



OUR MISSION

Delphi Academy's mission is to give your child a strong educational foundation to reach their full potential.

What does this mission mean in practice?

In a lively educational environment, a Delphi student is given highly personal attention from instructors, an individualized academic program and a focus on demonstrated competence rather than time spent in class or memorization of facts. As part of a student body that takes a highly active role in all school activities, each will learn his or her own lessons about responsibility, integrity, and leadership. All of these ingredients come together to make a rich and rewarding launch into higher education and life in general.

For both younger and older students, Delphi might be considered quite a challenge, but a great deal of fun can be had amidst hard work and honest camaraderie. When this is combined with the practice of learning to think for oneself and becoming fully responsible for one's own successes and failures, the stage is set for an extraordinary educational experience.

Educational Cornerstones

We believe that an individual should find within his or her education the means to achieve the following cornerstones of life, which are all focal points of the Delphi program:

- A high level of literacy and basic skills
- Ability to study independently and to continually further one's education
- A practical understanding of academic subjects and their relevance to living an effective life
- A strong sense of personal integrity and ethics
- Self-discipline and increased responsibility for one's own life
- A strong grounding in logic and data evaluation
- A useful understanding of one's give-and-take with others and with one's environment
- Leadership and communication skills



To Students: Some Basic Viewpoints

Becoming a part of the Delphi community will offer you many opportunities. Not only can you expect to get a rich academic education, but you will find your potential getting stretched, growing, and getting stretched some more. You will gain friends that may last your lifetime. You will probably do things you never thought you could. Most importantly, you will be part of a lively, fun-loving, and purposeful group with the common goal of getting the best education possible. Here are a few things you should know about Delphi and how such a positive environment gets created—it has a lot to do with you.

Goals: Having a Reason for Your Studies

One of the things you will experience at Delphi is the importance of having a purpose for your study of any particular subject. Such a purpose makes it possible for you to evaluate the data you encounter and its usefulness to you. Studying “because you have to” or “because it is there” will lead to a lot of wasted time and useless (or unused) data.

Hard Work

You will have a lot to do, and we expect you to work hard at it. You should expect to receive a lot of help, but help will be most useful if you are working hard in the first place.

We can all “moan and groan” when a tremendous effort is required, but the pride in creating something or achieving a new ability makes the difficulty fade into the background when we’re done.

Expect to really “roll up your sleeves” at Delphi, and expect to be well rewarded

Integrity and Open Communication

You will hear a lot about integrity while you are at Delphi - it's something we value highly. Integrity means honesty, being who you are, not pretending, having courage to speak and act according to what you believe is right.

For example, if you don't understand something or disagree with something, or if you are having trouble in an area and need some help, communicate about it to a faculty member. This always leads to an improvement in the situation, but moreover, it gives you an opportunity to learn more about handling difficult communication situations, a skill that will likely become one of your major assets in life.



Exchange

Exchange means doing something for someone or giving back something to someone in return. In all parts of your life, it is important to keep your exchange with others well balanced. Giving too much to someone without letting them do anything to give back can cause a problem. There are many ways to contribute to your family, community school and others in your life in order to help balance out what you receive from them. For example your participation in school projects, clubs, student service and fund raisers help you give back to the school. Other examples may include helping younger students feel at home in the school or learn to read.

One important area of exchange in your life is with your parents. In addition to all they provide for you generally, they are usually the ones who have made it possible for you to attend Delphi. We expect you to talk with your parents about ways you can exchange with them. In addition to your hard work and good progress in school, doing extra jobs around the house or helping with siblings are just some of the ways you can exchange with your parents.

The importance of keeping one's exchange balanced can easily be overlooked.

When it appears that problems in this area may be contributing to your difficulties as a student, expect faculty to help you look at how you can improve your exchange with others. Having your exchange well balanced in all areas will help to ensure you do well in school and in life.



To Parents: Your Participation

When you enroll your child in Delphi Academy, you have embarked on more than just a new educational experience with your son or daughter. In this close-knit, family-oriented community, we end up developing strong bonds with our students, and their families. Your active participation with the school is more than important, we view it as *essential*.

You will notice throughout our program, we place a strong emphasis on students having goals- a purpose for their studies. Without it, we find that they can easily lose interest in their education and tend to push off the responsibility for how they are doing in life to others.

When learning and studying are perceived to have value, it is generally because the student has begun to take it *personally* - begun to connect education with the future and goals and purposes.

Communication about Academic Progress

Each student works on an academic program specifically designed for him or her. Academic progress is then measured against completion of stages of that program and will be reflected in your child's progress reports each semester. Because each student is seen as an individual, sometimes parents want additional information to help them understand the whole picture. Whatever your questions may be concerning your child's academic progress and program, you should feel free to email your child's teacher and set up an appointment at any point in the year. It is expected that each family attends a Parent/teacher conference at the beginning of each school year. We also find it helpful for you to meet with your child's teacher when your son or daughter's program is completed.

