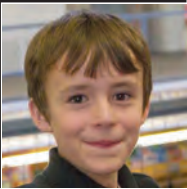


Paideia Academy. Public Education for the
Next Generation.



Welcome

When you walk through the doors at Paideia Academy, you immediately sense something different. It's an atmosphere charged with enthusiasm for learning. Our teachers, administrators, and parent volunteers are committed to challenging kids in creative ways that keep them energized and engaged.

The momentum here is no accident. It's the result of a clear vision, purposeful planning and willing involvement from Paideia families. The environment is respectful, and the expectations are high. Our teachers are thrilled to be here, and kids can sense their excitement. It's contagious.

As a charter public school, we are a state-funded institution, so there is no tuition. Like other charter schools, we are here to offer an alternative for families seeking high academic expectations and instruction geared to individual students.

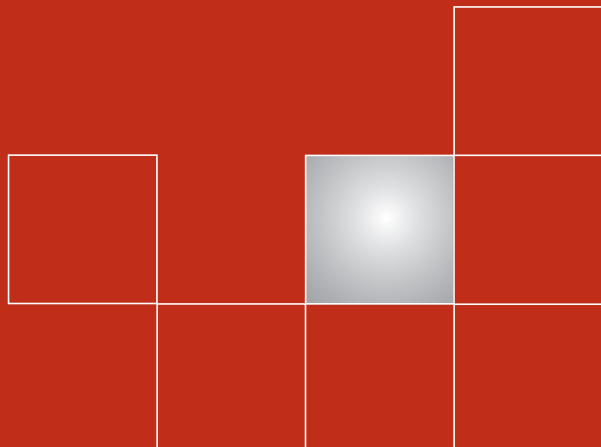
Our Core Knowledge curriculum includes art, languages and music as core subjects. We have a partnership with Minneapolis' respected MacPhail Center for Music, so we are able to include superior musical instruction and programming for every grade level. MacPhail shares our facility, conveniently offering individual and group instruction right on site.

We appreciate your interest in Paideia Academy, and hope that you will come in, take a look around, and talk to our teachers and administrators. We can even put you in touch with Paideia parents who would be happy to share their experiences with you. We recognize that you have a variety of choices, and we sincerely hope that you will find this is the right place for your children.



**“Education is not the filling
of a bucket, but the
lighting of a fire.”**

-WB Yeats





A fresh approach to K-8.

We take great pride in introducing you to Paideia Academy – a charter public school in the southern suburbs, offering a year-round education. It is pronounced Pi-DAY-ah. It means “education of a child” in the fullest sense. More than that, it means an opportunity for parents and teachers to have a real partnership in the learning process. Think of it as a public school with a private school feeling. Paideia Academy is free to all students from all walks of life and all abilities.

The right academic standards. High.

At Paideia Academy, we are dedicated to giving students a classic, liberal arts education based on proven methods both old and new. Specifically, we embrace the Core Knowledge sequence which focuses on the basics while eliminating gaps that are common in education today. (www.coreknowledge.org)

All students will learn math, science, language arts, music and Spanish – and they will learn these subjects well. We are not looking to become a school that receives passing grades from the community. We are determined to achieve excellence. We want your child to develop a lifelong love of learning and the character needed to face the challenges of an increasingly complex culture.

The right size. Small.

Paideia Academy actively encourages a close student/teacher/parent relationship. Class size averages 20-22 students. The prospect of a more manageable student body size attracts better teachers, who, in turn create better students. Also, the students get to know each other, thereby better creating lifelong friendships.

The right learning environment. Secure.

Establishing standards of behavior in language, dress and manners is important. Studies show that when children sense adults are in control, they feel safer. When children feel safer they are able to relax and focus better, allowing their talents to develop more fully.

The right school board. Self-governing.

We did not take on the monumental task of founding a new school to do things the old way. Mutual support and respect are key to a successful learning environment. Paideia Academy will use this idea to its fullest potential. One unique feature of Paideia is that it has a truly representative school board involving parents, teachers and the community. This is just one example of our determination to offer families a real choice between public, private, and home schooling.

Tuition is free to all students from all walks of life and of all abilities.

For enrollment information call 952.953.6200 or visit our web site at www.paideiaacademy.org



What makes Paideia Academy a special place?

Core Knowledge Sequence and Classical Education

Paideia Academy offers students an education centered on a consistent body of knowledge presented in a coherent and structured manner. We also ensure that each student has the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to provide a strong foundation for higher education, while fostering a desire for lifelong learning.

The Core Knowledge sequence is a scope and sequence developed by E.D. Hirsch, Jr., professor emeritus at the University of Virginia. This program provides a truly comprehensive education incorporating art, language, and music as core subjects. Paideia uses proven, yet innovative education programs for grades K-8 based upon the ancient liberal arts tradition of the Trivium—Grammar, Logic and Rhetoric—to guide teaching methodology and to optimize student learning.

Art, Music and Languages

We believe an early introduction to the arts and music increases academic achievement, fosters the development of higher level thinking skills and contributes to the well-rounded nature of each student. Art, music and languages are core subjects at Paideia beginning in kindergarten. Spanish begins in kindergarten and formal Latin begins in fifth grade. Both languages are essential building blocks for a lifetime of learning. Art, music and languages complement the Core Knowledge sequence, and are all essential components in our greater vision.

Student-Centered Learning

Paideia Academy is here to provide the best education for every student. We have created an environment that promotes accelerated achievement. In fact, we chose the school name “Paideia” because it connotes a combination of formal and informal learning that culminates in the conscious pursuit of each child’s intellectual, artistic and social education. It is based on the premise that the way we learn impacts how we relate to each other. In other words, community life thrives upon a culture and history of shared wisdom.

Character Development

Our Mission at Paideia Academy is based upon commitment—not only to academic excellence, but to a high standard of character as well. Our expectations are high, and we hold each other accountable. Together, we are fostering a community of students, teachers and parents that model and encourage character development and qualities of good citizenship.

In a few short years, we’ve seen Paideia Academy go from just an idea—mere words on paper—to a place full of life and learning. We have been thrilled to see such a positive response from families across the community, and we look forward to continuing to offer an exceptional educational option for K-8 students south of the river.

Paideia Academy will feed the curious mind, enrich the open mind, and challenge the inquisitive mind.

The Story of Paideia

It Began with a Dream

Maybe it’s in the car, or the grocery store, or even at home with your kids—but as parents, we’ve all experienced those moments where we’ve imagined what our ideal school would be. For some, it’s simply an environment where students are held to high standards and treated respectfully. Others envision a place where teachers enthusiastically embrace their role, and celebrate individual progress. Still others see a day filled with music, art, languages and lessons in global citizenship.

Local parents Amy Monson and Tona Dove found their minds drifting to this place so often, they decided to do something about it. The more they talked, the more they realized they were envisioning the same kind of school. They pictured a challenging environment that would nurture kids’ natural curiosity, and hold them accountable for individual goals. They saw smaller class sizes, and a year-round calendar to help kids retain the learning from grade to grade. They imagined a curriculum that integrated the arts as core subjects, and teachers who not only cared, but were truly excited to be there. They envisioned a place where you could literally sense the positive energy the minute you stepped inside.

What began as a few fleeting thoughts soon turned to lengthy conversations, and ultimately, a quest. Fueled by their passion for what could be, they pursued their vision, immersing themselves in research and planning in an effort to clearly articulate exactly what Paideia Academy would become. After securing funding, a sponsor in Friends of Ascension and approval from the the Minnesota Department of Education, Paideia Academy welcomed its first students in August, 2005, and is a unique, thriving place of learning today.



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