



## Who We Are

Academically high-achieving students immerse themselves in rigorous, non-traditional course work in one of five content areas as well as participate in cross-curricular year-long studies. Many students plan to pursue post-graduate degrees prior to embarking on careers.

## What We Do

### Students

- work in a freshman cohort during the first year to explore academic disciplines and develop cultural awareness;
- specialize in one of five content areas—Language Arts, Math, Political Science, Science, Visual Arts—for sophomore through senior years;
- think and work outside the traditional academic “box” to understand current global issues from various curricular viewpoints;
- learn from experts in their chosen fields of study;
- participate in unique field research;
- compete in local, regional, and national academic competitions;
- gain access to advanced technology and resources appropriate to their fields of study;
- explore and learn academic topics outside the scope of the even the most rigorous high school courses;
- prepare for rigorous undergraduate and graduate coursework in a wide range of academic disciplines;
- and, receive specialized preparation for the PSAT/NMSQAT.

## Course Overviews

### Freshman Cross-Cultural Expedition

Cross-Cultural Expedition is a first-year cohort for freshmen meant to develop students both academically and culturally. Students will experience project-based learning and technology which emphasizes knowledge about themselves, their world, and their place in a global society. The Expedition class also works to create a community of learners and scholars that will enrich the learning done in core classes with supplemental and complementary assignments. Lastly, the class presents their learnings through the creation and production of a community Cultural Fair: a night to discuss, display, and experience a truly global outlook for the immediate school and city communities.

## **Language Arts**

Distinguished Scholars in Language Arts provides a language-rich literary experience with in-depth study of literature and writing that extends the curriculum in their traditional English classes. Students develop and revise original writings; study the craft of writing through readings, author workshops, and other activities; and submit original works to local and national contests and for publication. Students also attend author talks and readings, live performances, and other events to enhance understanding and appreciation of literature and the craft of writing.

## **Math**

Distinguished Scholars in Math focuses on both applied and pure mathematics. We focus on mathematical modeling to study novel situations and probe questions with no easy answers. The modeling procedure hones skills like identifying important characteristics, data analysis, feasibility, and communication. DS Math also deepens students' regular curriculum by studying historical perspectives on math and advanced topics like different geometries, graph theory, apportionment, capture-recapture, and others.

## **Political Science**

Distinguished Scholars in Political Science provides an in-depth study of multiple disciplines within the social sciences. This project-based curriculum focuses on historical research to synthesize solutions for current issues within the United States and the world. Students will have opportunities to make connections with current political leaders in our community and beyond. Students gain a deeper understanding of our history, our nation, and our connection to the world that goes far beyond simple talking points.

## **Science**

Distinguished Scholars in Science provides outstanding science students with additional opportunities in the sciences not found in other coursework. The curriculum emphasizes the historical development of the sciences and their impact on society. Students learn how scientific questioning and reasoning has solved problems in the past and prepares students to solve the problems of the future. Students explore introductory organic chemistry, advanced physics topics, advanced laboratory techniques, and instrumentation. Students engage in laboratory experiments, inquiry projects, discussions, and posing questions.

## **Visual Arts**

Distinguished Scholars in Visual Art provides outstanding visual arts students with expanded opportunities in the visual arts that are not typically available in regular fine arts coursework. The curriculum emphasizes the development of an advanced portfolio of artwork that is developed continuously during the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades, and students get individual studio space for the duration of their high school career. Students explore how artists utilize a wide variety of different materials as they solve advanced artistic challenges through a variety of creative problem-solving techniques. Students explore art history, art discussions and critiques, advanced visual arts topics, and advanced art materials and techniques. There are many opportunities for guest artists and guest speakers, individual projects, community art opportunities, and self-directed learning in areas of varied student interest.