



Middle **School** **Programs**

2022/2023

Contents

Descriptions & Information

5	Welcome from Co-Heads of School
6	The Middle School Experience
8	Daily Schedule
10	5th Grade
13	6th Grade
16	7th Grade
19	8th Grade
22	DIVE
26	Athletics



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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are thrilled that your search for a unique educational setting for your child has led you to Wellington! We hope this booklet illustrates how *we help students find their purpose and realize their potential for tomorrow's world*. Wellington's mission and values are at the heart of everything we do in middle school. Through inquiry and project-based learning, we promote a culture of questioning and reflection (*Be Curious*). Our Advisory program and overall emphasis on social-emotional learning help Wellington students discover who they are as individuals and in the context of their communities (*Be Yourself*). Bolstered by a strong network of supportive adults who are experts in their fields, we encourage students to take academic risks and push themselves in exciting new directions (*Be Ambitious*). Students learn, create, and play with peers and teachers whose diverse backgrounds offer them a chance to see the world through multiple lenses and affirm their sense of belonging (*Be Empathetic*). During these in-between years of burgeoning independence, we focus on executive functioning skills that empower students to set goals, manage their time, and develop intrinsic motivation (*Be Responsible*).

Middle school students build a strong academic foundation across the curriculum through authentic, immersive experiences in the classroom and beyond our walls. At Wellington, we take pride in teaching students how to think, rather than what to think. To achieve that outcome, it is essential that students have opportunities to make choices and to use their voices in ways that will help them and others flourish. Wellington students practice choice and develop their voices by exploring new interests through our Dive elective program, joining a club or affinity group, stepping into a leadership role, and participating in performing arts and athletics. No matter the endeavor or setting, we want students to be appropriately challenged and highly engaged in everything they undertake.

We invite you to learn more about the middle school experience on the pages that follow. Be sure to visit us in person so you can see for yourself what makes Wellington a joyful and thriving community of learners. We hope to see you soon!

Best,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Cristen Geary' and the signature on the right is 'Lissa Wade'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cristen Geary P '35 '36 and Lissa Wade
Co- Heads of Middle School

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TRUTHS

While we have a more detailed Code of Conduct that outlines expectations for a safe and supportive community, we refer to these Middle School Truths as our rules to live by:

- Be Safe
- Be Kind
- Take care of your business
- Honesty is everything

STUDENT LIFE

During their middle school years, students are encouraged to find their people, seek out trusted adults, and try something new. In addition to their academic experiences, students benefit from being involved in and contributing to the life of the school. Students are asked to bring their own ideas to faculty in order to cultivate a more inclusive and diverse middle school culture that reflects who they are.

Examples of student involvement for all middle school grades.

Affinity groups - Groups with a common interest or core cultural identifier (A Foot in 2 Places, Boys of Color, Girls of Color, GSA)

Athletics - Organized teams and training groups for fall, winter, and spring sports

Clubs - Student driven clubs supervised by faculty

Subject competitions - National competitions in academic disciplines

Theatre - Annual middle school production with onstage and tech crew participation

8th Grade Leaders - volunteer student group helps plan morning meetings, spirit weeks, and other middle school events

Study buddies - middle school students serve as academic and social study buddy mentors to younger students and may also receive social and academic mentoring from upper school students

ADVISORY

Each student is part of an advisory group of approximately 11 students in the same grade level, supervised by one teacher who serves as the group's dedicated advisor. Advisory groups begin and end the school day together and meet mid-day for supervised study and lunch. The purpose of Advisory is to create a culture of connectedness and belonging where each student feels seen and known. We use a research-based curriculum, Second Step®, in our Advisory lessons to support students' social-emotional competence. Advisory lesson units include:

- Mindsets and Goals
- Recognizing Bullying and Harassment
- Thoughts, Emotions, and Decisions
- Managing Relationships and Social Conflict

We supplement this curriculum with lessons and activities around mental and physical health and well-being, often partnering with local professionals to ensure a comprehensive program that supports our students' academic, intellectual, social, and emotional growth.

