

PREPARING INDEPENDENT THINKERS AND GLOBAL LEADERS SINCE 1873

*A guide to PreK through 5th grade
at Morgan Park Academy*



Morgan Park Academy

OUR MISSION

Morgan Park Academy engages the whole child, inspires the independent learner, and prepares the global leader of tomorrow to make a positive difference in the world.

OUR VISION

Morgan Park Academy aspires to be a beacon of education for the Chicagoland area by developing a learning community of innovative teachers, the best and brightest students, and exceptional facilities and resources.

OUR VALUES

Independent Thinking

We believe in providing a rigorous broad-based liberal arts program that inspires students' pursuit of knowledge, creativity, and critical thinking.

Global Leadership

We believe that our student body and our curriculum should be socioeconomic, ethnically and culturally diverse, so that students see the world's challenges through a global lens.

A Whole Child Approach

We believe in an education that is both challenging and nurturing, where students discover the unique potential of their heads, hearts and hands.

Mutual Respect

We believe that a school community should stand for and teach a set of core values: integrity, respect, responsibility, diligence, kindness, cooperation, and service.

BY THE NUMBERS

1

We're consistently ranked among the top private schools in the state and first among all schools in Chicago's Southland area by independent experts.



13

countries explored by Lower School students during Global Week

150

years since our founding in 1873

70%

7:1

of our faculty hold advanced degrees

student-teacher ratio in Lower School

250

students in our Lower School

7

faculty specialists in addition to homeroom teachers — world languages, art, music, and technology

The MPA Difference

small classes

With an average class size of 15 students, we give every student the opportunity to speak up and stand out.

approachable, relatable teachers

Our teachers forge meaningful connections with students because they know real learning takes real relationships.

a spacious, self-contained campus quad

Our inward-facing quad creates outdoor space for study and play along with opportunities for regular interaction.

an experiential curriculum

All students learn best when they apply concepts to real life. So we've designed our curriculum to take students outside the classroom to explore and experiment.

ambitious, hard-working classmates

We foster camaraderie more than competition, and MPA students infuse a contagious passion into serious academic studies and extracurricular activities.

a trusting, respectful school culture

Our faculty members model what they teach: respect, consideration, honesty, and empathy. Together, our community listens to one another and acts with integrity.

imaginative, disciplined arts

We set students free to discover their own voices and talents through writing, music, and the visual and dramatic arts. Creative outlets improve academic focus and success.

competitive, inclusive athletics

MPA athletes bring discipline, determination, and good sportsmanship to each competition, learning teamwork and leadership along the way.

perspective-widening, global focus

We show our students the world. Scores of MPA students travel abroad each year, and on campus we interpret events and ideas in their larger, global context.





Discover a home away from home.

Instilling in children a love of learning begins with a foundational commitment to providing a learning environment that feels like a home away from home.

Tucked away on a campus often described as the “hidden jewel” of our neighborhood, Morgan Park Academy is a warm, welcoming community where students are surrounded by bright, curious, motivated peers and inspirational teachers.

Bright, colorful spaces for learning abound, both in our main Lower School building, Barker Hall, and in the cozy campus houses dedicated to our Pre-Kindergarten classes.

The result is the best of both worlds for young learners: a connection to the bustling life buzzing about our 20-acre campus and a nurturing place to call their own.

