



**Middle**

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**School**

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**Programs**

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Wellington's middle school  
is all about not only solving  
problems and challenges  
but embracing them.



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## THE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

In the Wellington Middle School, each child is known. Early adolescents are provided with space to develop their growing independence with a safety net of caring faculty who are experts in their fields. Students develop their voice in literal and figurative ways. There are a myriad of unique educational opportunities built upon a strong academic foundation. Anything you dream and design, you can create. We encourage a range of exploratory experiences while we stand ready to support pursuits in areas of interest and passion. Intellectual, social, emotional, and academic growth are all valued as critical components of human development.

## STUDENT LIFE

Students are at the center of life in middle school. They are encouraged to develop their voice through involvement in athletics, arts, academics, and student government. Supported and guided by advisors and administration, students create and lead their peers toward an inclusive environment that is as diverse as they are.

Areas for student involvement for all middle school grades:

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

**Arts** - Three art exhibits per year highlighting student artwork

**Robotics/Cyber Security/Maker Space/Multi-Media** - organized clubs

**Theatre** - Yearly middle school production with involvement in acting or tech crew

**Subject Competitions** - Practice and competition around specific subject matter

**Student Advisory Board (SAB)** - Volunteer student government involving wide range of involvement from peer council to spirit week

Students are also encouraged to work with faculty to bring their own areas of interest to the middle school.

## Advisory

Students are all part of an advisory group of approximately 10 students in the same grade level and one advisor as a dedicated space to nurture social and emotional growth. Each day begins and ends with an advisory touchpoint, and students eat lunch in advisory groups most days. The purpose of advisory is to create a sense of community and belonging while also promoting self-discovery. The advisory program is structured around several pillars, including diversity, equity, and justice; learning traits and study skills; character development; and cultural competency.

## Aftercare

Aftercare is available for all middle school students from 3:45 to 5:30 p.m. For details contact Julie Lovett at [Lovett@Wellington.org](mailto:Lovett@Wellington.org).



# **Middle School** **Faculty**



**Cheryl Allen**

Dean of Students, Middle School Math  
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Head of Middle School  
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Eastern Michigan University M.A.  
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Western Michigan University M.A.  
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**Karen Butler P '12 '16 '20**

Middle School/Upper School Strings  
The Ohio State University B.A.



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Middle School Language Arts  
Ohio Wesleyan University B.A.  
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**Dominic Davis P '14 '19**

Certified Athletic Trainer  
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**Greg Davis**

Middle School Language Arts  
The Citadel M.A.T.  
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**Cristen Geary**

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Ashland University M.Ed.  
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**David Glover**

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Heidelberg University B.A.



**Michael Graham**

Middle School Humanities  
Mount Vernon Nazarene University M.A.  
The Ohio State University B.A.



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Middle School Physical Education  
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Middle School/Upper School Latin  
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Middle School Technology Integration Specialist,  
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**Lissa Wade**

Middle School French  
The Ohio State University M.A.  
Wittenberg University B.A.



**Bill Miller P '15 '17 '21**

Physical Education  
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Middle School STEM  
The Ohio State University M.S.  
University of Massachusetts - Amherst B.A.



**Dia Mixon**

Middle/Upper School Spanish  
DePaul University M.Ed.  
Bowling Green State University B.S.



**Stephen Winslow**

Middle School Social Studies  
The Ohio State University M.A., B.S.



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Brown University M.A.  
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**Jayne Young**

Middle School Art  
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Middle School Administrative Assistant  
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Middle School Math  
Wilmington University M.Ed.  
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# 2019–2020

## Daily Schedule

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>
8:00–8:25	Flex	Flex	Flex	Flex	Flex	Flex
8:25–8:35	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting
8:40–9:35	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1
9:40–10:35	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
10:35–10:55	Morning Break	Morning Break	Morning Break	Morning Break	Morning Break	Morning Break
10:55–11:50	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
11:55–12:35	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
12:40–1:35	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4
1:40–2:35	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5
2:40–3:20	Dives	Supervised Study	Advisory	Supervised Study	Dives	Supervised Study
3:20–3:30	Check Out	Check Out	Check Out	Check Out	Check Out	Check Out



**5th Grade**

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## 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. Fifth graders might find and develop their individual voice by serving on our Student Advisory Board leadership team, 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

Fifth 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.

