



Infants | Toddlers | Preschool | Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 8

The Mead School

GRADE 6 - GRADE 8



GUIDE BOOK FOR PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES

1095 Riverbank Road, Stamford, CT 06903 | 203-595-9500 | meadschool.org

MISSION & 7 SCHOOL SKILLS

The Mead School's **mission** is to inspire and challenge students to achieve deep learning and become independent, creative thinkers.

Our unique approach to education is exemplified through our **Seven School Skills** model. These skills provide a framework for the learning process that is essential for students to become independent, creative thinkers. The Seven School Skills challenge children to learn deeply, think critically, use their imaginations and ask questions of themselves and the world around them. These tools help us educate the whole child and help them navigate their academic, social and emotional lives.

With a strong foundation in these Seven School Skills, Mead graduates have the academic skills, the self-discipline and the self-confidence to embrace challenges, pursue their passions, and make a difference in their world.

The **Seven School Skills** are to:

Think - To reason and reflect with intention

Imagine - To visualize the possibilities

Intuit - To understand on a deep level

Receive - To perceive with awareness, attention and openness

Act - To respond to learning in unique, creative and responsible ways

Express - To communicate clearly and effectively

Respect - To understand and honor oneself and the world

HOME CENTER DIRECTORS

At Mead, we believe that social and emotional development are as vital to children's future success as their academic pursuits. Our commitment to teaching, challenging and nurturing the whole child is realized throughout our approach, but most uniquely through our Home Center Directors.

Each class has a Home Center that is led by a Home Center Director (HCD) — a teacher who is dedicated to the academic, emotional and social development of each child. The role of the HCD is to continually assess each student's physical, social and emotional well-being and to guide students through challenges and opportunities as they arise.

Students gather in their Home Center every morning and afternoon. During their time together, they discuss challenges or opportunities they are facing in the day or the week ahead. The HCD serves as the common thread to the students and gives support and guidance as needed. HCDs connect with students on a personal level, cultivating open conversations and building trusting relationships. HCDs serve as the bridge between students, parents, and others in the educational process, ensuring that children's specific needs are addressed.

HCDs give children the guidance and support they need to navigate challenges and identify opportunities for growth that are often outside the purview of the traditional academic process, so that children have the opportunity for deeper academic learning and more profound personal development.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

As children move into **Grades 6 and 7**, they are becoming increasingly aware of themselves and their role in their community. Developmentally, children are now craving **independence and increased responsibility**. To accomplish these developmental goals, children are provided opportunities to practice **advocating for themselves** and **organizing their schoolwork**. Teachers provide support, yet students are given every opportunity to accomplish their work independently. Classes focus on the power of each individual to become active and accountable for their learning. To understand their power, children are encouraged to know themselves and establish their confidence. They then use this confidence to achieve their academic, social and emotional goals.

Grade 8 at The Mead School is an exciting time. It marks the culmination of learning and personal growth at Mead, and, ultimately, transition into the wider world beyond Mead — High School. Students continue to focus on independence and **autonomy**, and are expected to create, with ever-decreasing scaffolding on the part of adults, the conditions that are most conducive to their learning and their success. **Our Grade 8 students are community leaders**. They work with our younger students within curriculum areas of strength and passion as teaching apprentices. Mead's eldest students are challenged to stretch themselves in many ways, to engage in higher level critical thinking, and take on the responsibilities that come with emerging as independent, maturing learners.

Students in Grades 6 through 8 are placed in academic groups that best fit their academic, social and emotional skill level. Individual student schedules include age appropriate, multi-disciplinary core curriculum in all academic areas — **Language Arts, Movement, Computer, Art, Math, Science, Social Studies, Drama, Español, Music, and Physical Development**. Schedules allow for in-depth exposure to a variety of Expressive Arts experiences and integrated curriculum.



LANGUAGE ARTS

The goal of Language Arts is to develop an appreciation for, and enjoyment of, the written language, along with an understanding of the ideas, techniques and styles of writers. Students in Grade 6 are introduced to mechanics of grammar, writing styles and analytical competency with standard literary forms. In Grade 7, students practice gaining facility with the above skills. Computer skills are incorporated into the class while building editing accuracy.

ESPAÑOL

Formal grammar instruction begins in Grade 6. This is a rigorous course that will lead to the completion of the requirements to enter Spanish 2 or 3 in Grade 9. Student performance is measured through special projects, weekly quizzes and quarterly tests.

