

Benefits of a K-8

- Students do better socially and academically
- Keep families together
- Encourage Parental Involvement
- Opportunities for leadership
- Sense of Belonging
- Individual, age-appropriate pace
- Stronger relationships
- Integrated curriculum of core subjects and enrichments
- Personalized Learning Environment

Environmental Education

Environmental Education is the cornerstone of Orca K-8. Each grade takes part in the Seward Park Audubon Nature Connection program. Students go to camp at Indianola and NatureBridge. Sixth grade spends time in the garden classroom cooking, eating, connecting to food justice, and culture.



Middle school students need outdoor time for health and well being. At Orca K-8 students spend time outside each day. They enjoy the meandering track, nature council ring, and rain garden. They play sports. They spend time in the garden.

Academic Excellence

It is a social justice issue to make sure that every Orca K-8 student has 21st Century Learning skills to communicate and succeed in their world. At Orca K-8 you will find teachers helping students hone their skills and discover a myriad of ways to express themselves.

Science and Math are hands-on, investigative and empowering. Students examine real world problems and engage in inquiry-based investigations of natural phenomena. They explore, discover, discourse, make mistakes, and build their own body of knowledge. Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. All eighth graders take Algebra 1.

Please Visit and Learn More

Our middle school has an open visiting policy. Just go to the main office to sign in and get a visitors badge before coming up to the 3rd floor to see the classrooms and the academies in action. We will have an K-8 Open House on January 25th 7- 8pm. We will host guided tours on January 23 and 25 from 10-11:30. Remember you must choose Orca K-8 as an Option School during Open Enrollment. For an Orca video and more information go to:

<https://orcaptsa.wordpress.com>

or the school website

<http://orcak8.seattleschools.org>

Or the Orca Garden blog

<https://orcagarden.wordpress.com>



Orca K-8 Gratitude

We are so thankful for the generosity of the community: from volunteer hours to donations. We welcome you sharing your skills and expertise. Contact us by emailing our PTSA Volunteer Coordinator, Joanne jcdavis@seattleschools.org Principal, Tonie Talbert tmtalbert@seattleschools.org or Head Teacher, Donte Felder dmfelder@seattleschools.org THANK YOU!



Orca K-8 Middle School

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Seattle, WA 98118
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Orca K-8 is a progressive option school, where we focus on the education and growth of the whole child. We believe in strong academics, supported by rich social experiences. We encourage family and community involvement.

In our middle school you will find:

A sense of belonging
Knowledgeable teachers
Team teaching
We APP (Speaking with Purpose)
Academies
Project Based Learning
Caring adults
Field trips
Connections to community
Mentors
Theater/film
Outdoor education
Audubon & NatureBridge
Band
Higher level thinking
Personalized academic support
SEED race and identity conference
Critical thinking & self awareness
Opportunities to find your voice

Middle School Academies

Social & Environmental Justice Academy

The Social and Environmental Justice Academy in middle school is led by Ms. Jeanetta Murray and Mr. Tafuta Fundisha-Bey. The focus of the academy is looking at the world the way it is and discussing ways our scholars can make a difference. We emphasize that students are Agents of Change. Multiple strategies are in place to help all our scholars succeed. Students participate in debates and meaningful discussions, learn new vocabulary, read and write about current events, and engage in building stronger communities. Our goal is to help our scholars become the Agents of Change we believe them to be.

The Film Academy

The Orca Film Academy has partnered with The Film School and the Seattle Repertory Theater to help create a unique experience for students to learn history and language arts through the lens of a filmmaker. There are a number of community members who are supporting the academy too. Stacey Adams, a former Executive for Criminal Minds and the Big Bang Theory will teach students screenwriting, producing, and allow students to peek behind the scenes.



Connections in the Community

Seeing Everyone Equally and Distinctly

All students participate in our annual social justice conference on race and identity in the spring. We invite community mentors to share their expertise and experiences with our students.

Intergenerational Opportunities

Students and seniors get to know each other at Esperanza House where they learn from one another, creating poetry, film, memories and gardens.

FIELD TRIPS

Learning in the classroom is connected to learning in the Real World. Orca K-8 students are often on walking field trips or public transportation headed to museums, plays and social justice/service learning opportunities. Field Trips have included:

- Movies at the Ark Lodge
- Seattle Repertory Theater's Production of *A Raisin in the Sun*
- NFFTY.org Student curated film festival
- Seward Park
- NatureBridge
- Homeless shelter and encampment
- Kehinde Wiley Exhibit at the SAM
- Washington State Fair

RAINIER VALLEY FOOD BANK

We have always maintained a great relationship with our local food bank Rainier Valley Food Bank– it is a critical food lifeline in our community. Orca K-8 has donated hundreds of pounds of produce and thousands of packages of food over the years. The sixth grade students are running our “A Kid-A Can-A Month” collection program. They are aiming for 10,000 cans & packages a year!



Student Council at a PTSA meeting

Leadership

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Orca K-8 Student Government is an elective chosen by students or recommended by teachers. They plan the Pep Assemblies, Spirit Weeks, dances, socials, and publish the school Yearbook. They attend PTSA meetings and learn leadership skills and public speaking. They are working toward being accepted to We Day. This year they have chosen to explore homelessness in our community and are implementing a service-learning project at a Women's Shelter.

WE APP (Act, Present, Perform)

In this powerful elective, under the guidance of Toyia T. Taylor our students develop their artistic voice so that they can write and speak their truth as it relates to equity, privilege, gender, diversity, race and so much more!

RACE FORUM

Middle school students are encouraged to participate in the monthly Race Forum where families, staff and middle school students gather together, build relationships, listen, reflect and act on race and equity issues. Race Forum can lead to personal growth as well as systemic changes at our own school and in our community.