

Math

This age student has worked for many years to create the strong foundation for this dynamic period of academic work. Students move from pre-algebra into algebra studies. They move from naming plane and solid geometric shapes to exploration of relationships in all things math. Euclid Geometry is explored and proofs are developed. Students begin to use calculators and apply these more advanced mathematical concepts to real life situations such as business, personal finance and design/art.

Language

Students compose persuasive writings; continue their good work with recitation, oral presentations of work, playwriting and poetry. Grammar studies find their basis in the best literature available. Critical thinking is valued and modeled. Students participate in literary discussions and comparative literary studies. Spanish studies continue.

Science

The sciences are a dynamic mix of physical and life. The Scientific Method is integrated into all physical studies and the natural world is experienced and explored. Students carry out experiments on a regular basis. Our beautiful Science Museum is a common destination. Central is partnering with James River Association for extensive studies and gardening is seasonally part of this curriculum as well. All students participate in an annual science fair as well.

Social Studies

History is framed within the study of progress, continuity and change of people and civilizations across time and space. How humans meet their fundamental needs throughout various societies introduces concepts of power, authority, governance and production, distribution and consumption. Questions are asked, such as how does geography determine culture?

Civic Ideas, Discourse and Practices

We use the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services form as the basis for our civics studies. We also use our rich local resources to forward our studies of civics and history. Social justice issues are considered. Students participate in mock elections and visit polling booths to see our democracy at work. Students travel to the capital and to our city government buildings. Can science and technology help us create a healthy and safe society? Forms of government are considered and the persuasive writings and debate are introduced and developed. Students visit the capital and utilize resources available through the capital.

Practical Life

Students are working hard to develop life skills that will lead to successful interpersonal relationships, strong work and moral ethics and self-management and strong self-care abilities.

- Reflective journal writings

- Bus transportation, cab, bike, etc.
- Basic first aid
- Body image, gender roles and identities, reproduction, sex education, interpersonal relationships
- Resolution skill building-Richmond Peace Education Center
- Food-Kelly and J Sargent Reynolds Kitchen?
- Money Management/taxation

Physical Exercise and Well-Being

Friday is our games day at Jefferson Park. Students participate in our Running in Circles program that prepares us to participate in different fundraising 2-5 km community events. Students enjoy hikes along the James River as well. Swimming is offered seasonally along with tennis and soccer. We invite a visiting instructor to come in once a year for a yoga and mediation session.

Performing and Visual Arts

Students have access to mixed media materials on a daily basis. Visiting artists provide instruction in drawing, clay, textile, painting and sculpture. All students are encouraged to take individual classical guitar, violin or piano. Assistance may be available to students in need. Students practice recitation and instrumental performances as well as dramatic performances. Students travel to music and art venues throughout the school year.

Go-Out Events

In addition to our frequent Go-Trips, students participate in several extensive outdoor venues. Central is partnering with James River Associates to provide our students with on-site studies on a remarkable local biome. Students participate in two annual camping trips and spend time on the Appalachian Trail. Central is currently seeking school to farm opportunities for our students as well.

Homework

- Daily assessments are given each morning and focus on a specific skill or understanding. Teachers use the information gained by these assessments to determine individualized lessons and instructions.
- Portfolios-Students create a portfolio for each session that represents their academic growth. Samples of work, reflective and assessments are included. These are shared with parents during conferences and can be forwarded to other academic programs.
- Stanford 10-This standardized test is given once a year. Central's curriculum is larger than the test. Students are exposed to all information covered by the test and much, much more.
- On-going teacher assessment is an integral part of Montessori classes at all levels and continues at the middle school level.

- Tests and Quizzes-students learn how to prepare for tests and quizzes. Tests/quizzes are given throughout the year.
- Homework is a type of on-going assessment that is available to parents at this level. Homework is required at this level. The amount is reasonable and the content is meaningful.