Grade 7 is taught inductively through audio recordings, readings and role playing. Drills, special projects and guided individual and group activities are also an important part of the curriculum. At the end of the year students will be able to understand and participate in structured conversations, write short responses in Spanish, make linguistic and cultural connections and comparisons, speak in past tenses, formulate basic questions to solicit opinions and gather information.

Math topics in Grade 6 encompass the following domains: Ratios and Unit Rates; Arithmetic Operations including Fractions, Decimals, and Integers; Pre-Algebraic Basics (Expressions and Equations); Geometry; Basic Probability and Statistics. The curriculum is designed to promote engagement and to create deeper and more lasting understanding. The goal is for students to recognize that math is useful and to cultivate a belief in their own efficacy.

Grade 7 Math focuses on fluency across a continuum of Transition Math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I and Geometry concepts. Throughout the year, students work collaboratively and independently toward aggressive but achievable goals.

MATH

DRAMA

Improvisation, scene work and one-act plays are taught in Grade 6 through the Innovative Theatre Project. Collaboration, respect, receiving and deep listening are essential skills that students learn through exercises and games. As the year progresses, students learn how to apply these principles of acting to their individual scene work.

Grades 7 and 8 experience Drama through a variety of classes focused on and offstage. Physical and oral communication skills are strengthened while promoting personal responsibility, collaboration, and teamwork. Students also produce a Shakespeare play once every two years. This multi-faceted experience requires students to study and draw inspiration from Shakespeare's history to design sets, costumes, and characters. The event culminates in a series of public performances.

MUSIC

The overarching goal of the music program is to have students discover and stay in touch with the music within each of them and to find their own way of expressing that musicality. During their time at Mead, children are encouraged to expand their modes of musical expression.

Specialized musical opportunities are offered to students including Rock Band and choral singing. Student performances are held twice a year for friends and family.

VALUES

Values classes in Grades 6 & 7 are opportunities to discuss topics that are important in our lives as students, members of the school community and future global citizens. The goal of the curriculum is to help students understand themselves and empower them to achieve personal success. During the first Values class of the year, students deconstruct the Mission Statement of the school to help them understand the school's philosophy and empower them to work outside their comfort zones. Additional topics covered include executive functioning and organization skills, media literacy, human sexuality, navigating friendships (including social media), developing tolerance and empathy, and generating a deep and personal understanding of the self.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Grades 5 & 6 study one of two alternating themes each year. The Ancient Civilizations curriculum investigates Mesopotamia, Egypt and Rome using themes that form the foundation of the standards issued by The National Council of Social Studies. World Religions focus on the origins and basic beliefs of five world religions: Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism and Islam. The course has been designed to address the knowledge and assumptions the students have, along with what they want to know.

Grades 7 & 8 study one of two alternating themes each year. Human Rights asks students to interpret the United Nations' document The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and test it against events from America's history (including the Civil Rights Movement and the Supreme Court's free speech ruling in Skokie, Illinois). Immigration curriculum topics include U.S. immigration history, migrant workers, and political refugees. The course culminates with each student taking the current United States Citizenship exam.

SCIENCE

Ecology is studied in Grade 6 through Marine Science in a hands-on course designed to introduce students to the study of the ocean, both its physical and living elements, through study of Cove Island Park in Stamford, and other areas.

Grades 7 & 8 Study one of two topics yearly. Physics is designed to introduce students to basic physical science laws and concepts and examine them in depth. Concepts are taught through in-class discussion, labs, projects and field trips. Chemistry introduces students to basic chemistry laws and concepts using traditional laboratory equipment, chemicals, everyday items, and foods.

ART

Two elective classes are offered each trimester. Each trimester builds off the preceding one, but also enables students to drop into the continuum when they choose. Previous elective offerings have included video, sculpture, studio art and photography. Open Studio Times are available for students to come into the Art Center to work independently, pursuing individual ideas and materials.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

The Physical Development Curriculum consists of five areas: movement, team sports, beginner fitness, team building activities and new sport exposure to emphasize overall healthy lifestyle patterns. Game rules, sportsmanship, fair play and doing your best are highly reinforced. All students have the opportunity to participate in seasonal team sports. Soccer, basketball and softball are offered as the primary sports with games scheduled against other similarly-sized schools.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The goal of the Language Arts curriculum is to develop an appreciation for, and enjoyment of, the written language, along with an understanding of the ideas, techniques and styles of writers. Students in Grade 8 strive to reach a level of command while mastering the formal writing skills necessary for high school. Computer skills are incorporated into the class while building editing accuracy. The strengths and challenges of students are assessed through class participation, homework, peer editing, formal self-assessments and periodic student/teacher meetings.