### Reading Next

The "Reading Next" report prepared by a group of scholars for the Carnegie Corporation notes that meeting the needs of adolescent readers and writers "will require expanding the discussion of reading instruction from Reading First—acquiring grade-level reading skills by third grade—to Reading Next—acquiring the reading skills that can serve youth for a lifetime." This class strives, therefore, to be intentional about the way we instruct new middle school students about the kind of reading skills they will need at the "next level" of their education. Once in middle school, students are no longer learning how to read, but rather they are expected to read to learn. This is a class designed to give students the next set of reading and literacy skills that they will need to succeed in all of their classes. To that end, students will be developing new vocabulary, learning how to read content-specific texts, working with more complex sentence structures, developing reading stamina, learning how to interpret literature beyond plot alone, learning how to read with a critical eye, and other important reading skills.

### 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, and percent operations, graphs, and probability.

### Expanded Math

Fifth 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, arithmetic in base ten, expressions and equations, rational numbers, data sets, and distributions.

### Social Studies/History

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

Fifth grade art encompasses studio, art history, aesthetics, art criticism, and visual culture studies. Students investigate art within select cultures and time periods to identify, classify, and address subject matter, visual elements, and themes. They explore a variety of foundational techniques and media, as well as create art in response to personal experiences and interests. Sample studio projects include the following: perceptual drawing: value and shading; printmaking: trace & reductive monotypes; folk art: Oaxacan wood carvings; communicating with symbols and color: Keith Haring; landscape and ecosystems (science integration); historical and modern book arts (social studies integration); the Incas: art and architecture (social studies integration); color theory: analogous color schemes; and art criticism featuring Andy Warhol, "Camouflage," 1986.

## Explorers of the World

This two-part, project-based, student-centered course is designed to allow students to follow their own academic interests. For the first part of the year students identify a topic of their choosing and complete a deep dive, creative research project. Students set their own guiding questions, research for understanding, and develop a culminating creative expression of their ability to analyze and synthesize information. Students set individual goals as they are intrinsically challenged and engaged. Students have choice over their learning process and product. For the second part of the year, students learn the design thinking process. They are introduced to problem-identifying skills as well as the creative problem solving process. This process guides students to research a specific problem, brainstorm solutions, and then construct prototypes. The United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development serve as a centerpiece for problem solving topics.

## PERFORMING ARTS

### Band

Fifth 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

Fifth 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.

### 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. This experience also provides an excellent opportunity for our 8th to 5th grade mentoring program.

### Stratford Ecological Center

Fifth 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.

A blue-tinted photograph of three students in a forest. A girl on the left is crouching and holding a small container. A boy in the center is crouching and pouring from a jar. A boy on the right is standing and looking on. The ground is covered in leaves and tree trunks are visible in the background.

**6th Grade**

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## 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. Sixth 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, Student Advisory Board, 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

Sixth grade English 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. Most reading is interwoven with the history curriculum so that, for example, when students are studying society and culture in social studies, they are also examining society and culture in English through utopian and dystopian literature. Using the process approach to writing, students develop their composition skills in narration, description exposition, persuasion, and poetry. The study of grammar and vocabulary is linked to writing, which enables students to see the practical applications of what they are learning and helps them to appreciate the power of words. Highlights of sample books include: Lois Lowry's "The Giver," short stories such as Roald Dahl's "The Wish," and "Lamb to the Slaughter," Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron," and Ray Bradbury's "The Veldt." Sample projects include: descriptive writing, expository, literary and comparison essays, as well as reading and analysis of fiction set

in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. The year culminates with an in-depth, cross curricular, research project focused on the study of the continent of Africa.

### Math

Sixth 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 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, such as cooking and architecture.

