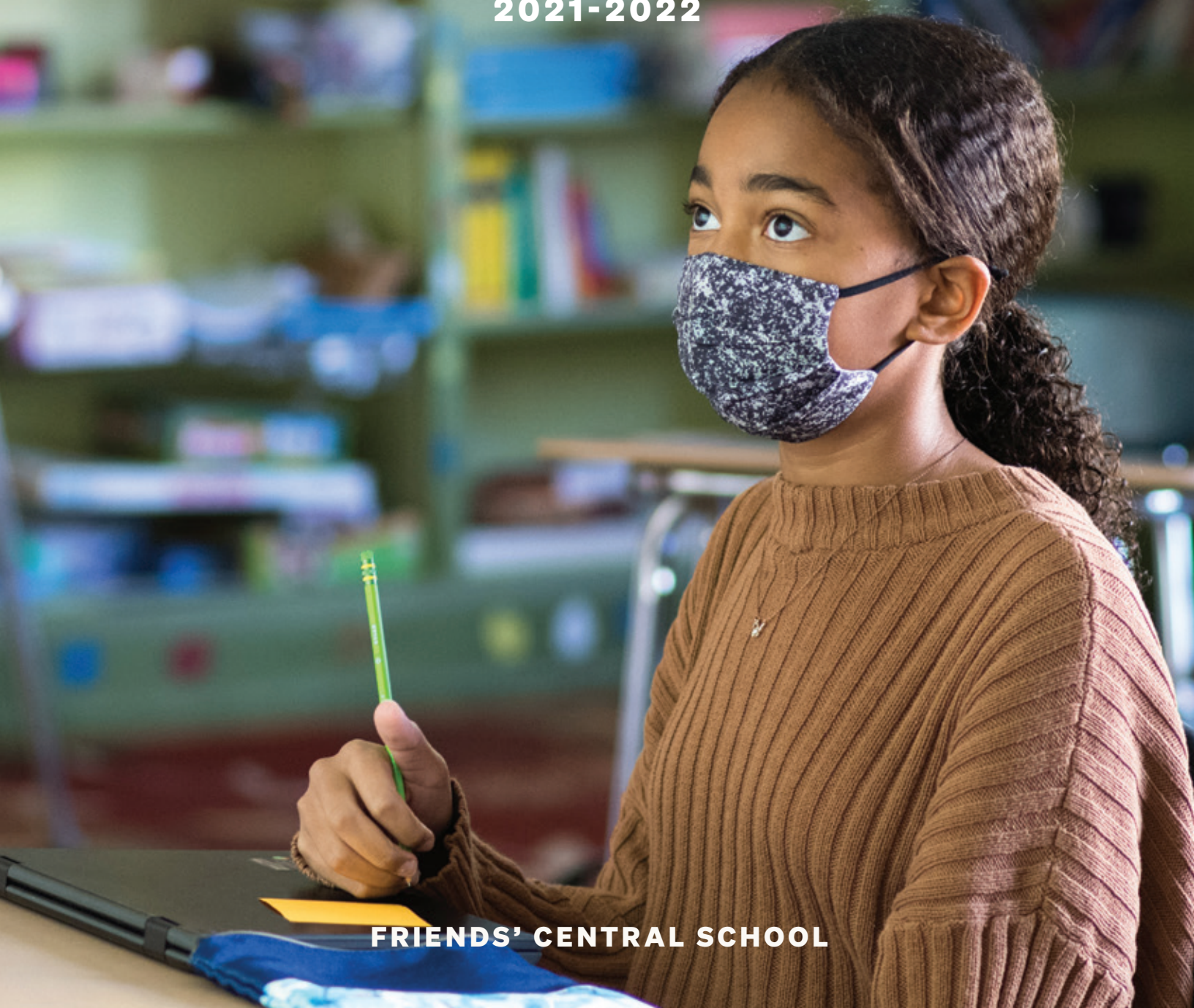




A Closer Look

2021-2022



FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1** Friends' Central School Mission, Vision, and Philosophy
- 2** Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- 4** Lower School Curriculum
- 10** Middle School Curriculum
- 17** Upper School Curriculum
- 25** Life at Friends' Central School
- 28** Admissions
- 30** Affording FCS



BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021-2022

James C. Wright, Clerk	Jon Harris	Barbara M. Cohen (Trustee Emerita)
Tami Benton-Condif, Vice Clerk	Juan Jewell '68	Ken Dunn (Trustee Emeritus)
Betty Bard, Treasurer	Kimya Johnson	Ann Satterthwaite (Trustee Emerita)
Laura Jackson '65, Recording Clerk	Fariha Khan	Joanna Schoff '51, (Trustee Emerita)
LiRon Anderson-Bell	Mary McCabe	Koji Shimada (Trustee Emeritus)
Quinn Bauriedel	Chinwe Onyekere '94	Gardner Hendrie '50 (Honorary Trustee)
Liz Cohen '83	Alex Rolfe '01	
Liza Ewen	Aaron Selkow '88	
Seth Goldblum	Tom Tritton	
	Joshua Wasserman '02	
	Roderick Wolfson	

CALENDAR 2021-2022*

Thursday, September 2	Orientation Day
Monday, September 6	Labor Day, No Classes
Tuesday, September 7	Rosh Hashanah, No Classes
Thursday, September 9	First Day of Classes
Thursday, September 16	Yom Kippur, No Classes
Wednesday, November 24- Friday, November 26	Thanksgiving Break
Monday, December 20- Friday, December 31	Winter Break (Classes resume on Monday, January 3)
Monday, January 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, No Classes
Monday, February 21	Presidents' Day, No Classes
Monday, March 28- Friday, April 1	Spring Break (Classes resume on Monday, April 4)
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day, No Classes
Friday, June 10	Last Day of School
Saturday, June 11	Commencement

*Some 2021-2022 dates are subject to change.

Our Mission, Vision, and Philosophy

FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL
1845

Our Mission

We cultivate the intellectual, spiritual, and ethical promise of our students.

Our Vision

To awaken courage and intellect – and peacefully transform the world

Guiding Our Mission and Vision: Our Philosophy

Since its establishment in 1845 by the Religious Society of Friends, Friends' Central School, a coeducational, college-preparatory day school for students in nursery through grade 12, has been guided by the Quaker testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship. Underlying all facets of school life is the belief that "there is that of God in everyone." Meeting for Worship is central, providing time for connections among members of the community and between individuals and their spiritual sources. Peaceful resolution of conflicts, seeking truth, and collaboration are key aspects of a Friends' Central education.

Friends' Central offers rigorous and varied educational experiences in academics, the arts, and athletics, helping our students realize their potential and achieve on the highest level possible. We encourage trial and error, critical thinking and questioning, and intellectual courage in all areas of our curriculum. We strive to balance competence in using sophisticated technology with the richness of a humanistic education. Students' individual interests are encouraged and supported while essential skills are carefully honed.

We intentionally seek a wide spectrum of diversity in our school community. We respect unreservedly that diversity and strive to enhance and support it. Diversity influences how we teach, learn, and communicate. It enriches the community and furthers the understanding that each human life is intrinsically valuable and interrelated, one with another.

We realize that our students have instant access to world events, and we help them generate a social conscience in their actions within the community, as well as in the wider world. We want them to develop compassion for fellow human beings across national boundaries and to value the environment. Accordingly, there are many opportunities for service, where experiential learning provides us with the awareness that we, to whom much has been given, can make a difference both locally and globally.

We believe that a friendly, nurturing, and kind school environment fosters true scholarship and helps students develop strong ethical values. In a well-ordered community, adults model behavior for students and encourage inner discipline. In such an environment, it is our strong belief that students will grow into contributing, optimistic members of society who will have a positive impact on human life.



Beth D. Johnson '77
Head of School



Erica Snowden is Friends' Central's Director of Equity, Belonging, and Inclusion. As a member of the Friends' Central senior administrative team, Erica oversees equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts school-wide.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Friends' Central School seeks to cultivate a community of diverse individuals who are respected and affirmed as they engage in learning and other school experiences. We strive to create a community of belonging where members of FCS can bring their authentic selves to campus, embracing all identities, including race and ethnicity, gender identity, sexual identity, class, religion, disability, family structure, nationality, and other social identities. We are engaged in an ongoing journey to confront and unlearn bias both personally and collectively so we can become a more equitable, anti-bias school.

Fundamental to the Religious Society of Friends' testimony and practice is our commitment to embodying our values through the policies, practices and culture we build together. We call upon all members of our community — faculty, staff, students, administrators, parents, trustees, and alumni/ae — to join us in this work.

“I love sitting around our dinner table and hearing about the emotional and intellectual insights my children gain from Quaker principles, Meeting for Worship, and All-School assemblies.”

PARENT





“The educational experience [at FCS] taught me how to think for myself, analyze different viewpoints, and come up with my own independent conclusions. In addition to the intellectual side, the spiritual side was so ingrained in every activity that it was just who we became.”

