



Grow
beyond
the boundaries



BURGUNDY
BURGUNDY FARM COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL



Welcome

Welcome! You have discovered a JK–8th Grade school unlike any other in the area! At Burgundy, intellectual excitement and joy in learning are not buzzwords but realities! Our students are often sad when vacation times arrive because they LOVE school at Burgundy.

Burgundy students love school because we understand and honor children’s love of learning. Students’ love of learning remains high year after year as we continue to nurture students’ natural curiosity about the world, people, and living things around them.

It all begins with the individual learner. We treat children like the unique and whole persons they are; we strive to meet them where they are developmentally. The foundation for success is this: We respect and build on children’s lived experience, ensuring that each child feels welcomed and part of a learning community, supported, engaged, and challenged to grow and learn.

Our campuses are an essential component of the Burgundy Advantage.

At our Alexandria campus, a former dairy farm, every indoor learning area opens to outdoor space and woods. Nature is our laboratory for hands-on science and an ideal setting for active learning projects, whether at the barn, pond, or stream in Alexandria, or at our 500-acre Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies in West Virginia. Our Alexandria campus includes a one-of-a-kind Discovery Playground and other unique outdoor learning structures and spaces. The new Logan Loft is an incredible arts and community center featuring our theater, numerous arts classrooms and gallery space. The Logan Loft front porch and the adjacent campus commons welcome all to Burgundy and provide lovely spaces for meeting, having coffee or a reception, playing, or just reading a book or having a conversation.

The Burgundy Family, like our campus, is a diverse, interesting, beautiful, colorful tapestry. Our students, nearly 40% from diverse backgrounds, learn to be proud of their differences and interested in their commonalities and differences, because our diversity makes us collectively stronger. Our graduates are confident, articulate students who are comfortable

in their own skins. Burgundy alumni thrive in a range of exceptional college preparatory high schools and universities, where they are well known, and they enter a range of professions.

At the core of our program’s success are:

- + a challenging, engaging, integrated, and well rounded academic and co-curricular program;
- + excellent teachers who know and love their students and their craft; and
- + a close educational collaboration between families and the school.

At Burgundy, we live, as we have for more than 70 years, the tenets of holistic, student-focused, progressive education. We have always taught the whole child. Many schools today avow student-centeredness and individualized instruction, diversity and multiculturalism, and environmental and global awareness as central to their missions. At Burgundy, these values were cornerstones of our school’s founding, and we continue to model them!

We invite you to visit our unique Alexandria campus to experience for yourself the magic of Burgundy!

Sincerely,

Jeff Sindler
Head of School



Young learners are immersed in an environment that spurs curiosity, exploration, and hands-on engagement.

Think beyond the barriers

Early Childhood

The Burgundy program for Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten adapts to each child's needs while building the foundation for intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development. As such, our curriculum provides many exciting, age-appropriate opportunities for children to make decisions and to take initiative in doing things for themselves as well as for others. In addition, students spend plentiful time learning, playing, and exploring the outdoors.

Language Arts

Students develop beginning language skills through letter recognition, letter-sound knowledge, and daily interactive activities to grow understanding and mastery of words, foster a love for reading and writing, and enhance comprehension.

Science

Children's curiosity of the world around us blossoms thanks to a curriculum that cultivates discovery and exploration. Researching an insect found in the garden, understanding how and why the changing colors of the leaves indicate the coming of fall, or discovering which fabrics and materials allow them to go faster down our super slide are just a few examples of inquiries sparked by our students' interests.

Social Studies

Students acquire an understanding and appreciation of the contributions they can make to the world. They learn about roles in the family and community-at-large, as well as the importance of diversity and inclusiveness, and gain awareness of other countries and cultures.

World Languages

Early Childhood students experience the languages and cultures of Spanish- and French-speaking countries. They engage in songs, poems, dialogue, and games to develop comprehension and speaking skills, and vocabulary.