Forms vs. Grades

The Forms structure was designed to focus on individualizing the educational approach, ensuring optimal progress for each student. The Delphi program does not run on a year-to-year, grade level basis. Instead, each student moves through the program at his or her own optimum pace.

Forms provide specific goals and an individualized road. Each student has the ability to take more time when needed and move faster whenever possible. The Forms structure is not designed to match grade levels or their content. Subjects are often sequenced differently and thus covered at different levels in comparison to a traditional school system. Each student is looked at individually when deciding what program and classroom placement will suit them best.



Progress Reports

Teachers issue regular progress reports to parents throughout the school year, which help to keep parents abreast of their child's advancement throughout the program. Any concerns to progress are noted and, when necessary, parents are brought into the process to ensure the student maintains smooth forward headway. While the school does not issue grades, please note that a translation of the student's progress into grades can be made should another school request them.

School Cancellations and Emergencies

In the event of school closing, the media will be notified by 6:00am. The closing is then expected to be broadcast shortly thereafter. School cancellation will be broadcast on TV channels 4,5,7 and Fox 25 and on radio stations WBZ, WRKO, and WCVB. In the event of a school cancellation or an emergency on campus, an automated text message will be sent to parent.

Home and School Communications

Parent/Guardian -Teacher Conferences: A parent-teacher conference is held early in the school year and then again when your child finishes a program. At that time, the child's progress is discussed. Additional conferences, in person and on the phone, may be requested by parents or teacher at any time throughout the school year and arranged at a mutually convenient time. We encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns regarding his/her program.

Celebrations

Although we fully understand the joy that celebrations can bring for a child, celebrations (including birthdays) are typically disruptive to the educational process. We ask that celebrations of special events be limited to a treat being provided at last snack (2:45) for the class to enjoy. Birthday parties being held at school are not allowed.

Student Absences and Excuses

Regular and punctual school attendance is mandatory and essential for success in school. Therefore, students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons:

- * Illness or quarantine
- * Bereavement or serious family illness
- * Weather so inclement as to endanger the safety of a child
- * Observance of major religious holidays

A child may be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the classroom teacher. A student's understanding of the importance of day to day school work is an important factor in the shaping of the student's character. Parents can help their children by refusing to allow them to miss school needlessly. Accordingly, parents will provide a written explanation for the absence and tardiness of a child. This will be required in advance for types of absences where advance notice is possible.

Make-up work for classes that are missed must be made up within the timelines arranged with the teacher. Parents may request work from the teacher if your child will be absent three (3) or more consecutive days from school. Otherwise, the student should collect missing work upon return.





Homework and Reading Policy

Homework and reading policies are grounded in the belief that regular, meaningful homework assignments and reading are necessary for student learning and can provide extra time for learning. Homework should build on classroom work and should include practical suggestions for family activities that support student learning.

Not only do homework assignments keep a student advancing in their program nicely, but it is often a chance for parents to become more involved in their child's educational process.

In the Lower School, reviewing word cards with parents is an important aspect of the reading program. Word cards will usually be sent home for practice each night. To explain how the word card procedure works there are instructions on how to do this that will be given to the parents at the beginning of the school year.

In Forms 1 and 2, homework will typically consist of reading each night and should be picked up from the parent envelope inside the classroom at the end of each day.

Elementary and Middle School students are responsible for meeting their daily targets each day. If they do not meet these targets during their class periods, they are expected to do so for homework. Students in Elementary and Middle School are encouraged to read each night. If there are additional areas the student needs to work on the teacher will communicate this to the student. The students are responsible for being in communication with their teachers regarding what is expected each night.

For math levels 3 and higher, homework can be expected each night.

School Guidelines and Rules

Discipline in Delphi Academy is aimed at teaching students to be responsible for their actions, to work cooperatively with others, and to focus on their studies.

The Code of Conduct is a system designed with the goal of limiting a long-term suspension of a student before other less serious consequences have been considered. The administration will exercise discretion in determining disciplinary consequences. When determining penalty or suspension, the appropriate administrator may consider all the relevant facts, including but not limited to:

- previous disciplinary reports
- severity of the disruption to the educational process of the student and fellow students
- degree of danger to oneself or others
- whether there are alternative consequences that could reengage the student
- the students willingness to change the inappropriate behavior

The following are violations of the agreements listed by “Categories” or gradients of violation and the resulting action taken in each circumstance.

Category 1 Violations

- Disturbing a classroom
- Misconduct
- Being discourteous to faculty or staff
- Discussing an examination with another student
- Falsely attesting to steps done on a study guide
- Harassing another student
- Physically harming another student
- Leaving class without permission
- Threatening another person physically
- Abuse, loss or damage of school material
- Using another students’ property without permission
- Neglect of academic responsibilities (ex. falling 10 days behind target overall or failure to complete reading, seminar or other homework assignments)
- Refusing to talk to a staff member about study difficulties or ethics situations
- Damaging another person’s property



Category 1 offenses are often addressed by the student's teacher. The student may be asked to look at their behavior and sign a promise of good behavior for a specified time. The student may be asked to make up the damages done by a contribution of time, effort or work. The student may be asked to look at agreements made with his/her family and school, and repair them.