ALUM

Nursery Through 5th Grade

Friends' Central's Lower School is a place where joyful learning is the foundation of academic excellence. Whether at a desk, in the garden, art studio, or playground, learning is embedded in play, exploration, and discovery. "Skills and drills" take their place alongside critical questioning (*Why? How? What if?*), teamwork, and collaboration. The experience is as academically challenging and exciting as it is nurturing and structured.

An emphasis on the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and service underlies every aspect of our Lower School, including academics. These values guide children and adults to treat one another with respect and appreciation, creating a safe and trusting atmosphere that inspires the very best in children. Our broad and varied curriculum offers opportunities for each child to explore, discover new interests, and shine. Classes are small and instruction is individualized, with many students excelling far beyond their grade levels. Friends' Central students develop the confidence to ask and answer big questions and the skills to articulate their thoughts insightfully and effectively.

Our Lower School teaches decision-making processes that help students throughout their lives. They learn to be thoughtful problem solvers – both academically and interpersonally. Through a careful balance of expectations and freedom, students are given the choice to pursue individual interests and to take intellectual risks. Students are held accountable for their words and actions. Individual social development and awareness of others are nurtured in tandem with academic benchmarks.



Melody R. Acinapura
Lower School Principal

Nature Nursery

Our Nature Nursery is a magical place where important lessons about sharing, friendship, math, art, science, and reading happen in the context of the woods, gardens, stream, and fields on our beautiful 18-acre campus.

Highly qualified teachers guide our youngest students beginning at age 2 years and 7 months through their first steps in the Friends' Central School community. Nursery students play on their own playground and take "field trips" to explore and learn from different facets of our campus. Learning thematically with an integrated approach to language arts, math, and social studies takes place



both in the classroom and outdoors, where an exploration of the natural world – including seed germination, planting, harvesting, and eating vegetables – helps children improve their fine-motor skills and make connections across the curriculum.

ACADEMIC TRAJECTORY

Pre-K and Kindergarten – Early Skills

In early childhood, students begin figuring out the sounds they hear in words and learning the letters that make those sounds. In Pre-Kindergarten, teachers work one-on-one with students to expand their phonetic understanding, and students’ writing reflects their growing knowledge as they express their ideas and observations. In Kindergarten, students add simple sight word vocabularies to their toolbox and begin to write full sentences independently. In the early grades, use of phonetic (developmental) — “inventive” — spelling encourages the flow of ideas without fear of making mistakes. This is critical as students find and grow their voice. As reading and writing skills develop, so do formal spelling programs, writing mechanics, writing in different genres and from varied perspectives and audiences, and formal essays with introductions, conclusions, and mechanics.

In the early grades, the use of manipulatives nurtures the development of number sense and ensures a thorough understanding of basic concepts that prepares students to master pictorial, symbolic, and abstract levels. Working in small groups, students expand and enrich their understanding through math games and cooperative math activities.

Literacy in Grades 1-5

Reading and writing instruction is progressive and individualized based on formal and informal assessments, ensuring that every child will be challenged and inspired. In the younger grades, we focus on developing students’ fluency and decoding through the Wilson Language Program, specifically Foundations. This research-based model provides a multi-sensory and structured approach to give students the building blocks of literacy.

In grades 1 through 5, we shift to the Columbia University’s Teachers College Program, *Lucy Calkins Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop*. This model’s primary focus is to develop confident, independent readers through direct, explicit instruction as a whole class, as well as in small leveled group and individual conferencing. Students explore and enrich literacy using a variety of genres and skills-based objectives. Book choice and the ability to select “just-right” books that meet the interests and evolving reading abilities of our students help to build enthusiastic readers.

Mathematics in Grades 1-5

Problem-solving ability is stressed as students learn to break down math problems and identify what a problem is asking of



them and what operations are needed. Students in Grades 1 through 5 use *Context for Learning Mathematics*, a workshop-based model that helps students build conceptual understanding, computational fluency, and real-world problem-solving skills that will enable them to become lifelong mathematical thinkers.

While each grade has benchmarks for math achievement, teachers in all grades differentiate math instruction for students who are ready for more challenging work based on pre- and post-unit assessments. Our learning specialists also provide enrichment and support as needed.

THEMATIC LEARNING

Social Studies

Our Lower School is strongly committed to thematic education, a holistic approach that unifies disciplines around a central social studies-based theme and creates a deeper, more meaningful understanding of topics. This integration of disciplines illuminates relationships and ways in which disparate aspects of the world are connected — the past and present, geography and culture, the arts, literature, and history. All areas of learning and the stories of many people are connected by common threads. A new Lower School fall theme is chosen each year and is followed by grade-level themes in the spring semester. The topics selected encourage students to recognize, appreciate, and celebrate the diversity of the world.

The Arts

Lower School is rich in artistic excitement and expression. The dynamic art and music programs turn hallways into inspiring galleries that reflect the children's joyful creative spirits and playgrounds into spontaneous concert halls as students reprise a favorite piece learned in music class.

Lower School captures the innate and abundant creativity in every child, encouraging the development of visual literacy and awareness and helping students to understand and interpret the world around them. The program uses both traditional media – different kinds of paints, natural and synthetic clays, and drawing materials that include pencils, pastels, markers, fabric crayons, india ink, and charcoals – and nontraditional media such as sunprint kits, duct and colored tapes, found objects, metal foils, yarn, fabric, and

objects from nature. They also work on potters' wheels and iPads and use a variety of printmaking materials and techniques. The works of historical and contemporary artists are studied.

Children respond to music innately. Our Lower School music curriculum is based on the belief that music is for all people and designed to nurture musical creativity in each child. The Lower School music curriculum is based on the Orff and Kodály approaches to music education as well as the music learning theory of Edwin Gordon. Students experience a variety of music from different genres and cultures, including classical, jazz, folk, pop, hip hop, and more. The program develops musical independence and music literacy and includes opportunities for individual and group improvisation. Starting in grade 2, the Lower School also offers an extracurricular instrumental program including a string ensemble and private lessons on piano, violin, cello, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, and flute.

Science

Science at the Lower School is an exploratory, hands-on experience for students in every grade. Weekly science classes happen in classrooms, in the forest, in the greenhouse, in the organic garden, in the bird blind, in The Ulmer Family Light Lab makerspace. Our 18-acre campus provides the science curriculum with a wealth of learning opportunities.

The different branches of science are approached through the lens of stewardship and a sense of responsibility for the Earth and our place in it. Students are encouraged to ask and answer great questions; many science units culminate in a larger creative project that encourages innovative problem solving. Our gardens are designed to promote agency, community, and sharing. The Lower School Harvest Fest in October, for example, features produce grown and harvested on campus.

Technology

Use of technology is meaningfully integrated into classrooms. Students in Pre-K through grade 2 use iPads, and students in grades 3 through 5 use Chromebooks and the Google Platform. Through technology, students research, collaborate, and create, learning to bring their ideas to fruition with creative projects such as movies and multimedia presentations.

Physical Education

Lower School students participate in an active physical education program that stresses mastery of a sequence of developmentally appropriate skills and emphasizes teamwork. Younger students play cooperative games and work to develop fundamental movement skills, balance, and eye-hand coordination. Older students develop skills in specific sports like soccer, field hockey, and basketball, preparing them for participation in the Middle School athletics. Health and wellness are specifically taught in grade 5, but they are also discussed, taught, and lived throughout the year in the entire Lower School physical education program.

Spanish

Our Lower School Spanish program includes exposure to and practice of the language, and students explore the cultures of many countries where Spanish is spoken. Lessons are designed and coordinated with the children's grade level, thematic focus, and developmental progress in mind. Listening, oral comprehension, and speaking skills are emphasized. Students begin to write in Spanish starting in 3rd grade and continue to develop these advanced linguistic skills through 5th grade.

Library

The Friends Central Lower School Library collection consists of approximately 13,000 books as well as a variety of children's periodicals and a rich collection of digital resources. A full-time librarian helps to foster a love of reading and encourages students to explore new books and genres. Students visit the school library on their own time during the day with teacher permission, as well as for weekly library instruction. In addition to reading for pleasure and personal growth, students attend library classes to learn literacy and research skills in the context of classroom curriculum. Our library instruction promotes visual, textual, and digital literacy to help children acquire the critical thinking skills needed to become lifelong learners, independent library users, and responsible researchers. Library highlights include visiting authors, book fairs, a Caldecott Award study unit, and a Reading Olympics team.





Extraordinary Teachers

Friends' Central teachers are expert educators who care deeply about creating a classroom culture where every child is nurtured and challenged.

Thematic Learning That Unlocks Connections

Each year, all Lower School students join in learning connected by a common theme. Teachers across grades and subject areas revise curriculum and immerse their students in varying approaches to the same theme. This perennial, joyful embrace of new and exciting learning is infectious and sweeps students into exciting discoveries in areas such as geography, literature, science, poetry, music, and social studies.

