



Grade 7-8 Program

- **Essential Question:**
Year 1 What is truth?
Year 2: What is identity?
- 45 minutes of outdoor recess each day

In their final stretch, students hone their leadership skills through the Quaker practices of meeting for business, developing shared belief, creating space for caring and creativity, and serving others. These students are our school leaders, closing Meeting for Worship, mentoring our youngest students, and often planning and leading whole-school activities.

Students stretch their growing abstract thinking abilities in the study of Algebra, analytical reading and writing, independent projects, scientific reasoning, and intensive study of Spanish. These students engage extensively with the world, its history, and their place in it. They focus on deep and well-reasoned thinking and communication; generating questions and claims, reasoning from evidence, and revising their thinking in the face of new understanding. Throughout the curriculum, students ask and discuss questions around justice, fairness, peace, stewardship, truth, conflict, identity, and equity.

Seventh and eighth graders experience having different teachers for different subjects and managing different courses: math, humanities, science, Spanish, and specials classes. Note-taking, study skills, and time-management are emphasized. Though we continue to use technology sparingly, we do introduce technology that students will encounter in high school, such as GoogleDocs, Google Classroom, presentation applications, and research.



The music experience in fifth-eighth grade weaves the study of theory, music history, and ethnomusicology opportunities for composition, ensemble work, and performance. In stewardship/ physical education, students hone their skills around leadership, negotiation, and fair play. The Advisory program emphasizes leadership, stewardship, and community building, and it protects time for important group conversations around interpersonal, health, and other issues and questions that arise for young adolescents. 5th-8th graders choose three electives each year, focused on topics from newspaper to Latin to activist art.

Seventh and Eighth graders culminate their FSP experience with several rights of passage: the 7th-8th grade play is an annual tradition enjoyed by the whole community. Students take a trip in the spring focused on either environmental justice or social justice. Exit projects and exhibitions allow students to demonstrate their learning, growth, and readiness to take the next step in their journeys.



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