Category 2 Violations

- Lying
- Cheating
- Falsifying a communication from faculty, staff or parents
- Plagiarism
- Fighting
- Seeking to shift the blame to another for the consequences of one's own actions
- Serious neglects of academic responsibilities (ex. falling 20 days behind overall target and repeated failure to complete reading homework and other assignments)
- Any disruptive act that disrupts the school as a whole
- Illegally taking or possessing school property
- Falsely attesting to the completion of a course
- Failure to keep secure a Form Examination
- Creating false reports about another student
- Destruction of property
- Stealing

Category 2 offenses may be addressed by the convening of a Disciplinary Meeting which could result in suspension (on or off campus) or dismissal if it clearly warrants it. The student may be asked to work with the Dean of Students on a program intended to raise their level of responsibility or honesty. If Category 2 offenses are repeated they can be categorized as Category 3 offenses.

Category 3 Violations

- Illegal use of drugs, alcohol or vapes of any kind
- Possession of drugs, alcohol or vapes of any kind
- Lying during a Disciplinary Meeting

Category 3 offenses are addressed at a Disciplinary Meeting and dismissal is likely. Unsafe and/or inappropriate behavior or behavior that prevents other students from learning will result in consequences, including meeting with parents, loss of privileges, restitution, in and out of school suspensions and with continued behavior dismissal is likely.





School Based Rules

Be respectful to all people

Respect school property

Work hard and do your best to learn

Follow the directions of all school staff

All toys, electronic equipment and other valuables should be left at home

Remove hats and hoods during class time

Follow the school dress code

Appearance and Dress Code

Delphi takes a middle ground in the area of a student's appearance. It is expected that students will dress neatly, attractively and in good taste.

-Clothes must be neat, clean and in good repair. They must also be comfortable and well-fitting enough for the child to participate in physical education each day. Shirts must meet the top of a student's bottom garment and stomachs may not be exposed.

- Students must have sneakers for gym class. They can be left at school or worn as part of the student's attire that day.

Attendance

Students are expected to be on time wherever they go. The school day is very busy and requires students to get a lot accomplished during the time they are here. Being late is not only disruptive but wastes valuable time. Excessive tardiness and absenteeism could result in suspension or dismissal.



Cell Phones

There is absolutely no cell phone use permitted between the hours of 8:30 to 5:00 pm. If a cell phone is brought to school it must be turned off and stored in the student's backpack. If a child needs to be contacted during the day please call the school. If a child is warned 3 times regarding cell phone use in school, it may be requested that the phone remain at home or kept with the teacher throughout the day.

Contacting Teachers

Parent-teacher communication is highly encouraged at Delphi. During school hours parents may phone their child's teacher by contacting the front desk and leaving a message with the receptionist. The teacher will return your call as soon as she/he is available.

Email is the best form of communication with your child's teacher.

Field Trips

Field trips will be scheduled and announced in advance. Students should dress appropriately for the weather and the destination, and should bring along their backpacks. Food packed for the field trip should not require heating and it is always a good idea to pack extra water.

Whenever it is possible, parents are welcome on the field trip when space is available. Any parent who is interested accompanying their child's class should contact their child's teacher in advance and see if space is available.

Nutrition and Physical Activity

All students bring their lunch and snack food from home, as no meals are provided by the school. Students are expected to eat properly since good nutrition is essential to one's general well-being. This includes having a sensible breakfast before arriving to school. It is expected that healthy snacks and lunches are packed from home. Candy, gum, cake and soft drinks are not allowed in school.

The physical education program includes age-appropriate instruction and activities consistent with national and state standards. The curriculum is designed to promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and supports students in developing skills to engage in lifetime physical activity.

Physical Examinations

Every student who enters Delphi Academy must present evidence of a physical examination completed within one year prior to entrance to school or within 30 days after entrance.

Schedule and Roll Call

Delphi Academy opens its doors at 8:15 a.m. Students should not be dropped off prior to this time as there is no formal supervision before school opens. The exception to this is our Before School Program. There is a fee associated with this service and it is available 7:30am to 8:15 am. You may inquire at the front desk.

Television and Video Games

The school discourages television watching, video game playing and excessive use of the internet by children. There is a great deal of inappropriate material on television and social media and it tends to give children an incomplete view of the world, with lots of information they are unable to digest just yet. We have found that “moderate” doses of television and gaming can be detrimental to a child’s education. Of course, this is not to say no T.V., games or social media but judgement is always called for. We do encourage students to refrain from these activities before arriving to school in the morning.