Exceptional, Beautiful Outdoor Spaces

Friends' Central's Lower School has 18 acres comprising woodland, fields, an organic farm, a stream, a pond, and playgrounds. These spaces offer abundant choices for free play at recess and also serve as important learning spaces, particularly for our science classes.

Spanish

In a Lower-School-friendly immersive program, Spanish teachers speak almost entirely in Spanish with the students, and children quickly learn context-dependent language through music, dance, games, and practice. Students begin to write in Spanish starting in grade 3 and continue to develop these advanced linguistic skills through grade 5.

State-of-the-Art Lower School STEAM

Lower School students have their own design and fabrication studios – the Ulmer Family Light Lab – and a dedicated STEAM educator to facilitate design thinking and project-based learning. Opportunities and equipment in these studios include: a recording studio (sound), a green screen and video recording studio, robotics, hardware and software to begin coding in Nursery and continue through grade 5, 3-D printers, sewing machines, a laser cutter, hand tools, power tools, circuitry, a full kitchen, and a greenhouse..

Middle School Readiness

Students who enter grade 5 are ready for the myriad leadership and academic challenges that are the basis for their successful rise to grade 6. Grade 5 students are prepared for Middle School-level teaching and expectations through an exposure to advanced concepts and differentiated learning, leadership and modeling responsibility for younger students, service opportunities, and high level electives including chemistry, music, and art. When June comes, our grade 5 students are more than ready for the transition.

Values for Life

Quaker values are the foundation for our academic strength and the ethical compass that guides Friends' Central students well beyond their Lower School years. Lower School students learn to be good friends and to listen and respect differing viewpoints. Intentional processes teach students to move through and resolve conflict, providing essential tools for navigating the world.

Support Services

We believe an intentional and collaborative partnership between home and school is essential for student success. In addition to the expertise of classroom teachers, there is a team of professionals who provide support to students for both learning and social emotional development. Our School Counselor works with all Lower School students to support their emotional growth and helps them to thrive socially. Our Learning Specialist coordinates learning support services and partners with classroom teachers in grades 3-5. Kindergarten-Grade 2 Reading Specialist partners with teachers to provide reading support to K-2 students and works with small groups to deliver targeted instruction.

Family and School Communication

Our goal is to create an atmosphere of trust, openness, mutual respect, and ongoing communication with your family and your child. Teachers communicate regularly with families. Parent/teacher conferences are held in the fall and spring of each year, and written evaluations are sent home in January and June. Written reports include a narrative overview of the student's

progress and a checklist that provides information about specific skills in each academic discipline. In addition to the specified conferences, parents and teachers communicate as the need arises.

Extended Day and After-School Clubs

The Lower School Extended Day Program was created to provide quality child care on our Old Gulph Road campus for families who need after-school services. The program runs daily from 2:50 pm to 5:45 pm.

The Lower School offers a vibrant After-School Clubs program for students in Kindergarten through grade 5, launching again in spring 2022. Featuring exciting activities from Textile Design and Stop-Motion Animation to Video Game Design, Out of the Actor's Toolbox, and Super Sports, After-School Clubs provide many opportunities to learn a new skill or nurture a budding passion. Clubs take place from 3:00-4:00 pm.

Starting in grade 2, the Lower School also offers an extracurricular instrumental program including a string ensemble and private lessons on piano, violin, cello, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet and flute.

Lower School Specials (Number of Classes Per Week)

	ART	LIBRARY	MUSIC	P.E.	SCIENCE	SPANISH
Pre-K	1x	1x	2x	2x	2x	2x
K	1x	1x	2x	2x	2x	2x
Grade 1	1x	1x	2x	3x	2x	2x
Grade 2	1x	1x	2x	3x	2x	2x
Grade 3	1x	1x	2x	3x	2x	2x
Grade 4	1x	1x	2x	3x	2x	2x
Grade 5	1x	1x	2x	3x	3x	2x

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS: MIDDLE SCHOOL



Alexa D. Quinn '98
Middle School Principal and Assistant
Head of School for Program & Instruction



6th Through 8th Grade

Middle School years are a crucial, transformative period in a student's academic journey and in their personal development. Friends' Central believes a nurturing environment and challenging academics bring out the highest level of achievement in young learners. In the Middle School, students are encouraged to explore and take risks, whether they are in the classroom, on the stage, or on the playing fields. Students in grades 6-8 are ready to think more abstractly and question critically. Our program encourages students to embrace the joy that comes from intellectual discovery. Middle School students work together to problem-solve creatively, building both a sense of self and a sense of community. Through a combination of a rich, engaging curriculum and progressive pedagogy, teachers instill a love of learning and provide students with a set of essential skills which will propel them through the Upper School and beyond.

Students in the Middle School feel comfortable, motivated, and confident as they learn and grow. Our teachers understand and delight in the opportunities and challenges that come with shepherding children into adolescence. It is the individual attention our teachers give to our students that forges meaningful relationships and enables each child to thrive. With a program and schedule tailored to young adolescents, we nurture healthy minds and bodies, self-advocacy, social-emotional intelligence, communication skills, organization and time management, and independence.

The Middle School provides students with an abundance of hands-on learning experiences in and out of the classroom. These opportunities help students to find and follow their interests. In addition to our academic, artistic and athletic programs, students participate in clubs, community service, affinity groups, mini-courses, and field trips. Friends' Central Middle School plays a critical role in transforming eager, and enthusiastic elementary school students into self-aware, critical thinkers who are engaged and empathetic citizens.

For more information about
our academic programs, visit
friendscentral.org/academics

English

The Middle School English curriculum inspires students to love literature and to appreciate the power of words in helping us understand ourselves and the world. Our texts are selected to include a variety of voices and perspectives, allowing students to confront moral and ethical questions. Assignments are designed to foster analytical thinking and creativity, with students writing essays, personal narratives, speeches, fiction, poetry and more. Students learn grammatical skills and increase their vocabulary in the service of becoming more precise, effective communicators. In class, students develop collaborative and discussion skills that help them to be good listeners and to articulate their ideas. Teachers give students ample feedback and support to develop their voices as writers and to encourage their creative expression.

English 6:

The Distance Between Us (Grande), *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* (Cartaya), *One Last Word* (Grimes), and *Fever 1793* (Anderson)

English 7:

The House of the Scorpion (Farmer), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Hansberry), *Brown Girl Dreaming* (Woodson), *The Outsiders* (Hinton), and *New Kid* (Craft).

English 8:

Animal Farm (Orwell), *Night* (Wiesel), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare), *Dear Martin* (Stone), and *Everything Everything* (Yoon).

Along with the required reading, students also read short stories, folk tales, myths, poetry and non-fiction, and they fulfill independent reading requirements.

Mathematics

The Middle School math curriculum provides a strong foundation in mathematics with challenging classes that emphasize fundamental operations and an understanding of how math works in the real world. Students learn to demonstrate their math thinking, model situations mathematically, interpret data, and identify patterns. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, clearly communicating mathematical concepts, and collaborating during class to determine strategies and solutions. Middle School math includes: Math 6, Advanced Pre-Algebra, Pre-Algebra, Advanced Algebra I,

Algebra I and Advanced Geometry. All Middle School students complete Algebra by the end of eighth grade, with some students accelerating when and if they are ready, as well as having the possibility of taking math courses in the Upper School.

History

The Middle School history curriculum prepares students to understand the past and its relationship to today while preparing them to live in a complex, interconnected world. Grade 6 History focuses on human geography, exploring human communities and cultures across locations and as they interact with the environment. Grade 7 delves into United States history, beginning with the indigenous peoples of North America and ending around the Civil War. Grade 8 picks up around Reconstruction and progresses to the Civil Rights era. Through writing, reflecting, and role play, students are able to connect historical events to issues of social justice that we see in current events and that impact our daily lives. Students learn skills to effectively research, decode primary sources, and write about history.

Science

Middle School students hone their observation, prediction, and interpretational skills as they proceed through their emergent studies of life, physical, and earth sciences. Our teachers cultivate student curiosity about the world around them through a hands-on approach to science – from conducting experiments to using our campus and nearby parks as outdoor labs.

In grade 6, students focus on developing a deep understanding of the scientific method, cell division, plant science, the human impact on the environment, and more. In grade 7, students study topics including astronomy, atomic structure, chemical bonds, and ethical topics in science. In grade 8, students dive into water chemistry, environmental science, electricity and magnetism, and human development. Through readings, demonstrations, field study, laboratory experiments, and analytical writing, students gain scientific knowledge and begin to draw connections between various disciplines. Students become better able to make connections regarding human needs, actions, and environmental systems.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Admissions Office

Athletic Service

Carousel House

Easter Seals

FCS Pre-K Buddies

Newspaper

Overbrook Pre-School

Recycling

Rosemont Presbyterian Village

Saunders House

Service-thru-Art

Streamwatch

Students of Culture

Yearbook

World Languages

The World Language curriculum aims to prepare students to be global citizens and to understand how language and culture are intertwined. Language study in grade 6 is centered on the evolution of language and an introduction to linguistics through the nationally recognized Prima Lingua program, created by Friends' Central faculty member and alumna Margaret Somerville '83. In grades 7 and 8, language offerings include French, Latin, and Spanish, with each option providing a multimodal approach to language acquisition. Students gain confidence in their ability to express themselves and to speak, read, write and comprehend their chosen language.

