

ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY JEJU
Raising **globally-minded individuals** through inquiry-based education:



10, Global edu-ro 304 beon-gil, Daejeong-eup, Seogwipo-si
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province 63644, Republic of Korea

Tel 064-801-1400 / Email admissions@sjajeju.kr

www.sjajeju.kr

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Cultivating Global Leaders through Inquiry-Based Learning

St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju (SJA Jeju) is an international day and boarding school for students in grades Pre-K3 through 12 in Jeju Global Education City, South Korea. Its home school is St. Johnsbury Academy, a prestigious private school in the state of Vermont that was founded in 1842.

SJA Jeju prioritizes inquiry-based learning. In keeping with the St. Johnsbury Academy philosophy of Character, Inquiry, and Community, students learn to think critically, and independently, in all areas of study.

SJA Jeju, which is committed to helping students grow into globally-minded, creative individuals with their own area of expertise, provides state-of-the-art facilities and a highly-developed, student centered education that begins with the school's Early Childhood Program (Age 3) and continues through High School (Grade 12).



Greetings



Welcome to St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju!

St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju is a NEASC accredited PreK-12 day and boarding school on the beautiful island of Jeju, South Korea. We have developed a school that mirrors the values and ethos of our home school, St. Johnsbury Academy Vermont, with its 180-year history of academic excellence and character building. Character, Inquiry, and Community are the guiding principles of our educational program and are infused in everything we do.

Academically, our approach is to provide each student with a holistic student-centered educational experience through inquiry-based learning; while preparing our students with the skills to be successful global citizens. Student-centered learning emphasizes the learner's critical role in constructing meaning from new information and prior experience. We scaffold student success through the use of collaborative inquiry-based learning where students work on and solve real-world problems. This approach culminates in our unique Capstone Intensive Learning Model in grades 5, 8, and 12. This academic framework is embedded in our curriculum and is a core tenet of our approach to teaching and learning. We also support our students to become well-rounded members of society through character education and community engagement.

St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju is a leader in learning innovation. We have built a school that values and supports students' paths to success from PreK-12. We believe that every student can be successful, and we are driven to help each student be successful. St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju is a place where anything is possible, and a place that molds and forges the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you for considering St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju.

All the best,

Mr. Corey Johnson
Head of School

We are SJA Jeju!



Building Community and Inspiring Passion

SJA Jeju's goal is to develop students who are compassionate individuals, passionate learners, and global citizens. To realize this vision, the school implements learning that is specifically tailored to each student's needs and abilities. Through its educational programs, SJA Jeju seeks to strengthen the academic skills and character of each student.



Our Missions

Character

SJA Jeju strengthens the character of its students by promoting the values of compassion, respect, responsibility, and integrity.

Inquiry

SJA Jeju fosters a love of learning by challenging its students to pursue knowledge, creativity, and intellectual self-reliance.

Community

SJA Jeju encourages students to recognize the importance of their relationships, rights, and responsibilities within the framework of the local and global community.

