



# THE CRAIG SCHOOL

## MIDDLE SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



### ACADEMICS

THE CRAIG MIDDLE SCHOOL provides the courses required to meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards, while incorporating strategy-based instructional techniques into our curriculum.

### READING

All teaching programs incorporate the multisensory principles of instruction. The teaching is direct, sequential and prescriptive. The reading and spelling programs include:

- Orton-Gillingham ■ Wilson ■ Project Read ■ Lindamood-Bell
- Benchmark ■ Read Naturally ■ Take Aim!
- Phonology/Linguistics ■ Story Form ■ Report Form

### WRITING

- Process writing linked with assistive technology
- School-wide vocabulary program using LINC's
- Project Read Written Expression

### MATH

- Strategies & methodologies of multiple programs utilized
- Experiential teaching approach
- Textbooks used to ensure scope and sequence

### CROSS-CURRICULAR INTEGRATION

The Craig Middle School features cross-curricular integration. Systematic progression to independent:

- Note-taking
- Research papers
- Test preparation, including developing study guides

### COMMUNICATION

- Progress Reports - 3x per year
- Parent-Teacher Conferences - 2x per year
- Communication Ladder
- Parent Portal on the Website

### TECHNOLOGY

- Computers for every child, in every classroom
- Smart Boards
- Phonic Ear (A sound field system is a sound system for schools that improves the learning environment for the entire class)
- iPads and E-Readers
- Immense suite of assistive technology software and assessment tools for reading, writing, and math including:
  - Kurzweil (award-winning software which provides a comprehensive and integrated solution for reading, writing, and learning. Includes text to speech, note-taking, and organizational skills components)\*
  - Firefly by Kurzweil (iPad/Web E-Reader application which provides students access to Craig's collection of literature and teacher created material, any place..any time)
  - Ginger (Contextual spell checking and reporting software)
  - CoWriter (Word prediction software)\*
  - Lexia (the most rigorously researched, independently evaluated, and respected reading program in the world / reinforces Orton-Gillingham instruction)\*
  - Scholastic Reading Inventory (reading assessment which provides immediate, actionable data on student reading levels and growth over time)
  - Read Naturally (develops fluency, supports vocabulary development, and promotes comprehension using the powerful research-based Read Naturally strategy.
  - Dragon Naturally Speak (powerful speech-to-text application)
  - Inspirations
  - Math Facts Now
- (\*Home use license provided for student)
- Multiple web subscription services including World Book Online, The Accessible Book Collection, Discovery Education, Bookshare, and EBSCOHost.

### SOFTWARE

- Writing ■ Ginger ■ Write:OutLoud ■ Inspirations ■ Co:Writer
- Reading ■ Lexia – reinforces Orton-Gillingham instruction
- Math ■ Math Facts Now



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TURNING POTENTIAL INTO ACHIEVEMENT ONE STUDENT AT A TIME.

Admissions Office | 10 Tower Hill Rd. | Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046 | 973.334.1295 | www.craigschool.org.

## REFERENCE SHEETS

Every strategy taught at Craig has a reference sheet detailing how it is performed. Students are encouraged to use these reference sheets for all classwork and homework assignments until they master the strategies.

## ORGANIZATION

- School-wide binder system
- Each student has personal space on Craig Network
- Weekly organizational checks
- Organizational software for writing process
- Reference sheets for visual processing reminders

## SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAMS

Both in and out of the classroom, our social skills programs allow students to explore issues of self-identity, develop and practice social interaction skills, and understand their changing roles and responsibilities through:

- On-Staff Social Clinicians
- Communication enhancement lessons in the classroom
- Social coaching – group and individual
- Homeroom mentoring through community circles
- Peer Leader program
- Pro-social skills incentive programs
- Student Council tied into community service



# THE CRAIG SCHOOL

## PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT

- Friday electives, including: video-making, photography, guitar, chorus, and newspaper
- Homework Help to foster independence
- Frost Valley Environmental Camp
- Ski Program
- Cultural programs and special themed weekly events
- Culminating educational trip for graduates
- Summer Academics & Enrichment Programs

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

**INTER-SCHOOL ATHLETICS:** Lacrosse ■ Soccer ■ Basketball

**OTHER:** Homework Help ■ Art ■ Fencing ■ Golf ■ Bowling

Basketball ■ Socials ■ Stepping Out