### Social Studies/History

In 6th grade social studies, students focus on the Eastern Hemisphere (Africa, East Asia, and the Middle East). The goal is to gain an understanding of the cultures of these regions, the issues they face today, and why they are relevant in our lives. To achieve this goal, students examine geography, history, governments, economic systems, and cultural values. For each region, they will study the history of contemporary conflicts to develop a greater understanding of the issues we face in today's global society.

### 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 studio experiences from 5th grade. Students explore, organize, and use visual elements for expressive purposes. Personal experiences are utilized as themes for their art as well as examining disciplinary connections while examining how the visual arts and society influence each other. Units of study may include: en plein air painting; art history; what bugs you? A cultural examination through ceramics; "Blue Dog" by George Rodrigue; color theory; aniconic and penrose tile silk paintings; a collaboration with math and social studies; art nouveau and the tree of life; personal narratives; composition; animal compositions; printmaking; Bogolanfini: The art of mud cloth (integrated with social studies); gesture drawing and proportion; installation sculptures; addressing global concerns.

## Level Up

In this digital design and publishing survey class, students are introduced to digital Maker Space tools and software, including the vinyl and laser cutters, 3-D printers, as well as working with animation and digital drawing tablets. Throughout the year, they work with publishing and multimedia tools, such as websites, video, newscasts, podcasts, and green screens. Students also have the opportunity to “level up” with increasingly independent work.

## PERFORMING ARTS

### Band

Sixth 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.

### 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.

## 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

Sixth 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.



**7th Grade**

## THE 7TH GRADE EXPERIENCE

Seventh 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. Seventh grade hosts the middle milestone trip to our country's capital and colonial Williamsburg. 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

Seventh grade English is built around the central themes of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—themes that parallel, complement, and enhance concepts and historical events studied in seventh grade social studies. Fiction and non-fiction anchor texts, including historic speeches and documents, are the artifacts students read to hone close reading, annotation, and analysis skills. Connected thematically, the novels for each unit are differentiated by reading level and student interest. Students work in small book groups to discuss and interpret the novels. New individual reading projects have also been created for students who would like to read or interpret a text independently. Through the year, students engage in a variety of writing experiences including: "This I Believe" essay, expository and persuasive essays, and the Argumentation Interpretation and Research (AIR) project. The AIR project is a hallmark seventh grade capstone project requiring students to write an argument, a formal interpretation of an image, text, or data set, and craft a research essay related to a single topic. Through engagement in the academic process, students develop greater sophistication as readers, writers, thinkers, listeners, and speakers. Sample books in seventh grade English may include: "The Book Thief," "The Hiding Place," "The Devil's Arithmetic," "The Diary of Anne Frank," "Farewell to Manzanar," "Chains," "When the Emperor Was Divine," "Animal Farm."

## Math

In 7th grade prealgebra, students extend more deeply into previously learned topics while 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/History

In 7th grade social studies, students examine United States history from colonial immigration to the ratification of the Constitution with a focus on the development of American identity, politics, and culture. They will understand how colonial American society has impacted current issues in the U.S. government. Through an in-depth look at immigration, interactions between Native Americans and colonists, and the causes of the American Revolution, students will learn about ideological and political conflict.

## Science

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

## WORLD LANGUAGES

### French

Seventh 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, Abstract Expressionism and the research-based project, Project Style. 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 studio projects may include: capturing a time, place or an event: visual communication; identity: social documentary photography of artist Catherine Opie; communicating aspects of self, home and your neighborhood through photography; project style: an examination and exploration of "style" (including research-based video presentation); outsider art: Art Brut, folk art, visionary art, naïve art, etc.; deconstructing art; perspective drawing: cityscapes (math collaboration); Jacob Lawrence: Harlem Renaissance (social studies collaboration); 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.

