

## **Curriculum**

Summit's teachers are dedicated to the growth and achievement of their students. They work hard and demand as much or more of themselves as they do of their students. They all teach in their areas of expertise. Summit has developed curriculum standards with the help of nationally renowned consultants, and continues to refine curriculum each year. Courses are aligned to conform to these standards, which meet or exceed every state and district standard. In addition, Summit's standards have clear, understandable benchmarks. Parents know what their children will learn and when they will learn it.

Why has Summit demonstrated such high levels of achievement, in all areas, year after year? First, Summit's curriculum attracts students who need or want academic challenge and are willing to work hard. Second, through individual attention, Summit aims to provide more than one year of academic growth for every year students are enrolled. There are formal and informal programs in place to provide support to students to ensure their success at Summit.

### **Core Subjects**

Accurate placement in core subject classes is a high priority at Summit. Students may take advanced classes in some subjects and more foundational classes in other subjects. Students are placed in mixed-age classes according to interest, motivation, ability, developmental level, and mastery of previous material. If a core class turns out to be inappropriate, placement is changed.

Summit's curriculum is coordinated to ensure high standards and continuity from level to level. Students at Summit take five core courses every semester: English, math, science, social studies, and world language (Spanish, French, or German). Core subjects have an average class size of 20 students.

Seven levels of math are offered, from Pre-Algebra through Proof Geometry and Intro to Higher Math, in sequences designed to meet each student's needs and abilities. Four levels of English are offered; all include instruction and practice in essay writing, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and the reading and analysis of classic literature. The typical middle school science curriculum is covered in two years at Summit, with two choices for more advanced science in eighth grade. Most students will leave Summit ready to enter Level III world language in high school.

### **Electives**

Students take different combinations of physical education, health, and electives each semester. Electives include exciting topics in art, music, science, liberal arts, and technology. Most electives meet every other day. Summit has a strong music program that emphasizes both vocal and instrumental ensembles. Art offerings include painting, sculpture, drawing, cartooning, and ceramics. In addition, a study hall class is offered every period.