



8th grade students: Requirements and Opportunities to be completed during your final year at Gaudior

Eighth grade is a very pivotal year in the social, emotional and intellectual development of a child. Gaudior students are expected to not only meet general state education requirements, but also engage in a series of intellectual experiences, engineered towards engaging a developing mind, sense of community and self-worth. Gaudior graduates are continually challenged throughout their final year, growing into independent critical thinkers, problem-solvers and future leaders.

In addition to general school requirements, 8th grade students participate in several select activities:

Tribal Communities: The entire school participates in activity, meeting at least twice a month during the entire school year. One student from every classroom is matched with a graduate and staff advisor, forming a cohesive unit consisting of 10-11 members. Working on group activities, sharing similar experiences and giving time to cultivate relationships, meeting as a tribe offers each of its members an opportunity to respectfully bond with one another, fostering a deeper sense of community throughout the school. 8th grade students are seen as the head of each tribe, deciding upon activities, service projects, and more throughout the school year.

Camping Trip: Within the first month of school, 8th grade students are taken to an off-site camping area where they are given the opportunity to experience nature while participating in community building and leadership activities. Students put to use their critical thinking skills during group projects that involve constructing objects, painting, story writing and other creative endeavors.

DIA Presentation: Each student researches a self-selected piece of artwork housed at the Detroit Institute of the Arts. Their research culminates in a final project, in which the 8th grade class visits the D.I.A., and presents their studies to staff and family members.

Gaudior Night Host: Students also host and introduce Gaudior Night acts for each level, acting as emcees and developing their own script.

Trip to Mackinac Island: One of the favorite Gaudior events, all 8th grade students have the opportunity to participate in this trip, staying at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Students ride bikes, visit stores, go hiking and experience all that the fabulous Grand Hotel has to offer – including all meals and dancing in the ballroom.

Graduation Speech & Grad Gift: The culmination of 8th grade year is marked with a final graduation speech, during which each student presents the Gaudior community with a Grad Gift – generally a service to the community or hand-made symbol of appreciation for the school.