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Middle School / 5-8th Grades / 2176 Lincoln Highway East / Lancaster, PA 17602 / (717) 509-4459



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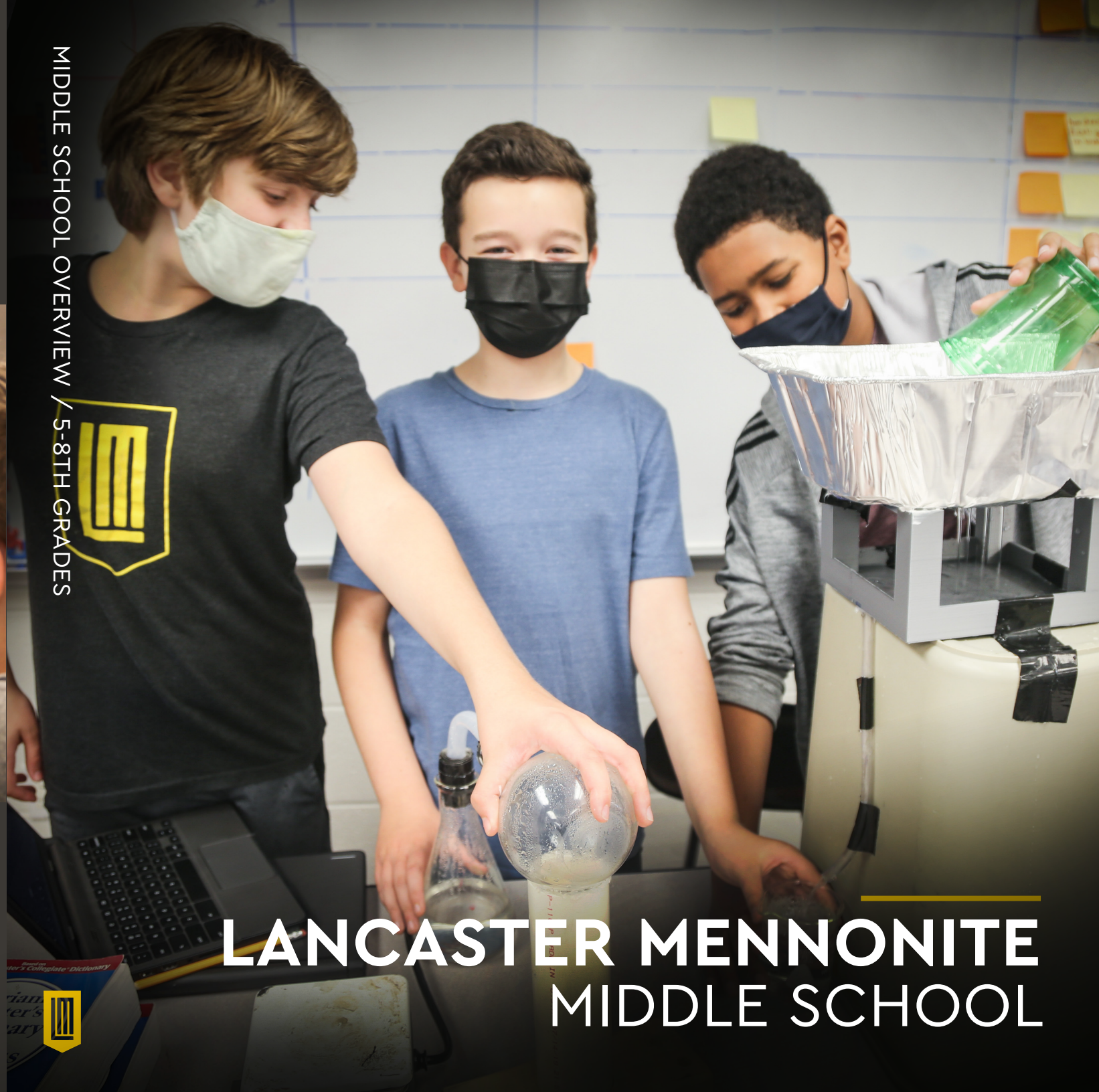


lancaftermennonite.org

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Lancaster Mennonite School admits students of any gender, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally made available to all students at the school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs and athletic or other school-administered programs.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OVERVIEW / 5-8TH GRADES



# LANCASTER MENNONITE MIDDLE SCHOOL



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## 5-8TH GRADES

### EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE & FAITH FORMATION

Lancaster Mennonite is committed to a student-centered, holistic education that helps students thrive academically at all levels of learning. Our values-based and hands-on approach infuses faith and LM’s core values into the total program, which builds a solid foundation for social and cognitive development.

Teachers authentically integrate faith into all subjects. All grades use *Encounter*, an Anabaptist faith formation curriculum, with an emphasis on a commitment to following the life and teachings of Jesus. Students are supported in their faith journeys through small groups, devotional times, and weekly chapel.

### PASSIONATE, CARING TEACHERS

Our dedicated teachers equip students to grow, and also to make a positive impact on the world. Our qualified teachers hold certifications, bachelors degrees, or masters degree. **The student-teacher relationship is at the heart of our programming** since their interactions and development of meaningful relationships helps to foster an educational climate that puts students at the center of all that we do.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

#### 5TH GRADE OVERVIEW

While 5th grade is housed with the middle school (MS) program, these classes remain self-contained. The core curriculum is a continuation of elementary programming with a focus on foundational skills to prepare for the transition to middle school.