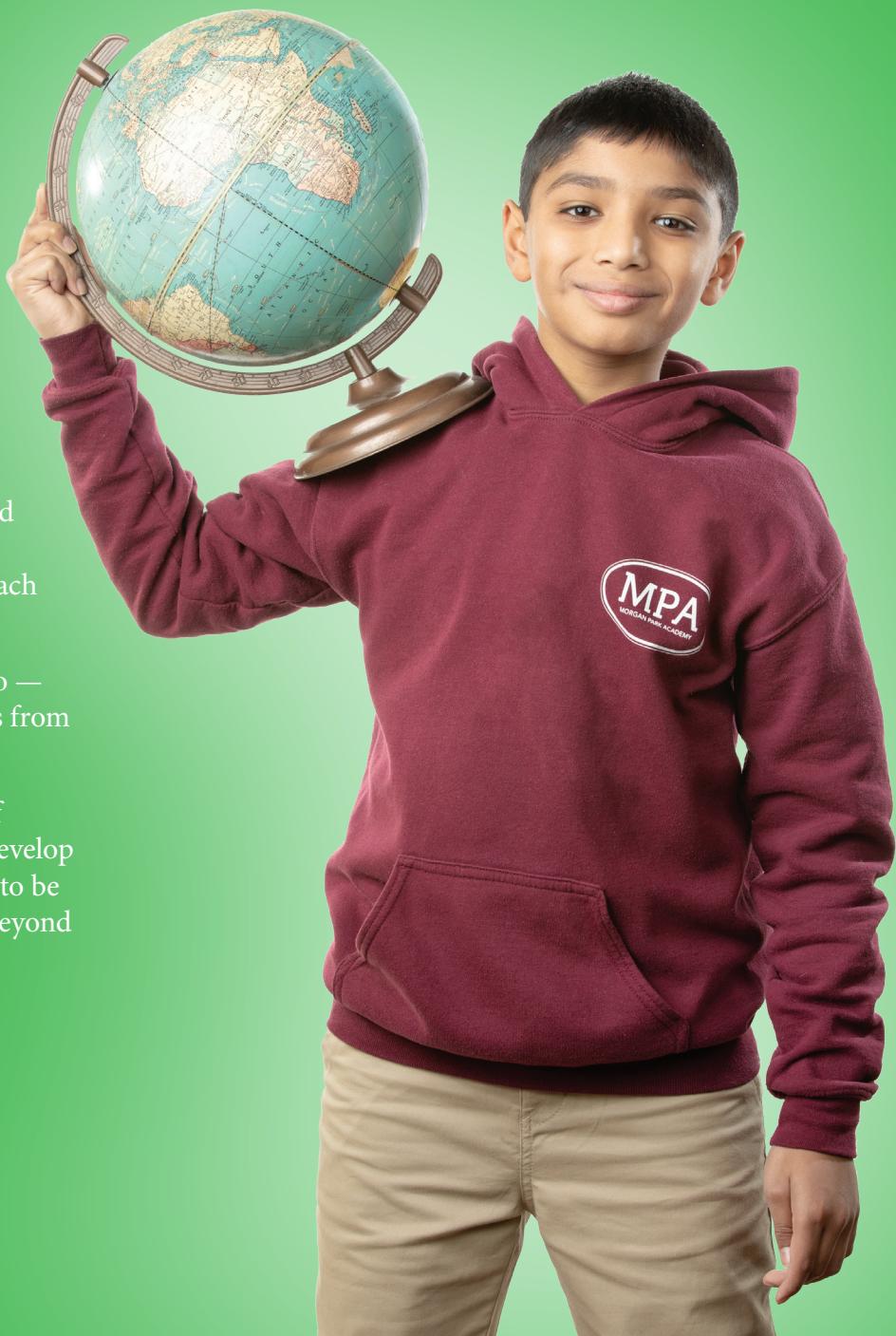
Discover being part of a community that celebrates your individuality.

At MPA, students are recognized for who they are, how they think, and what they can do. And that makes a big difference.

In an inclusive community that intentionally reflects Chicago's diversity in ethnicity, nationality, and socioeconomic background, we embrace the differences that make each other unique.

Students come from all over Chicago — some from big public schools, others from smaller neighborhood schools.

Here, preparing the global leaders of tomorrow means helping students develop a cultural fluency that enables them to be comfortable in their own skin and beyond their borders.





EARLY CHILDHOOD

Pre-K through Grade 1

The primary learning outcome of the Early Childhood program is to address the whole child in the areas of social, creative, cognitive, physical, and emotional development. We design activities and lessons to ensure a developmentally appropriate, child-centered program. The curriculum is teacher-created and responsive to the children's interests, needs, and individual levels of development.

Because young children learn best through play and meaningful experiences, structured activities are coupled with free explorations at various learning centers that are visited by the students throughout the day. These centers may include dramatic play, math, literacy, art, science, nature, fine motor, and construction. Centers are often created around interdisciplinary themes.

Academics are approached in a developmentally appropriate manner. It is important that children at this age develop an experiential background and a love of learning.

Children develop their skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing; explore math in everyday life and science through observing the environment around them; begin to learn about the world through social studies; and study world languages through trimesters of French, Spanish and Mandarin.

ELEMENTARY

Grades 2-5

We strive for balance among intellectual, social, creative, and physical activities, in accordance with our philosophy of teaching the whole child.

The academic program focuses on five major disciplines: language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and world languages, supplementing this core coursework with classes in fine and performing arts, physical education, technology, and character education.

