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SEATTLE GIRLS' SCHOOL

Our Mission



Our Mission is to inspire and develop courageous leaders who think independently, work collaboratively, learn joyfully, and champion change.

Our Passion is empowering each girl to live her potential.

Our Beliefs

- Empowering a girl changes the world.
- It is fundamental to understand and address issues of difference and oppression.
- An integrated, collaborative curriculum challenges and engages students.
- Middle school should be joyful, curiosity-filled, and safe and open to all voices.

"At SGS, you can learn a lot from each other's culture and background. It's not weird if you're different, because you get to make friends with all different kinds of people."

-6th grade student

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Seattle Girls' School is an Accredited Member of Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools (PNAIS).

Welcome to Seattle Girls' School

Thank you for your interest in Seattle Girls' School (SGS). SGS is a 5th – 8th grade middle school committed to empowering young women to be leaders in their communities through a challenging academic program focused on collaboration, integration, and real-world problem solving.

Since our founding, Seattle Girls' School has played a unique role in the Seattle community, working to ensure that young women have an opportunity for an exceptional education. SGS students come from all walks of life—over 40% are girls of color and 20% identify themselves as multi-racial. Further, we demonstrate a steadfast commitment to socio-economic diversity by ensuring that a minimum of 30% of students receive need-based financial aid. SGS has awarded over \$4 million dollars in aid since our inception.

SGS is committed to teaching the whole child—preparing our students for the world at large with a focus on leadership skills, democratic decision-making, anti-bias work, team building, and artistic and physical expression. With a curriculum grounded in project-based work, students are exposed to a wide variety of challenging learning experiences.

We invite you to explore our school and, again, thank you for your interest!



Rafael del Castillo
Head of School



"People who are really involved in changing the world inspire me. I'd like to be an activist. At SGS, I've learned that even little actions can have big impacts."

-8th grade student

SGS has some of the most dynamic, innovative, and dedicated teachers in the profession. With 75% of our faculty members holding advanced degrees, our teachers go beyond requiring just the basics. By focusing on critical thinking skills and real world problem solving, students are continually offered opportunities to question and examine the world around them. Students work in collaboration with their peers and teachers to understand the past, analyze the present, and envision their futures.

Adventure & Wellness

At SGS, we believe that physical activity and holistic health education are just as important in girls' lives as academic excellence. Just as we ask our students to reach beyond their intellectual boundaries in the classroom, so do we ask them to challenge themselves physically and bring their best efforts to Adventure and Wellness. Through this experience, girls learn to better understand and trust their bodies, acquire new physical skills, and practice team-building challenges with their peers.

"The all-girl environment allows students to be more of themselves and spend less time trying to be someone else. It allows them to take risks, ask questions, engage, and be present. There's an atmosphere of building trust that goes a long way in helping them learn the academics."

-8th grade teacher

5th Grade Students entering SGS in the fifth grade have the unique opportunity to learn about stewardship in a tangible, meaningful way by exploring the brilliance of the Pacific Northwest, with a special focus on its marine and aquatic life.

Curricular highlights include

- Environmental Studies
- Aquatic Biomes
- Ecosystems and Zoology
- Mathematics
- Creative Writing
- Writing Mechanics & Vocabulary
- Research Skills
- Integrated Literature
- Adventure & Wellness
- Art
- Beginning Guitar

6th Grade Development, identity, and progress are the essential themes that define sixth grade at SGS. Who am I? How did I get here? Where am I going? These questions and more are explored within the context of the most complex machine there is—the human body.

Curricular highlights include

- Human Biology
- Bioethics & Biotechnology
- Simple Machines
- Mathematics
- Ancient Civilizations
- Creative Writing
- Autobiographical Writing
- Writing Mechanics & Vocabulary
- Research Skills
- Integrated Literature
- Organization Skills
- Adventure & Wellness
- Art
- Beginning Guitar
- Spanish

“Learning in the all-girls environment has helped me grow as a student, peer and leader.”

-8th grade student



Visual Art

Students are artists, and therefore SGS’s visual arts program is a key component of the curriculum. Integrated with the core subjects, the arts program builds from year to year. Girls start out by learning the technical skills that will allow them to use art as an effective form of expression. Once this foundation is laid, art becomes a way for students to communicate their discoveries about the natural world, their own identities, their ideas about social change, and their explorations in their 8th grade theme projects.

7th Grade Seventh grade students at SGS explore broad themes in complex contemporary world issues. Using a solid foundation in regional and national history as a jumping-off point, students are asked to analyze, design, and implement real-world solutions to issues they care deeply about.