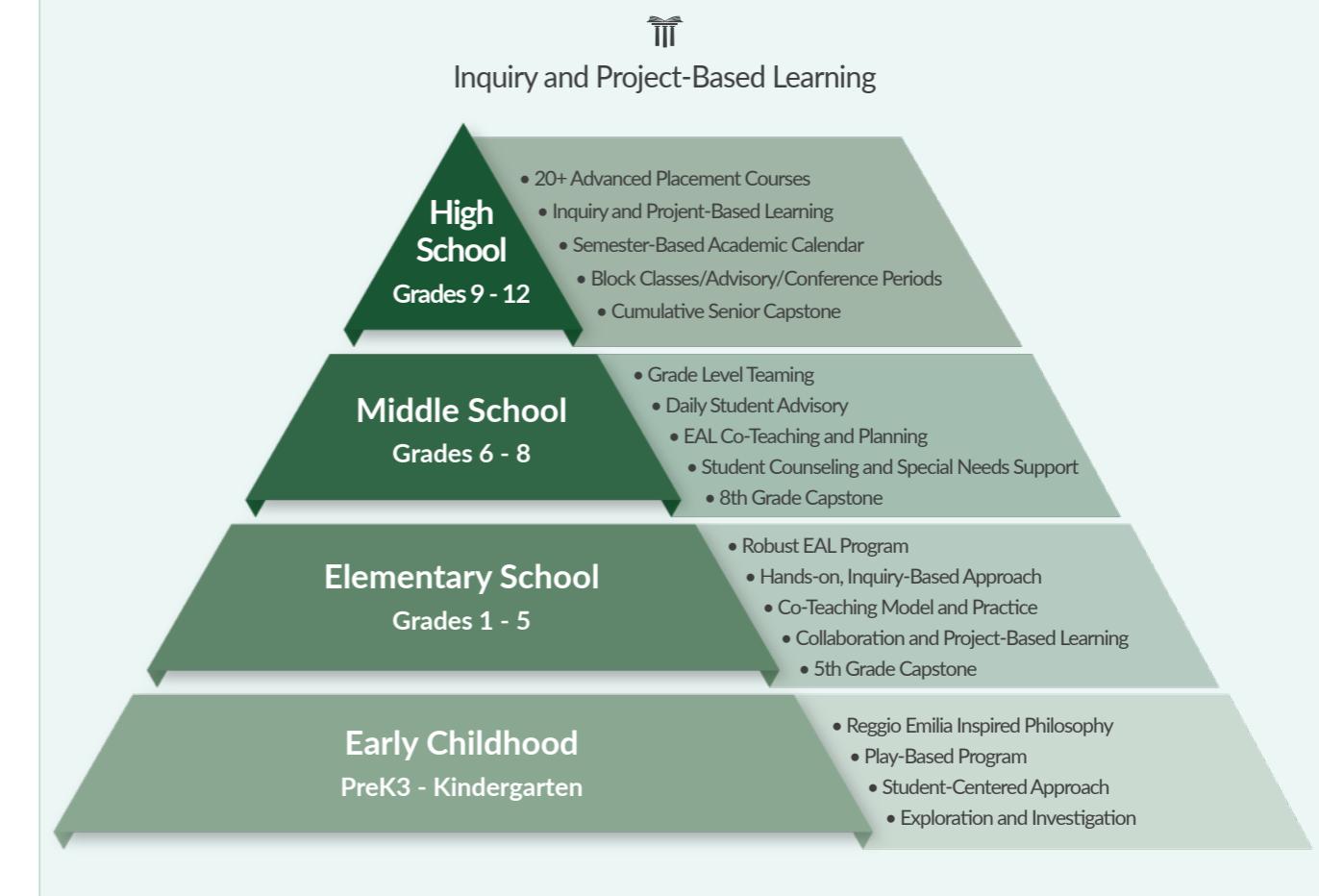


Student Centered Education that Emphasizes Inquiry and Project-Based Learning

At SJA Jeju, the core tenet of education is Inquiry and Project-Based learning, which culminates in the ultimate educational experience: the Capstone Program. Through inquiry and project-based learning, which encourages independently asking questions and finding answers, students not only hone their academic abilities but also develop their character.



Teaching and Learning



Inquiry and Project-Based Learning

SJA Jeju offers students “inquiry and project-based learning.” One important aspect of these learning is Capstone, a program conducted throughout the school’s educational levels, with major projects completed by students in each graduating grades (5, 8, and 12). This inquiry-based program is designed to show whether students have comprehensively grasped the core learning objectives of their curricula. Capstone is not a program that involves a one-time project; rather, it is designed to showcase the learning skills and abilities that students have accumulated on a daily basis over several years of study.

Student Centered, Bottom-up Education

SJA Jeju emphasizes education that is bottom-up instead of top-down. At SJA Jeju, teachers are guides in the process of student centered learning, in which students mature intellectually by independently finding solutions to problems and engaging in debates and discussions with their peers. SJA Jeju also helps students find what they are passionate about so that they can engage in activities that are meaningful to them.

Capstone supports SJA Jeju's Mission

The Capstone Program is rooted in SJA Jeju’s mission of Character, Inquiry, and Community. Through the program, students develop character by choosing an altruistic theme of study, foster their sense of inquiry by applying their critical and creative thinking skills to research, and acquire a sense of community by studying a topic related to a particular region, country, or the world.

