



The future is rushing at us



Columbus Academy





Ours are the  
**children**  
who will be prepared to  
greet that future, **grasp it,**  
**guide it, shape it, enrich it.**





Ours is a learning model that **builds upon academics** to  
**develop the whole child—**  
in mind, body, character and heart.



Every day starts with a handshake and a smile.



Small class sizes and individualized attention ensure teachers know the child, not just the student.



Mobile and flexible chairs provide student comfort and help teachers easily transition from one teaching mode to the next.



Common spaces abound, designed to encourage collaboration and creative thinking.

From laying the foundation of a love of learning through the first stirrings of academic mastery to college preparatory disciplines, Academy teachers shape an integrated curriculum. Woven together are the arts and sciences, humanities and technology, mathematics and music, always with a focus on each child's personal, social and emotional development.

**In Lower School, experts in early childhood development build on each student's strengths.** Teachers work closely with parents to guide a learning path that aligns with a child's needs and cognitive abilities. Academy children learn to collaborate, create and problem-solve, ask questions and trust their voices in a play-filled and nurturing environment.

**The experience in Academy's Middle School is filled with energy, experimentation and discovery.** Our children form deep bonds with teachers and other students in an environment that fosters teamwork and invites all to think critically, test boundaries, question convention and find the appropriate balance of adventure and independence.

**Our Upper School is designed to expand students' knowledge and understanding of a changing world, preparing them to thrive in college and beyond.** Flexibility in course selection and a plethora of extracurricular activities and growth opportunities in leadership and service are part of everyday life in and out of the classroom.



Daily activities provide opportunities for meaningful, hands-on learning experiences.



In our curriculum, the arts  
are not an afterthought.  
They are core to the experience.



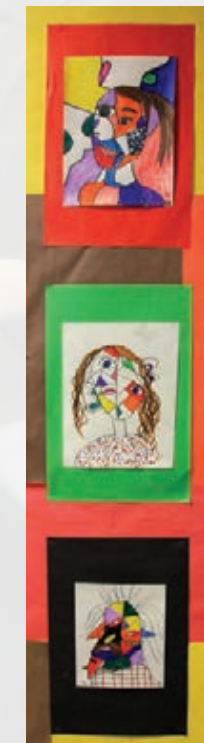
When children are engaged in creative thinking and hands-on learning, their cognitive processes are firing on all cylinders. Studies have linked creativity to higher academic achievement, higher-order thinking, problem-solving ability and better memory retention.



Academy students are immersed in all modes of creativity, including visual arts, performing arts, music and technology, and are encouraged to develop, create and execute their ideas in new and exciting ways.

The walls and rooms are filled with the sights and sounds of art, and our Morris Hall Arts Complex, featuring a two-level gallery, rivals the studios found on many college campuses. Kindergarten students emulate the great masters, while older students create original works of their own. In the ceramics, painting and photography studios, students of all ages develop new ways of seeing and processing the world.

At every grade level, art gives our students a way to find their voice and explore multiple ways to express it. Performances of all types are a high point of the school calendar, providing students with many opportunities to shine individually and as a group.



Jazz  
mble  
Ensemble



Educators  
who see **the whole child**,  
not just the student.



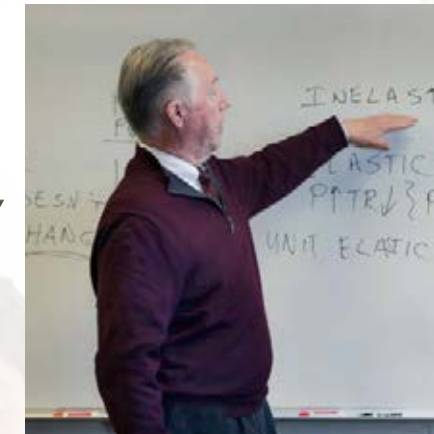
**Our experienced teachers develop their own curriculum based on cognitive skills by age and grade.** They understand how to remove barriers to learning and teach students to think creatively, both individually and collaboratively. Students become their best selves — academically, artistically, athletically and as important members of the community. All teachers set up their classrooms so that collaboration, critical thinking and problem-solving skills flourish. The result of the care taken to nurture these attributes of the whole person is that Academy is a joyful place to be — **for teachers, administrators, students and parents alike.**

