Middle School girls have so much to explore, and we believe whole-heartedly in opening doors to many different opportunities.
In Middle School, developing connections to others is paramount, so we build teamwork and community involvement into everything we do. Partnerships with teachers, parents, and classmates forge strong relationships and create the springboard from which our students reach new heights.
English

The Middle School English program is built on a classical foundation that employs both traditional and nontraditional teaching methods. The curriculum is designed to develop critical thinking, as well as strong reading, writing and speaking skills. In addition, the program’s mission is to instill in students a lifelong love of literature and the ability to express ideas clearly and effectively. Curriculum supports an interdisciplinary approach to learning. Vocabulary, spelling and grammar are important components, and these skills are reinforced throughout the writing process. Opportunities for public speaking occur in the form of plays, improvisations, and reports. Lessons throughout the year help students develop their critical reading skills, with opportunities to express themselves through creative and analytical writing assignments often connected to the literature they are studying. Themes include:

5th Grade: Survival, prejudice and self-reliance
6th Grade: Friendship, family and community
7th Grade: Social justice
8th Grade: Bystanding, choosing not to know, small steps and choosing to participate

History

The goal of the History Department is to empower young women to be critical thinkers, powerful writers and thoughtful citizens. Our students gain an understanding and appreciation of their own—and other—cultures by studying the past and its effects on the present and future. History is taught as an interdisciplinary subject, integrating art, literature, music and science. Instruction is enhanced through the use of primary sources, computer programs, classroom simulations, debates, and field trips. Study and organizational skills are reinforced through research projects, written reports, and classroom presentations. Themes and topics include:

5th Grade: Early American History from the establishment of European colonies in North America to the westward movement and advent of the Industrial Revolution
6th Grade: Ancient History of Mesopotamia, India, China, Greece, Rome, African Kingdoms and Meso-American cultures
7th Grade: World Geography and regional environmental influences on people and culture
8th Grade: American History with thematic connections of key events across time
Mathematics

Mathematics courses taught in the Middle School provide students with rich experiences from which they build deep conceptual meaning and fluent manipulative skills as they tackle problem-solving situations strengthening their understanding of the real number system. Students connect mathematical ideas and share them during discourse-based discussions while building a strong mathematical foundation. Number sense, generalized arithmetic, spatial problem solving, measurement and data analysis are woven into curriculum through grades 5-8. For all students to be successful with this curriculum, different courses are offered to match the individual learning needs of students. Offerings vary by grade level and include:

- 5th Grade Math
- Math Extensions
- Math Lab
- 6th Grade Math
- Smath (Science and Math connections)
- 7th Grade Integrated Math
- Gateways Pre-Algebra and Pre-Geometry
- 8th Grade Math: Beginning Algebra and Geometry
- Algebra I
- Geometry

Science

Middle School Science focuses on an understanding of key concepts and processes, emphasizing the importance of science in everyday life. At all levels, we seek to challenge the mind of each girl, offering a wide variety of investigative science activities. The ability to communicate scientific methods and solutions is essential, and each student is taught to observe and report accurately. Experiences in the lab foster curiosity about the world around us.

Students have the opportunity to explore science while nurturing their interest and fostering their perceptions of science as relevant to their lives now and in the future. At the heart of the curriculum are lab and field experiences, and students are encouraged to conduct research projects to present at the annual Science Fair. Many students are invited to participate in regional and statewide competitions because of the quality of their projects. Themes and topics include:

- 5th Grade: Scientific Inquiry, Physical Earth, Animal Kingdoms and the Human Body
- 6th Grade: Metric System, Matter, Chemistry and Astronomy
- 7th Grade: Wetlands, Physical and Biological Oceanography, Water Processes, Meteorology and Climate
- 8th Grade: Introduction to Physics and Engineering
World Languages

Middle School students complete up to two years of Upper School-level language classes over the course of four years of study in Spanish or French. Grades 5 and 7 are the years of entry into World Language study, as the introductory level is offered. Students who wish to join existing sixth- or eighth-grade language classes are evaluated by the department to identify if they can be successfully integrated. Remedial and introductory study is offered during the summer. Students who successfully complete the Middle School program matriculate into the second or third year of the language in the Upper School respectively.

Classes are conducted in the target language, with emphasis of instruction based on the acquisition of the four language skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The goal of language learning in the Middle School is to provide students with the tools they need to make strides in target language proficiency. Students learn grammar, culture, and conversational language relevant to their life experiences, in an effort to help them become linguistically competent, to recognize contexts for language use outside the classroom, and to become more aware of the global community.

Language survey is offered to new 6th grade students in the Middle School. This class is designed to introduce students to basic conversation in Spanish and French, and to present aspects of culture in Spanish- and French-speaking areas of the world. This helps equip students to make a more educated and experience-based choice of the language they will begin to study formally the following year. Classes include:

- Language Survey (6th)
- Spanish or French 5A
- Spanish or French 6B
- Spanish or French 7A
- Spanish or French 7C
- Spanish or French 8B
- Spanish or French 8D
Performing Arts

Music, Dance and Theatre are fundamental in a liberal arts education. The performing arts are taught independently, and empower girls to be movers and shakers. Opportunities for exploration and performance reinforce skills, encourage cultural literacy and cultivate interest in the field. After school enrichment classes and the Musical Arts program, which offers private instrument lessons, provide additional opportunities for students passionate about the performing arts to participate in learning activities that bring greater depth to their Hathaway Brown experience. Courses include:

