



# Why Emerson?

## BENEFITS OF A K-8

- Leaders in the school (top dogs) vs. youngest
- Safe space to develop independence and socioemotional skills, while dealing with the effects of puberty
- Focus on self esteem development, while encouraging students to try new things, take risks, step outside of comfort zone, and perhaps fail, in a supportive age appropriate environment.
- Healthy distance from more adult activities often present in high school environments



## WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS....

- “Students who go to middle school or junior high do worse academically, socially and emotionally, compared to the young teenagers who get to be the oldest students at schools with grades K-8.”
- “Starting a new school in either sixth or seventh grade hurts students’ perceptions of their own reading ability and motivation to work hard in English language arts.”
- “When students were not the “bottom dogs,” they reported feeling safer, less bullying, less fighting and a greater sense of belonging.”

## VIGOR IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Academics are certainly vigorous in the Middle School. While expectations are high, instruction is focused on building the engagement and skills to be lifelong learners. Students are challenged to become scientists, authors, historians, and mathematicians, not to simply learn content. Examples of projects include the Emerging America Historical Figure Job Application, National Novel Writing Month, Decomposers Science Project, Earthquake and Tsunami Project, and high-school-worthy objective research papers and presentations.

## DIFFERENTIATION IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

We recognize that our community of bright and enthusiastic learners often come with significant strengths in many areas, and potential weaknesses in others. Our students benefit from the individualization and differentiation that our small class sizes can offer. Our experienced faculty can offer differentiated opportunities focused on depth vs. breadth in their respective classes. This support is reinforced by our Learning Support Specialist, who “pushes in” to classes and works with teachers on developing this supportive curriculum. Students eager for additional challenges benefit from the open-ended nature of many of the projects and assignments, along with the direct support of the teaching team.

## A WHOLE CHILD EDUCATION

We emphasize a whole-child education by intentionally balancing the core academic classes, World Languages, enrichment rotations (Art, Drama, Health, Physical Education) and electives throughout each day. Our students benefit from experiencing this dynamic curriculum and learning more about themselves and their interests and passions. These immersive experiences challenge students to try new things and learn from mistakes in a safe and supportive learning environment. Our students graduate with a well-rounded appreciation for all of the various opportunities available to them in future schooling.



## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING & ADVISORY

A small community of 9 to 10 grade-level peers meet every day with their advisor. Activities include team building, focus on core values, service learning, study hall, assemblies, and fun activities.

The advisor’s role is to support social-emotional development, check-in with advisees each day, serve as an academic safety net, and be the first line of communication and support for families.

## PURSUING PASSIONS & ELECTIVES

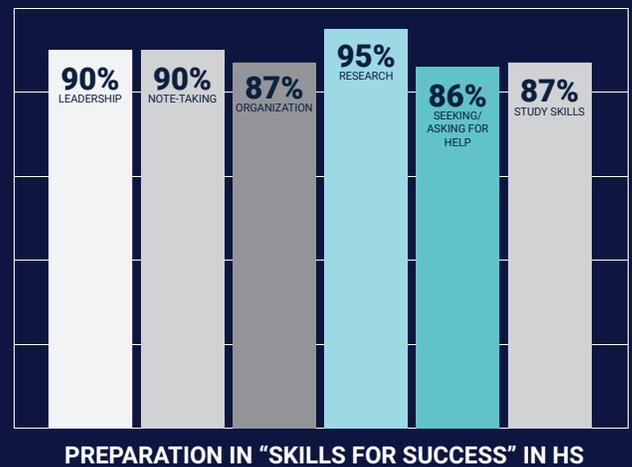
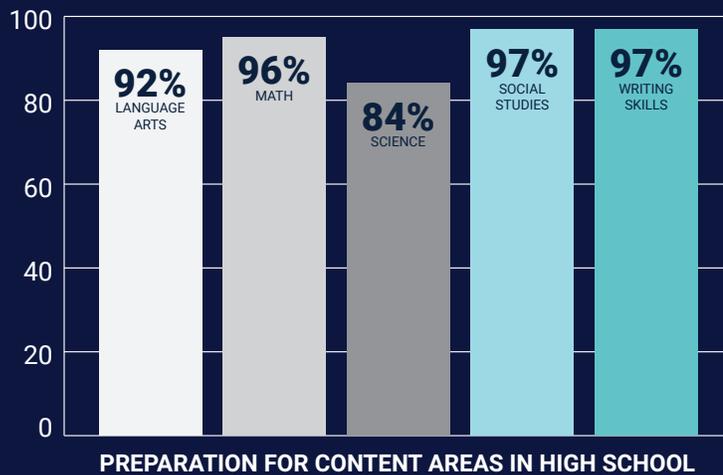
Electives are trimester-long courses, designed around student/faculty passions and interests. All electives are mixed grades, and project-based. Examples include Creative Writing, Ceramics, Engineering, Dissections, History of African Americans through Film, 3D Printing and Creative Design, Permaculture Garden, Band & Orchestra, School Musical, and much more!

## HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION AND SUCCESS

On average 85% of our students matriculate to one of the local public high schools. Anecdotal feedback from public school educators is that we are the “private school that public schools love.” Our students are incredibly well-prepared (compared to non-Emerson peers) to take on the challenges of high school. They demonstrate strong confidence and independence to find courses and experiences that they enjoy and are passionate about, while also being open to trying new experiences in high school. Finally, our students have a 100% acceptance rate for local private high schools.

### DATA ON HIGH SCHOOL

90% of former students and families said Emerson prepared them (or their children) “very well” compared to non-Emerson peers.



Emerson was **life-changing** and set the stage for current success.

~Alum, Class of 2018



Can't thank you enough—he came 'from behind' because of previous school's lack of organization, and now is **soaring in high school**.

~Parent of Alum, Class of 2017



(The high school) isn't as nurturing and comfortable as Emerson, but she is getting a great education there and is also getting real-world experiences by being in a less sheltered environment. Shelter, however, was great for the middle school years!

~Parent of Alum, Class of 2015