Advisory Program

The Middle School advisory program is designed to ensure academic success and the healthy personal development of each student. Students see their advisors at least twice every day: in homeroom at the beginning of the day and in the advisory period immediately at the end of the academic day. The advisor sits at the center of a student's academic and emotional orbit and is a point person for the family, connecting home and school. Advisors are charged with overseeing a student's overall progress, including social-emotional well-being.

Technology

Each Middle School student receives a school-issued and owned Chromebook to be used in classes and for schoolwork. These devices come fully equipped with the most popular tablet features, such as touchscreen, educational apps, and filmmaking capability. In addition, Chromebooks have a keyboard and fully functional Chrome browser, enabling students to best leverage Google's cloud-based educational applications. There are no devices used during homeroom, recess, or lunch; we consider these times important for social interaction and essential for a break in students' screen time. We use Canvas as our classroom management and workflow tool. Our goal for the technology program can be divided into the following broad categories: enhancing the curriculum, supporting student learning, preparing students with essential skills, and cultivating curious and caring citizens.

Service Learning

Learning through service and instilling a commitment to serving the community are essential aspects of life at Friends' Central School. All Middle School students participate in weekly service projects every Wednesday for about 90 minutes. As we expose our students to a broad range of projects on and off campus, the notion of a world bigger than their own becomes a reality. Our students learn to be comfortable in new situations, to find commonalities with people different from themselves, and, most importantly, they learn that they can make a difference in the School community and beyond.



Performing and Visual Arts

Throughout their Middle School years, students are introduced to and participate in many forms of artistic expression. Exposure to the performing and visual arts encourages students to tap into their creativity and to learn to express themselves through the disciplines of art, drama, and music. In addition to curricular offerings, students are also encouraged to participate in after-school arts activities. The Middle School puts on two plays every year. Students have the opportunity to sing in chorus or play an instrument in our jazz ensemble. All after-school activities do not conflict with athletics, so students are able to participate in both.

STEAM at FCS Middle School

Middle School students are provided with experiences in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics both in and outside of the classroom. Students in grades 6 through 8 have the opportunity to take computer science and programming courses as well as join our Middle School robotics team. The Middle School building is equipped with a dedicated maker “nook” for small-scale projects. In addition, Middle School students have regular access to our City Avenue Makerspace, which includes circuitry and Arduino technology, wood-working tools, sewing machines, 3-D printers, and everything in between. As part of the curriculum, students use the Makerspace for various class projects and assignments, learning not only to use the many tools available but also to utilize design thinking and iteration to explore and create.

Clubs

Middle School clubs give students the opportunity to explore their interests, to discover new passions, to connect with students in various grades, and to pursue topics that may fall outside of traditional disciplines. Clubs meet on Fridays during the school day and last for half the year, at which point students either switch or remain with the same group. Club offerings include Disc Games, Trivia, Myth Pics, Chess, Cartoons & Comics, Open Art Studio, and more.

Evaluation and Support

The Middle School’s academic calendar is organized into semesters. During midterm conferences, advisors provide a general overview of the academic, behavioral, and social development of each student. Written reports, sent home in January and June, contain a grid with letter grades and a teacher narrative. Progress reports are shared in November and April. Students are evaluated in academic skill areas, as well as work habits and citizenship. In addition, teachers may send home individual special reports at any time during the year in order to inform parents of noteworthy developments in their child’s classwork or behavior.

There are a variety of supports in place for students’ learning, social, and emotional needs. The Middle School has a learning specialist and shares two school counselors with the Upper School as well as counseling interns from the University of Pennsylvania. Teachers and advisors also offer a great deal of support to students in all aspects of their school life.

Grade 6 Overview

For students entering grade 6, Middle School is a new realm. For most, the transition includes a change from self-contained classrooms with a single teacher to navigating the demands of a changing schedule and increasing academic demands. Guiding students through this process is an important aspect of every grade 6 teacher’s role.

Grade 6 is a year of tremendous academic growth. Students build upon strong elementary school foundations and begin to acquire new, more sophisticated skills essential to their success in school. Some examples include reading for more than plot, inferring authors’ messages, and noticing literary techniques; drawing on prior knowledge and making predictions; learning the difference between working in a group and active collaboration; and developing plans to manage long-term assignments. In grade 6, all students explore the tenets of the Quaker religion, which helps them to understand and appreciate the mission of the School, in addition to better defining their own personal values and beliefs.

Grade 7 Overview

Students entering grade 7 are mastering the transition to Middle School and are working to understand and manage the responsibility that comes with increasing independence. They are beginning to ask more of themselves, taking on some leadership roles in Middle School, preparing to step into the many demands of grade 8. Grade 7 is an important year in our students' academic development. They move from the important lessons of grade 6 to increasingly abstract and independent thinking, viewing their world and the greater world in a more analytical way. Some examples of this include working effectively within a group by helping the group to problem solve, supporting a point of view with textual evidence, using prior knowledge to ask pertinent questions, and challenging assumptions thoughtfully and carefully. Grade 7 students are learning to understand their own thought processes and the way they learn. In grade 7, students participate in health, a course designed to inform them about healthy choices, to develop mindfulness and to practice with good decision-making for one's mind, body and spirit.

Grade 8 Overview

Grade 8 is a critical year in our students' preparation for Upper School and beyond. With the help of teachers, grade 8 students gain greater knowledge of themselves as learners. They understand how to approach different aspects of academics – how to study for tests, approach projects, and choose group members who will complement them – to ensure future success. They know how to use the resources

around them effectively – advisors, teachers, support staff, family, and friends. They understand how to safely and appropriately take risks – whether intellectual or otherwise. They learn to create and support an original argument, making increasingly sophisticated connections between and among different disciplines. They become self-directed learners, planning their own approaches to projects and mapping out their timelines. In grade 8, students are free to choose semester-long electives, allowing them to take a deeper dive into a particular area of interest. Electives include: Computer Science, Music Theory, Stage Acting, Financial Literacy, and Visual Art.

Middle School Schedule

For all three grades, the Middle School daily schedule is intentionally designed around balance. We begin at 8:20 am and end at 3:10 pm. Middle School students have five academic classes a day with passing time and breaks built into the daily routine. Each class meets for forty-five minutes. It is important that classes rotate by day to ensure an equal amount of instructional time over the course of the year, while also varying the time of day that subjects are taught to maintain student engagement. Our daily schedule also features a forty minute Community Block--a time dedicated to community building and auxiliary programming. Recess and lunch breaks are scheduled each day for all grade levels to ensure ample opportunity to move, connect with peers, and enjoy fresh air around campus. Students start and end each day by having dedicated time with their advisor. The day ends with an athletics practice which is incorporated into the daily schedule.

Athletics & Wellness

Because we believe in the connection between sound mind and sound body and the importance of teamwork, athletics is built into the school day, and all Middle School students participate. Students may choose between interscholastic and intramural teams.

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Cross Country	Basketball	Baseball
Girls' Field Hockey	Swimming	Girls' Lacrosse
Flag Football	Wrestling	Softball
Soccer	Squash	Boys' Tennis
Girls' Tennis		Track and Field



Beyond Campus

Middle School teachers use the surrounding area as an extension of the classroom. Science classes, for example, study the local watershed at neighboring parks. History teachers often use the rich history and cultural offerings of Center City. In addition to day trips, 7th grade students travel each year to Echo Hill Outdoor School on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and students in 8th grade go to Washington, D.C.

Mini-Course

Mini-courses are a signature program in the Middle School. Teachers design three-day classes that students take in the week before spring break. The courses are interdisciplinary, cross-grade, and involve a special field trip related to the subject. Recent courses have included History of Medicine, Sports Stadium Architecture, and Filmmaking.

Affinity Groups

All Middle School students participate in affinity groups based on particular aspects of their identity, such as race, gender, or religion. Affinity groups meet regularly to discuss their experiences, develop skills related to identity-formation, and engage in courageous conversations.

Assemblies

Every Monday, the entire Middle School gathers in Shallcross Hall to kick start the week with an engaging and spirited assembly. Oftentimes, the programming is crafted by our very own students, as clubs and organizations give presentations on everything from Black History Month to Climate Change.

Student Leadership

Middle School students are well-positioned to take on active leadership roles in the school. Whether they are planning student activities or creating presentations for assembly, Middle Schoolers are encouraged to

take on greater responsibility and lead their peers both inside and outside the classroom.

