

CREATIVE TEACHING. *MEANINGFUL* **LEARNING.**



ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL
Transitional Kindergarten - 8th Grade

WHY COLUMBIA ACADEMY?



Choosing a school where your child can flourish is one of your top priorities as a parent. From kindergarten, where they will build a foundation for future learning, to the middle school years, where they'll identify personal passions and hone life skills, the right learning environment makes all the difference.

On behalf of all of us here at Columbia Academy, we're thrilled your family is interested in joining our close-knit learning community. Whether you have a preschooler or a pre-teen, you'll find an environment where your child can receive the individualized attention and support they need to achieve their full potential.

Our whole-child approach involves developing each child's academic foundation, character and values, and social-emotional health. We not only help them master core skills in reading, math, writing, and other important subjects; we cultivate their unique gifts and talents, help them build decision-making skills, and emphasize respect, empathy, and citizenship.

Year after year, we see that whole-child teaching and learning produces well-rounded students who not only succeed in the classroom, but in all areas of life. Our graduates are accepted to some of the area's top high schools and matriculate to renowned universities across the country. More importantly, they are equipped to use their knowledge and skills to make a positive difference in the world.

We invite you to see for yourself why families choose Columbia Academy by [scheduling a tour](#). We look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

Tiffany Conroy
Head of School





TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN or KINDERGARTEN?

A Strong Start.

Our kindergartners and transitional kindergartners develop an authentic love for learning as they learn to read, write, problem-solve, and collaborate. Our brain-based approach to teaching aligns with how young children naturally learn. Students are motivated through multisensory experiences, social-emotional learning, and hands-on projects that require critical thinking.

Our teachers differentiate instruction, which means there is no blanket standard to which each child is held — students are viewed as individuals, and our teachers tailor instruction to meet each student's needs.

Should my child enter kindergarten or TK?

By offering both Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten, we provide students who need the additional gift of time with the right-fit environment to prepare for school success. individuals, and our teachers tailor instruction to meet each student's needs.

Wondering if Your Child Should Complete TK Before Kindergarten?

Transitional Kindergarten is designed for students with birthdays that fall between September 2 and December 31, or any five-year-old who could benefit from an additional year of learning and growth prior to entering kindergarten.* This full-day program places greater emphasis on social-emotional development in addition to academics, and gently prepares students for the additional structure of a traditional kindergarten program. TK provides students with:

Preparation for Structured Learning

In TK, we meet students where they are in their skills development, encouraging independence and providing the proper scaffolding that leads to success in any future learning environment.

Enhanced Executive Functioning Skills

Students in TK master skills for successful learning, including self-control, organization, flexible thinking, and more.

Stronger Academic Readiness

TK students demonstrate better literacy, language, and math skills as they transition to kindergarten, first grade, and beyond.

Improved Social-Emotional Skills

Enriching peer-to-peer interactions, role-playing, and group discussion centered on social skill development are highlights of the TK experience.

*Columbia Academy conducts an assessment with each prospective student to ensure kindergarten readiness and identify students who could benefit from a year in TK.

Optimal Class Sizes

At Columbia Academy, transitional kindergarten classes have approximately 12 students, and kindergarten classes have approximately 16 students. Our goal is to provide ample individualized attention and plenty of socialization.

WONDERING WHAT YOUR CHILD'S DAY WILL LOOK LIKE IN *Kindergartener?*

While each day is a little different at Columbia Academy, the following sample schedule will help you understand the general flow of learning and activities in TK and Kindergarten.