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

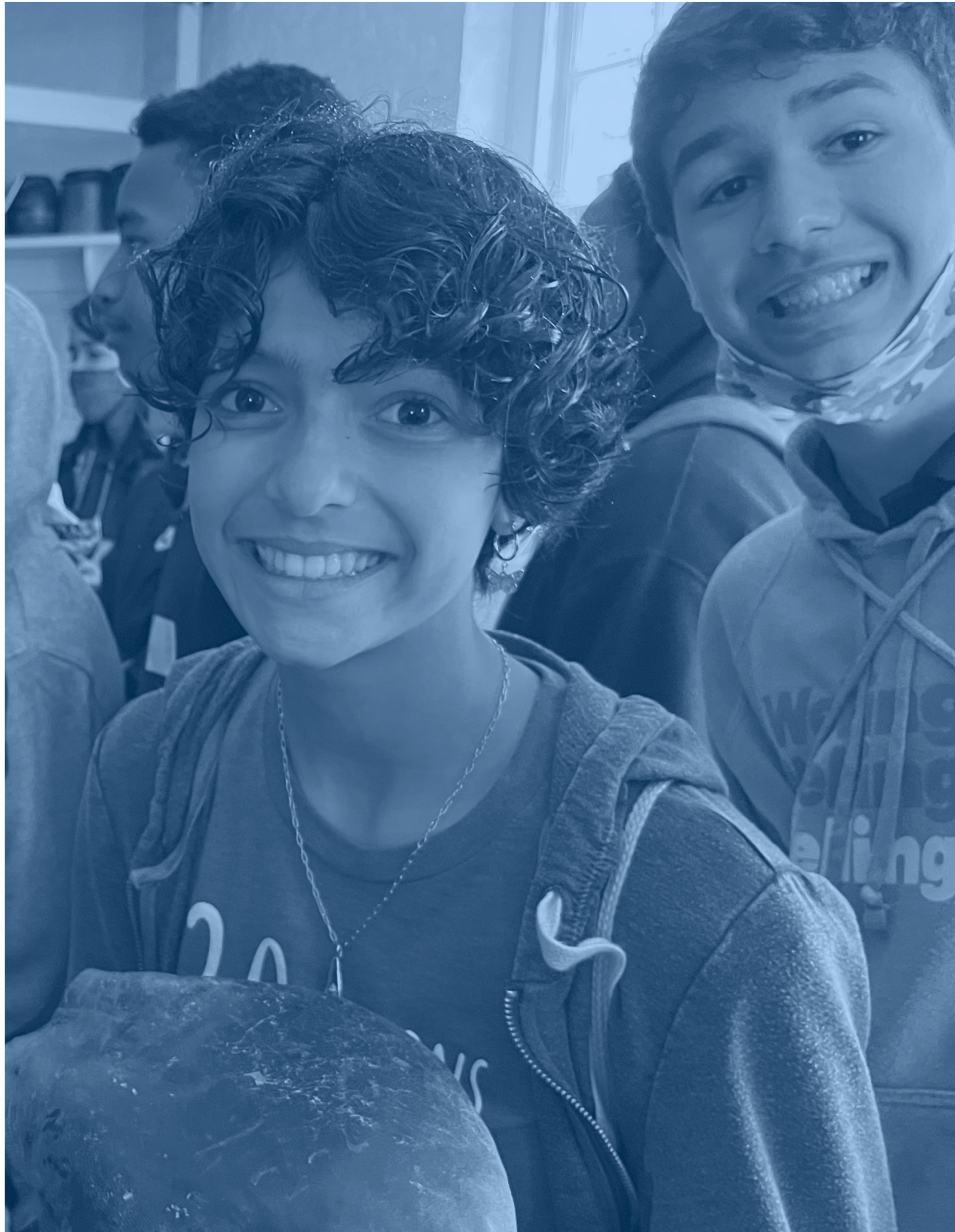
LEAP Days occur on Wednesdays of five-day weeks, creating a pause amid the ABCD class schedule. These days dedicated to **L**earning, **E**xploration, and **P**rojects are planned by grade-level teams to provide academic support and challenge, student choice, as well as novel experiences for the community to enjoy together. LEAP Days include:

Extension - This double-block period is designed by the teaching team to hone skills that connect with core classes. Examples of Extension activities include workshops on etymology, research and citation skills, interdisciplinary projects, field trips, guest speakers, and math competitions.

Advisory - Using the Second Step® lessons, students engage in weekly check-ins and check-outs, class challenges, class meetings, and service-learning projects. Advisory lessons are proactively and responsively implemented by the grade-level team to meet the needs of each class.

Clubs - Students connect with peers and teachers across grade levels who share common interests. Club offerings have included: Anime, Bullet Journaling, Calligraphy, Chess, Cybersecurity, Literary Magazine, Puzzles and Logic, and Reader's Theatre. Students can choose to participate in the same club all year or try a new club at the midpoint of the year.

Dives - Dives are elective classes designed to drive student and teacher engagement. Teachers create course content around areas of personal interest or expertise and students make their selections based on their interest in "diving" into a new area. Students choose two Dive offerings in the fall and two in the spring. Dive options have included: Robotic Coding, Stock Market, Poetry, Constitutional Law, Watercolor and Mixed Media, Sporty STEM, and more.



2022–2023 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
12:20–1:00	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
1:05–2:00	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4
2:05–3:00	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5
3:05–3:15	Advisory Check-Out	Advisory Check-Out	Advisory Check-Out	Advisory Check-Out

LEAP Day Schedule

	LEAP
8:00–8:25	Advisory Flex
8:25–8:35	Morning Meeting
8:40–10:35	Extension
10:35–10:55	Morning Break
10:55–11:50	Advisory
11:50–12:20	Clubs/Supervised Study
12:20–1:00	Lunch/Recess
1:05–2:00	Dive 1
2:05–3:00	Dive 2
3:05–3:15	Advisory Check-Out

A young boy with dark hair and eyes is looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a hooded jacket with a camouflage pattern. He is holding a small, fluffy, light-colored chick in his hands. The background is slightly out of focus, showing what appears to be a school hallway with lockers and a door. The text "5th Grade" is overlaid in white on the bottom right of the image.

