



TYBURN ACADEMY

Middle School Educational Philosophy

The middle school child, generally 11 to 13 years old, is at a point developmentally which demands a curriculum that encourages the child to investigate areas of interest for deeper exploration. Tyburn Academy has established a middle school curriculum to foster such a learning environment. Each student will be challenged at his/her level of development, subject by subject, grade by grade, with a structure that features an interdisciplinary approach to social studies, English, science and math, as well as art, music and the history of the Catholic Church. Students will be allowed to study in more depth any of these areas of interest to them with the use of the internet, library, and classroom resources. Development of skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, math, and logical thought will be addressed through all subject areas. The expectation of high individual achievement at the middle school level leads to a natural transition to the rigors of high school academics.

The thought and practices of the Catholic Church are a part of every school day at Tyburn and will be taught in full communion with the magisterium of the Church. The goal of religion classes is to provide spiritual and moral formation and encourage students to develop a deeper understanding of their faith. As a school community, students will participate in Mass, retreats and other religious activities.

Since Latin is the basis or major part of every modern European language, it is required of every student at Tyburn. Latin will be offered through the prayers and music of the Church and through the study of formal language structure.

Tyburn recognizes that fine arts enhance the education of the whole child; therefore, courses in both instrumental and choral music and art will be offered to complement the core curriculum.

Physical education at Tyburn is presented with the purpose of integrating a sound mind and body by emphasizing the proper care and respect of the human body. A fitness-oriented approach, combined with a variety of athletic activities, allows students to become conscious of maintaining wellness through exercise.

Admissions Policy

Students are accepted on the basis of admissions testing, school records and interviews. Applications to Tyburn are considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national or ethnic origin.

Middle School Curriculum

Social Studies and **Language Arts** will be taught as a block class of two hours each day in order to emphasize the interdisciplinary teaching philosophy of Tyburn.

6th Grade Social Studies will range from approximately 10,000 BC to 400 AD and cover the following areas: world geography, the development and spread of settled human communities, ancient Rome, ancient Egypt, the development of science and mathematics, the development of religious philosophies, and the arts as expression of human creativity and thought.

7th Grade Social Studies will range from approximately 400 AD to 1600 AD and cover the following areas: world geography, the development of cultures and empires in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, European expansion, Renaissance, and the arts as expression of human creativity and thought.

8th Grade Social Studies will cover approximately 1600 AD to 2000 AD and cover the following areas: world geography, the development of the concepts of democracy and the rule of the individual, the spread of European colonialism, American expansion to the West, the American struggle with slavery and the Civil War, the world powers at the beginning of the 20th century, WW I, the rise of fascism and communism, WW II, the Cold War and its little hot wars, and the arts as expression of human creativity and thought.

Language arts skills will be taught in all subjects and grades at Tyburn.

The following skills will be emphasized:

- listening for information and clues
- speaking informally and formally
- reading for comprehension and skill development
- using both modern readings and historical readings
- writing through the following skill areas: spelling, vocabulary building, grammar, sentence structure, pre-writing, graphic organizers, topic sentences, thesis statements, and multi-paragraph writing.
- Informal writing (journals, notes)
- formal writing (research presentations, biographies, essays, short stories)
- formal personal writing (autobiography, poetry)

Math will be taught using the Holt math series supplemented by other sources. The goal is to have students ready for algebra by the end of the 8th grade and pass the NY state math test. Students with exceptional math skills will be encouraged to take the 9th grade algebra course in 8th grade.

Science will cover the following areas at all grade levels:

- earth science
- environmental science
- biology
- astronomy
- physical science

These areas will be presented in thought-provoking and challenging ways through student-centered, inquiry-based methods that promote critical thinking skills. Writings in the science class will be used to present descriptions and processes using the scientific inquiry method. Some readings will be correlated to the historical periods covered in social studies. Students with exceptional science skills will be encouraged to take the 9th grade science course in 8th grade.

Foreign language will start at the 6th grade level with an introduction to Latin and will use religious hymns and prayers as a way to relate Latin to modern times. In the 7th and 8th grades, Latin A and B will be taught more formally using Latin texts. Latin A and B together become the equivalent of Latin I at the high school level. Students who show sufficient foreign language skills will be offered the appropriate NY state proficiency test by the end of 8th grade.

Religion classes are held every day. Character formation and the understanding of religion and its role in everyday life are major themes in these classes. Mass will be offered by visiting priests in the school chapel and all students are expected to attend.

Fine arts classes in art, are available at all grade levels. Students will be able to progress at their own pace within these classes.

Physical education classes meet once a week for a two hour block of time. They are held on and off the Tyburn campus depending on the activity. In the winter, the classes are held at the YMCA and local gyms, The students are involved in many different activities at these facilities. Seasonal sports will be available at the modified level through each student's home school district.

