



Curtis School

Always Begin with the Child



Curtis School

Welcome to Curtis!

We are excited to share with you some of the things that make Curtis so special. We all want what's best for your child, so let's get to know each other a little better.

At Curtis School, each lesson, exploration, and experience begins with the child; what do they need to feel a true and lasting connection to their learning?



Curtis School

Full of Joy

In the past, school was all about overcoming the characteristics of childhood. But not today. And definitely not at Curtis. More is known today about the natural stages of development than ever before. We put all of that knowledge to work at Curtis. And we know that children learn best when childhood is embraced.

Most importantly, we know how to leverage what's happening developmentally, with what's possible academically. Because when every stage of childhood is deeply understood and honored in the education of minds, bodies, and hearts, learning is forever joyful.





DID YOU KNOW?

Our balanced literacy program is a comprehensive, multifaceted approach to teaching reading, writing, and spelling. Within this framework, reading is practiced to, with, and by all children on a daily basis.

How can we teach children patience, curiosity, perseverance, and passion?



Respectfully Challenging

At Curtis, we're not just teaching facts and figures. We want students to make meaning out of what they learn so that they can become the well-rounded, dynamic young people that secondary schools, colleges, employers, and the world need.

We emphasize and seamlessly interweave the development of the mind, body, and heart in an environment that savors the wonders of childhood.

We honor children as individuals with unique learning styles who require and deserve teaching methods that maximize their understanding of and connection to their learning. Our faculty know how to safely and respectfully challenge our students because they deeply understand what's happening for young people at a developmental level.



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A deep understanding of child development means our faculty know when to apply pressure and when to take it off. It's always about beginning with the child.

When a third grade class was learning about gravity and friction and struggling to understand these everyday concepts, their teacher was prepared. She understood that children this age still need to learn through experiential play when tackling abstract ideas. So, she declared a “Play Day” for her students to build marble roller coasters. What a blast! They built complex and creative structures and worked together to add new elements to their creations, watching as the marbles sped up and slowed down on the roller coasters.

It wasn't until after the “Play Day” that the class connected their fun to the lesson on gravity and friction. The students grinned from both the delight of the day and from the confidence they gained from understanding a tough concept with their minds, bodies, and hearts.

How can we help children make sense of abstract ideas?



DID YOU KNOW?

Inquiry is central to what it means to be a learner: a curious and involved person. Engaging in active investigation and analytical thinking, Curtis students learn how to implement experiences and advance their scientific understanding as they develop hypotheses, take risks, and record their results.





In many settings, the value of human connection has been forgotten. At Curtis, everyone—especially children—can feel safe being themselves, in making true connections with peers, and challenging themselves to try new things. These connections are vital to learning.

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“Our kids are so happy at Curtis. They have deep connections with their teachers, and we’ve made our best friends here.”

Kathy Laxer, Parent

DID YOU KNOW?

Anti-Bias Workshop lessons occur in all grade levels at Curtis and aim to promote awareness and acceptance, affirm equity, and take an active stance against bias in our community. Each grade receives lessons specifically designed for their age. We know what concepts are possible for children to grasp because we understand what’s happening developmentally.

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“Curtis is such a joyful place. Every day, I’m happy to come to work and influence these young minds, bodies, and hearts.”

Ashley Williams, Teacher

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When I go to Curtis, I feel so happy!”

Maxine Molina, Grade 1

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We’re all here to empower our students academically, socially, physically, and emotionally. Every faculty and staff member are united in that common goal.”

Dr. Meera Ratnesar, Ph.D., Head of School



*How can we support children
as they grow and learn?*

Healthy Habits

Children today face different pressures and tensions than those faced by generations before them. It's hard to imagine what it feels like to be a child in our complicated world. When schools add to that pressure by imposing rigid expectations and mandates, they stifle creativity, individuality, independence, and growth. Pressure to "measure up" breeds anxiety and apathy. If we expect children to embrace and engage with their education, we must consider their physical and emotional health, teach mindfulness, and help them develop physical and healthy habits that will set them up for fulfilling and sustainable success.

We believe in the importance of nurturing a child's emotional and social growth as a foundation for intellectual development. In Developmental Kindergarten through Grade 2, we foster the young child's natural curiosity and a love of learning. And in Grades 3–6, we foster the increasing independence of our students by challenging them appropriately and providing sustained support for each student within a nurturing environment.

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*We know what's possible emotionally
because we understand what's happening
developmentally.*”



DID YOU KNOW?

In typical U.S. math programs, students get a worked example, then solve problems that very closely follow that example, repeating all the same steps with different numbers. In Curtis School's Singapore Math program, students must think through concepts and apply them in new ways from the very start. Since they can't rely on simple replication, students are pushed to greater engagement and broader thinking.



The Absolute Best Practices

At Curtis, we're committed to the absolute best practices in education, which gives our faculty many ways to meet students where they are. This mindset is modeled by everyone at Curtis as we teach the communication skills, habits of mind, and resilience needed to ensure students become dynamic learners who can make meaning out of information in both reflective and innovative ways.



CURTIS AT-A-GLANCE

DK-6

Grades

27-acre

Campus

490

Students

68

Faculty

All students

perform community service

1925

Year founded

8:1 (DK) 11:1 (K-2) 16:1 (3-6)

Student-to-Teacher ratio



Always Begin with the Child

Curtis is a community of happy children, enthusiastic teachers, supportive administrators and staff, and active parent volunteers. Together, we pursue our mission to develop, in every child, a sound mind in a sound body, governed by a compassionate heart.

We know that finding the right school and community can feel overwhelming. At Curtis, we want what's best for your child, and we know you do, too.

START YOUR CURTIS JOURNEY!

We can't wait to get to know you.





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