*“It’s an intimate learning experience that adapts to each student and allows them to grow autonomously and also feel valued as part of the whole school.”*

*“Teachers here know when to challenge and accelerate learning, and when to pause and let students catch their breath.”*



Shaka Arnold, Head of Middle School



John Exline '64, Upper School History



Na Li, Middle School Chinese

**41%** OF TEACHERS WITH  
**10 OR MORE YEARS** OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE  
**AT COLUMBUS ACADEMY**

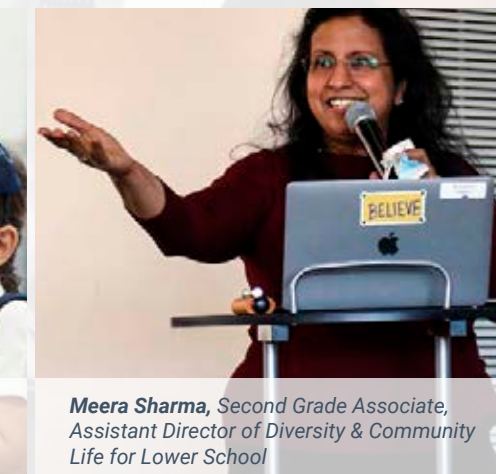
**7:1**  
STUDENT-  
TEACHER  
RATIO

**70%**  
OF TEACHERS  
HOLD  
ADVANCED  
DEGREES

**164**  
TEACHERS



Michelle Schroeder-Lowrey,  
Lower School Music/Movement/Drama



Meera Sharma, Second Grade Associate,  
Assistant Director of Diversity & Community  
Life for Lower School



Andy Bezzant, Dedger and Rose Jones Chair in Science, Middle School Science



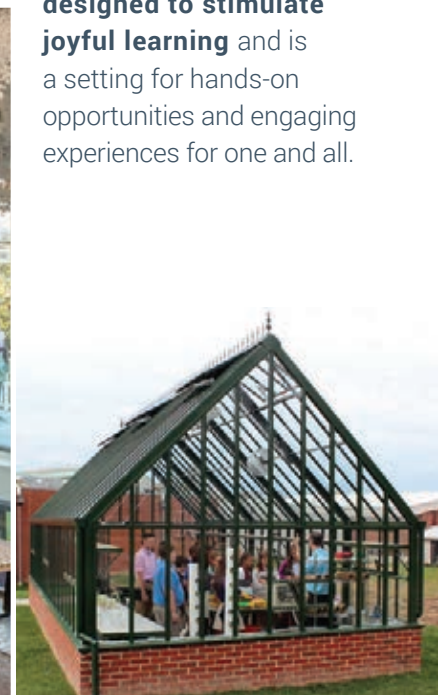


**Expansive windows and light-filled spaces.**

Nooks for reading, thinking and collaborating. Every inch of our campus is **designed to stimulate joyful learning** and is a setting for hands-on opportunities and engaging experiences for one and all.

Ours is an environment where **Curiosity, enthusiasm**

**and energy spill out of the classrooms and libraries, along hallways and out into a 231-acre learning environment designed for running, playing, thinking, exploring, observing, making, discovering.**







Ours are the children who will **create new breakthroughs** and discoveries, develop new systems and structures, gain mastery of **technology** as well as **philosophy**.



**Columbus Academy is an incubator for innovation.** Students here are immersed in all modes of creativity and are encouraged to execute their ideas in new and exciting ways.

As with the arts, technology is not overlaid upon the Academy curriculum, it is embedded throughout the curriculum as a tool to use to get students where they need to go. We place an equal value on high-tech, low-tech and no-tech experiences, where self-expression builds self-esteem.

Whether they are using iPaint to become budding Picassos, learning how to write code or using the Internet to travel to other worlds, Academy students are encouraged to adopt an innovative mindset and take their curiosity further.