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 cyber security 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 language arts serves as a bridge year between an elementary school model of language arts instruction to a middle school English classroom. The primary goal of 5th grade English/language arts is to provide students with instruction and experience to help them grow as readers, writers, speakers, and thinkers. Literature, composition, grammar, and vocabulary are woven into a variety of experiences, including projects and presentations. Students have frequent and varied opportunities to write and revise through a workshop approach that emphasizes student choice within a framework of skills and goals that all students must achieve. Grammar and mechanics are taught in conjunction with the students' writing. In addition to whole class pieces, reading is differentiated by student reading levels and interests.

Choices may center on theme, curricular integration, or personal experience.

Math

In 5th grade math, students learn to apply previously learned skills to more complex problem-solving. They also become proficient in working with very small and very large numbers. Topics include whole numbers, powers, fraction operations, algebraic basics, area and angle calculations, volume, ratios, decimals, percent operations, graphs, and probability. Students learn through exploration and discovery, and interactive real-world experiences.

Expanded Math

5th grade expanded math extends previously learned skills into more conceptually based topics with a strong focus on judging the reasonableness of a solution and checking solutions for accuracy. New concepts are explored informally and concretely before gradually building toward a more formal and abstract understanding of the topic. Those topics include area and surface area, introduction to ratios, unit rates and percentages, dividing fractions, expressions and equations, rational numbers, data sets, and distributions.

Social Studies

The focus for 5th grade social studies is the geography, history, and culture of the Western Hemisphere. The Five Themes of Geography: location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region, frame the first half of the year. Students learn digital mapmaking, U.S. states and capitals, landforms, landmarks, and the connection indigenous North Americans have with their regional environment. The second half of the year includes the geography of mesoamerica and a historical emphasis on the Aztec, Incas, and Mayans. The Western Hemisphere experience is capped off with a deep-dive research project on the history of the 20th century in the United States.

Science

In 5th grade science, students explore topics such as weather, ecology, nutrition/digestive system, respiratory system, energy resources, and arthropods. As they transition to middle school, students will also explore: how to study, how to dive deeper into topics of interest, how to speak

in front of peers, and how to collaborate productively. Students deepen their understanding of course topics through a variety of independent work, larger scale projects, and labs. The 5th grade science curriculum is bolstered by visits to Stratford Ecological Center, providing students a real-life, hands-on opportunity to reinforce what they are studying in class.

French

In 5th grade French, students learn new vocabulary and grammatical concepts introduced in thematic and cultural contexts. While in lower school, students focused on speaking and listening skills; in 5th grade French, there is an increased emphasis on reading and writing skills. To develop and balance speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills, students participate in interpersonal conversations, skits, and role-playing activities during class. Topics and themes include: greetings and introductions, food and beverages, paying for a meal, talking about time, dates, seasons, and the weather.

Physical Education

In 5th grade physical education, we promote the joy of effort in physical activities and provide an element of enjoyment through participation in activities, games, and sports. Students are given opportunities to attain levels of skill development through practice and game play. Several units include numerous partner and small group activities that emphasize communication, teamwork, and fair play with other students.

Visual Art

5th grade art explores a variety of basic skills needed to create great art. Students venture into a deeper understanding of pencil skills, painting skills, color theory, and printmaking. They investigate art history, art criticism, composition, and design. All projects in 5th grade are designed to instill confidence and a basic understanding of how to think creatively.

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.

PERFORMING ARTS

Band

5th grade is the first year of the Wellington band program. Students begin by selecting instruments based on fit, interest, and to a lesser degree, ensemble need. As the year progresses, students focus on the following: reading notation (language), developing tone, range, and endurance (skill and quality), and musical interdependence (musicianship). The musical experiences are student-focused and student-led.

Strings

5th grade strings builds upon the 4th grade strings program as students continue their second year on the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students focus on proper posture and instrument position, reading music, practice habits, proper bow hold, and learning a variety of rhythms. Students perform in combined concerts on campus and on trips as opportunities arise. World-renowned musicians visit strings classes over the course of the year to share their talent and inspire student musicians.

Choir

Students in 5th grade choir learn proper vocal technique, standard age-appropriate vocal repertoire in unison and 2-parts, as well as sight reading using solfege syllables, from Do-So. The choices in the repertoire are student-focused and span all voice levels. Students perform in combined concerts on campus and on trips as opportunities arise.

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.

Stratford Ecological Center

5th grade students visit Stratford Ecological Center to delve into a wide range of hands-on earth and life science topics, including weather, ecology, energy resources, and arthropods. The fundamentals of this trip are integrated into 5th grade science curriculum. Several day trips are broken up between the fall, winter, and spring and allow the students an opportunity to see how the ecosystem changes from season to season and how different organisms each adapt to these changes.