Other highlights include:

- + a full range of specialty enrichment programs, including music, art, physical education, and technology;
- + field trips to the Natural History Museum, Imagination Stage, and National Zoo;
- + community service projects;
- + and partnership with Lower School "buddies."





Lower School

From 1st through 5th Grades, we emphasize active, hands-on learning that encourages children to engage their minds, bodies, and senses in gaining new knowledge and skills. Through guided exploration, purposeful collaboration, and constructive play, the program provides students with wide-ranging experiences that strengthen analytical abilities and encourage creative thinking.

Language Arts

In elementary years, students gain confidence and independence in reading, hone writing skills, learn to express ideas in an organized manner, and develop attentive listening abilities. The reading program includes small group instruction with a teacher, small peer group interaction with teacher supervision, as well as individualized instruction.

Math

Students cultivate math skills through the application of conceptual knowledge. They engage in computation and practical problem-solving through the use of a variety of non-traditional strategies designed to develop understanding. Topics include place value, geometry, measurement, fractions, graphing, addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division.

World Languages

Beginning in 1st Grade, students choose either French or Spanish and continue instruction in that language through Middle School. Teachers emphasize conversational proficiency and the importance of vocabulary. Our world languages program weaves cultural studies throughout units based on themes ranging from families to fashion.

Science

Students gain an understanding of the physical and natural world through observation and the application of scientific processes for inquiry. Each child applies his/her comprehension of the scientific method to a topic of personal interest. Topics of instruction include ecosystems, space, habitats, energy, flora and fauna, light, weather, and more.

Social Studies

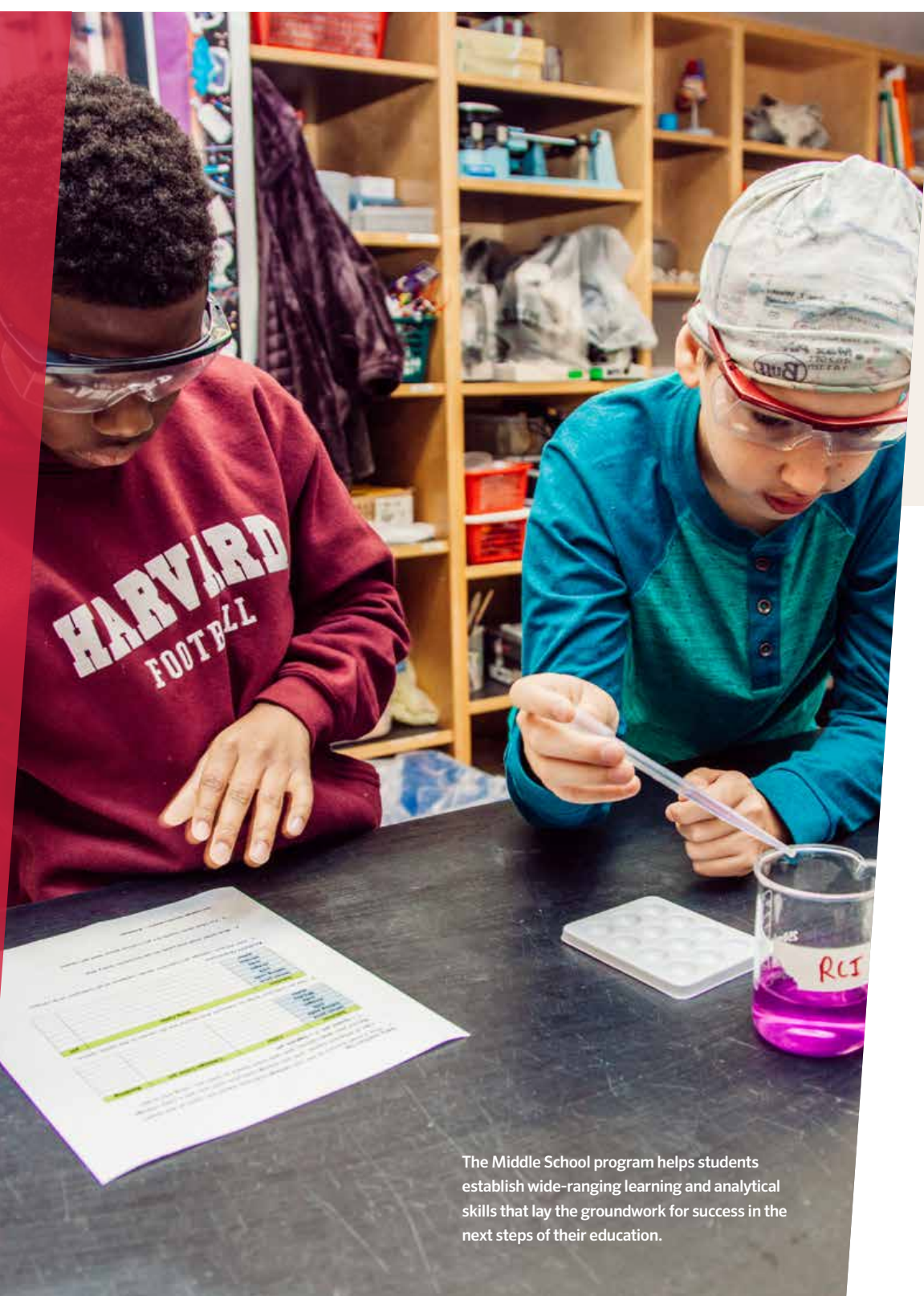
The founding of the United States, immigration, cultures and communities around the world are main themes in Lower School grades. Studies come alive through music, folk tales, role playing, and literature, and are integrated with other subject areas such as language arts, music, and science.

