



THE INTERMEDIATE PROGRAM

GRADES FIVE & SIX

Ashley Hall's Intermediate Program is strategically designed to prepare students for the academic and social rigors of the college preparatory curricula they will encounter in seventh through twelfth grades. The two-year program gives individualized attention to each girl during the critical pre-adolescent years of emotional and physical development. Because these years are so transformative for girls, we have built a dedicated team of teachers who work closely with one another to coordinate their respective course contents and provide differentiated instruction that draws on each student's individual strengths and provides opportunities for enrichment.

THE INTERMEDIATE PROGRAM CURRICULUM

HUMANITIES

History and language arts are integrated into the interdisciplinary humanities curriculum. Reading instruction focuses on literature and primary sources of United States history, and students explore a greater range of literary genres, including poetry, drama, short stories, and novels. The writing curriculum affords students opportunities to practice their craft through literary essay, personal narrative, memoir, research-based information writing, and research-based argument essay. Girls also analyze primary sources and undertake guided research projects with interdisciplinary themes. In formal presentations, students in sixth grade learn to construct effective speeches and improve their delivery techniques.

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Students enter the Intermediate Program with substantial preparation from Everyday Math, which continues through sixth grade and is blended with science concepts to emphasize interdisciplinary connections. Beginning in sixth grade, students transition to more abstract math practices which will prepare them for the increasingly specific demands of algebra, geometry, and beyond.

The Intermediate Program values the intrinsic correlation of mathematical and scientific practices. Ashley Hall has developed a STEAM curriculum that synthesizes science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. This approach encourages girls to see the way these disciplines draw on similar resources and strategies. This awareness enhances learning both by demonstrating recurrent concepts and methods and by addressing students' differing learning styles and academic strengths.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Beginning in fifth grade, students may choose either to continue their study of French or to begin the study of Spanish. Both languages are taught using a modified immersion approach. Over the course of these two years, students are introduced to increasingly complex grammar and more substantial literary texts while experiencing a full range of authentic cultural enrichments.



FINE & PERFORMING ARTS

Throughout the year, students experience visual art, music, drama, and dance. A strings course is available for girls at all levels, and all Intermediate Program students have the opportunity to participate in the Private Lessons Program that offers individual and group instruction in violin, cello, viola, piano, and voice. The visual arts courses are designed to allow for an experiential, student-centered approach to further artistic endeavors.

ADVISORY

Intermediate Program students meet with advisors daily. This time period focuses on honing time management and study skills.

TECHNOLOGY

Students in the Intermediate Program acquire a basic command of a variety of tools and applications through theme-based projects focusing on coding, keyboarding, 3D printing, and laser cutting. Robotics and coding skills are integrated within the math/science and humanities classes. Students in the Intermediate Program have dedicated time for STEAM classes that allow for exploration and discovery in technological studies.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS

Physical Education is an integral part of the Intermediate Program curriculum and includes health, physical fitness, dance, swimming, and intramural games. In addition, our Wellness Program supports and fosters strong social, emotional, and academic competencies through small group classes and activities led by the school counselor. Intermediate Program students are eligible to begin participating in competitive team sports.



THE INTERMEDIATE PROGRAM

at a GLANCE

★ The Intermediate Program offers a dedicated class period for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) programming. This cross-curricular approach includes introducing students to basic robotics and coding, while encouraging them to see the various ways in which these different disciplines overlap and interact in surprising ways. Students are encouraged to explore and pursue these fields of interest that are traditionally underrepresented by women.

★ A full-time counselor serves on the faculty and offers individualized attention to the physical and emotional needs of each girl.

★ Ashley Hall's Wellness Program is integrated into the Intermediate Program curriculum both through a wellness course instructed by the Intermediate Program counselor with regular assemblies to support and guide girls through the critical pre-adolescent years.

★ Confidence and self-expression are built through formal presentations. Girls present regularly to their classmates as well as at special assemblies.

★ Study skills and time management are taught explicitly to ensure the student is ready for the Upper School.

★ Intermediate Program students participate in the School's formal athletic program through Bantam sports such as volleyball, basketball, and tennis, and through junior varsity programs in track, cross-country, swimming, tennis, archery, and soccer.

★ Working with the Lowcountry Maritime Society (LMS), fifth graders are guided through the process of learning how to read scaled plans and transform those plans into hand-engineered wooden boats they build and then row themselves. Throughout the semester students are also taught about local maritime history and seamanship skills as part of this comprehensive project.

★ Domestic and international travel opportunities help students broaden their horizons while enriching their cultural experiences and perspectives.