



Washington  
Global

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

# Curriculum Guide

2023-2024





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# Welcome to Washington Global!

We are so excited that you are exploring Washington Global as a middle school option for your scholar! Washington Global is a 2023 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School. It is a small, tight-knit community where students receive personalized learning opportunities. We believe in connecting each student's experience to the real world through the exploration of world cultures, service learning, and technology instruction. We are excited about how our school has evolved to meet the needs of our students over the past nine years, while still remaining a small learning community. We hope that this Curriculum Guide provides you with helpful information about Washington Global's academic programs!

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Torres, Ed.. D.*

Elizabeth Torres, Ed.D.







# Mission Statement

Washington Global Public Charter School (Washington Global) is a community school open to all middle school students in Washington, DC. It utilizes a rigorous, internationally based academic and cultural curriculum, which integrates project-based learning, service learning, technology, and language acquisition to develop enterprising and competitive global citizens.

# Program Overview

Washington Global Public Charter School was founded in 2014 and opened its doors in August 2015. The school was named a 2023 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School and received the 2022 EmpowerK12 Bold Performance Schools Award. These awards recognize Washington Global's outstanding academic achievement. Washington Global is a small learning community, serving approximately 240 students in grades 6-8. The school offers a unique international curriculum, which includes the International Middle Years Curriculum (IMYC) and foreign languages. Washington Global also implements a rigorous curriculum that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), in order to prepare students for high school and beyond. To ensure that students are engaged in the community around them, the school offers service learning opportunities for students and forges a variety of community partnerships that align with the school's mission.

Washington Global strives to provide an individualized academic experience for all of its students. The school offers small class sizes and a 9:1 student/teacher ratio. Additionally, Washington Global understands that all students learn at different paces. To meet the needs of our students, we offer reading and mathematics intervention classes, special education classes, and accelerated honors classes.



# Curriculum

Washington Global's curriculum was designed with the goal of fulfilling the school's mission: meeting the needs of all of its learners and developing competitive global citizens who are ready for high school, college, and careers.

Washington Global developed its curriculum to align with its mission. Specifically, the school offers programs aligned to the common core state standards (CCSS) in mathematics and ELA, the DC State Standards in physical education (PE) and social studies, and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) in science. To meet its mission of providing an internationally based academic experience, the school also offers the International Middle Years Curriculum's (IMYC) guiding international themes in its Global Citizenship course, service learning with international themes, and robust foreign language programs aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).



# English Language Arts (ELA)

For English Language Arts (ELA), Washington Global aligns its curriculum framework with the national Common Core Standards (CCSS). The common core ELA standards are rigorous standards that prepare students to be college and career ready in the following six key areas:

- Reading – Literature
- Reading - Informational Text
- Reading - Foundational Skills
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening
- Language



The rigorous ELA standards provide a framework that supports students in building foundational literacy and critical thinking skills and learning how to make important connections between texts. By targeting key reading skills, the standards directly address the academic skill gaps that a significant percentage of students possess. Moreover, these standards provide a platform for students to hone their other communications skills, including writing, speaking and listening, and language, which are critically important for successful college and career readiness.

Washington Global utilizes *EL Education* (EL), a CCSS-aligned curriculum. EL is designed to give every child the chance to succeed through inclusive and individualized opportunities by providing ample differentiation. EL builds upon the sciences of reading, learning, and development to allow for students from diverse backgrounds to achieve equitable outcomes through studying grade-level texts by diverse authors. EL promotes scholarship, critical thinking, and compassion and encourages students to connect the knowledge they learn in school to making an impact in their community. Students engage in interesting, relevant work while also refining their reading and writing skills. In addition to quarterly Achievement Network (ANET) assessments, this curriculum is particularly effective in preparing students for the PARCC assessment.

In addition to instruction within their grade level English/Language Arts class, students at Washington Global receive blended-learning ELA instruction at least 45 minutes per week in ELA Lab. I-Ready is a research-based intervention program that identifies students' skill gaps and then provides students with skills-based remediation through personalized lessons.