ESPAÑOL

Grade 8 Español exposes students to a variety of media to help them reach proficiency in reading, speaking, writing and listening. Special attention is given to Hispanic customs and festivities as well as famous Hispanic artists and their influence on the world. At the end of the year students will be able to participate in spontaneous conversations, write a complex paragraph, express and argue their opinions and gather information.

The successful completion of this course will allow the students to enter Spanish 2 or 3 in high school.

Grade 8 Math focuses on fluency across a continuum of Transition Math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I and Geometry concepts. The Pre-Algebra course can take from 1 to 2 years to complete. Algebra I is offered to students who have successfully completed a Pre-Algebra program. Geometry is offered upon successful completion of Algebra I. Algebra II is offered only to select students who demonstrate mastery in Geometry prior to Grade 8.

Throughout the year, students work collaboratively and independently toward aggressive but achievable goals. Projects will be assigned during the year as necessary to support the application objective. A variety of assessment methods are used to determine when fluency has been achieved including teacher observations, student class work, homework assignments, student reflections, self-assessments, and/or pre- and post-tests for each concept area under study.

MATH**VALUES**

The Grade 8 Values curriculum requires students to take their critical thinking to a new, higher level. Students are asked to define and refine for themselves what they hold dear, who they aspire to be, and how they choose to move through and interact with the world around them. In small-group discussions about current or historical events, or even hypothetical fact patterns, students are encouraged to be courageous and explore or state their opinions, even, perhaps especially, when those opinions differ from those of their peers. These middle school years can be tumultuous, and it is crucial for students to be equipped for the many values-laden decisions and challenges that lie ahead. It is a time to give guidance, and cultivate in students the capacity to anticipate and prepare for those challenges independently, so that, when the time comes, they have the skills to make sound judgments that are grounded in integrity and an understanding of what it means to be true to oneself and a participating citizen of the world.

GRADUATION RITUAL

This course asks students to select a team of teachers to support them in demonstrating mastery over a subject of their choice. The majority of the curriculum involves the students researching, building, writing, and/or composing a capstone project. As their final task students must present the project to a faculty panel demonstrating their knowledge and ability to be an autonomous learner. Successful completion of the project is mandatory for graduation.

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PROGRAM HOURS & INFORMATION

Program Hours

Pre-Kindergarten

Full Day	Monday - Friday	9:00 am - 3:00 pm	September - June
Extended Day	Monday - Friday	6:15 am - 6:00 pm	September - August

Kindergarten - Grade 8

Monday - Friday	8:40 am - 3:30 pm	September - June
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Extended Day

Kindergarten - Grade 8 *Pre- & after-school care, as well as interest-based programs, are offered. Fees apply & are available upon request*

Holidays & School Closings

- Kindergarten - Grade 8 facilities close for federal holidays, two weeks in December and two weeks in March.
- Our full school calendar is available on our website.
- Weather-related closings and early dismissals are evaluated on a case by case basis.

Transportation

- Students ages five and older residing in Stamford may receive free public transportation through the Stamford Board of Education.
- Students in Westchester County, within a 15 mile radius, may also receive Board of Education Transportation. Arrangements should be made directly by you with your local Board of Education Transportation Department.

Tuition 2017 - 2018

Infants & Toddlers	\$27,895
Preschool (Full Day)	\$17,460
Preschool (Extended Day)	\$27,895
Pre-Kindergarten (Full Day)	\$17,460
Pre-Kindergarten (Extended Day)	\$27,895
Kindergarten - Grade 1	\$32,550
Grade 2 - Grade 3	\$35,545
Grade 4 - Grade 5	\$37,075
Grade 6 - Grade 7	\$38,895
Grade 8	\$40,380

K-8 after school rate varies by program offering

- Activity fee (see below) helps defray the cost of school-sponsored activities for students.
*Kindergarten - Grade 1 - \$275
Grades 2 & 3 - \$375
Grades 4 & 5 - \$1,275
Grades 6, 7, & 8 - \$1,325*
- Parent Association Dues is a yearly \$130 fee required of all families.
- Tuition Reimbursement Insurance (TRI) is exactly 2.7% of any base tuition. This fee is required unless tuition is paid in a single installment.
- Tuition, Financial Aid, and Fees are re-evaluated on a yearly basis. Rates for the upcoming year will be posted to our website www.meadschool.org on February 1.

Tuition at The Mead School, as at all independent schools, does not cover the full cost of a child's education. All independent schools ask parents/guardians to participate in an Annual Fund Campaign to supplement tuition income. These contributions are tax-deductible, and guidelines for giving are available online at www.meadschool.org/donate.