Early Childhood Program

OVERVIEW

Cultivating a Love of Exploration through Play-Based Learning:

Pre-K3, Pre-K4 and Kinder

The Early Childhood Program (ECP) at SJA Jeju is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach, an educational philosophy that encourages children to act on their innate curiosity and associate learning with fun. In the ECP, teachers carefully observe what each child is curious about and interested in and use these observations to develop each child's abilities and potential.

Play-based learning is very important to help develop social and emotional skills for young children. They learn to solve problems, create, investigate, explore, participate in social interactions and develop conflict resolution skills. It is also important for the physical and cognitive skills they develop.

Play-based learning gives opportunities for young children to be active and engaged through social skills, language skills, and hands-on problem solving as well as purposeful play that is constructed to enhance deeper learning experiences.

The role of the teacher is to facilitate each child's ability to represent what they know and what they want to learn. This is done through helping children communicate their understanding, design new experiences, problems and challenges, facilitating discussions and social interactions, reflecting with the child on their own ideas, and developing new skills through inquiry.

Great care is also given to developing the classroom environment, which is known at SJA Jeju as "the third teacher," so that children are naturally motivated to explore, play, and learn. Each classroom includes what are called "learning stations" for unstructured play and exploration. Students can freely visit their station of choice to engage in play, which allows them to accumulate various experiences and to sharpen their creative skills. Classrooms could feature some of the following stations: creative art and writing; an Architecture Station for block activities and creative building; a Role-Playing Station for dramatic play; and a book or library area where children can read a variety of books in a comfortable environment. Each learning station or area is also stocked with materials related to math and science. The learning stations are changed as necessary so that the children can explore different areas of interest.

Being able to engage in diverse forms of play significantly enhances each child's social skills, creativity, problem-solving abilities, and intellectual capabilities. Early Childhood teachers also facilitate various types of group activities and provide opportunities for dialogue, so that the children can learn how to interact with their peers and develop healthy, close-knit relationships.



- The Reggio Emilia approach encourages students to be explorers, creators, innovators, problem solvers and inquirers through play.
- Educational "learning stations" that reflect students' interests and encourage exploration
- Educational and daily life guidance tailored to each student's unique needs
- Language Arts for balanced language arts training for linguistic development



OVERVIEW

Dreaming Big through Diverse Educational Activities:

Elementary School (Grades 1–5)

SJA Jeju's Elementary School strives to foster students who are passionate, diligent, and self-driven and seeks to help students discover and explore their own interests. Elementary students engage in self-directed learning and experience the joy of "real-world" learning through activities that link academic study to the world outside of SJA Jeju. By engaging in diverse communication and collaborative processes within an environment that prioritizes inquiry and project based learning, students gain a sense of confidence as well as leadership skills.

The Elementary School prides itself on the focus of student achievement through open communication, collaboration, problem solving, critical thinking and so much more. Our students are becoming active learners who are reflective and are beginning to gain a better understanding of the world around them.

The curriculum at SJA Jeju's Elementary School is very student-centered. It encourages students to develop the skills needed to solve diverse problems by asking questions and doing research. It also provides the foundation needed for students to start developing as globally-aware citizens. Elementary students are encouraged to learn and grow by discovering their own innate potential, as we focus on the whole child including academics, social/emotional well-being, character education, athletics, and extracurricular activities.

In order to foster students' creativity, the Elementary School operates two Science Labs and a Design Tech Lab. The Design Tech Lab helps students create a variety of projects, such as woodworking, robotics, 3D printing, block building, and handicraft projects, and immerse themselves in VR experiences. Our science Labs allow for scientific discovery, free exploration and scientific processes that promote engineering strategies and skills. Both areas allow Students to be curious, be inquirers and be explorers.

In the Elementary School, the English as an Additional Language (EAL) program has two full-time EAL teachers dedicated to every grade level 1–5. A co-teaching model is used to enhance the best learning environment for the students.

The EAL teacher co-plans with the classroom teacher and will go into the homeroom classroom to support English language learners during content-area lessons. The EAL teacher may be supporting students one-on-one, in small groups, or co-teaching the lesson or activity. The EAL teacher will model strategies and skills students will practice in all core subject areas. Prior to the lessons, the EAL teacher will co-plan with teachers and prepare scaffolded and differentiated lessons for EAL students.