Other highlights include:

- + DC-area trips to the U.S. Capitol, National Arboretum, and Kennedy Center;
- + laptop computers and iPads to facilitate development of research and programming skills;
- + caring for barn animals;
- + observance of diverse holiday celebrations;
- + community service projects;
- + and 'buddy' partnerships with Lower School and Early Childhood students.



Burgundy students enjoy an environment in which they learn how to work individually, collaboratively, and creatively.



The Middle School program helps students establish wide-ranging learning and analytical skills that lay the groundwork for success in the next steps of their education.



Middle School

Burgundy's Middle School has a strong culture of community, high levels of academic engagement, and effectively prepares students for success and leadership in high school. Honoring each learner as an individual, skilled Middle School educators take students on a journey from high organizational support as an incoming 6th grader to greater independence and self-knowledge as a graduating 8th grader. Students receive a fine-tuned balance of content knowledge and skills that foster motivation, resourcefulness, goal setting, worldly perspective taking, and strategic thinking.

Humanities

Integrating language arts and social studies, this program develops strong reading, creative expression, and analytical and expository writing skills. Students examine events from multiple perspectives and study individuals who have advanced social justice.

Math

The math program provides a balance of instruction in computational skills, spatial reasoning, problem-solving, patterns and relationships, estimation and mental arithmetic, two- and three-dimensional geometry, and mathematical ways of thinking.

Science

Students are immersed in firsthand research and study in physical, earth, and biological sciences. They learn how to design and conduct experiments, and document methodologies and findings in written lab reports.

Arts

All Middle School students explore performing and visual arts. Music and drama instruction include both study and performance.

World Languages

Students in Middle School continue either French or Spanish language instruction that commenced in our Early Childhood program.

Athletics

Burgundy sports are team-oriented, focusing on skill-building and cooperative effort. Our teams compete in a league comprised of area independent schools.

We offer:

- + Soccer
- + Cross Country
- + Volleyball
- + Basketball
- + Lacrosse
- + Tennis

Other highlights include:

- + a 1:1 Chromebook program;
- + class sizes of 9-11 students for both humanities and mathematics;
- + regular field trips and excursions, including: overnight trips to the Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies for environmental coursework, a Model U.N. conference, a Wilderness Adventure, open-heart surgery observation, iFly indoor skydiving for STEM studies, and much more;
- + and hands-on service learning programs to fight hunger and homelessness, support literacy, and advance sustainable practices.