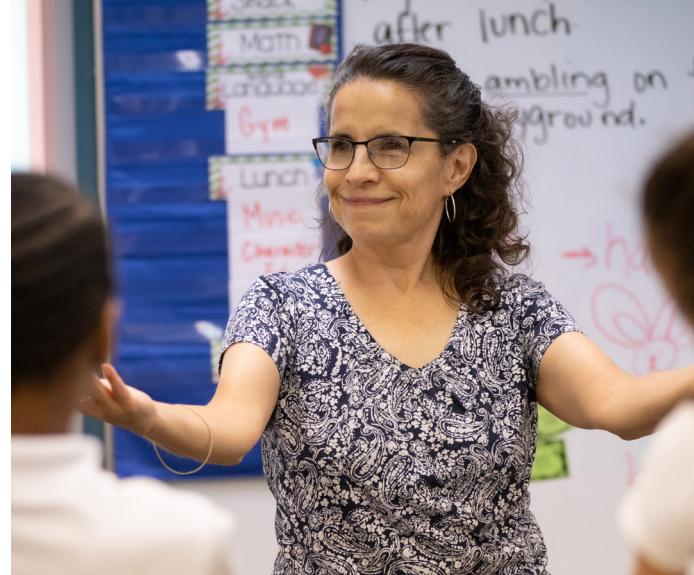
The development of reading and language arts skills is a major focus, taking an eclectic approach that combines children's literature with exercises from anthology books.

Students master basic numerical processes and key mathematical concepts, and learn the scientific method through questioning, predicting, observing, experimenting, collecting data, and drawing conclusions.

The social studies curriculum helps children organize and develop appropriate perceptions of themselves and the world around them, through class discussions and role-playing, along with materials from various programs designed to strengthen self-concepts and decision-making skills.

The result is a strong foundation for continued success in our Middle School, which begins in sixth grade.





Discover teachers who give you the freedom to explore, to question and make mistakes.

Built around small class sizes and strong teacher-student relationships, the MPA experience invites students to develop a worldview rooted in their own culture while broadening and deepening their thinking beyond the boundaries of campus, city, and country.

With a ratio of one teacher for every eight students, MPA students not only have the opportunity to speak up and stand out in the classroom, on stage, and on the athletic field, but also to develop genuine relationships with teachers that foster academic achievement and create community.

This process begins in the Lower School, where teachers bring lessons alive and forge

meaningful connections with students because they know real learning takes real relationships.

Teachers collaborate on new ideas for projects and how to present material to students in a more interesting way, understanding what catches students' attention and what's going to inspire them to work harder and figure things out on their own.

The end result is graduates who emerge as confident young adults, original thinkers, and creative problem solvers. They progress into the next stages of their lives well-prepared for advanced college coursework and poised to meet and exceed the high expectations that they refined at MPA.

Discover a beautiful campus with 20 acres for learning and play.

Our tree-lined campus and ivy-covered buildings are beautifully landscaped on 20 acres, including a central quad ringed by five stately buildings.

In addition to their homerooms in Barker Hall, Lower School students travel to a variety of campus locations throughout the school day, utilizing our technology center and maker space, gymnasium and playing fields, school library, dining hall, and an arts center featuring a 425-seat theater and art and music studios.

All over campus, students cultivate their curiosity, from a preschool class exploring on a nature walk to fifth-grade scientists classifying trees.







Discover a global approach that creates meaningful connections.

From preschool to senior year, we show our students the world, integrating a perspective-widening, global focus throughout the MPA experience.

While older students travel abroad, the Lower School introduces children to the process of interpreting the world around them and considering ideas in a larger, global context.

Learning from and with peers from a host of cultural backgrounds, students prepare to meet head-on the challenges of an increasingly global world.

Because global learning entails more than learning geography, cultural experiences are embedded throughout the Lower School curriculum, often also encompassing service and environmental sustainability. Students explore the world through literature, cultural studies and

celebrations, character education, and numerous service projects.

Study of world languages is a foundational component of Morgan Park Academy's global experience, as Spanish, French, and Mandarin are introduced to our Pre-K learners on a trimester rotation. Daily world language classes begin in kindergarten, and in fifth grade, students select from our three options a primary world language to study going forward.

Whether reading a story from Japan, packing a trash-free lunch, recycling scraps of discarded paper from an art project, or donating gifts to a local children's hospital, our goal is to empower students to see the importance of making a difference, standing up for themselves and others, becoming an integral part of their community, and ultimately, becoming citizens of the world.

Discover a place where recess and daily P.E. keep you moving.