8:15 - 8:30	Arrival & Reading Time — As students settle into the classroom, they grab a book of their choosing and spend time reading with their teacher and peers. We call this part of the day D.E.A.R. — Drop Everything And Read!
8:30 - 9:00	Recess — Early outdoor time helps young learners get their wiggles out, intentionally preparing them for the academic day.
9:00 - 9:15	Snack — Provided by the school, a morning snack gives students the fuel they need to stay focused and retain information ahead of core academic lessons.
9:15 - 9:30	Morning Meeting — Part of our Responsive Classroom approach, morning meeting, builds social-emotional skills, fosters community, and sets a positive tone for the school day.
9:35 - 10:05	Math — Students work to develop strong numeracy skills — counting, measuring, adding, and subtracting. They also begin exploring geometry using manipulatives.
10:10 - 10:40	Language Arts — We make reading fun through a variety of engaging, hands-on activities. Throughout the year, students hone their reading, comprehension, and speaking skills.
10:45 - 11:00	Handwriting — Students quickly progress from writing only their names to forming full sentences. It is an amazing transformation to watch as they proudly begin to convey their ideas in writing.
11:00 - 11:30	Daily Specials — Students move to a different classroom for their first specials class of the day. This could be music, P.E., technology, library media, or art.
11:30 - 12:00	Recess — Ready for fresh air and free play, students head to our high-quality playgrounds for their second recess of the day.
12:00 - 12:30	Lunch — Kindergartners share meals with their friends in our lunch room, taking in nutrition to finish the day strong while developing vital social skills.
12:30 - 1:00	Quiet Activities — During this time, students can read, color, or simply rest at their table to prepare their bodies and minds for the remainder of the day.
1:05 - 1:35	Daily Specials 2 — As students transition to another classroom for their second specials class, they develop important school readiness skills — what to do, where to go, and how to behave while moving through the campus.
1:40 - 2:10	Science — A favorite subject for kindergartners, science allows students to hypothesize, experiment, and get messy as they explore the world around them.
2:15 - 2:55	Learning Centers — As the academic day concludes, students are given the free choice to explore our classroom learning centers, reinforcing what they've learned through hands-on exploration.
3:00 - 3:15	Afternoon Snack — Much needed after a fun and energy-filled day, students enjoy a healthy snack before packing up their belongings for dismissal.
3:25	Dismissal — Students not enrolled in After-Care will transition outside with their teacher to the carline, where they are picked up by their parent/guardian.



THE COLUMBIA ACADEMY DIFFERENCE

We give students the whole-person support they need to thrive in the classroom and everyday life.

You not only want your child to become a good student; you want them to become a good person.

We want the same thing. In transitional kindergarten and kindergarten at Columbia Academy, we teach empathy, respect, and understanding, intentionally guiding students in their peer interactions to help them learn what it means to be a good friend and community member.

Every child has strengths and weaknesses. You want them to see their failures as opportunities.


Columbia Academy is an environment where students can take educational risks that result in meaningful growth. Our students become confident learners who embrace a growth mindset early on.

You know that loving school involves thriving socially, not just academically.

Transitional kindergarteners and kindergarteners need to feel a strong sense of belonging. Social-emotional learning is integrated into our curriculum to create an environment where students can genuinely embrace learning in a healthy social culture.

Strong values are built in the early years.

Our Virtue of the Month assembly helps students build strong character traits such as responsibility, citizenship, gratitude, mindfulness, patience, respect, diligence, kindness and empathy, honesty, and fairness. This is also an opportunity for young learners to hone active listening skills as audience members, as well as speaking skills during presentations.



“My child has attended Columbia Academy for TK and is now in Kindergarten. We cannot begin to express the gratitude we have for the teachers as well as the administrative staff. She has grown immensely, but more importantly has a love for learning that has not faltered and grows each day. She is reading books fluently, practicing math well above her grade level, and has made friends that share in her joy of coming to school. Thank you, Columbia Academy!”

Columbia Academy Parent



WHY DO FAMILIES CHOOSE COLUMBIA ACADEMY FOR *ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?*

Academic Excellence

Our robust curriculum readily prepares children to excel throughout elementary school and beyond. Brain-based learning with an emphasis on social-emotional development is woven into academics, motivating children to attain higher levels of cognition and interest.

Right-Sized Classes

At Columbia Academy, our elementary classrooms are capped at 16 students. This number allows our teachers to provide ample individualized attention and gives our students plenty of opportunities for meaningful collaboration.

Differentiated Teaching

Elementary teachers understand that there is no one-size-fits-all method of instruction. Whether students need a higher level of challenge or extra support to master a concept, they benefit from a personalized approach.

Parent Communication

Keeping parents informed and engaged in their child's learning process is a hallmark of the Columbia Academy experience. Your child's teachers will communicate with you regularly through classroom newsletters, parent-teacher conferences, interim reports, and trimester report cards.

