHARACTER EDUCATION =

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUCCESS

A Little Independence

We give our middle schoolers autonomy over certain decisions and activities, which allows them to ease into taking on more responsibilities. Students have advisory time every morning so they can get answers to questions or ask for extra help. They work with their advisor to choose electives, and they can join student organizations.

A Lot of Accountability

As middle schoolers successfully navigate the incremental increases in responsibility, their self-confidence improves as they see they are capable of handling what's in front of them. Students begin changing classes as there's a greater emphasis on managing their assignments and schedules. Middle school students begin to recognize the impact of their decisions and behaviors as they learn about virtues such as diligence, empathy, fairness, gratitude, honesty, kindness, mindfulness, patience, and respect.

We're Educating Citizens of the World

Civic engagement is part of our school culture. Middle schoolers are active participants in coordinating and executing service projects. Past projects include:



Howard County Food Bank Food Drive

In 2022, students collected 13,954 items/5,200 pounds of food, providing approximately 4,333 meals to our community.



Grassroots Crisis Intervention Donation Drive

Students collect much-needed household items, baby products, personal care items, kitchen items, and warm mittens and socks to benefit Grassroots.



Kids Heart Challenge

Students raise funds and awareness for the American Heart Association for research and education that will save lives in our community and beyond.

Columbia Academy Graduates ATTEND MANY OF THE TOP PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE REGION. MEET SOME OF OUR RECENT GRADUATES ...



Jacob, Class of 2022

TIME AT COLUMBIA ACADEMY: Infant/Toddler - Grade 8

HIGH SCHOOL: Our Lady of Good Counsel High School

FAVORITE MEMORY OF CA: Visiting Philadelphia in 6th Grade

CAREER GOAL: To become an aerospace engineer and play a college sport



Siang, Class of 2022

TIME AT COLUMBIA ACADEMY: Transitional Kindergarten - Grade 8

HIGH SCHOOL: Maryland International School

FAVORITE MEMORY OF CA: Movie night - everything that happened was so fun

CAREER GOAL: Become an engineer or movie music composer



Cooper, Class of 2022

TIME AT COLUMBIA ACADEMY: Grade 7 - Grade 8

HIGH SCHOOL: Reservoir High School

FAVORITE MEMORY OF CA: Our Gettysburg trip

CAREER GOAL: Become a sports photographer



Maya, Class of 2022

TIME AT COLUMBIA ACADEMY: Infant/Toddler Program - Grade 8

HIGH SCHOOL: Atholton High School

FAVORITE MEMORY OF CA: Field Day at Centennial

CAREER GOAL: To play basketball





IF YOU'RE *Already* PART OF THE COLUMBIA ACADEMY FAMILY ...

You recognize the advantage of continuing your child's education at a middle school where they're known, celebrated, and supported. Your Columbia Academy fourth grader will spend a day shadowing a fifth grader, so they'll know exactly what to expect next year.

IF YOU'RE *New* HERE ...

We're excited you're considering Columbia Academy for your middle schooler! After you [take a campus tour](#) and [complete your application](#), we'll arrange for your child to shadow a Columbia Academy middle school student for the day. It's a great opportunity for your child to familiarize themselves with our campus and community.

QUESTIONS?

Contact us at: 410.312.5233



COLUMBIA ACADEMY ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL
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