



## PHILOSOPHY

Middle school is a unique period in a student’s academic career. The middle school years are marked by distinct physiological and emotional growth. Students in middle school benefit from being in an environment that includes mentor relationships with teachers, small class sizes that allow for individualized instruction and attention, and flexible, interdisciplinary curriculum that allows for active and personalized learning. 2nd Nature Academy middle school curriculum is skills based, integrated and multi-sensory. The curriculum focuses on social-emotional wellness, interpersonal skills, and conflict resolution. In addition, there is strong emphasis placed on cooperative learning, community outreach, and environmental awareness and responsibility. As with every grade level, critical thinking skills that are age and developmentally appropriate are developed within the classroom. This curriculum is designed to serve as the framework for specific content taught, which may also be influenced by student and teacher interest, school wide activities and current events.

### CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS (Intrapersonal, Interpersonal, Logical Intelligence)

- Analyzes: examines and evaluates a situation
- Inferences: derives meaning from clues, hints, evidence
- Interprets: understands and communicates information
- Summarizes: restates in a simplified or condensed version
- Clarifies: restates in an understandable manner
- Sets goals: determines direction and monitors progress
- Sequences: arranges things in order
- Predicts: determines what will happen next
- Compares/contrasts: looks for similarities and differences
- Finds evidence: shows proof to support a given statement
- Reasons: thinks logically about a question or a problem
- Solves problems: resolves situations and conflicts

### READING SKILLS (Verbal-Linguistic Intelligence)

- Applies word identification/decoding strategies with grade level appropriate text
- Reads grade level appropriate material with accuracy and fluency
- Utilizes comprehension strategies
- Identifies main idea
- Uses strategies that unlock meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary
- Demonstrates understanding of literary elements and devices
- Makes inferences and draws conclusions
- Demonstrates understanding of informational text



### WRITTEN COMMUNICATION (Verbal-Linguistic Intelligence)

- Writes:
  - In response to literary or informational text
  - Informative and explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas/information
  - Narratives using effective technique, descriptive detail, and clear event sequences
  - Persuasive texts using ethos, pathos, logos
  - On topic using one main idea, supporting details/evidence, introduction and conclusion
  - By grouping ideas logically and using transitions and figurative language
- Writes (continued):
  - For different audiences and purposes in a variety of forms
- Demonstrates command of the structures of sentences, paragraphs, and texts
- Applies writing conventions (subject/verb agreement, punctuation and capitalization)
- Spells grade appropriate words
- Uses the writing process effectively (brainstorm, pre-write, draft, revise, edit, publish)
- Write routinely in a variety of methods and time frames

### ORAL COMMUNICATION (Verbal-Linguistic Intelligence)

- Demonstrates interactive listening by following simple verbal instructions and directions to answer questions
- Attends to speaker and waits for appropriate turn to ask
- Makes presentations by orally ordering ideas in a sequence or retelling a story using details
- Holds attention of audience and makes eye contact
- Speaks with fluctuation and good volume

### MATH (Logical-Mathematical Intelligence)

- Demonstrates:
  - Number sense
  - Math fact fluency
  - Computation skills
  - Critical thinking and problem solving
  - Basic understanding of estimation
  - Numeracy/Math Literacy (using math in everyday life)
- Utilizes mental math techniques
- Correctly uses math tools
- Collects and records data
- Understand math concepts
- Geometry and spatial reasoning



<b>SCIENCE (Logical-Mathematical Intelligence, Naturalist)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understands and uses scientific concepts and principles</li> <li>• Applies skills and processes of science and technology</li> <li>• Accurately records scientific observations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicates scientific ideas</li> <li>• Uses observational tools correctly</li> <li>• Regularly and accurately uses and applies the Scientific Method</li> </ul>
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES (Verbal-Linguistic Intelligence, Interpersonal)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understands how history and culture have defined regions</li> <li>• Understands basic economic concepts and how they affect people</li> <li>• Understands structures of civilizations</li> <li>• Demonstrate an understanding of:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Major events, ideas, and issues pertaining to history</li> <li>○ Purpose, structure, and functions of government</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate an understanding of (continued):             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rights and responsibilities of United States citizens</li> <li>○ Relationship between the United States and other nations</li> <li>○ Geography and map skills</li> <li>○ How history and culture have defined regions</li> <li>○ Basic understanding of economic concepts and their impact</li> <li>○ Structure of civilizations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>MUSIC (Musical Intelligence)</b>	<b>VISUAL ARTS (Visual Spatial, Bodily Kinesthetic)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes and discusses different musical styles, genres, and cultural variations</li> <li>• Understand vocabulary of music (beat, rhythm, pitch, temp, etc.)</li> <li>• Demonstrates rhythm and beat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understands, selects, and applies media techniques in a multi-step process</li> <li>• Creates original forms of visual media or works of art</li> <li>• Correctly uses art supplies, technology, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>WORLD LANGUAGES (Spanish and Mandarin Chinese)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is able to repeat vocabulary and phrases with accuracy</li> <li>• Comprehends vocabulary and simple phrases</li> <li>• Uses everyday terms and vocabulary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can answer basic questions</li> <li>• Is able to use conversational phrases</li> <li>• Can read and write basic terms and vocabulary</li> </ul>