DEI Conference

Students in the Middle School host an bi-annual Diversity Conference featuring 125 students from local schools, along with our own student body. The day typically features workshops led by FCS teachers and discussions surrounding DEI issues facilitated by students.

Eighth Grade Showcase

Eighth Grade Showcase is an FCS tradition that celebrates our students' passion and ingenuity. Each spring, eighth grade students complete a capstone project which showcases a special interest or skill, particularly one that is not displayed in the classroom. Recent showcases have featured a variety of creative pursuits including cooking demonstrations, dance performances, and juggling.

Guest Speakers/Community Engagement

Friends' Central is incredibly fortunate to be a part of an extended community of scholars, artists, activists, and professionals. Over the course of the year, Middle School students are introduced to a wide variety of topics from outside speakers. Last year students heard from civil rights leaders, filmmakers, photographers as well as a Holocaust survivor.

Relationships

Students learn best when they feel supported and encouraged. Our approach to education is couched in relational teaching, as students look to teachers for guidance and reassurance. Through strong relationships, teachers are able to nurture a genuine sense of independence and a space where students are safe to be bold.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

	SIXTH GRADE	SEVENTH GRADE	EIGHTH GRADE
CORE CLASSES	Math 6 or Advanced Pre-Algebra*	Pre-Algebra or Advanced Algebra I*	Algebra I or Advanced Geometry*
	English 6: Identity and Movement	English 7: Windows and Mirrors	English 8: Dream a Better World
	Science: Topics in Life Science	Science: A Chemical and Physical Exploration of this World and Beyond	Science: Earth in Motion
	Human Geography	U.S. American History 1600-1865	U.S. American History 1865-1970
	Prima Lingua	Spanish I, French I or Latin I**	Spanish I, French I or Latin I (continued)**
ROTATIONS & ELECTIVES	ROTATIONS Art Drama Music Quakerism Study Skills	ROTATIONS Art Computer Science Drama Health Music	ELECTIVES Art: CREATE Engineering: Design Thinking Drama: Walking In Another's Shoes Music: Composing Through Time Economics: Financial Literacy

*Math levels are determined by placement tests, grades, performance in the previous class and teacher recommendation. The vast majority of our students progress from Math 6 to Pre-Algebra to Algebra I. Students then take either Geometry or Advanced Geometry in ninth grade.

**Students & their families choose from Spanish, French and Latin for seventh grade. Students take this same language in eighth grade; level I of that language is taught over the course of two years. Students can then continue in the next level of that language for ninth grade or take a different language.

For more information about our academic programs, visit friendscentral.org/academics

9th Through 12th Grade

Friends' Central's Upper School curriculum provides students with an exceptional college-preparatory program in an atmosphere that sets the highest of academic and personal standards. It is, in essence, an education with a two-part focus. It is high-level, challenging, and intellectual; it is also about intentionally cultivating a set of skills, attributes, and values within students. Friends' Central classrooms promote independent thought, the courage to voice opinions, and the expectation that students and teachers will listen to and value one another's perspectives.

The challenging and innovative program includes lively and rigorous classes, as well as athletic, artistic, and performance opportunities. The Friends' Central classroom emphasizes advanced levels of critical and conceptual thinking and independent projects that require significant student research. Students also have academic-based travel opportunities to places such as France, Spain, and Costa Rica.

Leadership skills, global awareness, and self-discipline are developed throughout the curriculum and in extracurricular activities such as Model United Nations, Student Council, Debate, Mock Trial, affinity groups, athletics, drama, music, Maker Education, and numerous other clubs and activities. The Upper School program includes a required community service component, with Upper School students and faculty spending five full days each year at agencies and organizations throughout the greater Philadelphia region.

For more information about our academic programs, visit friendscentral.org/upper-school-curriculum



Bill Kennedy
Interim Upper School Principal

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS: UPPER SCHOOL



A typical Upper School schedule includes five major courses: English, world language, history, mathematics, and science. Grade 9 students take a single-semester course in which they study Quakerism and, on other days, human sexuality. In addition, grade 9 students take an art class or introduction to computer science. During grade 10, students complete a semester-long Health class. Students in grades 11 and 12 have more opportunities to tailor their course selection to reflect individual interests and to select from an array of yearlong and semester-long arts courses across the curriculum.

English

Recognizing the power of strong written and verbal communication, sophisticated reading, careful listening, and critical thinking, Friends' Central requires that all students take English every year. Skills are developed through a curriculum of challenging and diverse texts, both classical and contemporary. In discussion-based seminars, students learn to read carefully, listen with open minds, and speak authentically. Students hone their oral and written expression skills through repeated practice, support, and feedback.

The Journey Begins: Becoming Ourselves

Grade 9 required reading includes *Homegoing*, *The Piano Lesson*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, *The House on Mango Street*, and *Macbeth*.

In Pursuit of Justice: the Self in the World

Grade 10 works read include *In the Time of the Butterflies*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Antigone*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *Twelfth Night*, *Things Fall Apart*, *The Interpreter of Maladies*, *The Things They Carried*, and *Ru: A Novel*.

Literature of the United States: Negotiating Identity

Grade 11 major works studied include *Sing*, *Unburied Sing*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *There There*, and *Little Fires Everywhere*.

Gods and Monsters: What Is It to Be Human?

Grade 12 texts studied include *Oryx and Crake*, *Frankenstein*, *Hamlet*, and *Beloved*.

While the grade 9 and 10 courses are yearlong, in the second semester, students in grades 11 and 12 select from a wide variety of seminar courses, giving them the opportunity to explore an aspect of literature in depth. Writers Workshop' (Advanced), taught as two semester-long classes, is available to students in grades 11 and 12. Interested students may participate in a number of related clubs

or projects such as *Ink*, our Literature and Arts Magazine, the Humanities Core Team, the Poetry Club, and *Focus*, our Upper School Newspaper.

History

An appreciation of historical context is central to understanding the world around us. Friends' Central's study of history is an exploration of human experience: the ways diverse people(s) have differed in their ideas, institutions, and cultural practices; the ways experiences vary by period and nationality and social circumstances, and the ways people(s) have struggled with each other. We ask our students to make connections between the past and the world they now inhabit.

All Upper School students take Religions and Revolutions in grade 9 and U.S. History in grade 11. Most students also take Contemporary Global History in grade 10, and virtually all choose from a broad range of history electives in grade 12. Students in grade 11 may also choose to take a seminar class in addition to U.S. History. Electives include Modern European History (Advanced), Capitalism and Consumption, Women's History in the United States, Creating Africa (Advanced), Introduction to Philosophy, International Relations, Constitutional Identity (Advanced), Modern Chinese History, The Sociological Imagination, and Modern Africa (Advanced). Our history courses emphasize the analysis of primary sources in the development of critical thinking and original argument. Students in grade 11 complete a capstone, primary source-based piece of original research as part of the U.S. History course. Interested students may also join clubs like Model United Nations, the Debate Team, Model Congress, Mock Trial, National History Bee and Bowl, and the student publication FCS World Press, whose motto, Read the World!, announces its commitment to a deep understanding of the origins of current events.

Mathematics

Friends' Central's math department combines a belief in the ability of our students to rise to intellectual challenges with a program that offers a high degree of flexibility in course selection and sequence. For example, most students can design a sequence that includes a year of calculus. More advanced students have the opportunity to progress through Linear Algebra (Advanced) and Multivariable Calculus (Advanced), after

completing Calculus I (Advanced) and Calculus II (Advanced). Students who complete Linear Algebra (Advanced) may take Multivariable Calculus (Advanced) through our educational partners at Global Online Academy.

All students are required to take three math courses; the majority take one each year. Most classes are offered at regular and advanced levels. Some students choose to accelerate by taking a summer course. A fairly typical Upper School path of study in math includes Algebra II, Precalculus, and Calculus. While many students take two years of calculus before graduating, others choose statistics over a second year of calculus.

We have many math-related clubs and activities, including a girls' math club, a club for girls who code and a math modeling club. FCS students also participate in national and international math competitions.

Science

The Friends' Central science curriculum strives to foster a deep appreciation for the meaning and relevance of science, while cultivating the development of independent learners skilled in critical thinking and original analysis. The sequence of study begins with Integrated Physics, a keystone in the science program and a strong preparation for advanced work in all science disciplines in following years. After grade 9, students typically enroll in regular or advanced chemistry, biology, and physics classes. Students passionate about science may choose to take more than one science course and can pursue a second level of advanced chemistry, biology, and physics. In grades 11 and 12, semester-long science courses offer many opportunities for students who are interested in a variety of fields, including genetics, botany, astronomy, anatomy, and atmospheric science and climate change.

Each class has an active and integrated lab program. Interested students in all grades may participate in the Science Core Team over the course of the year. This program offers a regular seminar meeting for instruction and dialogue, visits and conversation with the Distinguished Visiting Scientist, and summer travel to see scientists at work in their laboratory or field. Other science activities for students include clubs like Team Radio Phoenix, which searches for new pulsars, and the opportunity to assist our teachers with their independent research.

