



Transition



Day in the Life

The 7/8 grade band provides a safe place for adolescent scholars as they navigate through their own personal and social/emotional journeys transitioning from childhood to adulthood while learning and honing rich, foundational skills that will guide them through high school and beyond.

It is a place for thinking, learning, exploring, risk-taking, connection-making and fun!

Day in the Life

The 7/8 grade band continues building off the Condors/Ospreys culture as students “learn how to learn” while engaging in rigorous curriculum through expeditionary learning. Key components of the middle school program include:

- A firm, compassionate culture that treats students as young adults and partners in learning
- Greater subject-matter specialization in theme and connection making between disciplines
- Increased student agency
- Increased opportunities for self-management and self-directed learning

Day in the Life

Middle school students' schedules look much more like a "traditional" middle school schedule, with different teachers and rooms for different subjects just like the 5/6 grade band.

Hérons/Egrets will have humanities and science nearly every day, along with Explorations, Helios Hour, PE, and other specials.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:15 AM	Morning Movement				
8:30 AM	Math				Community
9:30 AM	PE	Passion Projects	I-Lab	Passion Projects / Work Time	9:05: Math Circle
10:30 AM	Recess				10:00: Recess
11:00 AM	Humanities				Lit Club
11:30 AM	Humanities	Humanities	Humanities	Humanities	Library
12:00 PM	Lunch				
12:45 PM	Crew - SEL	Crew	Crew	Hérons Hike Every other week (12:15-3:30)	12:45 - 1:15 Crew - SEL
1:15 PM	Science	Science	Science		1:15-1:55 Science (40 mins)
1:45 PM	Explorations				2-3 Elective
2:15 PM	Closing Circle / Cleanup				3:00 Closing
3:00 PM	Dismissal				Dismissal

Sample Schedule

Essential Skills

Students moving into the Herons/Egrets should anticipate:

- **Higher academic expectations, a larger volume of work, and tighter deadlines.** Students are shown professional-level examples and asked to reach for the highest quality level work they can produce.
- **Students are true partners in their own learning.** Students will be expected to participate in all of their ILP and semester-end conferences, and will frequently be asked to self-assess before a teacher meets with them to discuss their work.

Students will rely on skills such as:

- **Word processing skills.** These skills will be essential for note taking, essay writing and communicating learning.
- **Organization skills.** Students will further develop and refine methods in order to keep track of their possessions as well as assignments and meeting deadlines.

Essential Skills

Students moving into the Herons/Egrets will rely on:

- ***Communication and Collaboration.*** Herons/Egrets will have plenty of opportunities to be self-directed in their learning, however, communicating and collaborating effectively are essential real world skills and are paramount for growing the thinking of the entire community of learners.
- ***Curiosity and intrinsic motivation to learn.*** Though the scope and sequence of the curriculum has clearly identified learning targets, Herons/Egrets will be given ample opportunities for voice and choice within the expeditions ranging from topics to projects to products. Come with an open mind and a willingness to learn and grow.

Essential Skills

Students moving into the Herons/Egrets will rely on:

- ***An ability to be a self-directed learner.*** There is a higher expectation of executive functioning in middle school; students will be expected to take greater responsibility for their own learning while limiting distractions to their peers. Furthermore, students will be expected to use technology appropriately and as a tool for their assigned learning.
- ***A willingness to take risks and learn from mistakes.*** Making mistakes is a natural way of learning. Heron culture provides a welcoming, safe place to explore, take chances and try new things.
- ***Embracing cognitive struggle.*** The Zone of Proximal Development is that sweet spot for growth when the learning is not too easy, but challenging enough to grow ones thinking. Students should be prepared to advocate for help when truly needed, but only after putting forth the effort and thinking for problem solving on their own.

How We Prepare Students for High School

When students exit the 7/8 grade band, they have developed the following skills:

- The capacity to work for longer periods of time on more focused assignments, with a higher degree of executive functioning
- A more discrete and specialized understanding of the different disciplines of science and humanities, and will have created work products that reflect this
- Increased understanding and confidence to show their learning through a variety of assessment types
- The ability to read and understand literature and scientific texts from an analytical perspective, not just as an appreciative reader
- How to take responsibility for their own growth and learning by asking deep questions and supporting their thinking with evidence and reasoning gleaned from research
- The skillset to be both an effective collaborator and communicator
- Strategies to better oneself through social and emotional learning

EVERY DAY
IS A GOOD
DAY TO
LEARN.



Navigation