## 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.



# **8th Grade**

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## THE 8TH GRADE EXPERIENCE

Eighth grade at Wellington is a very pivotal year in our students' journey, and we focus on two main points throughout the year. The first focus is exposing students to a wide variety of world cultures and providing them opportunities to learn more. One of the ways we accomplish this is with an immersive trip to Toronto, where students get to explore a rich international culture in many different settings. Students also complete an International Week Project, picking a country or city to research and learn about extensively in order to present their findings to others. The other main 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 important social and emotional lessons that will give them the tools to succeed in the future. Our goal is for students to leave middle school with a broader cultural outlook and confidence in their ability to overcome whatever challenges come their way.

### Humanities

The double-blocked 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.

### Mathematics

Eighth grade algebra is an introductory algebra course placing emphasis on strengthening arithmetic skills and applying new algebraic concepts in a variety of different settings. 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)

Eighth grade geometry is a challenging course focused on strengthening algebraic skills and applying new geometry concepts. Topics for this course include: euclidian 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

Eighth 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, electricity and circuits, waves, 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.

## WORLD LANGUAGES

### French

Eighth 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

Eighth 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; cultural and historical overview; visual culture studies: media literacy (expository writing in conjunction with English); and Surrealism.

## Passion Projects

It is important for 8th graders to develop a sense of independence and a belief that they can manage their own academic affairs. Part of fostering a sense of confidence and independence is the 8th grade Passion Project. This is the middle school version of a senior independent research project or senior capstone project. Students choose an area of study that they have always wondered about or are passionately interested in. Then they spend a year diving deeply into their research under the guidance and supervision of the entire 8th grade team of teachers and other community members.

The purpose of the project is for students to experience the thrill of driving their own learning. Students learn to craft essential questions and evaluate sources; they come to understand that the deeper one researches, the more questions one has. They go beyond the walls of Wellington to reach out to experts throughout the world, and they seek out field experience related to their research. The culmination of the project is a 10–15 minute presentation to their peers and the community, much like a TED talk, where students get to share their journey. The experience is an important step in the development of skills, including resiliency and academic maturity, that are essential for success in upper school and beyond.

## 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

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## EXPERIENCES

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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. This experience also provides an excellent opportunity for our 8th to 5th grade mentoring program.

### Toronto

This international four-day adventure allows 8th graders to experience a diverse and multicultural city, and gives them an international perspective as they further work on defining their place in the world. Students explore cultural enclaves, ethnic neighborhoods, museums, major city landmarks, and much more. Students are also immersed in the culture through food, music, and the arts. 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**

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**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 horizons. Students are given the opportunity to try out these different trimester-long courses throughout the year. The electives are primarily non-graded and the motivation to succeed comes from a thirst for knowledge rather than a hope for a certain letter grade.

**CURRICULAR OVERVIEW****The American Revolution****Mr. Winslow****Grades 6–8**

This class is a detailed study of the Revolutionary War, using a History Channel documentary series as the basis of the content. Students will examine the origins of the conflict and the events of the war through the formation of the government under the Articles of Confederation. Particular attention will be paid to the strategies involved and the significant events of our war for independence from Britain.

**Archery****Mr. Herrick and Mr. Miller****Grade 6**

Students will learn the NASP style of shooting a bow and arrow, as well as safety on the range, how to handle the bows and arrows safely, while commands and the eleven steps to archery success. The program is designed by NASP - National Archery Schools Program.

**Boys Ensemble****Ms. Springer****Grade 5–8**

Boys will explore, learn, and perform repertoire from all styles and genres.

**Chamber Music for Strings****Ms. Butler****Grades 5–8**

Chamber music for strings will include small group ensembles and a combined group. Sheet music including a variety of musical genres will be included. Performing off campus will be an option.

**Cities****Mr. Davis****Grades 5–8**

Students learn about the growth and development of cities from prehistoric times to today. They also have opportunities to design their own cities and consider how factors like geography and economics can impact the lives of city-dwellers living in different locations.

**Civil War****Mr. Winslow****Grades 6–8**

This class is a detailed study of the American Civil War, using the Ken Burns documentary miniseries as the basis of the content. The class will examine the causes of the conflict, the events of the war, and its impact on American society at the time.