Curricular highlights include

- Chemistry
- Environmental Sciences
- Scientific Analysis
- Algebra
- Washington State History
- U.S. History and Constitution
- Persuasive Speaking and Writing
- Documentary Making
- Integrated Literature
- Rising Stars Leadership Program
- Adventure & Wellness
- Art
- Spanish

8th Grade Eighth grade SGS students have the privilege and responsibility of shaping and leading the 8th grade in partnership with the teachers. The eighth graders are asked, “What do you want to know and learn, and how are you going to accomplish it?”

Curricular highlights include

- Science
- Algebra
- Introduction to Geometry
- Geography & Contemporary World Issues
- Reading Workshop
- Academic Writing
- Creative Writing
- Videography
- Adventure & Wellness
- Art
- Spanish

What Makes SGS Unique

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"Project-based learning is engaging and it's the most applicable to the kind of work many students will be asked to do in the future."

-SGS teacher

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"It's a great environment that allows you to safely explore yourself and who you are. Without SGS I don't think I would have as good of an idea of who I am, or be as mature."

-8th grade student

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Learning Teams

Every student has a Learning Team comprised of herself, her Advisor, and at least one family member. Other significant adults in the student's life may also be members of her Learning Team. Learning Teams meet at least twice each year, or as needed, to set goals, give and receive feedback, and measure progress.

Wednesday Workshops

Wednesday Workshops allow students to pursue an interest beyond the rest of the curriculum, and provide the primary opportunity to explore various performing arts. Performance-based Wednesday Workshops culminate with a school-wide Talent Showcase in the spring, in which students are invited to show off their best to the SGS community.

Co-Curricular Programs

SGS students have the option of participating in school-based Affinity Groups as means to explore their ethnic and/or cultural identities with the support of peers, faculty, and staff. Student Interest Groups (SIGs) are an option for students seeking an outlet for a specific activity or interest. SIGs are created by students and led with the help of a faculty advisor.

The SGS Math Club meets once a week after school. Students in Math Club collaborate to solve fun math puzzles and experiment with new math concepts, and "Mathletes" can also prepare for participating in math competitions throughout the year.

Our Student Council meets regularly during school to plan and lead student activities, such as dances, talent shows, fundraisers, and spirit weeks. While elected officers are all 7th graders who are learning to lead both older and younger students, each grade level elects its own representatives and all students are welcome to attend meetings.

Joining the SGS Rock Band is an opportunity to explore rock music through learning instruments such as electric guitar, bass guitar, drums, keyboard, and vocals. Students practice as an ensemble once a week after school in our music room under the direction of the resident musician, and occasionally give rousing performances!

Athletics

The SGS Athletics Program gives students the opportunity to participate in various sports throughout the year, including Cross Country (fall), Soccer (fall, grades 6-8), Basketball (winter, grades 6-8 and spring, grade 5), Snowboarding/Skiing (winter, grades 6-8), and Ultimate Frisbee (spring, grades 6-8). Year-round sports include Skateboarding and Rock Climbing. Practices are held after school, and game times and locations vary by season.

The Mentor Program

The Mentor Program matches 6th grade SGS students with local women who have stepped forward to become valuable friends, supporters, and confidantes. At SGS, we believe we must make each student "strong from the inside out" by building a village around her. These villages start with the girls' families, the SGS faculty and staff, and expand to include a female mentor who acts as an additional positive role model to help enhance her mentee's self-esteem and confidence. Mentorships are also available to interested 7th and 8th grade students.

The Girls' School Difference

Because middle school is such a critical time in the development of girls, we value the unique ability of single-sex education to provide a safe, supportive, and empowering environment. We believe, and see evidence every day, that being in an all-girls school helps our students forge deeper connections with one another, connect with their own powerful voices, and more fully be themselves. SGS works with girls daily to help them recognize and challenge the negative messages they sometimes receive through the media and society, and come to see themselves as powerful, inspiring, intelligent and capable citizens of their communities and the world. We believe that during these early adolescent years, when rapid growth is often accompanied by upheaval, vulnerability and pain, providing girls with a supportive, open, and safe environment will help them navigate this time in their lives with joy, courage, hope, confidence, and a sense of adventure.



"I never imagined in only two years I would find my voice and be able to speak in community meetings or even greet people in large crowds."

-SGS Student



The case For Girls' Schools

National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS)

<http://www.ncgs.org/the-case-for-girls-schools/>

"I saw a visible rise in my daughter's confidence as she moved through her middle school years at SGS. I remain profoundly grateful to this school for an education in self-determination, community, courage, and respect."

-Parent of an SGS Graduate

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