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 cyber security. A beloved 6th grade curricular highlight is a three-day experiential learning field trip to the 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 language arts provides experiences designed to develop confidence and competence in reading, writing, speaking, and (active) listening. Students read closely, apply literary terms to their reading, and think critically as they analyze literature. Close reading and annotation are taught through anchor pieces, but novel choice is differentiated by reading level and student interests. Students engage in a study of Greek and Latin roots to help build a strong base for vocabulary acquisition; in addition, they learn new vocabulary through word studies generated from their reading. Using the process approach to writing, students develop their composition skills in narration, description, exposition, persuasion, and poetry. The study of grammar is linked to writing, which enables students to see the practical application of what they are learning. Highlights of sample units of study include short stories and literary terms, the five-paragraph essay, podcasting, Lois Lowry's "The Giver," and a storytelling unit at the end of the year that highlights speaking and listening skills. Throughout the year, there is a focus on the power of words and the joy of reading and writing.

Math

6th grade math extends the previously learned skills into more conceptually based topics with a strong focus on judging the reasonableness of a solution and checking solutions for accuracy. New concepts are explored informally and concretely before gradually building toward a more formal and abstract understanding of the topic. Those topics include area and surface area, introduction to ratios, unit rates and percentages, dividing fractions, arithmetic in base ten, expressions and equations, rational numbers, data sets, and distributions.

Expanded Math

In 6th grade expanded math (prealgebra) students extend more deeply into previously learned topics while being introduced to key algebraic concepts necessary to be successful in algebra. Students develop skills with proportional relationships, rational and irrational numbers, exponents, integers, rates, ratios, algebraic expressions and linear equations, as well as geometric prisms. These topics allow for a variety of hands-on demonstrations and real-world applications.

Social Studies

In 6th grade social studies, students focus on early civilizations including Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, ancient Israel, Greece, and Rome. The goal is to gain an understanding of the development of societies from nomadic to agricultural and from tribal societies to empires. Focus is given to those aspects of ancient culture that include religion, art, architecture, foodways, and government. Students also explore the geography associated with these cultures and learn how geography influences where and how people live. Emphasis is placed on those skills that provide a foundation for success in this course and future academic work.

Science

In 6th grade science, students explore topics such as water, living things, cells, genetics, the circulatory system, the skeletal and muscular system, the solar system, and space. They demonstrate learning through large projects, debates, and small group collaborations. The 6th grade camp experience at Cuyahoga Valley National Park provides students with an opportunity to explore water and freshwater ecosystems.

French

In 6th grade French, students increase proficiency and continue to hone the speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills developed in 5th grade French. They use French in their interactions with the teacher and their peers through oral questions, partner and small-group activities, framed dialogues, and skits. Topics and themes include: daily activities at school and at home, question words, affirmative and negative expressions, adjectives, personal possessions, and colors.

Physical Education

In 6th grade physical education, students focus on the development of specific sport skills. A variety of traditional and non-traditional sports are introduced. Lead-up activities and games are modified to accommodate the skill level of students. Students continue to improve and apply these skills to specific sports and recreation activities to promote a healthy lifestyle. The program encourages and fosters the development and maintenance of personal physical fitness with testing done each trimester.

Visual Art

The 6th grade visual art course builds upon aesthetics, art history, art criticism, visual culture, and student experiences from 5th grade. Students explore, organize, and use visual elements for expressive purposes. Personal experiences are utilized as themes for their art. Units of study may include: en plein air painting, art history, "Blue Dog" by George Rodrigue, color theory, printmaking, and gesture drawing and proportion.

Tech Studio

Students design digital media, create presentations, input and analyze data, use spreadsheets, tell stories, practice media literacy, podcasts, and utilize multimedia tools and 3D design. These projects are tied to the entire 6th grade curriculum and support projects and thematic units taught across subjects. While students do not receive a letter grade in this class, they are given a Willing Learner Metric rating to reflect their perseverance and willingness to attempt new technology.

PERFORMING ARTS

Band

6th grade band is a continued development of reading notation (language), developing tone, range, and endurance (skill and quality), and musical interdependence (musicianship). Mastery of fundamentals within the first octave and subdivisions to 8th note levels are expected. Music frequently has three to five independent parts sounding simultaneously, so independent command of pitch and rhythm is a major goal. The musical experiences are student-focused and student-led. Students perform in combined concerts on campus and on trips as opportunities arise.

Strings

In 6th grade strings, students continue with the violin, viola, cello, or bass. More complex rhythms are introduced as students grow confident in their playing. Students perform in combined concerts on campus and on trips as opportunities arise. World-renowned musicians visit strings classes over the course of the year to share their talent and inspire student musicians.