# Mathematics

Washington Global has worked with experts in the field to ensure that its math program is engaging, student-centered, and includes effective use of technology. Washington Global is committed to guiding students to mastery of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for both mathematical practice and content. These standards prescribe levels of expertise that students must demonstrate at each grade level in order to be prepared for postsecondary education. Topics include: ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, functions, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics. Washington Global's mathematics curriculum was developed using these standards as well as lessons and pacing support provided by the Engage NY Math curriculum. Students begin the year with ratios and proportions, and end the year with statistics and geometry. The Engage NY Math program also supports teachers in promoting higher-order thinking and challenges students to apply new skills to complex problems. Between Engage NY and the CCSS, students are provided with many opportunities to model their thinking, construct reasonable arguments, justify their answers, and persevere in problem solving. Washington Global's mathematics program ensures that students are prepared for high school and beyond.

The technology focus and structure of Washington Global's mathematics program ensures that all students make significant academic growth. At Washington Global, students engage in a station rotation mathematics model. With two teachers in most mathematics classes, students rotate through three math stations: 1) a teacher-led, direct instruction station, 2) a blended learning station using i-Ready (a research-based math intervention program), and 3) a practice station with a second mathematics teacher. This model allows students to stay engaged and learning. Washington Global's students have made some of the highest academic gains in mathematics in the entire city.





# Science

Students at Washington Global participate in a wide-ranging science program that incorporates lessons in scientific thinking and inquiry, science and technology, earth science, biology, ecology, and physics. Given Washington Global's strong focus on education for global leadership, particular emphasis is given to the interconnectedness of science, technology, engineering, and math to prepare students to compete in a global economy. Washington Global also devotes significant efforts towards encouraging students to use scientific knowledge to improve their local community.

Washington Global's science program is based on the *Amplify Science* curriculum. Since 2015, students have worked through disciplinary core ideas in physical, life, and earth science to prepare for the D.C. Science assessment that is administered at the end of the students' 8th grade year. Washington Global adopted *Amplify Science* in 2022 to enhance its science program. *Amplify Science* blends hands-on investigations, literacy-rich activities, and interactive data tools, so students are empowered to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers. With the help of *Amplify Science*, Washington Global students have covered different grade-level standards throughout their three years at Washington Global by developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, and analyzing and interpreting data.



# Social Studies

Washington Global's social studies curriculum allows students to explore their local community, as well as diverse cultures and countries around the world. Washington Global emphasizes a learning experience that values diversity, which creates a safe space for students to explore and grow academically.

In 6th grade, students study geography. The 6th grade geography curriculum is an exploration of the world around us. Students are exposed to different cultures, continents, and ways of living with the environment. They explore geographic issues such as global warming and fair trade. The 7th grade curriculum starts with early humans, and guides students through the development of civilization, religion, and government, ending with the fall of Ancient Rome. The 8th grade curriculum consists of a broad study of U.S. history, from the Revolutionary War through pivotal events in the 20th Century, including the Civil Rights Movement. In each of these courses, there is a focus on considering historical or cultural events from different perspectives. Students are tasked with not only understanding the who, what, where, when, and why, but also being able to put themselves in someone else's shoes.

Washington Global's location near the National Mall and the Smithsonian Museums enables the school's social studies teachers to take students on frequent field trips to learn about the concepts that they are engaging with in the classroom. This ensures that learning comes alive for Washington Global's students!





# Global Citizenship

Washington Global’s Global Citizenship course is a unique international course with the goal of increasing students’ awareness of community and global diversity. Global Citizenship is aligned to the International Middle Years Curriculum (IMYC), an international curriculum used at top schools around the world. The curriculum integrates findings from neuroscience and cognitive psychology to offer an interactive, stimulating, project-based curriculum that is delivered through targeted thematic units. The IMYC utilizes components of project-based learning, technology skills, international and cultural awareness, and meaningful themes in order to provide a rigorous and diverse academic experience for Washington Global’s students.

During the course of their three years at Washington Global, all students participate in at least one Global Citizenship class. Students explore IMYC themes related to their grade level so that they can learn more about themselves and the world around them. The 6th grade themes are adaptability, balance, collaboration, and creativity. The 7th grade themes are resilience, communication, courage, and curiosity. The 8th grade focuses on challenge, identity, development, and responsibility. IMYC themes followed within the school’s Global Citizenship course are often woven into other programmatic aspects. Students reflect on their responsibilities in the school community, the greater D.C. community, and the global community.



# Physical Education & Health

Washington Global's Physical Education program focuses on developing students' wellness and teaching students new athletic skills. Each quarter students are challenged to learn new capabilities, analyze their own physical health and well-being, and make daily changes to become healthier individuals. Through physical education, students also learn how to work together to achieve a common goal and understand the importance of rules and team leadership. Students participate in a variety of athletics in the school's multi-purpose room, physical education space, and at fields located within a close proximity of the school.