Play is critical for children of all ages, and never more so than during Lower School years, an approach embraced wholeheartedly by MPA teachers. Recess is a fundamental part of the school day, and students stay on the move all day long with daily physical education classes to keep them developing physically and keep them refreshed and ready for the rest of the day's studies. Beginning in kindergarten, MPA sports teams in basketball, soccer, and volleyball provide Lower School students with an extra dose of activity after school and on weekends.







Discover a place where the arts play a leading role.

Arts is a core part of the MPA experience with a rich tradition, as music, visual art, and drama education play a key role in the curriculum and opportunities abound for students to embrace their creativity.

Guided by experienced, enthusiastic teachers, students perform on stage in choral groups, concert bands, and theatre productions at all ages. In Lower School, art and music classes are a foundational part of the curriculum, including individual music lessons.

Whether painting and sketching, playing a musical instrument, or presenting a dramatic piece on stage, we give all budding artists, from beginners to experienced, the chance to hone their skills, discover their artistic passion, and work together to create masterpieces.



Discover spaces designed for creativity and experimentation.

Hands-on, experiential learning, a focus all over campus, finds perhaps its purest expression in the Thrall Family Makerspace, an open workspace designed for collaborative and hands-on learning, building, and designing.

By combining a multimedia area, a woodworking space, a 3D printing and robotics area, a kitchen, and a multi-purpose science area, the spaces are designed to meet the needs of creative students and faculty.

No matter the equipment, the mindset of a maker space is one of exploring new areas of interest and creating realities out of ideas.

The Thrall Family Makerspace allows MPA students to learn through application, instead of simply demonstrating their expertise of concepts through application. This allows for a more deeply ingrained level of critical thinking and increases student engagement as they are more quickly able to see the outcomes and consequences playing out in front of them.





Discover extracurricular opportunities that make it easy to choose your fun.

At a small school, it's easy to get involved in sports, arts, and other extracurricular activities that provide students with opportunities to expand their horizons and explore.

Morgan Park Academy includes many different extracurricular groups representing a broad spectrum of interests.

It's safe here to try new things. A key point of the MPA experience is expanding your horizons and even discovering something completely new — whether that's African dance, volleyball, or ukulele lessons — that catches your interest and you love doing.

We also offer After & Before Care (ABC), an extended childcare program for Lower School and Middle School students that is operated by dedicated MPA faculty and staff, before and after school every day when classes are in session.



LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM

PreK-3

PreK-4

Kindergarten

LITERACY

We focus on the four core areas of literacy: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Activities are offered through whole and small group instruction and center explorations.

Reading — Alphabet recognition, letter sound associations, phonics, left to right reading directionality, identifying author and illustrator

Writing — Tracking and tracing letters, name/letter printing

Speaking — Morning meeting, orally share and dramatize ideas and stories, show-and-tell, school performances

Listening — Morning meeting, active listening during whole group lessons and discussions

Reading — Alphabet recognition-upper and lower case, letter/sound association, author studies, rhyming

Writing — Upper and lower case letters, journals

Speaking — Morning Meeting, public speaking for show and tell, school performances

Listening — Morning Meeting, active listening during whole group lessons and discussions

Reading — Wilson Foundations, elements of a story, prediction inference, rhyming, real vs. fantasy, compare and contrast, author studies, sight vocabulary, leveled readers, and comprehension skills

Writing — Upper and lowercase letter formation, emergent writing, journals, class books, pictorial/written responses to stories

Speaking — Morning meeting, weekend sharing, class discussions/activities, show and tell, May play, story dramatization

Listening — Morning meeting, stories and group activities, following directions, being a good audience member

MATH Mathematics focuses on developing children's number sense. This is achieved through daily hands-on numeration, students use manipulatives to demonstrate one-to-one correspondence.

• 0-10, basic shapes, sorting, patterns, shapes, measurements, operations, position and spatial relationships, correspondence, and calendar

• Counting, sorting, patterns, shapes, measurements, operations, position and spatial relationships, and calendar

SOCIAL STUDIES We help each child develop self-perception. Class discussions and activities revolve around the child, family, school, neighborhood, and world.

• Holidays, families, feelings, friendship, community helpers, global exploration (country of international emphasis varies each year)

• Community all about me, friendship, holidays and traditions, becoming a Global Explorer (country of international emphasis varies each year), current events

SCIENCE

We make the environment familiar via hands-on explorations of everyday objects, including thematic units arising from the children's interests.