This EAL Program supports English Language Learners' language development using the Immersion Model. Research shows that the Immersion Model is the most effective for successful language acquisition. Because language learning occurs through active engagement in school activities and social interactions, student needs are best met in the language-rich homeroom classes.



- Learning support to consistently develop each student's potential and aid in the educational process
- Design Tech Lab and Science Lab for building creativity and encouraging a spirit of inquiry
- After-school activities provided free of charge so that students can explore diverse areas (tech, sports, music, art, etc.)
- Capstone project for students in Grade 5: the culmination of self-directed learning

Middle School Program

OVERVIEW

Fulfilling Potential and Discovering Interests:

Middle School (Grades 6–8)

SJA Jeju provides diverse programs for the balanced intellectual, psychological, social, and emotional growth of its middle school students. In Middle School, the teachers act as mentors to the students, helping them form close, strong relationships. At this stage, education is individually-tailored and based on what students are interested and/or talented in and is designed to help students make the most of their time at SJA Jeju.

At the heart of SJA Jeju's Middle School is the Grade Level Team. Teachers of key subjects—such as Math, Science, English, and Social Studies—are grouped into teams per grade (Grades 6, 7, 8) and meet on a weekly basis to ascertain student needs and discuss how to address them. This model gives students an education that is more effective because it is specifically tailored to each student's current grade level.

Just like in ECP and the Elementary School, classes in the Middle School are conducted using an inquiry and project-based approach. Teachers use a project-based, bottom-up approach to help students take ownership of their own learning and accumulate knowledge. By actively engaging in inquiry-based learning, students gain the ability to apply what they learn in the classroom to their everyday lives as well as to think deeply, deductively, and critically.



- Intensive English language acquisition support program
- Grade Level Teams for maximizing academic skills in key subjects (Math, Science, English, and Social Studies)
- Advisory program that strengthens students' bond with the school
- Regular access to teachers after school hours for supplementing students' understanding of class content
- Practical application of SJA Jeju's educational mission and building teamwork skills: Capstone Project for Grade 8



High School Program

OVERVIEW

Growing into Fully-Functioning Individuals
Equipped with Experience and Expertise:

High School (Grades 9–12)

SJA Jeju's High School provides diverse educational programs for students to explore their different areas of interest and establish their identities. Ultimately, the high school program focuses on empowering students to lead self-directed lives upon entering university. SJA Jeju believes that the best way to ensure students' success in all areas of university life is to equip them with the ability to learn on their own. SJA Jeju's High School gives students the freedom to choose and organize their own classes and extracurricular activities in a way that allows them to explore various academic and non-academic interests.



- Block scheduling, unique to SJA Jeju, for students to develop their areas of interest and engage in in-depth learning
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) program for training creative, multi-disciplinary individuals
- AP program for the advance acquisition of university credit
- Intensive learning project for the 12th grade students: Senior Capstone
- One-semester exchange program with St. Johnsbury Academy to allow students to experience life in a different country and to expand their horizons
- Preparing for university admission (in Korea or overseas) with a trained counselor: College Counseling Program

Block scheduling allows students to quickly transition from basic to intensive learning through focused study, while after-school activities encourage students to try new things and find new areas of interest. The Advisory and Conference Program enables teachers to form close relationships with students by serving as their mentors. The Capstone Program is a program through which students develop what they've learned in previous years into an official, independent project. As they present their projects, the students are able to show themselves and the greater SJA Jeju community the fruits of their learning and labor throughout Elementary, Middle, or High School. In connection with the Capstone Program, SJA Jeju provides an exceptional education that is tailored to individual traits and needs, thus ensuring that each student has a school experience that is unique.

In addition, SJA Jeju operates an AP (Advanced Placement) program for high school students who are interested in developing an advanced understanding in one or more subjects. The AP program is overseen by the US College Board and allows certain classes taken in high school to be counted as university credit. Many major American universities recognize AP courses as regular university credits, provided that the student achieves a certain score on the content specific AP test.