**Constitutional Law****Ms. Pang****Grade 8**

In Constitutional Law, students will acquire “legal literacy” through an interactive exploration of the United States Supreme Court. They will read actual court opinions, understand the inner-workings of the Justices’ chambers, and even make arguments of their own through mock trial, also known as moot court. Students will answer questions like: What limits, if any, should there be on free speech in the United States? What issues should the state, rather than federal governments handle? What does equal treatment under the law look like? Writing, critical reading, and public speaking are all important skills used often in this Dive.

**Digital Coding Lab****Mrs. McConaghy****Grades 5–8**

Students will design and code a game or animation while also learning a computer language. They may choose to work through tutorials to learn computer science skills in JavaScript, Java, C++, Scratch, Python or another language. Tutorial choices include Khan Academy, CS First with Google, Codecademy, SoloLearn, and Code.org. In the process they will be learning fundamental programming building blocks and practices such as loops, variables, conditionals and working with variables. Students will also have access to a digital tablet for input and drawing as well as be able to design their own controller using Makey Makey. There will be a class website with a page for each project option. For each project a student completes, they will add images and a reflective paragraph in their personal digital portfolio (a Google site).

**Digital Design Lab****Mrs. McConaghy****Grades 6–8**

Selecting from a wide variety of digital topics such as 3D animation, AR app prototyping, 3D architecture, 3D sculpting, movie making/editing, digital signage, web design, infographic design, and microcontroller designs/prototypes (such as drones and wearable technology), students choose and manage their own projects. They will have access to resources in the Middle School Lab, the MakerSpace, and have the option of bringing in their own equipment. There will be a class website with a page for each project option. Video tutorials will be created to help students work at their own pace. For each project a student completes, they will add images and a reflective paragraph in their personal digital portfolio (a Google site).

**Environmental Engineering and Sustainability (EE&S)****Mrs. Geary****Grades 7–8**

Environmental Engineering and Sustainability (EE&S) offers students with an interest in learning more about the environment around them and how they can make an impact, the opportunity for further exploration. Possible topics of study include water pollution, oil spills, recycling, alternative fuels, etc., as well as the interests of the students.

**iLab****Mr. Backhurst****Grade 8**

iLab is an innovation lab course that applies Stanford University's d.School product design process called "design thinking." In this Dive, students solve real world problems through prototyping and design challenges while learning about 21st century innovators, business leaders, and forward thinkers.

**Independent Science Research****Mr. Magas and Mr. Leadston****Grades 7–8**

Students delve into scientific research on a specific, real-world application. They will either be paired up with an upper school student with a similar interest to tackle a research project, or come up with their own research study. Researchers will follow the scientific method to collect and analyze data relevant to their topic, and focus on turning their data into solutions.

**Introduction to Engineering****Ms. Burkhalter****Grades 6–7**

This DIVE offers a glimpse into basic engineering. Learning more about the various types of engineering through design projects and speakers, students will have the opportunity to become certified on the 3-D printing machines, laser cutters, and various power tools.

**Jazz Band****Mr. Becker****Grades 6–8**

Students have the opportunity to learn about jazz music - its rhythms, styles and interpretation. They will work up several pieces for a performance. This DIVE is open to students on the following instruments: saxophone, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, percussion, bass, and piano.

**MS 101****Mrs. Allen****Grade 5**

This DIVE focuses on anything and everything one needs to know in order to be a successful middle school student! Students will learn about basic organizational skills, study skills, learning styles, and intellectual strengths. Emphasis is placed on students finding strategies and processes that work best for them.

**Middle School Library****Mrs. Dunn****Grades 5–6**

This class will explore award-winning books, as well as allow students to promote their personal favorites. They will become acquainted with a variety of authors, delving into their books and writing processes. Students will also create and share book "bites," reviews, audiobooks, and book trailers.