Choir

Students in 6th grade choir continue to learn proper vocal technique, focusing on range expansion and dynamic control. They continue to learn standard choral repertoire, singing in unison, 2 and 3 parts in various languages. Music theory includes duple and triple patterns and sight reading includes Do-Do exercises using solfege syllables. The choices in the repertoire are student-focused and span all voice levels. Students perform in combined concerts on campus and on trips as opportunities arise.

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.

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.



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 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 language arts toggles back and forth between writing-centered units and reading-centered units with work on vocabulary and grammar layered in. Throughout the year, students engage in a variety of writing activities including "This I Believe" essays, expository and persuasive paragraphs, and the AIR Project (short for argument, interpretation, and research). The AIR Project is a hallmark 7th grade capstone project requiring students to write an argument, offer an interpretation of an image, text, or data set, and craft a research essay that incorporates data about their topic from reliable sources. Through engagement in the academic process, students develop greater sophistication as readers, writers, thinkers, listeners, and speakers.

Math

In 7th grade prealgebra, students extend more deeply into previously learned topics while being introduced to key algebraic concepts necessary to be successful in algebra. Students develop skills with proportional relationships, rational and irrational numbers, exponents, integers, rates, ratios, algebraic expressions and linear equations, and geometric prisms. These topics allow for a variety of hands-on demonstrations and real-world applications, such as cooking and architecture.

Expanded Math (Algebra)

In 7th grade algebra, students begin the year by strengthening arithmetic skills and applying new algebraic concepts. Thereafter, this course dives deep into many fundamental algebraic concepts. Topics for this course include: variables, expressions, linear equations, linear functions, inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents and exponential

functions, quadratic expressions and equations, quadratic functions, rational functions and equations, and statistics and probability. These topics are explored in many ways, including collaboration and real-world applications with hands-on projects and tasks.

Social Studies

Students study United States history from colonization to the end of Reconstruction. Students learn how to do the work of historians by investigating and analyzing primary source documents. This course provides a foundation for understanding the structure of the Constitution and the powers of government. By studying multiple voices that make up the history of the United States, students come away with an understanding of key turning points up to 1877.

Science

7th grade science is designed to develop curiosity and to provoke thought through the lens of earth science, health, and chemistry. Students learn about topics such as plate tectonics, volcanoes, earthquakes, atomic structure, electron configuration, chemical reactions, balancing equations, and their health. Students develop research skills, public-speaking skills, and collaborating through participation in hands-on labs, giving presentations, building models, and running experiments.

WORLD LANGUAGES

French

7th grade French students continue their path to proficiency through communicative activities set in thematic and cultural contexts. Students use French in their interactions with the teacher and their peers through oral questions, partner and small-group activities, framed dialogues, and skits. Class time includes a balance of listening, reading, writing, and speaking activities that introduce linguistic structures, promote cultural awareness, and engage students in critical thinking. Topics and themes include: talking about oneself, family, school, and classes; describing cities and places around town; transportation and asking for directions; leisure activities, sports, and games; shopping, clothing and accessories.

Latin

The first of this two-year curriculum gives students a foundation in the Latin language and culture through emphasizing grammar, reading comprehension, vocabulary, and English derivatives. Readings and discussions about the daily life of a Roman family, students learn about the structure of both English and Latin sentences. Class time includes a balance of listening, reading, and writing activities that help students understand linguistic structures in Latin and English, promote cultural awareness, and engage students in critical thinking. Grammar topics include present and imperfect tenses, three declensions of nouns, the uses of six cases, noun-adjective agreement, and adverb formation. Students learn about common Latin expressions, mottoes, and abbreviations used in English. Students also have the opportunity to delve into various topics such as Greek and Roman mythology and Roman history.

Spanish

The first year of this two-year curriculum gives students a foundation in the Spanish language and culture. Students participate in engaging activities that bring the language to life and allow them to develop an ear for the Spanish language sounds and structures. The class employs authentic resources so students hear the language in the many different accents of Spanish-speaking countries around the world. Foundational grammar of present tense verbs, noun-adjective agreement, and relevant vocabulary anchor the curriculum, which is enhanced with cultural studies. Not only do students begin to develop proficiency in the four skill areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, but they also practice them through the presentational, interpretive, and interpersonal modes.

Physical Education

In 7th grade physical education, students continue to improve and master skills to specific sports and recreational activities to compete in a school sport or maintain a healthy lifestyle. Students engage in a variety of activities which include physical fitness and individual and team sports. Students learn the rules of play, strategies, and demonstrate good sportsmanship during play.

Visual Art

In 7th grade visual art, units of study continue to build upon previous theories, concepts, and techniques requiring students to further explore critical thinking and problem-solving. Artist statements, research, and formal critiques enable students to assess, reflect and evaluate their work as well as interpret meanings in their work and the work of others. Major units of study may include: narrative book arts, photography, outsider art, perspective drawing, Jacob Lawrence: Harlem Renaissance, and Abstract Expressionism.

PERFORMING ARTS

Band

The main focus of 7th and 8th grade band is continued development and expansion of fundamental musical skills, including broader range and more intricate rhythmic patterns. There is also a greater emphasis on how music is put together. The musical experiences are student-focused and student-led. They perform in combined concerts on campus and on trips as opportunities arise and may participate in the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble contest for the first time.