SJA Jeju's High School has a well-developed College Counseling program that takes into consideration the dreams and talents of each student to help him or her find the best path to a future that is fruitful. Students who have fulfilled certain criteria are given the chance to participate in the school's student exchange program and may take classes at St. Johnsbury Academy, which is located in Vermont (USA), with students from St. Johnsbury Academy also given the opportunity to study at SJA Jeju. This type of exchange gives students a better understanding of cultures other than their own and helps them develop a global mindset.

Arts Program



Elementary School Arts

Visual Arts

SJA Jeju's Visual Arts program is closely linked to Teaching for Artistic Behavior (TAB), an art education approach that is widely used in the United States. Through this choice-based methodology, students create works of art by choosing their own themes and materials. In this program, the art classroom functions as a "studio" where all the students are artists. Students acquire visual art techniques through art projects of varying scales and are provided with different materials to explore a diverse range of genres. Through such direct and indirect experiences with art, students learn how to develop their creative ideas.

Music

Music education at SJA Jeju is based on the Orff approach, a comprehensive music education approach that incorporates dance, plays, and dialogue into music classes so that students can acquire the ability to solve problems creatively through play.

In class, students learn standard notation by playing the recorder and various percussion instruments. They also experience music from all over the world and learn about the orchestra. They use devices and computers in the classroom to compose their own songs and to find connections between music and other subject areas. Ultimately, the goal of music education at SJA Jeju is to give students a rich and comprehensive experience with wide range of music. Through music, students also acquire confidence, musical skills, and the ability to solve problems creatively.



Middle/High School Arts

Visual Arts

The Visual Arts program, which trains students to think and act like artists, teaches art techniques and provides diverse art-related experiences to foster students' abilities to solve problems creatively. Through the program, students can also choose to study a genre of digital art, such as filmmaking or graphic design. In digital art classes, students are taught art-related technologies (basic software, various techniques and processes, etc.) as a means of enhancing their creative thinking and art skills. Students participate in diverse visual arts experiences—from brainstorming processes to hosting their own art exhibition—and gain a solid understanding of the visual arts by making their own multimedia artworks.

Music

SJA Jeju's music program for the Middle and High Schools is designed to increase students' instrumental performance and vocal music skills. At SJA Jeju, students not only gain skills through ensemble classes, but also through one-on-one training. Ensemble classes consist of band, choir, and strings classes, and classes are divided into three class levels (Entry, Elementary/Intermediate, and Advanced). Students can study vocal or instrumental music in a one-on-one class, in small groups, or as part of a large ensemble.

Students in band class have the opportunity to learn a variety of brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments as well as to perform in the school's Concert Band. Choral students have the opportunity to hone their vocal skills and to perform in the Concert Choir. Strings students learn and perform in small ensembles and develop a group synergy that leads to a deepening of their musicality. Students also participate in local and regional music festivals with other schools, and are given additional performance opportunities throughout the year to showcase their development and talents.



Drama

SJA Jeju's drama program focuses on developing the whole person through the exploration of physical movement, imaginative and intellectual thinking, emotions, aesthetic integration, and social collaboration. The program also helps students apply the knowledge and experiences gained in class to other areas—such as business, law, social sciences, and politics—and provides motivation to students who are interested in pursuing the arts after graduation.

One of the core objectives of SJA Jeju's drama program is to help students develop a positive self-concept and to learn how to interact with the world. Students have the opportunity to foster their drama skills in the classroom by developing scene studies, creating original performances, and exploring a range of theatrical styles and elements. Through this program, students not only give performances for their class but also for the local community. These unique experiences help students strengthen their drama skills and learn how to communicate, empathize, and work well with others.

Annual Festival of the Arts

The Annual Festival of the Arts celebrates students' and teachers' love of the visual and performing arts. The festival runs in conjunction with the Artists in Residence (AiR) program, which invites world-class artists from multiple disciplines to SJA Jeju to work with students on various on-campus projects. As they participate in the festival, students and teachers at SJA Jeju engage in innovative and original activities that promote teamwork and foster a sense of community.

The Performing Arts Center

The Performing Arts Center (PAC) is a hub of knowledge and the arts at SJA Jeju. The PAC consists of: a library, a center of culture, information, and knowledge; a cafeteria, which maintains strict hygiene standards and provides students with safe, healthy food; and various facilities, such as a theater, Drama Room, and Band Room, to support school events, extracurricular performances, and other artistic endeavors.