ADMISSIONS

Our Admissions Office aims to make the application process for your child(ren) as smooth as possible. The full application process for each grade can be found on our website at: meadschool.org/admission/application-process.

Ready to discover the Mead difference?
Call Joanne to schedule a private tour and interview.



Joanne Costello
Director of Admissions & Community Relations (K-8)
203-595-9500 x14
joanne_costello@meadschool.org

Admissions Events 2017/2018

September 28, 2017

Weekly Take-A-Look Thursdays* Begin
10:00 AM

October 2, 2017

Tours and Interviews Begin

October 19, 2017

All School Open House
(Infants - Grade 8)
10:00 AM - 11:30 PM

October 27, 2017

Pre-K Moving Up Breakfast
& Kindergarten Tour
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

November 2, 2017

All School Open House
(Infants - Grade 8)
10:00 AM - 11:30 PM

November 6, 2017

Student Visits Begin

November 4, 2017

ISEE Testing**
Location: The Mead School
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

January 7, 2018

ISEE Testing**
Location: The Mead School
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

January 10, 2018

Pre-K Moving Up Breakfast
& Kindergarten Tour
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

February 2, 2018

Application Deadline
Financial Aid Deadline

February 23, 2018

Admissions Decision Notification

March 7, 2018

New Student Contract Return Deadline

**Take-A-Look Thursdays are held every Thursday at 10 am during the 2017/18 school year. For more information visit MeadSchool.org/Look or email joanne_costello@meadschool.org.*

***Pre-Registration at www.iseetest.org required*

The Mead School prides itself on solidifying the academic, social and emotional confidence students need for success in the future. Because of this, Mead graduates attend many of the best independent, international, boarding, preparatory, and public schools in the world.

The success of Mead alumni is further noted by the diversity of colleges and universities they choose. Liberal Arts, Performing Arts, Design, Research, Medical, and Ivy League schools have all been attended by Mead Alumni.

High Schools Attended by Mead Graduates 1995 - 2017

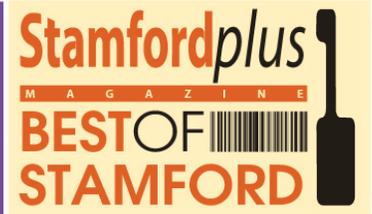
AITE	Horace Mann School	Stamford High School
Darien High School	John Jay High School	Staples High School
Deerfield Academy	King	The Gunnery
Easton-Redding Joel Barlow High School	New Canaan High School	The Harvey School
Ethical Culture Fieldston School	Norwalk High School	The Hopkins School
Fairfield Ludlow High School	Phillips Exeter Academy	The Masters School
Fox Lane High School	Proctor Academy	The Putney School
Greens Farms Academy	Ridgefield High School	The Taft School
Greenwich Academy	Rye Country Day School	West Hill High School
Greenwich High School	Rye High School	Weston High School
	Soundview Preparatory School	Wilton High School

Colleges & Universities Attended by Mead Graduates 1995 - 2017

Amherst College	Oberlin College
Babson College	Occidental College
Bard College (2)	Pace University
Barnard College (2)	Parsons School of Design (2)
Bates College	Pratt University
Bennington College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Boston University (3)	Richmond College
Brown University (5)	Savannah College of Art & Design (2)
Carleton College	Skidmore College (3)
College of Charleston	Smith College
College of St. Andrew's (Scotland)	Southern Connecticut State University (2)
Columbia University (2)	St. Lawrence University
Connecticut College (2)	Syracuse University
Cornell University (2)	The George Washington University (2)
Dartmouth University (2)	The Lewis & Clark University
Dickinson College	The New School
Eastern Connecticut State University	Trinity College (2)
Emerson College	University of Colorado
Georgia Institute of Technology	University of Connecticut (4)
Hamilton College	University of Miami
Harvard University (4)	University of Michigan
Highpoint University	University of Redlands
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2)	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Middlebury College	Vanderbilt University
Muhlenberg College	Vassar College
New York School of Visual Arts	Wake Forest University
New York University (3)	Washington University in St. Louis
Northeastern University (3)	Western Connecticut State University
	Yale University (2)

Voted the Best, Year After Year

The Mead School has been awarded the title of “Best Middle School” in Stamford by Stamford Plus Magazine for the following years: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017.



READY TO APPLY?

Visit www.meadschool.org/onlineapplication today!

The Mead School's policy is to provide equal opportunity for all applicants and employees. The Mead School complies with all federal, state, and local laws, which prohibit discrimination because of race, color, national origin, citizenship, age, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, and veteran status.



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