Diversity & Inclusion

Columbia Academy is a diverse learning environment centered on mutual respect and a shared pursuit of excellence. Our students develop strong values as they are immersed in a close-knit community where they are affirmed and celebrated.

Safety & Quality

Your child's safety is our top priority. All Columbia Academy staff are background checked and meet high standards, and our facilities are designed for maximum security, with locked doors, PIN access, and a stringent drop-off and pick-up process.



WORDS FROM A COLUMBIA ACADEMY FAMILY

“Our daughters have grown and thrived at the Columbia Academy. The combination of a rigorous curriculum, character education, small class sizes, and extracurricular opportunities for enrichment create an academic environment that is both intellectually challenging and supportive of every student. Just as important is the fact that the culture of the school is a model of an inclusive family-oriented community.”

Josh K., JD, PhD | [Columbia Academy Parent](#)

WONDERING WHAT YOUR CHILD’S DAY WILL LOOK LIKE IN *Elementary School?*

8:30 - 9:00

Homeroom — Students begin the day in a consistent, welcoming environment, where they practice autonomy in managing their belongings, greet their friends, and get settled for a day of learning.

9:00 - 9:15

Morning Meeting — A daily morning meeting with a built-in group activity builds a strong sense of community, lets students know what to expect for the day, and fosters social-emotional skills.

9:15 - 10:20

Reading/Grammar/Spelling — Students build a strong foundation in reading, writing, listening, and speaking using the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Reading and Into Literature. Engaging lessons promote phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary, and text comprehension.

10:20 - 11:20

Guided Reading Groups/Writing Time — We empower children to learn through culturally relevant, ethnically diverse, high-quality texts that stimulate their natural curiosity for the world around them. Through Writing Workshops, students’ storytelling skills come to life.

11:20 - 12:20

Math — Into Math program by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt assists students in learning the “why” behind the “how” in mathematics. Teachers first build understanding, then move to connecting concepts and skills, and finally applying and practicing those skills. This learning arc creates fearless problem solvers who are confident in their abilities.

12:30 - 1:00

Lunch — Lunch is not only an opportunity to refuel for the afternoon of learning; it's an intentional time of social development. As students share a meal together in our cafeteria, they practice communication skills and exemplify the character values they're learning daily.

1:00 - 1:30

Recess — Free play is crucial for elementary-aged children. Weather permitting, students head outside to our high-quality playgrounds for fresh air and fun. We also utilize our gymnasium for recess and structured games.

1:30 - 2:00

Science, Social Studies, or Health — Students rotate between these three important subjects, developing a stronger understanding of their world, country, and community. Special emphasis is given to being a good steward of our environment, resources, minds, and bodies.

2:00 - 2:45

Weekly Specials — Art and music are two of our most popular specials in elementary school. These allow students to express themselves creatively, explore unique mediums and instruments, and consider how they can use their artistic gifts in the future.

2:45-3:30

Weekly Specials — Rotating between Spanish, P.E., Media, Library, and Enrichment, students explore a wide variety of subjects that promote skills for lifelong learning.





“Our daughters have grown and thrived at the Columbia Academy. The combination of a rigorous curriculum, character education, small class sizes, and extracurricular opportunities for enrichment create an academic environment that is both intellectually challenging and supportive of every student. Just as important is the fact that the culture of the school is a model of an inclusive family-oriented community.”

Josh K., JD, PhD | [Columbia Academy Parent](#)





THE COLUMBIA ACADEMY DIFFERENCE



Fostering a Growth Mindset for Success Today & Tomorrow

Columbia Academy students know that they are capable of learning new things. They are not afraid to fail and view challenges as opportunities for growth! All of our elementary teachers are trained in fostering a growth mindset. The unwavering support teachers provide gives students the confidence to take educational risks that maximize their learning potential, now and in the future.