Athletics



Athletics Program

At SJA Jeju, sports are considered an extension of classroom learning and provide key, dynamic opportunities for students to learn, grow, and develop. Modeled after American education, which emphasizes sports and student preferences, the athletics program at SJA Jeju encourages students to choose a sport and provides them with opportunities to play in matches against neighboring schools. SJA Jeju strives to teach students as many sports as possible. Currently, students can choose from basketball, volleyball, soccer, track and field, cross country, swimming, golf, tennis, table tennis, or badminton. Other sports will also soon be available. SJA Jeju's athletics program emphasizes teamwork, self-control, enjoyment, and responsibility, and respect for all teammates, coaches, and competing teams.

Field House

The first floor of the Field House consists of the Medical Center, swimming pool, fitness center, Yoga and dance studio. On the second floor is the gym. There is a world class eight-lane rubberized track as well as soccer fields, soccer cage, bouldering wall, tennis and basketball courts.

The Medical Center, which offers various means of keeping students safe and healthy, and the school's various sporting facilities are all housed in clean, state-of-the-art buildings so that students can exercise in optimal comfort. The activities offered through the Field House add an extra burst of energy to daily life at SJA Jeju.



Campus Life & Services



Evening Study Halls and Study Rooms

Students can do homework either individually or in small groups at one of the many study spaces available in the dormitory or libraries. The dormitory operates regular study hours on weekdays and weekends as well as the Evening Study program, which is a block of time set aside every day from Sunday through Thursday so that students can do homework or write papers in the library under teacher supervision. During Evening Study, students can ask teachers questions about their homework and receive immediate feedback. Teachers are scheduled on a rotating basis, which means that students can receive help on all their subjects throughout the week. Dormitory proctors also regularly communicate with teachers so that the teachers know how students are doing academically and whether they are completing their homework. If any student is consistently unable to complete his or her homework for a certain subject, the proctor will work with the teacher of that subject to help the student.

Weekend Activities

Various activities—such as barbecue parties, picnics, and field trips (etc.)—are held every weekend for dormitory students on or off campus to meet students' non-academic needs.



Counseling Services

There are five counselors (EAP/Elementary: 2, Middle/High School: 3) at SJA Jeju with diverse professional backgrounds who are available to provide students with counseling on personal issues, university admission, careers, or anything else they may need. Counselors at SJA Jeju help students maintain their psychological stability, grow emotionally, and build character.

Medical Center

The Medical Center is a responsible, reliable provider that ensures the health and safety of students. It is the first line of care for the SJA Jeju community and assists with injuries, such as those that may occur at the gym. The Medical Center is staffed by four experienced nurses who can respond quickly in the event of an emergency and is operated on a 24 hour-basis, seven days a week.

The Cafeteria

SJA Jeju promotes students' healthy lifestyles by providing clean and safe foods in a state-of-the-art facility. At the SJA Jeju Cafeteria, students are served the finest-quality foods every day by a team of nutritionists who select fresh ingredients and design meal plans that are both healthy and enjoyable as part of their careful management of students' daily nutrition. Menu options and other food-related information are available in real-time through a mobile phone app, making it easy for parents to closely monitor the quality of SJA Jeju's dining services.

The Library

SJA Jeju's Secondary Library is packed with books representing a wide range of genres—guaranteeing that there is something for every interest. The library at SJA Jeju not only serves the functions of a traditional library but also offers spaces for students to study or meet in small groups to work on projects or hold group study sessions. In addition to the physical space, online resources ensure access to quality information at any time of the day.

SJA Jeju has an Elementary Library for grades Pre-K through Grade 5. Our library is very well resourced with over 15,000 books, from a wide variety of genres, to support all levels of reading and intellectual exploration. The library is a valuable resource, offering both traditional and electronic resources. Every class visits the library weekly and students use the library to find books for projects and recreational reading. Our mission is to instill a love of reading and lifelong learning in all our students. Students can be found in the library reading, researching, and interacting with other students during instructional opportunities as well as on their own time.

Campus Map