World Languages

The benefit of knowing another language contributes to Friends' Central's commitment to developing globally minded, culturally aware graduates. Students are required to take two consecutive years of a language, and most take a language for four years. The majority of students enter the Upper School having already completed the first level of French, Spanish, or Latin and further their studies for two more years and beyond to the advanced level. Other students start their language studies or begin a new language in grade 9. In French



and Spanish, the curriculum is rich with opportunities for speaking, listening, reading, and writing. In Latin, the focus is on developing translation skills through the mastery of grammatical concepts and the acquisition of vocabulary. Courses in each language range from introductory to advanced literature and analysis.

Each language's classroom experience is supplemented by opportunities for travel abroad. French and Spanish students may participate in exchange opportunities with schools in Lyon, France and Seville, Spain. Latin students may travel to Italy to see the monuments of the Romans – ancient and modern – and read their Latin inscriptions. A summer service program in Costa Rica is also available for students to further their study of Spanish.

Interested students may also engage in national language competitions and join clubs such as Le Club Francophone, Latin Club, or the Latino Culture Club.

Arts

The Friends' Central Arts Department offers diverse courses and extracurricular activities encompassing visual and performing arts. We encourage students to discover their individual creative voices and to collaborate within ensembles – furthering the acquisition of unique skills, tools, and vocabulary. Students emerge confident, capable, curious, and expressive from their interactive arts experiences at FCS.

The drama program offers two “main stage” productions each year as well as a 9th & 10th grade play, directed by an FCS senior for their Senior Project, and drama showcases for students in our theatre arts classes. In our music program, performance opportunities abound for students in orchestra, chamber ensembles, jazz band, chorus, and small vocal groups.

Service Learning

Community service at Friends' Central is part of the School's identity, culture, and tradition. We believe that caring for our school, local, and global communities serves the guiding testimonies of stewardship, community, peace, equality, and integrity. Service work creates strong individual and institutional relationships, which in turn strengthen our community and each student's sense of self-worth.

Upper School students engage in service learning in many ways, through outreach to communities outside our school, within our school community, and through our Upper School student-run Service Committee.

• Service Days

During the year, time is set aside for work in areas of social concern with the focus on community service. During a three-day program in the fall and a two-day program in the spring, Upper School students volunteer at organizations such as the Share Food Program, Cradles to Crayons, Philadelphia public and charter schools, the Bethesda Project, the Jewish Relief Agency, and the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum.



• **Service Committee**

The long-standing student-run Service Committee gives students with a passion for service the opportunity to lead the Upper School community in endeavors that help to train our focus on those who could use some assistance. Events organized by the Service Committee have included blood drives, selling pies for MANNA, and fundraisers benefiting organizations such as the AIDS Fund and Aid for Friends.

Advising and Evaluation

Our Upper School advisory system rests on small grade-level homeroom groups that stay together from 9th through 12th grades. Advisors meet with their advisees every morning in a brief homeroom block which acts as a daily check-in. There are also regularly scheduled longer advisory blocks which give opportunities for more in-depth individual meetings or collaborative programming on broader topics. Advisors act as advocates for students. They stay in communication with parents, and coordinate with teachers, the grade dean, and the Student Support Services team, when necessary, to monitor and encourage student progress.

Advisors work within a grade-level team overseen by a Grade Dean. The Grade Dean works closely with the Dean of Students and a Student Support Services team which includes a school counselor,

a learning specialist and a Coordinator of International Student Education.

The Upper School functions on a semester system. Parents and guardians will receive academic progress reports approximately every nine weeks: A mid-semester report, including a comment, an informative chart, and a grade to date, will be shared first, followed by a full academic report at the end of each semester.

College Counseling

Friends' Central provides highly personalized, expert college admissions counseling to students and their families.

Parents and guardians of students in grades 9 and 10 are invited to information sessions about the college process and the current admissions landscape. Beginning in grade 11, college counselors meet individually with students and their parents to guide families through the college admission process. These meetings, which also include presentations on financial aid, continue through junior and senior years. Our college counselors are always available to talk with students and parents/guardians at any point before and during the college application process. Each year, representatives from approximately 100 colleges and universities visit our campus to meet students and answer questions about their schools.





Graduation Requirements

The majority of students take more than the required number of classes in most academic disciplines, choosing elective courses beyond the requirements, and there are many different paths to graduation. For a complete list of graduation requirements and courses, including all electives, check out the Upper School Curriculum Planner available at friendscentral.org/upper-school-curriculum.

Arts Electives

Students in grades 9-12 choose from a wide range of art elective courses, including Concepts in Visual Art, Music Composition, Musical Theater, Fundamentals of Singing, Introduction to Stage Acting, Shakespeare in Performance, Design Evolution, Mixed Media: Appropriation & Reinvention, Mixed Media: Connections with the Real World, Photography, Wearable Art, Woodworking, Introduction to Drawing, and many more.

English Spring Seminars

In grades 11 and 12, students select an English Spring Seminar. These classes, focused on particular themes or genres, give students a chance to explore an aspect of literature in depth. Options include Modern to Contemporary Black American Stories, Game Theory: Sports Literature, Catastrophes of the Near Future: Speculative Fiction, and A Fairer House than Prose: Exploring Poetry, among many more.

History Electives

Students in grades 11 and 12 choose from a wide range of history elective courses, including

Modern European History (Advanced), Capitalism and Consumption, Women's History in the United States, Introduction to Philosophy, International Relations, Modern Chinese History, and Modern Africa (Advanced).

Computer Science

Upper School students have the option to take computer science classes as electives. We offer various semester-long computer science options, including Introduction to Computer Science (Python), Advanced Python, and Computer Science Principles Advanced.

Senior Project

Taking place during a five-week period after seniors have finished their academic classes at the end of April, Senior Project is a chance for seniors to independently explore a passion or professional area of interest and get some hands-on experience. Projects are chosen by seniors themselves, working with an FCS faculty advisor.

Distinguished Lecture Series

Friends' Central's Distinguished Lecture Series brings renowned scholars to campus for courses and a public lecture. A core group of FCS Upper School students prepares for the lectures in advance and participates in special classes and workshops, both on campus and at the lecturer's home institution, as part of the Distinguished Visiting Humanities, Scientist, and Justice Core Team programs.

Visit friendscentral.org/upper-school-curriculum for a complete listing of all courses, including all electives.

Friends' Central's athletic program is considered among the best in the Philadelphia area. We are a leading program in the Friends Schools League (FSL) and Pennsylvania Independent Schools Athletic Association (PAISAA), providing opportunities for leadership, elite competition, and all levels of participation.

Students are required to participate on an athletic team or in the performing arts during six (out of a total of twelve possible) seasons while in the Upper School. During seasons when students are not participating in athletics or the performing arts, they will be enrolled in wellness education, which will require a student to attend Monday through Friday three times a week at set times, either during the school day or after school for a minimum of two hours per week. As an alternative to the Upper School wellness education curriculum, students may take lifeguarding, a yearlong offering that meets three times in our scheduling cycle during the school day. Students may also earn wellness credits by working on an approved fitness program outside of school



ATHLETICS & WELLNESS

FALL		WINTER		SPRING	
INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS		INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS		INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS	
Boys' & Girls' Cross Country		Boys' Basketball		Baseball	
Field Hockey		Girls' Basketball		Golf	
Boys' Soccer		Cheerleading		Girls' Lacrosse	
Girls' Soccer		Boys' & Girls' Indoor Track		Boys' Tennis	
Girls' Tennis		Boys' & Girls' Squash		Boys' & Girls' Track	
Boys' & Girls' Water Polo		Boys' & Girls' Swimming		Softball	
		Wrestling			
INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC CREDIT		INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC CREDIT		INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC CREDIT	
Strength & Conditioning		Pilates		Strength & Conditioning	
Co-ed Tennis (intramural)		Strength & Conditioning		Co-ed Tennis (intramural)	
Ultimate Frisbee (intramural)		Yoga		Co-ed Volleyball (intramural)	
Yoga/Pilates/Judo/Walking		Walking		Yoga/Pilates/Judo/Walking	
Lower School Farming				Lower School Farming	
PERFORMING ARTS			PERFORMING ARTS		
Drama: Fall Play			Drama: Winter Play or Musical		
Drama: Stage Art & Design			Drama: Stage Art & Design		
			Dance		
CO-CURRICULARS		CO-CURRICULARS		CO-CURRICULARS	
Lifeguarding		Lifeguarding		Lifeguarding	
Team Manager		Team Manager		Team Manager	
Sports Info./Photo Journalism		Sports Info./Photo Journalism		Sports Info./Photo Journalism	

Class of 2021 graduates are attending specialized colleges and programs including seven students attending Historically Black Colleges, two students attending a women’s college, and students at Boston Conservatory at Berklee, NYU Tisch School of the Arts and Tyler School of Art.