Imagine *beyond* the blackboard

Explore Beyond the Classroom

Both our Alexandria main campus and our Wildlife Studies campus in West Virginia provide students with a connection to nature unparalleled among area independent schools. The peaceful, wooded surroundings of both locations offer Burgundy students plentiful opportunities and space to explore animal and plant life, to think creatively, and to internalize their responsibility to preserve our natural environment and resources.

Alexandria

Our 26-acre campus boasts forests and green spaces, and provides the Burgundy community with a secluded learning haven easily accessed from the Capital Beltway, one mile from the Huntington metro station, and just five miles from National Harbor.

Outdoor spaces feature:

- + a barn with a variety of animals,
- + a pond,
- + an athletic field and cross-country running course,
- + extensive play areas in a natural setting,
- + a swimming pool,
- + an outdoor amphitheater in the woods and a performance stage in the center of campus,
- + and an expansive commons area for school-wide gatherings and events.

Our indoor learning environments, including our Arts and Community Center, collectively offer:

- + fully-equipped science labs,
- + theater and performance spaces,
- + a gallery/exhibition space,
- + drama and music classrooms,
- + a gymnasium,
- + a library and technology center,
- + art studios,
- + classrooms opening directly to outdoor spaces,
- + and two STEAM labs.

West Virginia

The Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies at Cooper's Cove ("the Cove") is a 506-acre wildlife sanctuary and learning center located 2½ hours by car from Alexandria in West Virginia. Nestled in a breathtaking Appalachian Mountain valley, the Cove hosts multi-day visits from Burgundy 1st graders through 8th graders. On these trips students immerse themselves in myriad experiences that apply to all scientific disciplines, from geology and fossil-hunting to water chemistry and vertebrate/invertebrate research.



"The teachers here are like family and friends—because of this, they really want to help you. As a result, you're more willing to learn from them."
—7th Grader

The Cove is home to a wide range of wildlife and encompasses forests, streams, a pond, fields, and trails that enable Burgundy students to grow as scientists and stewards of the planet.



Our curriculum is designed to offer as many opportunities as possible for direct, hands-on learning experiences.



First-Person Learning

We believe the most effective way for children to learn, retain, and apply knowledge is through active engagement of mind and body. Our programs immerse students in physical explorations, collaborative work, and firsthand observations that allow students to apply their full range of senses and vast imagination. We encourage students not only to “get their hands dirty” but also to reflect on what they are doing, ask questions, and share new insights and understanding from their learning experiences.

Examples of first-person learning and enrichment at Burgundy include:

- + exploring the Chesapeake Bay wetlands and marine life with professional naturalists,
- + field trips to the many historical and cultural resources in the greater Washington area,
- + studying wildlife and ecosystems at the Cove and Huntley Meadows Park,
- + and helping to care for our barnyard animals on the Alexandria campus.





Foundational Diversity

Diversity is in our DNA. It has been an integral part of our identity since our founding in 1946 by a group of parents committed to serving students and families from a wide range of racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds. In fact, Burgundy was the first racially integrated school in Virginia, and has continued to embody the values and mission of our founders to this day.

Burgundy students are nurtured in an environment that enables them to:

- + recognize and connect with people from all backgrounds and cultures,
- + develop empathy and walk in others' shoes,
- + understand and share a wide range of values and ideas,
- + advocate for justice and equity,
- + and lead in an increasingly diverse and multicultural world.

In addition to ensuring diversity and equity in our student admission, staff recruitment, and curriculum, Burgundy is dedicated to maintaining a community that reflects diversity in all areas, including:

- + age,
- + ability,
- + ethnicity,
- + gender identity and expression,
- + race,
- + religion/spirituality,
- + sexual orientation,
- + and socio-economic standing.



We welcome children and families from all backgrounds and embrace diversity in every facet of our community.



Burgundy students and families represent a wide range of backgrounds and cultures—which results in a richer, more dynamic learning environment in which everyone in our community takes pride.



