



# Middle School



As one of the first purpose-based Middle Schools in the country, MAC Middle fosters a rich inward and outward journey for students to develop a greater sense of self and their contribution to the outside world. Our student experience is designed to immerse students in authentic and applicable learning environments with each academic unit centered around students practicing critical thinking, empathy, communication and action in the real world. Through close mentorship and guidance, our students are empowered to lead their own learning by going beyond the classroom to harness the city as a learning lab, connect with the community, access experts, and advocate for themselves. Students use these experiences to explore their own unique sense of purpose and activate it to connect meaningfully to the world.

***MAC Middle engages the core pillars of our mission to guide students on a journey of thinking, feeling and doing to explore their personal sense of meaning and outward global impact.***



## Thinking with Innovative Academics

The curriculum at MAC Middle provides high interest and strong challenge within a dynamic and experiential structure. MAC Middle prioritizes the intrinsic motivation of students and helps them become engaged in the learning process by connecting their beliefs and goals to curricular requirements. Curriculum is aligned with the common core standards, and backward designed from the PSAT to ensure that students are well prepared academically for high school, college and beyond.



## Feeling with Exploration of Character

Each student brings a uniqueness that is honored by the MAC Middle program. We recognize the importance of tapping into student interest in order to create opportunities for growth. Our educators use the strengths and curiosities of students, coupled with a strong social emotional curriculum that allow learners to access learning in ways that are meaningful to them. We encourage each student's exploration of values and strengths so they have a strong understanding of their learner profile and are able to advocate for their needs within the school community and beyond.



## Doing with a Fearless, Forward Mindset

MAC Middle fosters each student's understanding that we are all part of a larger community. By using the outside world as a classroom, we explore ways for students to connect with the world and give back while encouraging independence and collaboration.

**The Montessori Academy of Colorado is a metropolitan school that engages each child through innovative academics, exploration of character, and a fearless, forward mindset.**

# Middle School Curriculum

MAC Middle is one of the first purpose-based Middle Schools in the United States.

## PURPOSE-BASED LEARNING

Purpose-based learning prioritizes intrinsic motivation and helps students become more engaged in learning experiences through connecting their beliefs and life goals to curricular requirements. Real-world projects provide the perfect foundation to naturally integrate content understanding. MAC Middle utilizes common core standards for Mathematics, Science, Reading, Writing, and Communicating, Social Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, Comprehensive Health, Physical Education, Computer Science, and World Languages. With content being explored through these real-world experiences, students grow in the following areas:

- Curiosity
- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Collaboration
- Perseverance
- Social-Emotional Awareness

## Collaborative Leadership

MAC has partnered with World Leadership School, an organization with over a decade of experience working with K-12 schools to design and deliver immersive partnership-based, domestic and international collaborative leadership programs. World Leadership School works with schools to reimagine learning and create next-generation leaders. It was founded on the belief that schools can be the ultimate platform for creating leaders who will change our world for the better.

## Immersive Travel

World Leadership School's travel programs are immersive journeys to discover the warmth, vibrancy, and strength of people living and working in communities around the world. Along the journey, students see the world — and themselves — in new ways. MAC's inaugural class is already planning their capstone Middle School trip, scheduled for February 2023! Our educators and students have selected Belize as the destination where they will synthesize their thinking, feeling and doing based approach to learning. Each student will be responsible for contributing  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the total cost of their individual trip. To help students understand basic financial literacy as well as contribute to their sense of pride and purpose in achieving a fiscal goal, students have agency in how they go about this fundraising effort. A portion of this fundraising will go directly to the community they will serve in Belize.



The holistic approach to learning at MAC Middle is inspiring and we're excited to see how a focus on purpose can positively impact our child especially during the critical growth period of adolescence.

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- MAC Middle Parent



# Uniquely MAC

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## Multi-Modal Approach

Our integrated, multi-modal pedagogical approach is learner inspired with lessons tailored to individual interests and learning styles meant to foster discovery, critical-thinking and experimentation. We use the best tenets of purpose-based, place-based, Montessori and other research-based pedagogies to guide the learning process. Our educators guide learners to sharpen intuitive as well as rational thinking that results in meaningful action, which is the heart of our thinking, feeling, and doing approach to education. We encourage each learner to be self-directed and self-motivated in their educational experience by finding meaning in their learning journey. We start by knowing each student deeply, showing respect and curiosity for the interests and intuitive capabilities of each learner and use that knowledge to develop customized learning. We don't believe in top-down teaching, instead we encourage learning through research, discovery and experience to build important critical thinking skills to prepare learners for their future.

## Real World Learning

Middle School learners engage in real-world learning experiences, using our unique urban setting as a learning lab to dig deeper into academic content. This includes weekly "Walkabout Wednesday" trips during which students have the opportunity to engage with community experts in various fields, allowing them to apply learning to the outside world.

## Academic Excellence

Our educators inspire academic excellence in highly complex and rigorous units designed with the common core state standards in mind. Educators assess learning progress on a continuous basis through individual engagement with learners to fine-tune and customize instruction. All learners will be required to take the PSAT assessment at the end of 8th grade to measure academic success. Our low student-teacher ratio allows educators to cultivate close relationships with learners, ensuring that each child is deeply known and understood, enabling them to customize learning that will inspire learners to reach their full potential.

## Digital Literacy

Technology skills are essential components of 21st century learning. MAC Middle has a 1:1 technology model as well as an on-campus media lab to inspire digital literacy.

## Financial Literacy

Our students learn real world fiscal responsibility through operating and managing a business and through fundraising for their capstone trip.