Strings

More complex music is introduced in 7th and 8th grade strings as students become more proficient on their instrument. Students perform in combined concerts on campus and on trips as opportunities arise and may participate in the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble contest for the first time. World-renowned musicians visit the ensemble over the course of the year to share their talent and inspire student musicians.

Choir

Students in 7th and 8th grade choir focus on expanding their vocal ranges, with vocal exercises designed for developing adolescent voices. They sing standard repertoire in three parts, expanding to four parts in a variety of languages. Theory includes notation in both treble and bass clef, rhythmic studies in compound meters, and sight reading using solfege syllables in both major and minor keys. Students perform in combined concerts on campus and on trips as opportunities arise and may participate in the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble contest for the first time.

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.

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.





OHIO

8th Grade

THE 8TH GRADE EXPERIENCE

8th grade at Wellington is a very 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 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. The second 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 study 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.

Humanities

The 8th grade humanities course includes curricular content from English and social studies to show thematic connections between history, literature, and the present day. This course is an introduction to world history that centers on the historical period of the Middle Ages from the fall of the Roman Empire through the Age of Discovery. These connections help bring time periods to life through literature and provide students with authentic writing opportunities. This course is designed to polish foundational skills developed in grades 5-7 and apply them in increasingly more sophisticated ways. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and analysis in reading, writing, research, and discussion.

Math

8th grade algebra is an introductory algebra course placing emphasis on strengthening arithmetic skills applying new algebraic concepts in a variety of different settings, and problem-solving. Topics for this course include: variables, expressions, linear equations, linear functions, inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents, quadratic expressions and

equations, and quadratic functions. Students will learn through collaboration and will complete multiple hands-on projects exploring real-world applications of the content.

Expanded Math (Geometry)

8th grade geometry is a challenging course focused on strengthening algebraic skills and applying new geometry concepts. Topics for this course include: euclidean definitions, logic, properties and measurements of geometric figures, properties of triangles, triangle congruences, special right triangles, properties of parallel lines, Pythagorean theorem and other basic geometric theorems, properties of parallelograms, properties of circles, and finally area, surface area, and volume of geometric figures. These topics will be explored in a variety of ways, including hands-on projects to visually apply theorems and postulates.

Science

8th grade is a year of discovery in the field of physical science. Students learn about topics including: forces and laws of motion, energy, simple machines, waves, types of chemical reactions, and gas laws. These areas of exploration allow for a variety of hands-on labs and experiments and provide numerous opportunities for students to develop their scientific language and lab report writing skills through use of the scientific method.

WORLD LANGUAGES

French

8th grade French students continue their path to proficiency through communicative activities set in thematic and cultural contexts. Students use French in their interactions with the teacher and their peers through oral questions, partner and small-group activities, framed dialogues, and skits. Class time includes a balance of listening, reading, writing, and speaking activities that introduce linguistic structures, promote cultural awareness, and engage students in critical thinking. Topics and themes include: leisure-time activities, vacation travel plans, narrating past events, discussion about food preferences and eating habits, planning a meal, and dining out in public.

Latin

The second of this two-year curriculum continues to build a foundation in Latin language and culture through emphasizing 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. Class time includes a balance of listening, reading, and writing activities that help students understand linguistic structures in Latin and English, promote cultural awareness, and engage students in critical thinking. Grammar topics include all six tenses, three declensions of nouns, the uses of six cases, noun-adjective agreement, and adverb formation. Students learn about common Latin expressions, mottoes, and abbreviations used in English. They also have the opportunity to delve into various topics such as Greek and Roman mythology, as well as Roman history.

Spanish

The second year of this two-year curriculum gives students a foundation in Spanish language and culture. Building on 7th grade curriculum, students are again exposed to the language through engaging activities that bring Spanish to life and allow them to develop an ear for sounds and structures. The class employs authentic resources so students hear the language in the many different accents of Spanish-speaking countries around the world. Foundational grammar of present tense verbs, noun-adjective agreement, and relevant vocabulary anchor the curriculum, which is enhanced with cultural studies. Not only do students begin to develop proficiency in the four skill areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, but they also practice them through the presentational, interpretive, and interpersonal modes.

Physical Education

In 8th grade physical education, students engage in activities which include physical fitness, team sports, individual sports, and recreational games. Competitive athletics are a natural outgrowth of progression from individual to team skills. Emphasis shifts to team sports and vigorous activity in a cooperative atmosphere. Students study the rules of play and strategies, and demonstrate good sportsmanship during play.