**Neuroscience****Mr. Magas****Grades 7–8**

Neuroscience explores the major topics of neuroanatomy, sensation and perception, as well as memory and learning. Students learn about neurons, the parts of the brain, and how they work together, even dissecting a sheep brain! They will then look at how all of our senses work and how the brain interprets the world around us. Students explore how the brain learns, remembers, and make connections, even discussing ways to improve memory.

**Robotics****Mrs. McConaghy****Grades 5–8**

Students learn the Graphical RobotC programming language and working with both virtual robots and the NXT robot. They use a virtual challenge board and the underwater world of Atlantis to use scaling, arm movement, turns and wheel rotation to navigate their robot. Students who have already taken the basic movement introduction may continue with touch, ultrasonic, and color sensor challenges. They will combine sensors with program flow using loops, conditionals and repeated decisions. They will also be asked to help as student teaching assistants for the younger students. The focus is on coding and not building a robot, though students will be doing both. NRC Sumo or Botball teams have priority.

**Roller Coaster Physics****Mr. Leadston****Grades 5–8**

In this hands-on Dive, students learn some of the fundamental aspects of physics, as they design and construct their own paper roller coaster. This course is predominantly a design challenge whereby students will work in small groups to construct roller coasters made from nothing but cardstock and tape, with added decorations to fit a chosen theme. It will test not only their knowledge of physics concepts, but also their problem solving and collaborative thinking skills.

**Shakespeare****Ms. Crowley****Grades 6–8**

Shakespeare is a DIVE for any 6–8th grader who enjoys good stories and theatre. Students learn about William Shakespeare and his influence on our lives; they have fun with improvisation activities and learn how to sling Shakespearean insults; they read a prose version of the play before viewing different productions in preparation for their own production. Students have the opportunity to design sets, come up with costumes, and act in a shortened version of a Shakespearean play.

**Sports and Recreation****Mr. Herrick and Mr. Miller****Grades 5–6**

This class is an extension of Physical Education where students will have an opportunity to go beyond units covered in class and occasionally experience new activities and games.

**Stock Market****Mrs. Allen****Grades 5–6**

This DIVE focuses on the basics of trading. Students are divided into teams and given a virtual cash account of \$100,000. They learn about different types of stocks, and strive to create the best-performing portfolio using a live trading simulation. They work together in teams and practice leadership, organization, negotiation, and cooperation.

**Virtual Reality****Mr. Rodgers****Grades 7–8**

Students who thrive on combining their creativity with emerging, interactive technology should consider taking this class. They will learn of the newest developments in virtual and augmented reality and its applications in education, medicine, business, and entertainment. The pros and cons of using this immerse technology will also be explored. After students learn to use 360-degree video cams, VR headsets, and simulation software (Co-Spaces), they will create a culminating project to be presented to the class and parents.

**World War 1****Mr. Winslow****Grades 6–8**

This DIVE is a detailed study of World War I, using a video documentary series as the basis of the content. Students will examine the war from its causes and early events through the signing of the Treaty of Versailles that ended the global conflict. The involvement of the United States will be integrated into the class as a part of the war in its totality.

**Yearbook****Ms. O'Brien****Grades 7–8**

In this Dive, 7th and 8th graders have the opportunity to create the middle school pages of Wellington's yearbook, The Duke.. Students are responsible for every aspect of the process: taking pictures, conducting interviews, composing stories, and designing the actual pages that will comprise the book. Students will grow as photographers, visual artists, and journalists, while also honing their leadership skills and to get to know members of the school community.



# Athletics

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**ATHLETICS PHILOSOPHY**

Skill development and a balance between participation and increased competition are the primary focus 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, strength, and speed of the student athletes.

The purpose of the Jump Start Program is to improve the overall physical capabilities of the middle school students and establish a foundation for further athletic development. The sessions focus on gross motor skill development. Frequent movements include running, jumping, crawling, and climbing. These movements are enhanced and developed through friendly competition. This leads to a smooth transition to the upper school Sports Performance Training Program.

# 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)

**Winter**

Basketball, Swimming

**Spring**

Baseball, Lacrosse, Softball, Tennis (Boys), Track and Field

# W



# Wellington

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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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