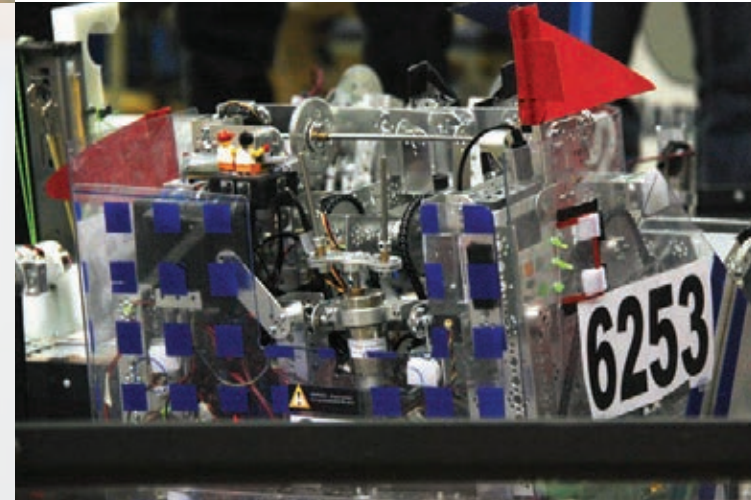


**3 MAKERSPACES**

**2 ROBOTICS ARENAS**

**13 SCIENCE LABS**


provide many hands-on, project-based learning opportunities across all media



Hands-on experiences with advanced technology such as 3D and computer numerical control printers help our robotics teams compete at a higher level. Student competitors are more prepared to go where the future of technology takes them.

Programs like QuestWorks Innovation Grants encourage students to develop their intrinsic motivations and support their collaborative efforts to make the world a better place.





Our greatest wish is that  
**our children's hearts, minds  
and eyes** will stay ever-open  
as their view of  
the world grows  
ever-wider.







62 SPORTS  
TEAMS

# Growing healthy bodies as well as healthy minds.



1 WELLNESS  
CENTER 1 FIELDHOUSE 8 FIELDS  
(2 TURF, 6 NATURAL GRASS):  
field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer



2 BASEBALL  
DIAMONDS 3.2 CROSS  
COUNTRY  
MILE COURSE 8 OUTDOOR  
TENNIS COURTS

**Physical education has an important role in our curriculum.** Play and physical activity take place daily on four developmentally designed playgrounds, in two full-sized gymnasiums, a fieldhouse, a wrestling/multipurpose room and our six-lane indoor swimming pool. Students also train for team sports and improve their individual health & wellness in our wellness center, which features state-of-the-art lifting equipment and ample floor space for various aerobic exercises. Every day, we encourage students to push themselves, play their best and support others, knowing that the benefits of physical wellness and the lessons of sport extend far beyond any classroom or playing field.

40 TEAM state  
championships  
55 INDIVIDUAL  
state titles







Our senior-kindergarten buddy and advisory programs reinforce the importance of role modeling and mentoring within our community.



Our students collectively perform more than 10,000 hours of service each year.



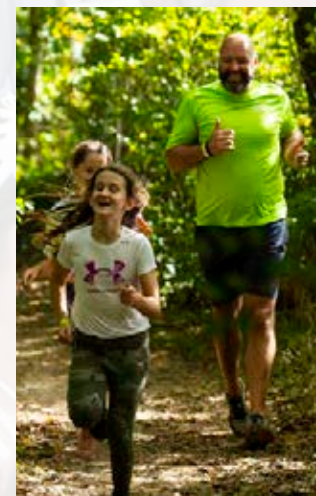
*"The leaders, teachers, students and parents all care about making sure it is an inclusive community that helps everyone grow and succeed."*



with a culture of **trust and respect** at its heart

**We value that which makes each of us unique** and rejoice in the lasting bonds that develop between students, educators and parents. Our student body represents more than 50 zip codes, and we are united in our Viking spirit, which is evident in our classrooms, on our playing fields and stages, at our tailgate parties and reunion events and throughout our community at large.

**Together, we share in the joys of cooperation, collaboration, competition and achievement.**



The Viking Rampage Run is one of the many community events that bring Academy families closer together and spark lasting friendships.



Even the youngest students have the Viking spirit as they send off our athletic teams and students to key games and events. "V-I-K-E-S, let's go Vikes!"

Supporting our teams and other student endeavors are long-running traditions that bring us all together.





A young man with short dark hair, wearing a dark grey polo shirt, khaki shorts, and brown sneakers, stands on a concrete walkway in front of a modern building. The building features large glass windows and brick pillars. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The man is holding a small white card in his left hand. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

We are a learning  
**community**  
that knows the **innate**  
**intelligence and talent**  
**in each child**, once  
released, will make our world better.