- Bella Voce (Select Ensemble, Grades 7-8)
- Chorus (Elective, Grades 7-8)
- Dance (Grade 6 & 8)
- General Music (Grades 5-8)
- Guitar (Elective, Grades 5-8)
- Orchestra (Elective, Grades 5-8)
- Recorder Consort (Select Ensemble, Grades 7-8)
- Theatre (Grades 5 & 7)

Visual Arts

Within the Visual Arts program, students are taught to increase their visual awareness, express observations and feelings, and develop their technical skills. Principles of design, craftsmanship, and creativity are explored through work with a wide variety of media and materials, including ceramics, sculpture, graphics, acrylics and watercolor paints, and fiber. In studio classes, students create both two- and three-dimensional works, study color theory, and develop drawing and painting skills. They also view and discuss works of art as they relate to class projects. Visual Art class is offered in grades 5-8.
Technology

Technology is an important tool in the learning process for all subject areas. By the close of the eighth grade year, students have been instructed in the use of all major software applications and other technologies including iPads, digital cameras, scanners and video production tools.

Each Middle School student has daily access to their own iPad as an organizational and personal productivity tool. Fifth and sixth grade students meet regularly in the computer lab, and all students have access to computers and other technologies. Additionally, every Middle School student and faculty member has his or her own HB email address. Courses include:

- Technology (5th and 6th grades)
- Computer Science (7th and 8th grades)

Wellness

The Middle School Wellness program is designed to help students understand and value their physical, emotional, social and intellectual well-being. Wellness classes are taken in grades 5-8.

Classes are structured to meet the specific developmental needs of students. Activities examine and anticipate developmental stages in the life of the student and recognize the need for sound problem-solving skills. Self-understanding, individuality, tolerance, community building and communication are emphasized throughout the program.

Students are encouraged to recognize that they are largely responsible for their own physical and emotional health and well-being. The curriculum provides students with accurate, up-to-date information and research about health-related topics and skills necessary to make healthy choices throughout all aspects and stages of their lives. Issues discussed include substance use and abuse, smoking, nutrition and body image, girls and the mass media, human sexuality, disease, adolescent development, friendships, peer pressure, and decision-making.
Physical Education

Physical education (grades 5-8) develops students’ individual and team sport-related skills as well as personal fitness. The program reinforces students’ understanding and application of team strategies, fitness concepts, and motor skills through a variety of movement forms. The curriculum promotes students’ personal and social responsibility, self-management skills, and ability to make informed choices in the pursuit of a physically active and healthy lifestyle. Middle School students also participate in the long-standing tradition of Brown and Gold Day competitions. These fall, winter and spring field days provide opportunities for student leadership, team building, and healthy competition.

Swimming (grades 5-7) provides each girl with lifesaving skills that include physical and emotional confidence in the water. As students begin to move through the curriculum, stroke techniques are emphasized for efficiency and endurance as well as to create the foundation for more advanced water skills. Activities such as diving, synchronized swimming, canoeing/kayaking, and water polo are part of the curriculum.

Adventure Learning (grades 5-8) offers a curriculum that fosters teamwork, communication, leadership, and risk-taking in a setting uniquely different from academics or athletics. Students are immersed in problem-solving activities and initiatives, and through reflection and processing, transfer their learning back into the classroom and other areas of life. The challenges and opportunities presented through games, and low and high elements, guide the girls in developing the necessary tools to stretch themselves physically, emotionally, socially and academically. Each girl’s cumulative experience leads to tremendous personal growth.
Extra-Curricular Offerings

ACADEMIES
Developed with a specialist in gifted education, the Academy Program transforms Middle School students from passive recipients of knowledge to self-directed and proactive inquirers. The trimester-long elective classes are interdisciplinary and exploratory in nature and emphasize critical skills in creativity, planning, researching, decision-making, organizing, and cooperative learning. Girls also develop a sense of achievement that is not dependent upon grades. Middle School girls choose from options such as backpacking, financial literacy, environmental studies, and musical theater.

EXPLORATIONS
Recognizing parents’ needs for supervised after-school support as well as students’ desires to participate in meaningful after-school activities, Hathaway Brown's Middle School offers a wide range of activities, including athletic clubs, creative programs, a Homework Room, and a recreational After-School Club, which is staffed until 6:00 p.m. Clubs reflect student interest and may change from year to year, but include topics such as manga, fencing, jewelry-making, cooking, sports clinics, and skiing.

WEST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
The WEST Fellowship Program enables seventh and eighth grade students to customize their education by conducting independent study projects. Under the guidance of in- and out-of-school mentors, WEST Fellows have written novels, created service programs, designed cookbooks, and much more. WEST Fellowships help students develop self-direction and strengthen skills in time management, research, and public speaking.

SCIENCE RESEARCH
7th and 8th grade students, especially those who wish to pursue the Science Research and Engineering Program (SREP) in the Upper School, can elect to take Science Research.

With guidance and support from Middle School science faculty, students select a topic of interest and independently research and develop a project implementing original experimentation and relevant scientific investigation. Students gain a deeper understanding of scientific processes, including concepts of variables, controls, data collection, statistics, and measurement error.

Science Research culminates at the Hathaway Brown Science and Engineering Fair in February. Students report findings, interpret results, and present data in front of judges selected from a variety of science-based fields. Students can also participate in other competitions, and each year many are selected to present their original projects at the Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair, held each spring.
Call 216.320.8767 to schedule your personal tour.