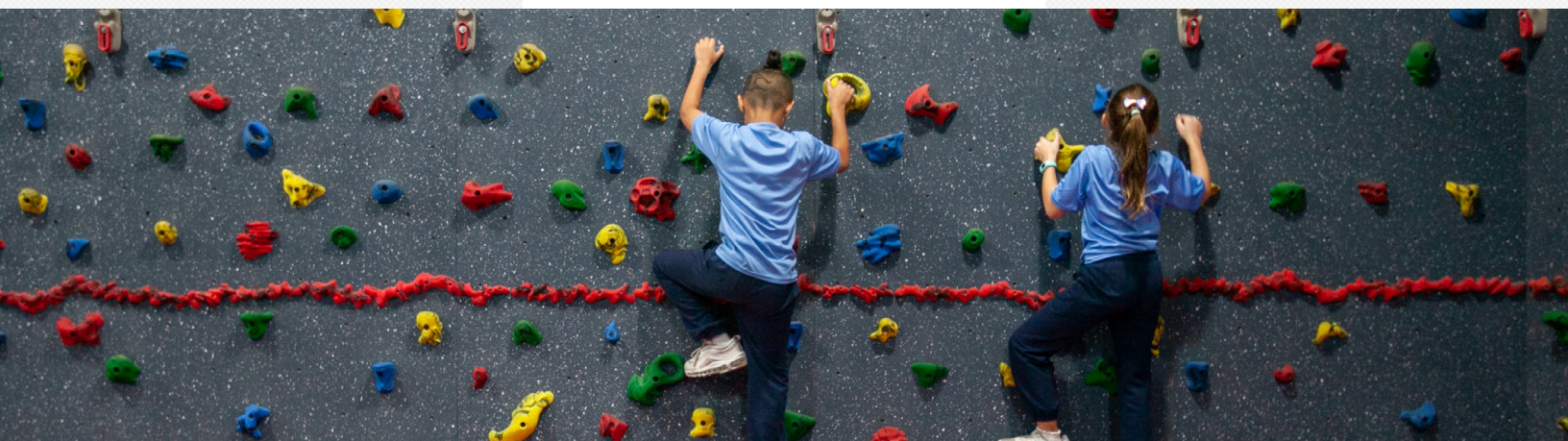
Treating Students As Individuals With Unique Learning Styles

Because we are a privately-owned school, we have higher levels of flexibility regarding our curriculum and the ability to meet students where they are — academically, socially, and emotionally. Smaller class sizes allow teachers to truly understand their students' learning styles and cater to their strengths.



Building Strong Character for a Virtuous Life

In addition to a rigorous academic program, students benefit from character education that encourages positive decision-making, relationship-building, and implements the study of a different virtue each month, including gratitude, responsibility, citizenship, empathy, respect, honesty, and more. A monthly assembly provides opportunities for students to be recognized for their character.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

ONE FOOT IN CHILDHOOD.
ONE FOOT IN ADOLESCENCE.



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 confidence and self-awareness and setting them up for future success.





CORE SUBJECTS

- Math
- Science
- Humanities (Language Arts and Social Studies)



ELECTIVES

- Band
- Chorus
- Cooking
- Creative Writing
- Drama and Acting
- Knitting
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Stock Market
- Strategic Games
- Student Leadership
- Yearbook

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, asking questions, thinking critically, and exploring new material.



ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

- Abrakadoodle
- Ballet
- Cheer
- Chess
- Girls on the Run
- Jazz
- Robotics with STEM Tree
- Soccer Shots
- Intramural Sports



LEARNING BY DOING

- 1 Monthly Field Trips
- Service Projects

LEARNING BY LEADING

100% of CA students participate in leadership opportunities

- Young Leaders Club
- School Store
- Student Leadership Group

THE 8TH GRADE CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE

- Capstone Project
- Leadership Group
- End-of-the-Year Trip

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 THE REGION'S TOP HIGH SCHOOLS AND PURSUE BRIGHT FUTURES. 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: 6th grade Philadelphia trip

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

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: The 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



Come See
COLUMBIA ACADEMY FOR YOURSELF

We know that choosing the right school for your child is a big decision — perhaps the most significant choice you'll ever make on their behalf!

That's why we invite you to come see our classrooms and facilities firsthand, meet some of our staff, and learn why families choose Columbia Academy for their students.

After your tour, your child may also be able to shadow a Columbia Academy student for a day. It's a great opportunity for prospective students to get familiar with our campus, make new friends, and meet some teachers ahead of their first day.

Schedule your tour today. →



Call: 410.3127413 | *Email:* admissions@columbiaacademy.com

COLUMBIA ACADEMY

10350 Old Columbia Road | Columbia, MD 21046



ColumbiaAcademy.com