Members of the Class of 2021 are also attending international universities, including the University of St. Andrews, Temple University Japan, and the University of Toronto.

FRIENDS’ CENTRAL SCHOOL • COLLEGE CHOICES 2017-2021

Albright College	DeSales University	Miami University OH	St. John’s University
Allegheny College	Dickinson College (10)	University of Miami (4)	St. Olaf College
American University (5)	Drew University (2)	University of Michigan (3)	Stevens Institute of Technology
Amherst College	Drexel University (15)	Middlebury College (4)	Stony Brook University
Arcadia University	Duke University	Misericordia University	Suffolk University
University of Arizona (2)	Duquesne University (2)	Mississippi State University	Swarthmore College
Auburn University	Elizabethtown College	Morehouse College	Syracuse University (4)
Babson College	Elon University (6)	Morgan State University (2)	University of Tampa (2)
Bard College	Emerson College (2)	Mount Holyoke College (2)	Temple University (8)
Barnard College (3)	Emory University (2)	Muhlenberg College (4)	Temple University Japan
Bates College	Florida International University	New York University (12)	University of Texas at Austin
Bennington College	University of Florida	Univ. of North Carolina Chapel Hill	University of Toronto
Berklee College of Music	Franklin and Marshall College (10)	Univ. of North Carolina Wilmington	Towson University
Boston College (6)	George Mason University	Northeastern University (6)	Trinity College (2)
Boston Conservatory at Berklee	George Washington University (7)	Northwestern University (2)	Tufts University
Boston University (11)	Gettysburg College (2)	Oberlin College (7)	Tulane University (5)
Brandeis University (3)	Goucher College	Occidental College	Tyler School of Art (2)
Brown University (5)	Guilford College	Penn State University (10)	U.S. Air Force Academy
Bryn Mawr College (5)	Hamilton College (3)	Penn State University - Altoona	University of Oregon
University of California Davis (2)	Hampton University	University of Pennsylvania (29)	University of Sydney
University of California Irvine	Harvard University (2)	Univ. of Pittsburgh at Bradford	Ursinus College
Univ. of California Los Angeles (4)	Haverford College (6)	University of Pittsburgh (20)	Vanderbilt University (2)
Univ. of California San Diego (2)	Hofstra University	Point Park University	Vassar College (3)
Carleton College	College of the Holy Cross	Pomona College	University of Vermont (3)
Carleton University	Howard University (4)	Pratt Institute	University of Virginia (2)
Carnegie Mellon University	Univ. of Illinois Urb-Champ. (2)	Princeton University	Wagner College
Champlain College	Indiana University Bloomington (2)	Reed College	Wake Forest University (3)
College of Charleston	Ithaca College	Rice University (2)	Washington Univ. in St. Louis (11)
University of Chicago (6)	Jefferson	University of Richmond	University of Washington
Claremont McKenna College	Johns Hopkins University	Robert Wesleyan College	Wellesley College
Clark Atlanta University	Juniata College (2)	Rochester Institute of Technology	Wesleyan University (6)
Clark University (2)	Lafayette College (4)	University of Rochester (5)	West Chester University (3)
Colby College (2)	Lehigh University (4)	Rowan University	Wheaton College
Colgate University (3)	Lewis & Clark College	Saint Joseph’s University (4)	College of William and Mary (4)
University of Colorado	Lincoln University (2)	San Diego State University (2)	Williams College (2)
Colorado College (3)	Loyola Marymount University (2)	University of San Diego	Univ. of Wisconsin Madison (7)
Colorado School of Mines	Loyola University Chicago	University of San Francisco	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Community College of Beaver Co.	Macalester College (3)	Sarah Lawrence College	Xavier Univ. of Louisiana (3)
Connecticut College	University of Mary Washington	Scripps College	Yale University (2)
Cornell College	Maryland Institute College of Art	Skidmore College (2)	York College of PA (3)
Cornell University (5)	University of Maryland	Smith College (2)	
CUNY (2)	Massachusetts Inst. of Technology	Univ. of Southern California (3)	
Dartmouth College	Univ. of Massachusetts Boston	Spelman College (2)	
University of Delaware (6)	McDaniel College	University of St. Andrews (3)	
University of Denver (2)	McGill University (2)	St. John’s College	

Life at Friends' Central



Guidelines

Friends' Central School is known not only for our students' academic achievements and their success in athletic and extracurricular activities but also for their conduct at school and in the community. Life at Friends' Central teaches students to respect the thoughts and feelings of others. We expect parents to help support our principles and guidelines. In accordance with the Friends' belief in simplicity and moderation, students are expected to dress simply, neatly, and comfortably in clothing appropriate to their ages and to all the activities of the school day. Other specific School policies are outlined in the School handbook and on the Friends' Central School website.

Academic Reporting

Friends' Central School encourages the involvement of all parents and guardians in the education of their children. Through report cards and conferences, the faculty seeks to keep families apprised of academic achievement and social growth and development. In the case of divorced parents, the School believes that it is in the interest of every child to have both parents follow their child's educational progress. Therefore, the School typically sends reports to both parents and honors all legitimate requests by parents for reports on their children.

Arrival

All Middle and Upper School students report to their homerooms by 8:20 am. Lower School students may arrive on campus after 7:30 am. Supervision is provided on the playgrounds or, in case of inclement weather, in the gymnasium until the bell rings at 8:30 am, at which time the students report to their classrooms.

Dismissal

All Lower School children are dismissed at 2:50 pm.

Middle School students are dismissed at 3:10 pm, except when they are involved in an athletic event, play rehearsal, an extracurricular activity, or a meeting with a teacher.

Upper School students are dismissed after sports practice or at the end of classes at 3:05 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Tuesday, students are dismissed at 2:15 pm for clubs and to meet with faculty during their office hour time. On Friday, students are dismissed at 2:15 pm if they are not participating on an athletic team or at a drama/performance rehearsal.

Health

Friends' Central has a full-time registered nurse on each campus, and a certified athletic trainer is present on the City Avenue campus every afternoon. In addition, two school psychologists are available to work with children, parents, and teachers concerning psycho-educational issues. Counseling is free of charge, and there are school counselors on both campuses.

Athletics

Students in grades 6 through 8 may participate in interscholastic sporting events. Athletic practices are held during the last period of the school day, and games are scheduled after 3:10 pm, usually on Mondays or Wednesdays. Upper School students involved in interscholastic sports report for practice at 3:30 pm. Athletic schedules, which state the time and location of games and meets, are available on the FCS website.

Aquatics Program

Friends' Central Aquatics (FCA) is designed to provide swim instruction and swim team experience for students of all ages in the Shimada Athletic Center on the City Avenue campus. Detailed information regarding Friends' Central Aquatics can be found at www.swimfca.org.

Summer Programs

Friends' Central has offered summer learning and recreational activities since 1929. The camp programs and optional extended day programs on the Lower School and City Avenue campuses are all directed by Friends' Central faculty chosen for their experience in working with children. The City Avenue campus allows older children to choose directed programs in tennis, drama, art, and other specialized camps and houses a summer school for students in grades 7 through 12. Since 1989, Friends' Central's Basketball, Reading, and Math Clinic has offered combined athletic and academic activities to Middle and Upper School students. More information about our many vibrant camp opportunities can be found at fcsprograms.org.

Auxiliary Services

Detailed information regarding the following can be found on the Friends' Central website at www.friendscentral.org/aux_programs.

• Dining Services

In Lower School, students may either bring lunches from home or choose to participate in our school lunch program (scheduled to begin in spring 2022). The Middle and Upper School have partnered with SAGE Dining services to provide students with high-quality, nutritious, and flexible options. Students may purchase food through a debit account or bring their lunches from home. Daily breakfast and snacks are also available.

• Instrumental Music Lessons

Friends' Central students are offered the opportunity to take private music instruction on both the Lower School and City Avenue campuses. Violin, viola, cello, and flute lessons are available to students in grade 2. In grade 3, students may choose piano, sax, and clarinet as well. Guitar lessons are available at any age. Once students transition to the City Avenue campus, additional opportunities exist to study percussion instruments or to take voice lessons.

• Transportation

Friends' Central is committed to supporting the transportation needs of its students. There is a range of options available, including free public school busing within a 10-mile radius of either campus and route busing for students in West Philadelphia and Center City. Friends' Central offers a shuttle service between campuses. A free shuttle service from the Overbrook Train Station to the City Avenue campus is also available each morning and afternoon. Friends' Central's bus service is staffed by experienced and fully qualified drivers. Every effort is made to consider each transportation need in order to best serve riders in all areas.

• School Store

Students and adults may purchase supplies, clothing, and gift items online at friendscentral.org/store.

THE LARGER COMMUNITY

Home and School Association

The purpose of the Home and School Association (HSA) is to acquaint parents with the School's educational philosophy and purpose, to enlist parents' help in carrying out these goals, and to provide a forum for parents and faculty to work together for the students' best interests.