“My child is a more confident learner, critical thinker, and empathetic person because of his Burgundy experience.”

-Burgundy Parent



Progressive by Nature

Many of our practices and goals are proudly identifiable as elements of progressive education and our approach has been in place since our inception. The Burgundy way of teaching and engaging with students has long followed principles that we know yield inquisitive, self-motivated, and unselfish learners. Our programs are designed to advance the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth of children while allowing each child to have a personal voice in their learning.

Students and teachers are partners at Burgundy. Teachers guide students through experiential, firsthand learning activities, and encourage students to ask questions, think about what they are doing, and draw and share understanding from their reflection. Our integrated curriculum further reinforces this process which often weaves a single theme through social studies, math, science, and performing arts in order to build creativity, in-depth subject understanding, and analytical skills.

In total, the Burgundy experience helps young individuals become well-rounded, independent thinkers who embrace taking responsibility for their learning. Our students become successful adults and leaders who strive to improve their communities in meaningful ways.





Instead of memorizing things, our students learn how to think through problems and be creative in coming up with solutions.

Learn *beyond* the expected

A Learning Environment Built on Respect and Responsibility

The Burgundy learning environment underscores two important principles — respect and responsibility. We teach students to self-advocate, to respect themselves, others, and the natural world. We teach them to closely examine and refine their understanding, and to apply and test their insights and creativity to real-life challenges. Our approach brings students face-to-face with experiences and activities that engage their senses and intellect, and cultivate decision-making, problem-solving, and conflict resolution skills to realize productive outcomes.

We also teach them that with respect comes responsibility for their own learning and success, to protect and defend the rights of others, and to always ask questions. As a result, Burgundy students come away from their experience here equipped with the broad perspectives and problem-solving abilities the world needs.



“Burgundy shows
you how to be a
good person both
inside and outside
of school.”

—5th Grader



Burgundy is a place where everyone can find a way to express themselves creatively.

The Arts

Arts education is an integral part of the Burgundy experience. We offer a broad range of highly regarded programs that span performing, visual, and musical arts.



Classes in dramatic arts are introduced in first grade and continue through Middle School in stage productions for the entire school community. Visual arts classes begin in Junior Kindergarten and expand to electives in Middle School that include photography, ceramics, sculpture, and painting. Our music program focuses on music literacy and appreciation in early years, and provides numerous opportunities for vocal and instrumental instruction and performance as students advance.

The Logan Loft

The Logan Loft serves as our main venue for creating and showcasing student artwork and theater productions and conducting STEAM classes. The Loft includes:

- + a theater with a mezzanine level,
- + a gallery/exhibition hall,
- + a makerspace lab,
- + a large drama classroom,
- + music classrooms,
- + and art classrooms.



At Burgundy, learning new things and having fun are actually the same thing.

A Community Like No Other

Burgundy is more than a school or a campus. On your first visit here, a palpable sense of community envelops you. From current students and faculty to parents, staff, and alumni, the Burgundy family is a dynamic, connected, and diverse community that works to provide our children with an extraordinary learning experience.

Students learn in an environment that emphasizes the collective well-being of Burgundy and helps build interpersonal skills that foster positive relationships with students, teachers, and administration. They learn to be conscious of how their actions and words affect others, and how to be stewards of materials and resources at Burgundy and at home.

Parents founded this institution with a vision to advance progressive values and a multi-faceted educational experience. We continue to enthusiastically welcome parent participation in all aspects of Burgundy life. Parents play important roles in classrooms, field trips, overnight visits to the Cove, on the Board of Trustees and committees, and in community events throughout the year.



The Burgundy experience is designed to help students grow into respectful, independent thinkers and stewards of their communities and beyond.

Come Visit Us

As pleased as we are to present highlights of our curriculum, learning approach, and environment, the best way to gain a more complete understanding of how your child can benefit from the Burgundy experience is by visiting us in person.

To schedule a tour or attend an Open House, please call 703.329.6968 or visit us at burgundyfarm.org/visit.





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