- Weather, recycling, plants, colors, farm, apples and pumpkins
- Fall harvest, winter animals, weather, planets, protecting the Earth, insects, farm to table
- Colors, water, seeds/leaves/trees, farm animals, and life cycles

WORLD LANGUAGES

We introduce children to the study of French, Spanish, and Mandarin through a program that allows them to explore new sounds and learn basic vocabulary words and short phrases in all three languages. The goal of this exposure is to inspire a lifelong interest in language learning as well as to integrate essential 21st-century skills. Core topics covered include greetings and expressions of courtesy, numbers up to twenty, colors and shapes, body parts and cultural celebrations, traditions, and customs.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We emphasize individualism, self-direction, guided exploration, creativity, and the Movement Theory. Activities such as jumping, hopping, walking, running, and skipping fall into the loco-motor category, with bending and stretching, pushing and pulling, shaking, bouncing and circling for the non-loco-motor. Along with these, manipulative skills (throwing, catching, kicking, etc.) and games of low organization are introduced. The students are introduced to partner and group activities, teaching them appropriate socialization and teamwork.

ARTS

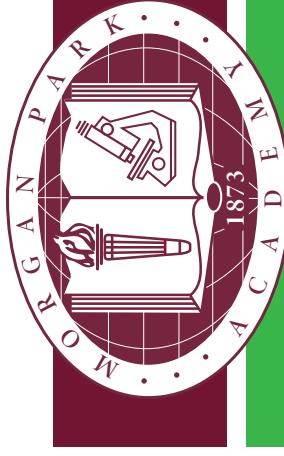
In visual arts, a design-process oriented approach extends the children's skills in drawing, painting, pasting, cutting, tearing, and sculpting to their fullest potential. Students create with pencils, markers, crayons, tempera paints, watercolor, clay, pastels, chalk, collage and play dough. In music, we introduce children to a wide range of songs and instruments to increase their appreciation of music. The program's goal is to help children become confident in their abilities to express themselves and have fun through music. Children sing songs multiple times and have free and structured exploration of musical instruments and various sound-makers.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Children learn technology through a content-area based curriculum by acquiring technology skills using software and multimedia. We use technology integration to enhance discipline-specific curriculum areas, as well as further engaging students in a differentiated instructional setting. Explore integrative technologies, children develop their hand-eye coordination and general computer knowledge.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The Responsive Classroom framework and Wellness program help establish a positive learning community and teach skills such as cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy, and self control.



LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM

First Grade

Second Grade

LITERACY

The development of reading and language arts skills is a major focus. We take an eclectic approach, combining children's literature with exercises from anthology books. We emphasize strengthening phonics and other word attack strategies, comprehension skills, and vocabulary building. We incorporate all other aspects of language arts — grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. — through writing, which is an integral part of the language arts program. Reading instruction includes both whole-group lessons and small, cooperative group activities.

Reading — Word attack skills, development of vocabulary and comprehension, reading independently, orally, and strategically

Writing — Sentence structure, basic language usage concepts, written expression, penmanship, spelling, grammar

Speaking — Morning meeting, school performances, class participation, and individual presentations

Listening — Morning meeting, stories, directions, being an audience member

Reading — Literature anthologies, informational text (for example *Scholastic News* magazine), and novels. Guided reading groups for fluency, summarizing and analyzing. Word work for spelling, phonics, and vocabulary.

Writing — Journaling, writing process through the writer's workshop.

Speaking — Morning meeting, discussions, group work, and performances build confidence in communication skills

Listening — Morning meeting, stories, directions, online texts, being an audience member

MATH The *Everyday Mathematics* program begins in kindergarten and continues through second grade. The spiraling curriculum helps children to master basic numerical processes and understand key mathematical concepts.

- Numeration and counting, calculator use, measurement, patterns, money, geometry, fractions, data and graphing, estimating, comparison, problem-solving skills
- Fact strategies, place value, measurement, addition, subtraction, whole number operations, number stories, measurement and data, geometry, arrays, and equal shares.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Children learn to organize and develop appropriate perceptions of themselves and the world around them. Class discussions and role-playing are used, along with materials from various programs designed to strengthen self-concepts and decision-making skills. During Global Week, each class does an in-depth study of a target country.

- Families, communities, and cultures, compare/contrast civilizations and prominent historical figures, current events, cultural and national holidays and traditions, becoming a Global Explorer
- Citizenship, neighborhoods, people and places, landforms and bodies of water, continents, and customs.

SCIENCE

We begin developing the use of the scientific method. Students learn to think like a scientist by observing, asking questions, forming an idea, conducting an experiment, and drawing a conclusion.

