Center for Global Citizenship

Hathaway Brown prepares students for complex world

BY NATALIE R. SCHRIMPFE

Hathaway Brown School is committed to making sure that its graduates are enlightened young women who possess a broad and rich understanding of the world. That is why it established its Center for Global Citizenship (CGC), which encourages students to critically think about the world's most challenging issues, helps them understand how the United States fits into a complex, worldwide context and fosters a deep appreciation for world cultures.

The center is part of the school’s Institute for 21st Century Education and is one of several centers designed to complement its core curriculum. Initiated in 2006, it offers six key dimensions for students in Hathaway Brown’s middle and upper schools: the Global Scholars program, International Student Travel and Exchanges, Harriet Mullin Barry Fellowship, lecture series, faculty professional development and photos and reflections.

Although not all dimensions are mandatory for its 333 upper school students, the center has a significant impact on the entire school, according to Joe Vogel, its director.

“The Center for Global Citizenship brings the world to the girls and allows us to take the girls to the world,” he said. “The relationship is dynamic and complex. It’s not that they’re just learning about the world in a stagnant setting, but they’re going out in the world knowing that they are change-makers.”

Vogel noted that the CGC has been a tremendous success with students and faculty and that the school will soon reach a milestone, with nearly 90 percent of its pupils having a purposeful, international experience prior to high school graduation.

At the center’s core is Global Scholars, an optional four-year course that examines world regions, timely issues, global leaders and politics. The program is offered in addition to the school’s regular curriculum, and students who complete it graduate with a designation of global scholar.
Vogel said approximately 75 percent of all upper school students participate in this program. This came as a surprise, he said, as there was an initial assumption that many girls would drop out of the course over time.

Instead, each year, the program’s graduating class has increased. “The girls are hungry for this,” he explained. “They love learning about the world, global politics, issues and cultures.”

Another successful facet, its lecture series, brings in national speakers who address relevant topics that tie in with the series’ current yearly theme. A requirement for students, the lecture series is designed to challenge the girls with new ideas and educate them on critical domestic and worldwide issues.

Past speakers have included Suketu Mehta, author of “Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found,” the basis for the movie “Slumdog Millionaire.” This year’s theme focuses on the U.S. Constitution, laws and courts and has featured panel discussions illustrating the importance of civics and civility through intellectual banter. In February, there was a panel debate featuring a “who’s who of some of the most accomplished judges in Ohio,” said Vogel. The event featured Chief Judge Alice M. Batchelder of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, Judge Patricia A. Gaughan of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor of the Ohio Supreme Court, Judge Benita Y. Pearson of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio and Chief Judge Marilyn Shea-Stonum of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

The discussion was moderated by Clerk of Court Geri M. Smith of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. The center’s International Student Travel and Exchanges program oversees all international trips. With the exception of one, all travelers are open to non-global scholars, Vogel explained. Last year, it offered trips to China, India, France, Nicaragua and Panama. This year, students have an opportunity to explore many distant cultures, including Turkey, Germany, Spain, Australia and Japan.

A key component to their international travel is video and photo documentation. The girls are required to share their experiences with other students back at school through a multimedia presentation.

“A large part of these international journeys is not only how a student has been enriched personally but that she shares the experience with as many people as possible upon her return,” said Vogel. “This enables the students back at school to be impacted as well through a domino effect.”

 Hathaway Brown’s reputation for its outstanding international study has garnered national attention. It has been asked to join the recently launched Global Education Benchmark Group. Comprised of approximately 20 schools nationwide that have cutting-edge offerings in global education, it works to share their knowledge with other schools across the country and standardize global education programs.

Located in Shaker Heights, Hathaway Brown is Ohio’s oldest independent preparatory school for girls in kindergarten through 12th grade. It also features a coed early childhood program.

---

Enjoy the best of both worlds

Choose life at Judson Park

Living at Judson Park, you will have easy access to all the cultural advantages of University Circle, plus the conveniences and charm of the Heights. It’s the best of both worlds! Enjoy a flexible lifestyle that includes an award-winning health and wellness program. Engage with young people through a well-regarded, curriculum-based intergenerational program. Declare your independence today from all the chores, taxes and expenses of your home. Visit Judson Park today! Call (216) 791-2004 or visit www.judsonsmartliving.org.

Judson Manor  Judson Park  South Franklin Circle  Smart Living” at Home