For students in the **Spanish Immersion Program**, they'll continue to receive all content instruction in Spanish, with a daily English class that focuses on strengthening writing and spelling.

#### 6TH GRADE OVERVIEW

The 6th grade year serves as a bridge into the middle school program. The year's program is driven by two overarching semester themes. Students change classes to not only have content-specific instruction, but also to learn a variety of skills to prepare them for collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity. The year culminates in an interdisciplinary project that celebrates their learning.

#### 7-8TH GRADES OVERVIEW

The 7th and 8th grade experience is framed around a driving question, creating a focused theme each quarter. Each content area class has instruction that fits into that overarching theme and promotes project based learning in that discipline. The quarter culminates with an interdisciplinary project focused on answering that driving question and which allows for student choice in presenting their learning.

**EXAMPLE** - One quarter uses the theme of "place" and the driving question of "*What holds us together?*" Everyone has a story of place:

<i>Social Studies</i>	<i>Bible</i>	<i>Science</i>	<i>Language Arts</i>
Learn about the early formation of the U.S., a new gov't, and people seeking a new story of place.	Focus on exploring the concept of community and answering the question of " <i>Who are my neighbors?</i> "	Dive into the concept of metabolic reactions with reflection on the question of " <i>How do things inside our bodies work together to make us feel the way we do?</i> "	Read the book <i>The Giver</i> to see how a community began with good intentions but devolved into a dystopia when a common story of place was not honored.

At the end of the quarter, students work together to form their own utopian community that considers this story of place through the formation of a society and government, the creation of community, their own physical bodies, and the social issues that either create communal well-being or dismantle it.

At the end of each year, students engage with the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals. One year students focus on the business side to create a nonprofit to address one of these issues. The other year students identify one pressing issue and create a plan or invention to address the problem.

#### TECHNOLOGY & DEVICES

Our classrooms are equipped with state-of-the-art technology. Each classroom has an interactive projector and incorporate use of various online materials into lessons. Middle school students have access to Chromebooks. Students are taught about digital citizenship through a media literacy curriculum that helps them to have safe, smart interactions online.

### STEAM & DESIGN-THINKING

Our STEAM program seeks to make connections between science, technology, engineering, art and math so that students can collaborate and apply learning to real-world problems.

Our program has a specific course that walks students through the design-thinking process so that they are learning skills that can be further integrated into class projects. Students can take advantage of a design lab and project spaces. There is also a MS-specific science lab for experimenting and hands-on learning. In addition, students have the opportunity to use our 95 acre campus as an outdoor classroom, and for exploration and application of content learning.

### WORLD LANGUAGES

LM is committed to cultivating global citizens and building bridges of peace, and one of the best ways to accomplish this is through the study of other cultures and languages. All students not participating in the Spanish Immersion program have a course in 6th grade that introduces them to various global cultures and the world languages taught at LM. All 7th and 8th grade students take a full-year course of either Spanish or German.

In grades 6th-8th, **Spanish Immersion** students have two daily classes in Spanish and the rest in English. In High School, immersion students can take AP Spanish Language & Culture in a two-year cycle, with different content each year. AP Spanish Language & Literature is offered as an additional elective after this. Students that remain in the program will attain fluency.

### FINE ARTS - VISUAL ART, MUSIC & DRAMA

LM values creative expression as part of the curriculum, and provides opportunities for all students to develop and nourish creativity and a deeper understanding of God and the world through visual art, drama and music. Middle school students participate in art and music, which includes both instrumental and vocal options:

- Art instruction for grades 5-8
- Instrumental music lessons for grades 5-6
- Band and orchestra for grades 5-8
- General music and choral opportunities for grades 5-8
- Drama performances each year

### ELECTIVES

Middle school students have access to a range of activities offered during the school day and after. Various clubs: chess, Quiz Bowl, and Mathcounts are open to students. In school electives change on a regular basis, ie: photography, robotics, and yearbook.



“ We are so thankful to have our four kids at LM in an environment where they can grow academically, socially, and spiritually. They have wonderful opportunities for music and art, and have made great friends!

- Kirsten, Parent of LM students

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION & ATHLETICS

We believe that physical movement is important to the holistic wellbeing of students. Middle schoolers have **regular physical education classes as well as daily recess.**

#### Mennonite Sports Organization (MSO) -

Students in PreK-6th grade can participate in extracurricular athletics through Mennonite Sports Organization (MSO) for soccer, basketball, field hockey, softball and baseball. Learn more at: **www.mennonitesports.org.**



**L-L League Sports** - Students in grades 7-8 are eligible to participate in L-L league Jr. High level sports for:

- Basketball
- Chess (with High School)
- Cross Country
- Field Hockey
- Soccer
- Track
- Volleyball (girls only in MS)

### ACADEMIC & SUPPORT SERVICES

Our Academic Support program meets the needs of students who require a program beyond the regular classroom, enabling students with learning exceptionalities to participate in regular education classes, electives and activities. We are also provided with guidance services, as well as reading, math, and speech specialist support from the IU13.