

Educational Philosophies

Developmentally Appropriate

World Academy follows developmental standards as advocated by accrediting agencies in our Infant through Emergent Kindergarten classrooms. Developmentally Appropriate practices offer children an opportunity to experience milestones at their own pace. As a philosophy it encourages children to explore, investigate, and master skills through play and teacher facilitation in uninterrupted, but guided and organized, indoor and outdoor playtime groups. It also fosters classroom transitional growth moves during the year for children as they progress at their own pace to reach developmental benchmarks. We are fortunate to have a program that allows for the timely advancement of children throughout the program to keep them challenged and reaching their maximum potential at every level when THEY are ready...not when WE are ready.

Our nursery program for infants and toddlers allows our children to grow and develop at their own pace. Our teachers work with your child in building confidence, awareness, focus, cooperation and resourcefulness. This philosophy is firmly based on respect and individuality. Some of the goals of our philosophy are:

- Safety - to provide an environment for the child that is physically safe, cognitively challenging and emotionally nurturing
- Involvement - to provide the child involvement in all care activities (allowing them to be an active participant rather than a passive recipient)
- Interaction - a basic trust in the child to be an initiator, explorer and self-learner
- Consistency - clearly defined limits and expectations to develop discipline
- Freedom - to explore and interact with other infants and have time for uninterrupted play
- Communication - the beginning of language development and the building block for security, trust and attachment

Teachers in our nursery programs allow children to move freely and without restriction, which enhances their physical and mental development. Teachers respond to the children when they need help, but purposefully do not interrupt their play whenever possible. This respect for play is an integral foundation of our philosophy, with the belief that uninterrupted play increases children's attention spans and allows them to explore and experience the world at their own pace. By setting up a developmentally appropriate environment, teachers can facilitate rather than interfere in a child's learning.

A child's earliest form of exploration is through utilizing all of his/her senses. Young children learn about their world through experiencing and interacting with materials, objects, and people; encountering problems; taking risks; and inventing solutions. Even the youngest child is motivated through curiosity and interest in the environment. We believe that children learn and develop naturally and at their own pace when given the freedom to explore, investigate, and master skills through teacher facilitated play. Developmentally appropriate learning materials, realistic goals, a consistent schedule, and smooth transitions are carefully utilized to allow our teachers the flexibility to tailor the curriculum to the individual needs of each child and to encourage growth to his/her fullest potential. Our curriculum provides seamless coordination from Infant through Grade Eight to promote a positive self-concept, develop social skills, and encourage children to think, reason, and question the world around them using 21st century skills to prepare them for their global future.

Academic Rigor With A STEAM Focus (Science, Technology, Engineering, The Arts, and Math)

The goals of our academic curriculum are to promote trust in self, teacher, peers, and environment; to foster physical, social, emotional, cognitive, language, science, technological, engineering, math, and creative development; and to nurture the soft skills of communication, critical thinking, teamwork and collaboration...all while enjoying school. Elementary and Middle School classes are personalized, anti-biased, and based on a strong foundation of academics. Surpassing local Board of Education guidelines, our curriculum is expanded and enriched to offer more choices and opportunities for our children to gain information about their world. Promoting 21st Century skills, such as problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration and negotiation skills, our curriculum encourages active inquiry and a love of learning. Based on up-to-date brain research and studies about how students learn, our excellent and highly qualified teachers follow a "Roadmap for Success" for each student using Individualized Student Plans and supporting personal interests and skills, while being mindful to eliminate gaps in each's education.

Our main desired outcome is to build the 'whole child' that is well-rounded, tolerant and capable, with an aptitude for success in the global future. Our team works closely with families in support of our "Cradles to Careers" plan that guides our students from a deep foundation to personalized growth without skipping any vital stages!

Philosophies continued on next page.

Educational Philosophies

Multicultural/Diverse/Pluralistic

World Academy is committed to multiculturalism to best prepare our children for the global future. This means that we share a commitment to compassion, to the dignity of individuals, and to justice. We strive to create a program that truly reflects the lives of our children, families, staff, and community. By recognizing the impact culture plays on families, we make every effort to provide culturally responsive nurturing and education by affirming human similarities and differences and the rights of people to make choices about their lifestyles. We believe that each child/family has a culture. We seek to recognize, appreciate, and respect the uniqueness of each child and that culture. A respect for each other and a culture of caring and compassion are our basic tools to combat bullying and other types of negative behavior. This has worked well for us so far!

21st Century Learning Which Is Innovative & Dynamic And Espouses The 4 C's Of Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Creativity And Communication With A Blend Of Educational Philosophies

Students of today are growing up in a world of uncertainty in a rapidly changing society. Schools must develop a new paradigm to address this. Schools of today must develop a safe, healthy learning community that sees each child as an individual and focuses on helping each student reach his or her fullest potential. Education in the 21st century requires a multi-faceted, innovative approach. Twenty first century skills, neuroscience, brain development, architecture and school design, professional learning communities and leadership are all essential components in developing a school model that will better support the development of students for life and work in the global future.

Major advancements in technology have led to swift changes. Information travels around the globe at lightning speed and globalization is transforming relationships, jobs and culture. Individuals and companies from every corner of the world are being empowered to collaborate and compete globally. Competition for jobs that have not yet been created will transcend borders across the world. In such a world, it will not only matter what students know, but how they learn, that will set them apart from others. They will need to know “how to learn”. They will need to be able to find information and collaborate. Students who are not prepared for lifelong learning, who cannot adapt to new technology or who cannot synthesize knowledge from multiple disciplines will be at the greatest disadvantage. The future lives of youth today will be linked to economic realities, social processes, technological and media innovations and cultural flows that traverse national boundaries with even greater momentum. Soft skills will be equally vital as communication, manners, understanding of appropriate international mores/expectations of behavior, the ability to get along and thrive congenially, in a diverse environment, etc. will support the well-rounded individual’s ability to compete successfully in the future workforce...Thus, the need for our Twenty-First Century Educational Philosophy which incorporates the above; utilizing intentional, authentic teaching; Individualized, personalized curriculum; collaboration; innovation; critical thinking; pluralism; and integrated approaches to offer our students a world of opportunities.

Responsive, Respectful, Family Oriented And Whole Child At The Core

Our Educational Philosophies are firmly rooted in the premise that we work FOR our families and students. We respectfully strive to surpass the expectations/needs of both groups in order to properly take all students to their maximum potential and, perhaps, beyond. It takes a team to make sure our students are well-rounded, capable and successful. As our mission states we address the ‘whole child’ which means impacting the cognitive/intellectual, physical, socioemotional, cultural, and creative aspects of each. Done in a personalized, effectual way while ‘seeing each child and hearing each family’, we bring transparency and respect to our systems, curriculum and learning dynamics. Being intuitive to the needs of the human element in our “World”, we are able to support individual wants and needs and sustain excellence to the satisfaction of all.



World Academy
To each, a world of opportunity.