# Foreign Language Courses

Washington Global offers one of the most comprehensive foreign language programs of any middle school in DC. At Washington Global, all students study Spanish. Washington Global uses the internationally recognized Cervantes Institute SantillanaUSA curriculum that aligns with standards from the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This structure allows for a rigorous focus on one subject and a deeper study of Spanish speaking cultures, while preparing students for more challenging high school language courses. All students, regardless of whether they have had prior exposure to Spanish, thrive in this program. The teachers make the concepts come alive through frequent field trips to the school's partner Embassies and museums in the area.

Washington Global is also the only middle school in DC to offer Korean language. Through a partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Washington Global offers a Korean course during the school day. Through this opportunity, students learn Korean language, culture, and history. For example, each year, the students celebrate Korean Thanksgiving and are made familiar with other Korean traditions. This affords a group of interested students the opportunity to study two foreign languages to expand their foreign language skills and cultural awareness.





# Service Learning

Washington Global is committed to developing passionate learners who connect the concepts that they learn in school to make a difference in their community and the world around them. All students at Washington Global engage in at least one service learning project each year, which fosters their connection to real-world learning and commitment to social responsibility. Service learning at Washington Global is completely student-driven. The students choose projects that are meaningful to them and that make an impact on the school, on the greater community, or in other countries.

Washington Global's students have developed a variety of diverse and meaningful service learning projects. Past service learning projects include:

- Organizing a Peace Walk to promote peace throughout the District
- Partnering with a school in Cambodia to collect resources for Cambodian students
- Collecting resources for local homeless shelters and creating an ongoing partnership to support unhoused individuals
- Developing community mental health resources to help teens during the COVID-19 pandemic



## High School Placement

All 8th graders at Washington Global take a high school placement class, which prepares students for the high school application process. Within this class, students research local public, charter, and private high schools to find the school that fits them best. High Schools that Washington Global students attend include:

- Archbishop Carroll High School
- Benjamin Banneker High School
- Duke Ellington School of the Arts
- DeMatha Catholic High School
- Thurgood Marshall High School

## Intervention Programs & Support

Washington Global understands that all students learn differently and that some students need extra support. The school offers students the opportunity to improve their math and reading skills through the use of a variety of research-based intervention programs and by receiving extra support from an intervention or special education teacher. This individualized support ensures that all students develop the skills that they need to be successful in high school and beyond.



# Instructional Approach

Washington Global integrates a variety of highly effective instructional methods into its classrooms to ensure that its students are engaged and receiving high-quality instruction that meets their academic needs. Washington Global's instructional methods include:

- **Project-based Learning (PBL):** Within all of Washington Global's classes, students engage in project-based learning. Project-based learning ensures that students are provided with opportunities for cooperative learning and inquiry-based learning. PBL is an important instructional method because it fosters critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, communication, and presentation skills. For example, students participate in frequent labs and experiments in their science classes, which allows them to work together to solve problems.
- **Individualized Intervention:** To meet the learning needs of all students, students engage in a variety of research-based academic intervention programs to ensure that students are receiving intensive academic intervention.



## Afterschool Programming

Washington Global's program also offers a variety of after school activities. Free evening and after school tutoring, as well as extracurricular programs and evening programs for parents and families set Global's student experience apart from other DC schools. Free after care and free sports, including flag football, basketball, cheerleading, and soccer give students an opportunity to exercise and build camaraderie. Clubs, such as chess, journalism, theater and drama, anime, music, and yearbook give students an opportunity to explore their passions and hone their creativity.



## Summer Programming

Washington Global offers free summer programming each summer to all students. Students have the option of participating in STEM, foreign language, and youth leadership programming provided by partner organization In a Perfect World. During these programs, students take frequent field trips in the DC area. These field trips include the Smithsonian National Zoological Park, the Anacostia River, a variety of museums, visits to the movie theater, and roller-skating, as well as Amusement Park trips. Summer school is also offered.