HSA strives to keep parents informed of School events and to provide opportunities for parents to get to know one another and our School. In addition to hosting a reception for parents new to the School, there are grade-level gatherings, class dinners, and planned activities that provide opportunities for interaction with the faculty and with other parents. Yearly dues are \$40 per child.

All parents are encouraged to attend HSA meetings. Dates for all divisional meetings are posted on the website (friendscentral.org/parents).

Friends' Central School Alumni/ae Association

From its beginning as the Old Pupils' Association in 1902, the Alumni/ae Association of Friends' Central School has dedicated itself to keeping alumni/ae aware of School activities and to continuing friendships begun in the classroom, in the schoolyard, in the arts program, and on the athletic fields. Friends' Central holds several yearly events for its over 3,500 alumni/ae, including Reunion, young alumni/ae gatherings, Baby Day (a morning for alumni/ae and their young children), and regional get-togethers. Our Alumni/ae Association keeps in touch with alumni/ae via various publications, such as *Quaker Works* – the Magazine of Friends' Central School, e-newsletters, and social media. A 20-member alumni/ae board advises Friends' Central on appropriate programs to encourage alumni/ae interest in the School.

Friends' Central School Giving

Gifts to the Friends' Central Fund are an important way for families, alumni/ae, faculty, staff, and friends to demonstrate their commitment to the School. There is a strong tradition of giving at FCS, and the ongoing generosity of so many allows the legacy of support to continue year after year. Annually, over 1,500 generous community members contribute to the School's operating budget.

The School's operating budget directly impacts the people and programs that make an FCS education extraordinary. Specifically, gifts to the Friends' Central Fund include financial aid for talented students, faculty and staff support, diversity, equity, and inclusion programming, student-life initiatives, such as athletics and the arts, and much more. Participation in the Friends' Central Fund at any and all levels makes a difference because it affirms belief in our mission and models the way for all members of our community to show support for our school.



Admissions

Friends' Central School admits the best-qualified applicants without regard to religious, national, or racial background. When selecting applicants, the Admissions Committee considers a number of factors. In addition to admissions testing and a classroom visit, the Committee takes into account the student's ability to handle academically challenging work and to show good citizenship. To be notified of an admissions decision by January 15, all elements of the application must be completed by December 10, 2021. Applications received and completed after the December 10 deadline will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION

The steps needed to complete the application process depend on the child's grade level. Please note that Friends' Central has an age cutoff date of August 31.

Nursery School

1. Complete the application form online and submit it along with the \$75 application fee.
2. Schedule your child's virtual assessment and parent interview.
4. All steps in the admissions process must be completed by December 10, 2021.

Pre-Kindergarten

1. Complete the application form online and submit it along with the \$75 application fee.
2. Schedule your child's assessment and virtual interview and tour with the Lower School Admissions Office.
3. Submit the confidential teacher recommendation form to your child's current teacher, where applicable (available online at [friendscentral.org](https://www.friendscentral.org) or from the Admissions Office). Request that this form be returned directly to Friends' Central School.
4. Additional testing may be required for those applicants for whom the Admissions Committee feels there is insufficient information upon which to base a decision. In such cases, the Committee may request that parents make arrangements to have the student take the WPPSI-IV (Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence). The Admissions Office will provide more information if needed.
5. All steps in the admissions process must be completed by December 10, 2021.

Kindergarten Through Grade 5

1. Complete the application form online and submit it along with the \$75 application fee.
2. Schedule your child's assessment and virtual interview and tour with the Lower School Admissions Office.
3. Submit the confidential teacher recommendation form to your child's current teacher (available from the Admissions Office or online at **friendscentral.org**). Request that this form be returned directly to Friends' Central School.
4. Submit the transcript request card to your child's current school (grades 2-5). The official transcript should include grades from the previous school year and at least one marking period of the current school year, as well as the most recent set of standardized test scores.
5. Arrange for your child to take the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-V). Depending on the student's age, the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI-IV) may be substituted. These tests are not administered by Friends' Central School and must be scheduled with a licensed psychologist who is a trained administrator. The Admissions Office can assist you in locating a psychologist in your area. If your child has taken either of these tests within the past year, those results may be acceptable.
6. All steps in the admissions process must be completed by December 10, 2021.

Grades 6 Through 12

1. Complete the application form online. Submit the application form along with a copy of your child's 2020-2021 transcript and the \$75 application fee.
2. Contact **admissions@friendscentral.org** to schedule a visit.
3. Arrange for your child to take either the Independent School Entrance Exam or the Secondary School Admission Test. Registration forms for these tests are available online at erblearn.org (ISEE) or ssat.org (SSAT). The Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-V) is also acceptable for grades 6-12. In certain instances, an SAT, PSAT, or Otis Lennon score is acceptable.
4. Request that Friends' Central receive from your child's current school at least one set of standardized test scores, along with a copy of your child's grades from the previous school year and from at least one current marking period.
5. Request that your child's current English and mathematics teachers complete and return, directly to Friends' Central School, the confidential teacher recommendation forms. These forms are available online at **friendscentral.org**.
6. Request that your child's principal or guidance counselor complete and return, directly to Friends' Central School, the confidential school recommendation, which is available online at **friendscentral.org**.
7. Your child must submit a writing sample and complete a questionnaire.
8. All steps in the admissions process must be completed by December 10, 2021.

Affording FCS

Tuition 2021-2022

Nursery & Pre-Kindergarten	\$22,315
Kindergarten	\$27,290
Grade 1	\$27,790
Grades 2-3	\$30,540
Grades 4-5	\$32,040
Grades 6-8	\$35,890
Grades 9-12	\$39,990

Tuition may be paid in one of the following ways:

- Full tuition, minus 1% discount, payable on or before June 15.
- Full tuition due and payable on or before July 15.
- Payment of two-thirds of the tuition on or before July 15 and the remaining one-third of the tuition on or before January 1.
- 10 monthly payments through FACTS, with the first payment due to them by April 30. No other extended payment plans are permitted. No student may attend school if their tuition has not been paid.

Tuition Assistance Program

With the assistance of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, foundations, alumni/ae, parents, and friends, Friends' Central School is able to offer tuition assistance to admitted and current students who demonstrate financial need.

The request for tuition assistance by new students is separate from the admission process and does not affect the student's application for admission to the School. Tuition assistance grants are awarded to students of all grade levels (except Nursery) and are decided on the basis of need and availability of funds. For the 2021-2022 academic year, Friends' Central provided tuition assistance to 41 percent of our students in the amount of approximately \$7 million. Grants ranged from \$1,000 to nearly full tuition, with the average grant being approximately \$20,000.

It is important that each family assume primary responsibility for financing their student's education. When unforeseen circumstances arise to significantly change a currently enrolled family's financial situation, an application for tuition assistance can be made. *Students must be enrolled for a **minimum of two years** in order to be eligible to apply for tuition assistance.* Families should explore personal resources before applying to the School for funds.

How to Apply for Tuition Assistance

1. Note your intention to apply for tuition assistance on the online inquiry form.
2. In the fall, parents who are applying for tuition assistance must complete the Parent Financial Statement available at sss.nais.org. Both parents/guardians and their current spouses, if any, must complete this form using information from their most recent tax returns. In the case of divorce or separation, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to ask the noncustodial parent to fill out the necessary forms. If information is not received from all parents, the Tuition Assistance Committee will be unable to award a grant to the student.
3. In addition to the Personal Financial Statement, parents must submit a copy of their most recent federal tax return filed with the IRS (Form 1040 and all schedules) and Wage and Tax Statements (Form W-2). This information should be uploaded to their SSS account.
4. In most cases, tuition assistance decisions are made by the Tuition Assistance Committee at the same time as the offer of admission.

The information families provide is kept in strictest confidence. Substantial delay in providing the required information may jeopardize a student's chance of receiving a grant.

Wynnefield Community Scholar Program

The Wynnefield Community Scholar Program is an endowed scholarship in memory of Elizabeth Whereat '43. The program is for new students entering grades 6 through 9 who reside in the 19131 and 19139 postal zip code zones. This need-based scholarship is awarded to a student whose performance on a competitive scholarship exam, previous school record, and good citizenship qualify that student for this honor. The scholarship is renewable each year, as long as the student maintains good citizenship and academic standing and financial need remains. Interested families can access details on how to apply at friendscentral.org/wynnefield-scholar. Please note that applications and supporting materials for the scholarship must be received by November 6, 2021.

Friends' Central School admits students of any race, color, religion, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, tuition assistance, and athletic and other School-administered programs.



We Go Further

FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL
1845



**Friends' Central
Lower School**
Nursery through Grade 5
228 Old Gulph Road
Wynnewood, PA 19096-1019
610.642.1018

**Friends' Central
Middle & Upper School**
Grades 6 through 12
1101 City Avenue
Wynnewood, PA 19096-3418
610.645.5032

FRIENDSCENTRAL.ORG