

## SAYRE CORE VALUES IN ACTION

Sayre School values students as individuals and works to foster their understanding of themselves and their roles in the larger community. Our core values of wisdom, integrity, respect, and compassion are woven throughout the school. Our efforts to promote these core values include classes, clubs, and activities to reach all students. Topics and skills are taught and practiced on a developmentally appropriate continuum centered on these themes: student mentoring, giving back to community, understanding personal and cultural differences, awareness of self, and development of social skills.

Sayre defines its core values as:

- Wisdom – knowledge of what is right combined with sound judgment
- Integrity – understanding and practice of what is honest, decent, and good
- Respect – holding self and others in high regard
- Compassion – empathy for others combined with helpful action

### Preschool and Lower School

**Kids-to-Kids Classes** – Upper School students are trained to lead and mentor younger students. Classes focus on topics that include understanding and dealing with stereotypes, discrimination and prejudice. Students work to reduce these problems in their world.

**Community Service** – Projects are designed to allow active involvement of students.

**Fund Drives** – Students participate in raising money or making other donations for the benefit of others.

**Community Matters Classes** – Life skills and experiential education classes are taught in 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The focus is on leadership, team building, problem solving and allowing the students to work cooperatively through a variety of activities. Also, the school counselor visits the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades to discuss topics such as friendship, conflict resolution, meditation/stress management, bullying prevention, and compassionate action.

**Responsive Classroom philosophy** – Teachers have been trained in this educational model which values social and emotional intelligence along with academic learning. Daily morning meetings encourage respectful, caring greetings among students and build listening and communication skills.

**Buddies** – A student mentoring system provides time for pairing children from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with Pre K-3, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with Pre K-4, 4<sup>th</sup> grade with Montessori and 5<sup>th</sup> grade with K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Teachers facilitate and supervise the children participating together in activities that build relationships.

## Middle School

**Kids-to-Kids Classes** – This program fosters greater recognition and appreciation of human diversity. Trained Upper School students lead and mentor Middle School students. Sixth graders focus on appreciating differences and demonstrating respect for others. Seventh graders learn about conflict resolution, empathy, and effective communication.

**Community Service** – Projects are organized through affinity groups according to students' interests.

**Fund Drives** – Students participate in raising money or making other donations for the benefit of others.

**Community Matters Classes** – These life skills classes are taught in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Topics include organizational skills, coping skills/stress management, social skills, puberty/sexuality issues, understanding and dealing with bullying/harassing behaviors. When called for, some classes are gender specific. Eighth grade students benefit from the intensive FCD (Freedom from Chemical Dependency) drug and alcohol education program.

**Advisories** – Students in multi-aged small groups participate in special programs and social activities to build and support community. The faculty advisor serves as an adult resource and advocate for those students.

**Student Council** – Elected students learn about leadership and civic action through their activities representing the student body.

## Upper School

**Kids-to-Kids** – Selected Upper School students are trained to mentor Lower and Middle School students. Through activities and discussion, they examine issues of respect, conflict resolution, and communication.

**Community Service** – All students are required to participate in community service. Service projects are completed in small groups, with advisories or individually depending on student interest and skill. The Philemon Society is one facet of the program which actively involves students in philanthropic efforts.

**Fund Drives** – Students lead, organize, and participate in raising money or making other donations for the benefit of others.

**Advisories** – Students in multi-aged small groups participate in special programs and social activities to build and support community. The faculty advisor serves as an adult resource and advocate for those students.

**Student Council** – Elected students learn about leadership and civic action through their activities representing the student body.

**Honor Council** – Elected students serve on the council which upholds the honor code.

**MSA - Multi-Cultural Student Association** explores and promotes cultural and ethnic differences.

**Community Matters Club** raises awareness of social issues in the Sayre, Lexington, and global communities. They serve as a resource to the student body and administration.

**GSA - Gay Straight Alliance** promotes acceptance of all individuals.

**Healthy Minds and Bodies** – Sexuality, drug, and alcohol educational programs.