- Trees/plants, life cycle of the chicken, states of matter, weather/seasons, nutrition/health, and scientist's tools

Students learn what science is and how it impacts our daily lives, with an emphasis on the Scientific Method. They use the SeeSaw platform to execute several of their science activities. Students learn to develop an understanding of the world's animal biodiversity and habitats. This is followed by the study of the life cycle of plants. Students explore the three properties and states of matter. Second graders love learning songs, watching demonstrations, and participating in labs in class.

WORLD LANGUAGES

We introduce children to the study of French, Spanish, and Mandarin through a program that allows them to explore new sounds and learn basic vocabulary words and short phrases in all three languages. The goal of this exposure is to inspire a lifelong interest in language learning as well as to integrate essential 21st-century skills. In first grade, we review and expand on previous core topics as well as classroom expressions, numbers up to 50, pets, school and classroom objects, and cultural traditions, celebrations, and customs. In second grade, topics include domestic, farm and zoo animals, calendar and seasons, weather, fruits and vegetables, and cultural traditions, celebrations, and customs.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We emphasize individualism, self-direction, guided exploration, creativity, and the Movement Theory. In first grade, jumping, hopping, walking, running, and skipping fall into the loco-motor category, with bending and stretching, pushing and pulling, shaking, bouncing and circling for the non-loco-motor. Along with these, manipulative skills (throwing, catching, kicking, etc.) and games of low organization are introduced. The students are introduced to partner and group activities, teaching them appropriate socialization and teamwork. In second grade, movement experiences still are important, but emphasis is now placed on the improvement of basic skills, particularly the manipulative. Children transition to skills and sports interests. Basic stunts and tumbling are introduced, with emphasis towards balance, strength, and coordination.

ARTS

Visual arts projects are geared toward stimulating imaginative potential and developing visual awareness. A variety of materials are used such as paper, crayons, chalk, oil pastels, watercolor, tempura, cloth, yarn, as well as two dimensional projects. Basic elements of art are introduced, which include color, form, line, shape, space texture, and value. In music class, first graders identify basic instrument groups. The children will demonstrate appropriate playing technique on a variety of classroom instruments. They will decipher that a beat is different than rhythm. They will begin to learn different mallet techniques while learning the different forms of music. Finally, first grade will become comfortable singing and playing in an ensemble with additional musical activities occurring simultaneously to unison singing. In second grade, students will build upon these skills by learning proper breath support and posture. They distinguish simple melodic lines and recreate them on Orff instruments.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students in grades 1 and 2 complete hands-on STEAM projects in the Makerspace relating to growth mindset, seasons, holidays and current topics related to classroom content. They will demonstrate proficiency in the use of computers and applications as well as an understanding of the concepts underlying hardware, software and connectivity. In addition, they will demonstrate the responsible use of technology and an understanding of ethics and safety issues in using electronic media at home, in school, and in society.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Character education classes conducted by the Wellness Counselor involve bi-weekly lessons to help students identify their intricate emotions, while giving them skills to control those emotions. Classes learn about personal space, how to read body language, polite listening skills, knowing when to self regulate, and understanding when to reach out to a teacher when they have maxed out their personal resources.



LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Third Grade

Fourth Grade

Fifth Grade

ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

The development of reading and language arts skills is a major focus. We take an eclectic approach, combining children's literature with exercises from anthology books. We incorporate grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc., through writing, which is an integral part of the language arts program. During the elementary years, students use novels, non-fiction passages, online differentiated texts, and the Junior Great Books program. Reading instruction includes both whole-group lessons and small, cooperative group activities. The emphasis on writing continues in these grades and growth is evident in portfolios and journal writing.

Reading — Comprehension and vocabulary practice through novels, short stories with shared inquiry discussions in Junior Great Book Series, online leveled books, non-fiction comprehension workbooks, and choice book reports.

