

Elgin Academy

PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

Elgin Academy is proud of its heritage as the oldest coeducational, non-sectarian, college-preparatory school west of the Allegheny Mountains. It has been from its founding an independent school dedicated to educational excellence through a college-preparatory liberal arts curriculum, character development, and a true spirit of community. The school's focus on academic achievement is supported by a selective admission process that identifies able students of social, economic, and ethnic diversity who have the commitment to pursue their learning with enthusiasm within and beyond the classroom.

The purpose of the preschool-12th grade educational program at the Academy is to develop in its students a thorough and in-depth knowledge of the traditional academic disciplines, and the skills and attitudes necessary to acquire and use that knowledge as life-long learners. Believing in the developmental nature of intellectual, emotional, and physical growth, the Academy faculty recognizes different stages and styles of learning which require different methods of teaching and a high degree of individual attention. Within a framework that balances structure with freedom and tradition with innovation, the school develops within each student the capacity to solve problems through both reason and imagination.

In both size and attitude, the Academy is a personal school. This personal environment fosters the pursuit of excellence in all arenas, equal standards for all, respect for individual differences, and the encouragement of risk-taking. It produces a relationship of trust and support among all members of the community—students, teachers, staff, parents, alumni, and trustees—who are joined in the common goals of excellence and cooperation. At the same time, the Academy exposes students to the complex world beyond the school community. Ultimately, the school expects students to assume increasing levels of personal and social responsibility in order to live their lives with confidence and compassion.

Academic Goals: Specifically, the Academy develops students who:

1. Have achieved academic excellence in critical reading, research, writing, speaking and listening, observing, analyzing, computing, reasoning, and studying.
2. Are academically accomplished young people schooled in English, mathematics, social studies, world languages, science, technology, and the arts.
3. Use a variety of educational and cultural resources effectively.
4. Are informed and concerned about contemporary issues and understand how their personal values and actions affect those issues.

Personal/Social Goals: Additionally, Elgin Academy develops students who:

1. Characterize their lives with understanding, honesty, compassion, and justice.
2. Have a positive self-concept and can work toward worthy and realistic goals.
3. Have personal habits marked by initiative, responsibility, thoroughness, and a strong work ethic--qualities that make for effective citizenship and a healthy lifestyle.
4. Know the value of cooperation and competition by participating in a variety of co-curricular activities, such as athletics, art, music, theatre, videography, student publications, student government, and community service.
5. Understand the importance of a sense of humor as part of a rewarding life and of having fun in the pursuit of one's goals.