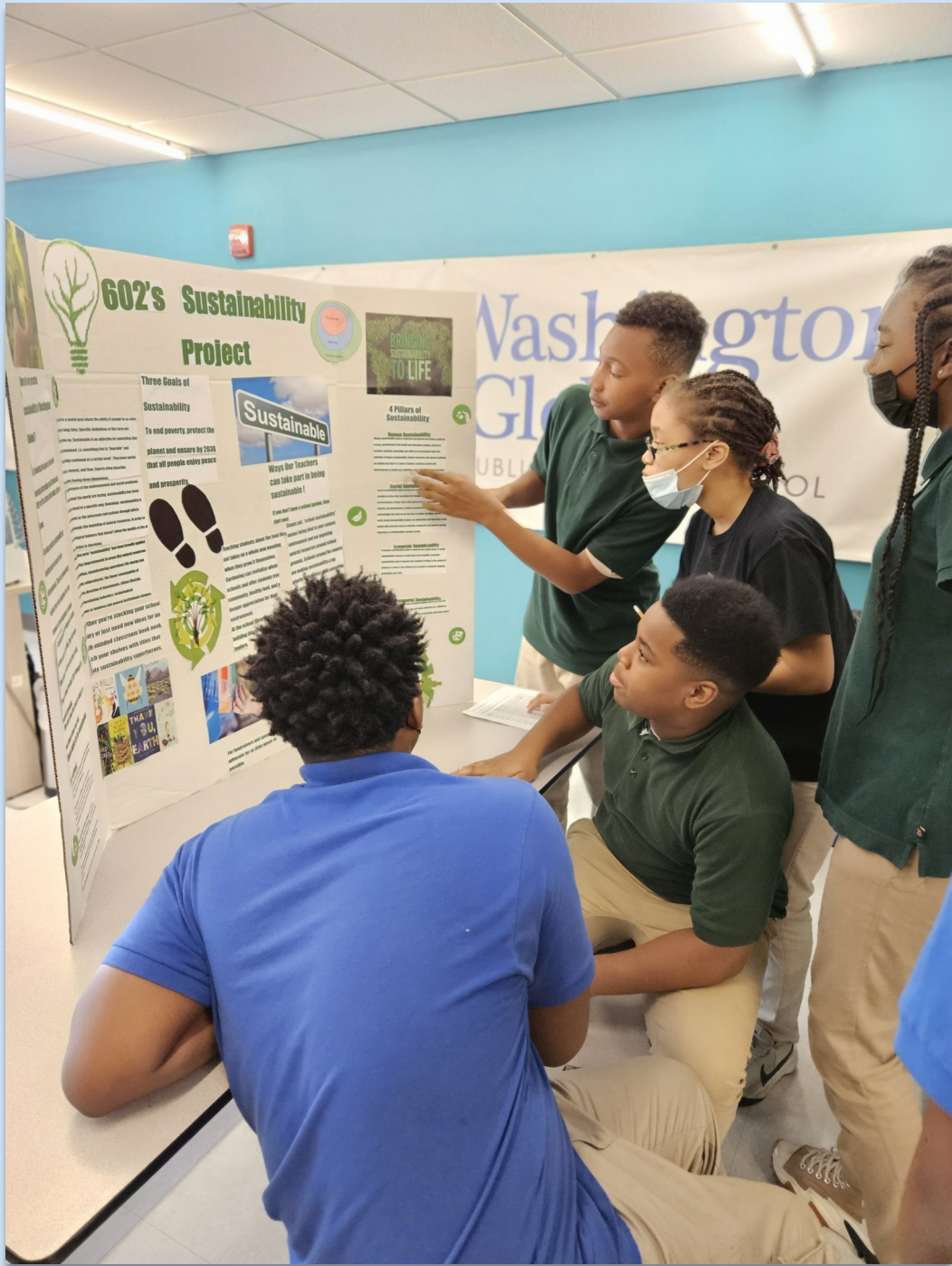
# Parent Involvement

Washington Global believes that parent and family involvement is vital to the growth of its students and its vision of the school. Therefore, Washington Global incorporates a community school component into its mission to ensure that parents and families, and other members of the community are heavily involved in the school. Parent and family events include:

- Back to School Night
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Parent and Family Town Hall Meetings
- Breakfast With The Principal
- Family Wellness Nights
- Family Holiday Celebrations
- Academic Information Sessions

In addition to hosting multiple parent events, Washington Global sends home a weekly newsletter to parents via email and hard copy to ensure that parents are aware of the school's happenings.





# Celebrate WOLFPACK Pride With Washington Global!





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