Visual Art

8th grade art encompasses studio, art history, aesthetics, art criticism, visual culture studies and media literacy. Students explore possibilities and limitations of media, tools, techniques, and technology. Units of study require students to explore connections beyond the discipline and on a global scale as well as drawing upon personal experiences to develop themes for their artwork. Units of study may include:

Frank Stella: abstraction and realism;
Andy Warhol: inkblot printing; Betye Saar: assemblage art; gum-arabic photo transfer printing; Wayne Thiebaud: Pop Art pastry paintings; memory paintings: perspective; stone carving; ceramics; visual culture studies: media literacy (expository writing in conjunction with English); and Surrealism.

PERFORMING ARTS**Band**

The main focus of 7th and 8th grade band is continued development and expansion of fundamental musical skills, including broader range and more intricate rhythmic patterns. There is a greater emphasis on how music is put together. The musical experiences are student-focused and student-led. Students perform in combined concerts on campus and on trips as opportunities arise and may also participate in the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble contest for the first time.

Strings

More complex music is introduced in 7th and 8th grade strings as students become more proficient on their instrument. Students perform in combined concerts on campus and on trips as opportunities arise and may also participate in the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble contest for the first time. World-renowned musicians visit the ensemble over the course of the year to share their talent and inspire student musicians.

Choir

Students in 7th and 8th grade choir focus on expanding their vocal ranges, with vocal exercises designed for developing adolescent voices. They sing standard repertoire in three parts, expanding to four parts in a variety of languages. Theory includes notation in both treble and bass clef, rhythmic studies in compound meters, and sight reading using solfege syllables in both major and minor keys. Students perform in combined concerts on campus and on trips as opportunities arise and may

also participate in the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble contest for the first time.

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.

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.



DIVE

DIVE

Dive courses merge student and teacher interests in highly engaging and meaningful ways. Teachers choose topics that they are passionate about and create courses that will entice students to expand their knowledge. Students take four Dive classes throughout the year, two in the fall and two in the spring. The electives are primarily 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 overviews of recent Dive offerings.

CURRICULAR OVERVIEW**Amazing Authors and Illustrators**

Students will become acquainted with a variety of authors and illustrators, delving into their books, art, and creative processes. Students will create and share book “bites,” reviews, audiobooks, book trailers, and artwork using a variety of media and forms of expression. This Dive offers a venue for students to promote their own personal favorites and collaborate with classmates to creatively express their ideas.

American Civil War

Students will explore the causes of the Civil War, major battles, technological and medical advances, and consequences including the death of Abraham Lincoln.

**Book Club: “The View from Saturday”
Mrs. Magliery**

In this Dive, students will read E.L. Konigsburg’s Newbery-Award-winning novel “The View from Saturday” and discuss its characters, themes, and implications for their own lives. This course is designed for students who look forward to reading outside of class. The book is a non-linear narrative, so it is best suited for strong readers or those who are looking for a challenge.

Chamber Music for Strings

Chamber music for strings will include small group ensembles and a combined, larger group. Students will learn a variety of musical genres and work toward a culminating performance off campus.

Constitutional Law

Constitutional Law is designed for students who enjoy learning about government and American history. In Con Law, students will acquire “legal literacy” through an interactive exploration of the United States Supreme Court. Students read actual court opinions, learn about the inner workings of the nine Justices’ chambers, and even make oral arguments of their own in teams. They will explore questions like: What limits, if any, should there be on free speech in the United States? What does equal treatment under the law look like? Students will study a mix of historical and recent Supreme Court cases. Writing, research, and public speaking are all important skills used often in this Dive.

Cooking Around the World

Cooking Around the World provides students with the opportunity to prepare, cook, and sample foods that are common in different parts of the world. Students will learn about key ingredients that are commonly used in food from other regions. Examples of foods students will prepare include paella and mango lassi.

Connect 4U

In Connect 4U students learn skills to help connect to others and themselves on a deeper level. These skills will help them with friendship, self-awareness, and overall self-improvement. Course content includes ideas from Dale Carnegie’s “How to Win Friends and Influence People” and Dr. Martin Seligman’s theory of positive psychology, PERMA.

Cryptography

Students who enjoy math, Sudoku, KenKen, or espionage will enjoy this Dive. Cryptography uses mathematics to make and break secret codes. Students will be introduced to ciphers, which are methods to encrypt, decrypt, and crack codes. This class will include games and activities that use modular arithmetic, factorization, and exponents. Students will also learn about historical connections to cryptography and how it is used today.

Experimental Abstract Drawing

In this Dive, students will explore abstract drawing while learning how to work with different types of charcoal. Weekly explorations include a series of drawings covering topics such as macro-nature drawings, portrait and music abstractions, contour drawings, and mixed media. Students will expand their drawing skills, get messy, and learn how to conquer charcoal.

Extending A Foot in 2 Places

This Dive will expand on the mission of the student club, A Foot in 2 Places, by taking a more academic approach to the topic. Students will first explore the difference between race, ethnicity, and culture. Next, they will highlight artists, athletes, and politicians, past and present, who have a foot in two places, and who have contributed in some capacity to society as a whole.