Writing — Grammar and writing process, journal entries, literature responses, and introduction to essays and research, and cursive handwriting

Speaking/Listening — Morning meeting, discussions, group work, plays, oral presentations/projects, and performances

Reading — Comprehension, vocabulary, inquiry through use of novels and various other publications

Writing — Grammar and writing process, exposure to narrative, expository, persuasive, and creative writing, Daily Oral Language practice, journals, reports, and projects

Speaking/Listening — Morning meeting, discussions, group work, plays, oral presentations/projects, and performances

Reading — Comprehension and vocabulary built through context clues using novels and other resources. Critical thinking and inquiry are emphasized

Writing — Grammar and writing process, refine and build upon previously learned knowledge and skills of narrative, expository, persuasive, and creative writing, journal entries, daily language review, reports, and projects

Speaking/Listening — Morning meeting, discussions, group work, plays, oral presentations/projects, and performances

Students transition from a constructionist mathematical program to a more traditional one, forming a bridge to Middle School. The text *My Math*, published by McGraw-Hill, and the adaptive learning program, ALEKS, are utilized for instruction. Additional online enrichment programs, such as Sumdog, are used. At this point, flexible grouping by unit is introduced to allow for differentiation while supporting our whole child philosophy.

- Place value and money; addition and subtraction; data and probability; the basics of multiplication and division; time and measurement; geometry; fractions and decimals; and problem-solving
- Place value, organizing data, multi-digit multiplication and division, geometric construction and concepts, word problems, addition, subtraction, fractions and mixed numbers, decimals, percents, basic algebra, estimation, and problem-solving
- Multi-digit multiplication and division, properties of addition and multiplication, order of operations, operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with decimals, fractions, mixed numbers and one-step equations, divisibility rules, greatest common factor, least common multiple, prime factorization, measurement, geometry, and real-world problem-solving

MATH

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students learn about factors that have shaped their world, develop research skills, learn how to read and create maps, and begin to develop the skills necessary for critical analysis necessary for their fifth-grade course in World Geography. To enhance their studies, students frequently work in cooperative groups, give oral presentations, enact historically significant events, and make use of the computer as a tool in research and presentations. Each year, students look forward to Global Week, during which an in-depth study of a target country and service-learning replace the regular curriculum.

Students learn about our flag and an introduction to our government, as well as map skills. Other themes and units include: national parks, inventions, the fifty states, and pioneer life.

Students study regions of the United States with a focus on the environment, natural resources, economy, history, cultures and customs. Other units/topics include government, citizenship, Chicago, geography, and map skills. A multimedia approach and note-taking are augmented by research techniques, report writing, and project making.

Students study World Geography in correlation with the setting of the novels read in language arts. Basic geographical terminology, skills and map reading along with physical geography, history and cultural development of the countries are highlighted. The course's primary goal is to study other regions of the world, focusing on the relationship between the environment and the values and lifestyles of the people living in each region.

SCIENCE

Students develop an understanding and working use of the scientific method as they practice questioning, predicting, observing, experimenting, collecting data, and drawing conclusions. Activities and experiments encourage students to develop skills of scientific inquiry as they deal with a wide range of topics within the physical, chemical, and biological sciences. The use of Discovery Education online tech book, Mystery Science online resources, and Scholastic Super Science Magazine helps to individualize learning along with hands-on experiments and projects.

- Scientific Notation, Worm composting, recycling, life cycles of organisms, traits and inheritance of organisms, weather and climate, forces and motion, electricity and magnetism, Solar System, and current events.
- Structures and functions of the human body and brain, features and processes of the Earth's surface, energy and electricity, animals and their systems for survival, sound waves, garden science, and the scientific process
- Design and function, classifying organisms, body systems, ecosystems, weather, Earth and space, properties of matter, force and motion, and energy

WORLD LANGUAGES

We introduce children to the study of French, Spanish, and Mandarin through a program that allows them to expand communication skills, building on their foundation of vocabulary and beginning grammar in all three languages. Our program seeks to inspire lifelong interest in language learning and global thinking, as well as integrating essential 21st century skills into the elementary program. In fifth grade, students select one language to study for the entire year. Students are immersed in the language and culture through a multi-modal approach.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In third grade, movement experiences still have an important function, but emphasis is now placed on the improvement of basic skills. Basic stunts and tumbling are introduced. In fourth and fifth grades, a greater emphasis is placed on lead-up games to later be used in team sports. Team sports are now used to perfect previously learned skills as well as to teach social interaction, sportsmanship, and positive peer competition.

Continue reading on the next page >>



LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Third Grade

Fourth Grade

Fifth Grade

ARTS

In visual arts, includes projects such as printing, drawing, paper mache, sewing, depth perception, optical illusions, murals, weaving, and pen and ink drawings are created using mixed media. Formal art elements and vocabulary are introduced. By fifth grade, students create work in response to art of different cultures and different art periods. Elements of art and introduction to color theory will be covered.