According to **Vaughn**, "What sets Academy apart are

**the friendships and bonds you'll develop**

**with people of the highest character** and

the teachers who will challenge you to give

your best and then give more. We are a

supportive community that **helps everyone**

**achieve their ambitions, no matter how**

**big**, and that knows that true success is

measured by the little things you do — the

doors you hold, the compliments you give

and the respect with which you treat others."





**We prepare our children  
to lead our world forward**  
with curiosity and grace,  
openness and candor, self-  
assurance and humility,  
**integrity** and **joy.**

**THIS IS THE ACADEMY EXPERIENCE.**







# Our Mission

Columbus Academy – an independent, coeducational college preparatory school – enriches its academic tradition of excellence by valuing a broad diversity of students as it seeks to **develop the complete person: mind, body and character.** The school rewards rigorous effort and accomplishment, **fosters compassion, respect and moral courage, and insists on integrity, fair play and community service.** Academy strives to develop and sustain a community of thoughtful, responsible, capable and confident citizens eager to engage in a pluralistic and ever-changing world.

Students, parents/guardians and alumni have established affinity groups that meet throughout the year for social gatherings and support. Our Office of Diversity and Community Life also organizes events to help foster community and bring Columbus Academy families together.



HOLA - Hispanic Outreach for Latino Awareness parent group



CASA - Latino/a heritage middle school student group



CAPSA - Columbus Academy Parents of South Asian heritage



BOS - Black Organization of Students



East Asian student group

Columbus Academy believes that diversity, inclusion, equity and justice are essential to the excellence of our community, culture and curriculum. We recognize that the pursuit of this excellence requires thoughtful, deliberate and sustained action and that this effort is critical to our educational mission.



JAG - Jewish Affinity Group



MOSAIC - Mobility, Opportunity, Social Equity, Action & Impact for Our Children parent group



CPA - Chinese Parents Association



### Welcome to our school!

While you are considering Columbus Academy, know that we believe there is no better investment you could make for your child than our transformative education: one that invites children to explore and create in an energized, welcoming place.

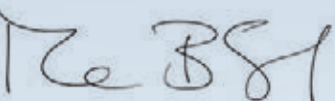
We know the best learning is not routine or formulaic. Real growth in our students happens in a vibrantly alive environment filled with generosity of spirit, where successes are shared and celebrated.

Our goal is not to mold young minds but to light them on fire. You can see it in the way we teach and the way our campus is designed — the light, the energy, the ability to see into the mindfully designed learning spaces and gaze out to the open sky.

Our children explore and discover who they are and grasp the future with a growing belief in their own potential.

All the while, they see that the excellence in their *Academy Experience* is not measured so much by achievement markers as by the quality of the conversations they have with fellow students and their teachers, in the bold confidence with which they wrestle big ideas and in the honoring of community traditions we hold dear.

Columbus Academy is fundamentally a place of belonging. We look forward to welcoming your family into our community.

  
Melissa Soderberg  
Head of School



## The best way to get to know Columbus Academy is to come and visit.

Contact our Admissions Office for more information  
and to arrange a tour.

614-509-2220

Email: [admissions@columbusacademy.org](mailto:admissions@columbusacademy.org)  
[columbusacademy.org](http://columbusacademy.org)



Diane Chattman, Kindergarten Teacher,  
Mother of Josiah '25 and Camden '31

*"We chose Columbus Academy because we felt it has the best educational program and also a diverse community that is very supportive. The faculty and staff are very attentive and willing to make sure that every student is prepared for the future. The growth we have seen in our son since coming to Academy has been impeccable."*



Drs. Pankaj and Kate Tiwari,  
Parents of Amiya '22 and Elina '25

*"Our greatest wish is that whatever path our daughters choose, they feel that with hard work and creativity anything is within their reach. We know that Columbus Academy is giving them the educational foundation, mentorship and confidence to make this a reality."*

