

MARYVALE Middle School

"I love creating activities that teach our students about real topics, seeing them work together to problem solve, opening up their eyes to new careers and passions, and stretching themselves to think outside the box."
-Emily Vitrano Waugh '03, Middle School Head

Visit our website www.maryvale.com to learn more!



What is a Mini-Mester?

Experiential learning at its best!

Mini-Mester gives students the opportunity to take a deeper dive into topics and activities they don't learn through the usual class curriculum. This is achieved through various activities, engaging discussions, guest speakers, and innovative projects.

Hands-on STEAM opportunities are infused throughout the curriculum at every grade level. In Middle School, students are introduced to the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Courses are meant to help foster an interest and learn new approaches to thinking at different grade levels.

6th - Creative Communication and Digital Citizenship

7th - Innovative Design, CAD, Interior Design, and Research Skills

8th - Emerging Technologies, Intro to Robotics, and Cyber Security

Electives

Each student chooses an elective to take three times per week for the entire school year, changing each semester. Students choose a total of six electives throughout their three years in the Middle School at Maryvale.

These electives include:

- Dance
- Technical Theatre
- Fitness
- Best of Broadway
- STEAM
- Mini 1804
- Woodshop
- Service



All students participate in both art and physical education weekly. In addition to electives, an array of after-school activities including athletics and performing arts are available for Middle School students.

Leadership

As part of the Patricia J. Mitchell '65 Leadership Institute, leadership courses are a core part of the customized Middle School curriculum. Each student develops critical qualities and behaviors of leaders that will serve them for a lifetime. Whether it be Student Council, Student Ambassador, Gym Meet Captains or even spearheading a club, the opportunities are endless. Maryvale approaches leadership through three lenses:

- What is leadership from an academic perspective?
- Who are YOU as a leader?
- Exploration of leadership skills.



Speech
Festival

Ms. Reed with Annabelle F,
2025 Speech Festival winner.

Every year, Maryvale's eighth grade students WOW their teachers by writing compelling speeches. They choose a topic pertinent to their lives like the impact of their personal hero or when they experienced an "aha" moment. The top 8-10 students are chosen to share their writing with the entire Middle School at the Speech Festival, where the top three finalists are named. This exercise produces thoughtful writers and confident presenters!



All Middle School students are taught leadership skills throughout the academic year in a dedicated format of one class per week.

Below is a sample of leadership lessons for each grade.

6th

- Organization
- Self-management
- Problem Solving
- Conflict Resolution

7th

- First Impressions
- Empathy
- Financial Literacy
- Goal Setting

8th

- Planning and Collaboration
- Public Speaking and Interviewing Skills
- Resume Building
- Entrepreneurship