Game / Animation Design and Coding

This Dive is for students interested in coding their own animation or game. Previous experience coding in Scratch or another language is expected. Students will look at various SCRATCH game starter strategies, using variables and lists, as well as a Makey Makey controller. They will be challenged to problem solve, be creative, and finish the course with an interactive animation or game they design for a specific audience and purpose.

The Growth of Cities

The Growth of Cities Dive marries the study of history with the excitement of role-playing games to create living imaginary settlements that grow over time. The work begins with the creation of “neolithic villages,” that is, small human settlements. These embryonic cities have their size and shape determined by rolls of the dice that reveal how much water is available, how mountainous the location is, or how much forest surrounds the area. Over time each settlement grows into a medieval town with rolls of the dice determining crucial aspects of the economy and political structure. Students create maps based on their vision of their cities, write scripts that capture the essence of life, and engage in trade with other cities to meet the needs of their people.

Introduction to Psychology

This course will introduce psychology as a social science. Students will examine various fields of study, career paths, methods of research, and basic personality theories.

Jazz Band

This class gives students an opportunity to learn about jazz music – its rhythms, styles, and interpretation. Students will prepare several pieces of music for a performance. This Dive is open to students who play saxophone, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, percussion, bass, and piano.

Maker Club

This Dive will give students an opportunity to experiment with science- and technology-oriented projects. Each class will feature a maker project, ranging from paper airplanes to catapults to gumdrop and toothpick towers. Students will discuss their design process while experiencing firsthand the challenges of moving from a design concept to a working prototype.

Middle Ages

Students will travel through time starting with the causes of the Dark Ages. They will investigate daily life, architecture, food, the feudal system, as well as major trials and tribulations. Students engage in hands-on activities, cooking and tasting some traditional dishes from the era, as well as building a replica medieval village.

The Middle School Morning Show: Student News Broadcast

Breaking News: in the Middle School Morning Show students will work as individuals and in small groups to curate and report Wellington news, global headlines, segments on fashion, weather, traffic, and more. Students will learn what it takes to produce, anchor, film, and edit their very own morning news show.

Poetry

This is a Dive for students who love to read and discuss works of literature. In this course, students will dive into the world of poetry by discussing poems and using them as models to write their own poetry. In addition, they will learn skills that will improve their writing overall.

Robotics Team Challenges

Working with physical and virtual robots, students will learn to work as a team to build and program robots. Using a variety of challenges at different levels, students will explore the use of sensors and variables. They will work in teams to build a robot while choosing between block coding or Python. Those students who compete in the National Robotics Challenge will have an opportunity to work on building and coding their physical competition robot.

Roller Coaster Physics

In Roller Coaster Physics, students will work together in teams to design and build a roller coaster using only paper and tape. Each team will be required to “purchase” supplies using fictitious money and earn points based on their roller coaster’s performance, structural integrity, design, and creativity. Through this design challenge, students will gain an understanding of the concepts of kinetic energy, potential energy, and friction, all while having a blast along the way!

Science of Softball

Sports science contributes to performance enhancement and injury prevention in all sports. In the Science of Softball, students will break down the motor skills needed to pitch, throw, and swing a bat by looking at the mechanics of each skill. Students should bring their gloves and a notebook and be ready to play some ball!

Sporty STEM

Sporty STEM students will study the movements of the human body including the interactions between the athlete, sport, exercise, equipment, and environment.

Strategy, Culture, and Technology: A Chess Dive

In this Dive, students will learn about the many facets of chess. How is math connected to chess? How have stronger computers changed the game of chess? What are the origins of chess? Who are chess players of the past and present? Students will also play chess and work at increasing their ability level through understanding strategy and tactics, openings, and endgames. Students will come away from this course with a deeper understanding of the game of chess, how to play it, and its cultural impact on the world.

Stock Market

Using a live trading simulation, the stock market game allows students to work in teams to actively trade stocks, bonds, ETFs, and other forms of investments. Students will learn the mechanisms behind the markets and the variables that can cause markets to move as they attempt to create the best-performing portfolio. In addition to learning about the stock market, students will hone skills in leadership, organization, negotiation, and cooperation.

World War 1

This class uses a video documentary series to study the details of World War I. Students will examine the war from its causes and early events through the signing of the Treaty of Versailles that ended the global conflict.

You and Your Well-Being

Using the research and science of positive psychology, students will learn and practice skills to increase their well-being. They will breathe, write, partner, and discuss the benefits of positive emotions, engagement, relationships, meaning, accomplishments, and vitality.





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. The teams may fluctuate slightly from year to year based on student interest and participation numbers.

Fall

Cross Country, Golf,
Soccer, Tennis (Girls),
5th Grade Coed
Soccer, 5th Grade
Run Club



Winter

Basketball,
Swimming, 5th
Grade Basketball



Spring

Baseball, Lacrosse,
Softball, Tennis (Boys),
Track and Field, 5th
Grade Run Club



W



Wellington

Wellington is an independent, coeducational, preschool through grade 12, college-preparatory day school dedicated to preparing citizens who achieve, lead, and find fulfillment in a global community.

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