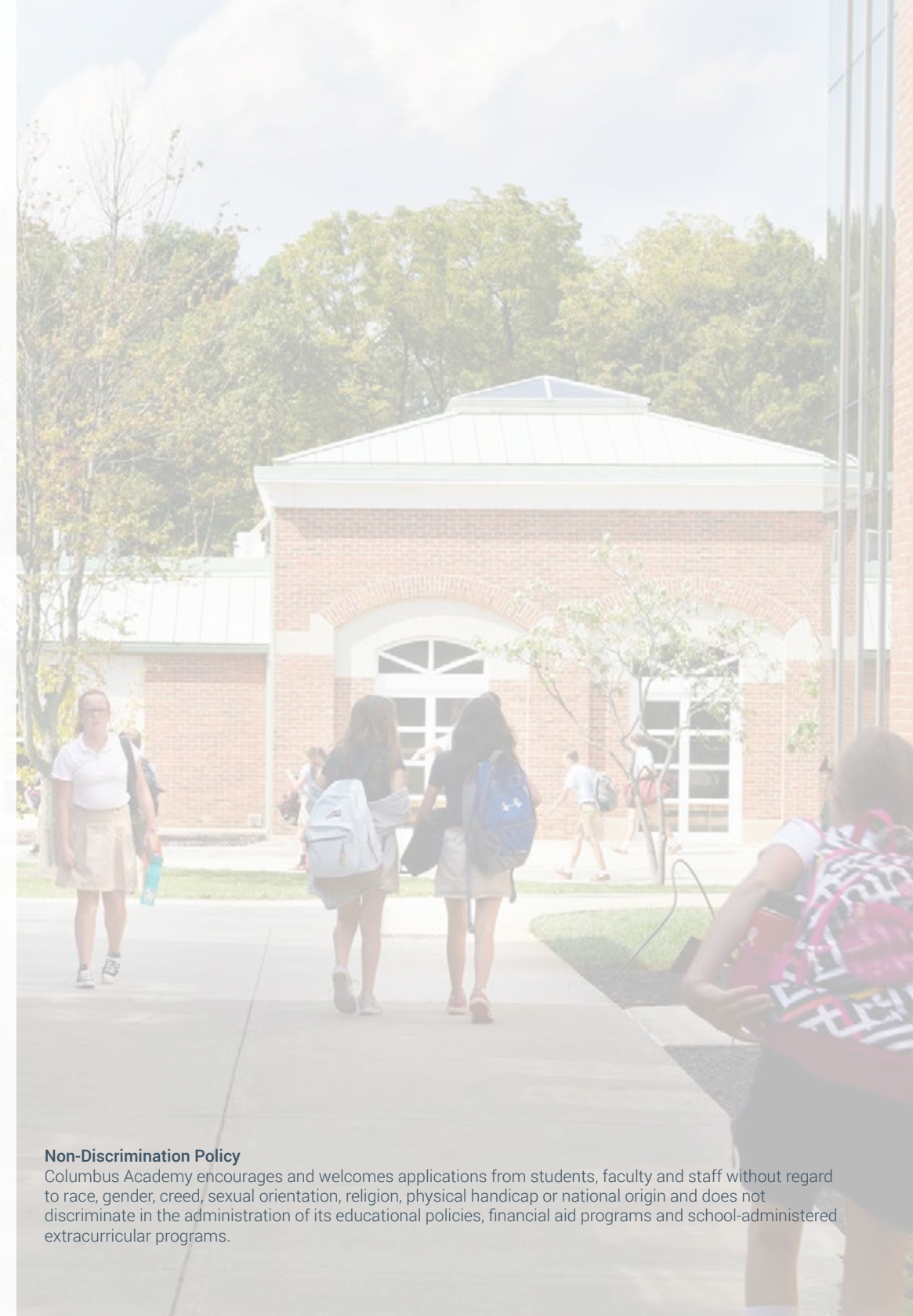


Christine Freytag, Mother of Alec '18,  
Sophia '20 and Ethan '22

*"Columbus Academy is a place where our children feel embraced, warm, integrated and stretched. The school is not simply buildings and equipment but is a vibrant community that helps our children discover their true selves."*

### Non-Discrimination Policy

Columbus Academy encourages and welcomes applications from students, faculty and staff without regard to race, gender, creed, sexual orientation, religion, physical handicap or national origin and does not discriminate in the administration of its educational policies, financial aid programs and school-administered extracurricular programs.







**This is the Academy Experience.**



**Columbus Academy**

4300 Cherry Bottom Road  
Gahanna, OH 43230

Admissions: 614-509-2220  
General Information: 614-475-2311  
[columbusacademy.org](http://columbusacademy.org)



Columbus Academy is accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). This organization is made up of **more than 230 independent schools** from 15 Midwestern states. Columbus Academy is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), which represents **more than 1,200 independent schools** in the United State and abroad.