FIELD



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF TEACHING & LEARNING

What We Believe

The Field School is a haven for innovative education, committed to the following core beliefs:

MEANING AND RELEVANCE

Students learn best through experience, when their learning is authentic, meaningful, and connected to the world around them. Accordingly, the goal of our program is to inspire curiosity, expand perspective, facilitate self discovery, affect change, and create impact in the world. By doing intentionally structured work that's relevant to students and the world, students learn to be bold, empathetic, and purposeful.

INDIVIDUALS IN A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Students learn best when they feel a sense of belonging at their school – when they are seen and valued by their teachers, peers, and school community. Our approach to community emphasizes respect for, and the inclusion of, all community members as individuals. We equally value a focus on the common good and the well-being of the school community as a whole. This balance means that we prioritize the community without prioritizing sameness. Field is a place where our classrooms are better because they mirror the outside world: We have a diversity of identity, thought, and experience. We believe in the interconnectedness of people and ideas, and we strive to be a learning community throughout every area of the school.

CHALLENGE AND GROWTH

Education should present meaningful challenges. Students learn best when allowed to explore and take risks while being supported as they build their skills toward independence. Meaningful challenge calls on us to both learn new skills and unlearn old ideas or habits. Students must be encouraged to step outside of their comfort zones and take risks to be fully engaged. By definition, this necessary, lifelong process isn't always comfortable. However, rigorous learning can be joyful. Creating this environment requires us to believe in students deeply enough to hold high expectations, as well as to engage, understand, and encourage their innate curiosity.

DEEP LEARNING AND POWERFUL OUTCOMES

Our purpose is to equip students to thrive in whatever future they imagine for themselves and the world. For that reason, we believe that transfer—the application of one skill to a new situation, area of study, or problem—is the most powerful outcome of learning. This deep learning pushes students to develop independence and take initiative. Our students develop core knowledge and skills, utilizing them to identify and address complex problems.

TEACHERS AS PROFESSIONALS

At Field, we believe that excellent teaching lives at the intersection of best practice and research. As an institution committed to educational best practice, we seek to cultivate curiosity and a growth mindset in our faculty in all stages of their career. Our teachers are facilitators of student learning, collaborators working across disciplines, flexible colleagues who adapt to changing circumstances, and reflective practitioners committed to learning from research and best practice. We believe in professional development that cultivates purposefulness and fosters a sense of pride in the teaching profession. We take intentional risks in the classroom, establish a culture of feedback, and nurture an environment where educators are energized to be engaged in this important work.





Where We're Going

Educational best practice evolves over time. Informed by current research, our intentionally designed pedagogy and curriculum meet the needs of our students today and prepares them for the future. Field's vision for the future of teaching and learning is below:

INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSEWORK AND COLLABORATION

Real life is not divided into academic disciplines. By reflecting this reality, we can deepen student learning and cultivate transferable skills. We are developing an interdisciplinary curriculum that is not always delineated into departments and grade levels, but rather organized around skill progression, shared standards, and complex problems. We encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and co-planning, and foster such learning through the re-examination of our curriculum, program, and physical spaces.

PROJECT-BASED FIELD WORK

Field is increasingly connected to the broader community through partnerships, field work, and projects. We tap into the incredible resources of the DC region in particular, helping students find meaningful connections between the classroom and the world. As we do so, students increasingly work in teams, lead and follow other students, identify dilemmas, solve problems, and create finished products for authentic audiences. As a result, students become agents of change in their communities. We provide opportunities for students to work both on and off-campus, bringing the "classroom" with them. Teachers design complex, clear projects and assess student learning with evidence. As we do this, the connection between the classroom and the world becomes increasingly seamless.

CAPSTONE EXPERIENCES

Field will expand signature capstone experiences, rooted in the students' passions and connecting multiple disciplines. These experiences will provide opportunities for students to reflect on learning, synthesize their work, and transfer their understanding to new contexts. Our capstone experiences will include ongoing, meaningful connections with the broader community. Field will be known for developing future entrepreneurs, problem solvers, good neighbors, and responsible citizens; designing projects that have meaningful impact; and working in the spirit of reciprocity with community partners.

ASSESSMENT FOR GROWTH

Assessment is used both to measure and to foster student learning. For that reason, we are committed to best practices in assessment: a system that is longitudinal and focused on student growth, giving students multiple opportunities to demonstrate learning; that allows for student choice; that asks students to demonstrate mastery through authentic, performance-based challenges; that is understood by students and families; that provides feedback on academic learning as well as social-emotional growth; and that is rooted in evidence of learning over time.





Our Mission

Students discover their authentic selves and distinctive paths to become empathetic, creative thinkers who act boldly to shape our shared future.

Our Core Values

CREATIVE + CONNECTED

A Field student develops their passions and interests through exploration and discovery. Meaningful, relevant, and interwoven coursework provides Field students opportunities to grapple with their individuality, interdependence, and the common good as both members of our school community and global citizens.

INQUISITIVE + INCLUSIVE

A Field student seeks to discover more about themselves and the world through inquiry and an intentionally crafted and relevant curriculum.By wrestling with complex, real-world issues, graduates are problem-solvers and innovators. They are proud advocates for themselves and others. As a result of striving towards a deeper understanding of each individual, we build a community that is open and welcoming, celebrating differences and our shared values.

REFLECTIVE + RESILIENT

A Field student is asked not just to produce but to thoughtfully consider and reconsider the evidence of their learning. Exemplifying the school motto, *Aude Sapere* (*Dare to be Wise*), students embrace their mistakes as growth opportunities and hone the iterative design process—developing into lifelong learners.