In music, students will focus on more complex rhythms and engaging their singing voices with more ease, and use more complex rhythmic patterns on pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments. The children will utilize appropriate musical terminology as it applies to compositions being studied. In fourth grade, recorders are introduced and used as one of their main instruments, which will include reading music. By fifth grade, students work with the elements of music at a more complex level.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students will learn technology through a content-area based curriculum, by acquiring technology skills using software and multimedia. Technology integration will be used to enhance discipline-specific curriculum areas, as well as further engaging students in a differentiated instructional setting. Students are introduced to integrative technologies, developing their hand-eye coordination and general computer knowledge.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Character education encompasses how to follow the MPA Way of "Be Kind and Do Your Best." Doing your best covers goal setting, celebrating individuality, being proactive, and practicing mindfulness. The topic of kindness includes encouraging students to walk in someone else's shoes, being open to diversity, and tapping into another person's feelings through empathy. The Responsive Classroom program provides daily practice and modeling of building a community in which everyone is a valued, contributing member. Additionally, students learn social media etiquette, analyze stories of resilience and courage, and practice conflict resolution techniques.

CORNERSTONE PROJECT

Fifth graders participate in an inquiry based research project called the Cornerstone Project. This culminating project is an opportunity for students to showcase a synthesis of skills acquired during their Lower School years. Students select a topic they are keenly interested in to complete an intensive, fully integrated study of their chosen topic. Examples of possible topics are: a new skill to learn, an invention, a person to learn more about, a scientific wondering, a particular historical event, or a curriculum topic from a previous grade.



Discover how we make MPA affordable for more families.

As an independent, not-for-profit organization, Morgan Park Academy is funded primarily by tuition and fees, which are used to finance operating costs such as school programs, faculty and staff salaries, and maintenance of our facilities.

We are committed to inclusion as an essential part of our educational philosophy and school culture. Economic diversity enriches the educational opportunity for all families and participation of a wide range of families is critical to the health of our school.

Accordingly, the MPA community includes some families who can afford tuition at the top of the index and also provide generous philanthropic donations; other families who make substantial sacrifices to pay tuition at the highest level; and still others who are able to afford only minimal tuition.

We are able to offer indexed tuition based on our operating budget and philanthropic gifts. In order to make an MPA education accessible to families from a range of economic backgrounds, we offer a range of tuition levels.

INDEXED TUITION

We encourage families to apply for indexed tuition if they have concerns about their ability to afford tuition at the highest level. While we require each family to contribute to the cost of operating our school and expect them to support our community to the extent that individual circumstances allow, we do not expect each family to be the same.

The formula used to calculate a student's tuition level is complex and considers many factors that affect a family's ability to pay. Morgan Park Academy uses FACTS Financial Assistance system to assist in collecting relevant income information to determine indexed tuition levels. To be considered for an indexed tuition lower than the highest level, families must furnish detailed financial information.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Exceptional high school students can earn a merit scholarship of up to \$40,000 over four years.

MPA thrives because we're able to bring together a diverse mix of outstanding students from across Chicago. Programs such as the Merit Scholars help fulfill our mission to educate well-rounded students who demonstrate initiative, leadership, determination, and excellence.



Scan the QR code to access the latest facts and figures about tuition and financial aid.

NEXT STEPS



Scan the QR code to register for an admission event or a tour of campus.

1. ATTEND AN EVENT.

You can schedule a personal tour of campus or visit an open house or other admission event.

2. COMPLETE AN ADMISSION APPLICATION ONLINE.

3. TAKE AN ENTRANCE EXAM.

Applies to grades 2-12 only. We accept the Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE) and the Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT). We host the ISEE monthly from October through June.

4. SUBMIT FINANCIAL INFO TO APPLY FOR INDEXED TUITION.

Morgan Park Academy exists because families across Chicagoland rely on us for a unique experience. Since 1873, we've been a beacon of educational excellence in the Morgan Park-Beverly neighborhood, helping students find their voice, their strengths, and their highest purpose in school and in life.

Want to learn more? Contact our admissions team at 773-881-6700 or admissions@morganparkacademy.org.

Admission officers Allie Bowles and Yvonne Armstrong



DISCOVER MPA

a warm, welcoming community

small, discussion-based classes

approachable, relatable teachers

global, perspective-widening focus

a spacious campus quad

hands-on, experiential learning

ambitious, hard-working classmates

imaginative, disciplined arts

competitive, inclusive athletics

one-on-one college counseling

celebrate your individuality

be kind and do your best



Morgan Park Academy

2153 W. 111th Street, Chicago, IL 60643