

Beechwood Schools

**EDGE**

Program Overview





A Note From Dr. Stacy

Our goal at Beechwood is to foster a positive relationship between all members of the school community, including staff, students, parents, and guardians. We recognize that schools cannot improve student achievement and maximize growth alone; families and community play a significant role in their children’s education. Simply put, students are more successful in school and life when their families and communities are engaged in their education. It is our goal that these documents increase the partnership, communication, and understanding among home, community, and school. If and when you have questions, please reach out to your teacher and/or administrator. Anyone of us will be more than happy to discuss the specifics of this document or help answer any questions you might have. We are all partners in the students’ educational and leadership journey.

THE BEECHWOOD **EDGE** PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

EDUCATIONAL DESIGN GEARED TOWARD EXPERIENCE

As a part of the Continuous Improvement Plan, Three-year Strategic Plan, and The Beechwood Way, we aim to develop globally competitive students. Moreover, we acknowledge that growth as a leader and learner is more complex than mastery of reading and math alone. Based on what our students, parents, community, and region told us, we began considering ways to enhance the experience for all students at Beechwood.

The Beechwood EDGE addresses the following: To be globally competitive, our children need exposure to new content, problem solving, industry engagement, and leadership opportunities. As we continue to be innovative, we worked with universities and industry to determine what would give all of our students an “edge.” There was a clear consensus: we need to provide opportunities for experiential learning to develop next-generation skills. The district has now integrated the rigor of college prep content with experiential learning to provide intellectual richness and flexibility, while maintaining the integrity of our high academic standards.

The EDGE Program focuses on a set of core concepts that are embedded throughout the curriculum - Preschool through 12th grade.

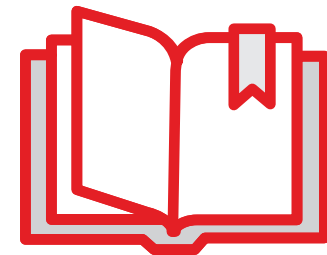


Based upon our research with universities and industry, students are lacking these skills upon entrance into college and the workforce. The core concepts will allow ALL students to flourish in their post-secondary lives - regardless of their college or career choice. Again, we are maintaining high expectations and rigor, while allowing students to go through a curriculum that is also focused on rich experiences. The EDGE program supplements our strong foundation of English, math, science, and social studies. Each business and university partner has helped us to develop an experiential-learning curriculum, which will help us to better prepare, engage, and retain our talent for leadership in the region.

GIVING OUR STUDENTS AN **EDGE**

The EDGE Program begins in Pre-K and runs through 12th grade for **ALL** students.

- Students will experience a personalized, learner-centered design.
- We will focus on developing skills that are transferable across real world settings.
- We will implement a challenge-based curriculum that embeds the core concepts.
- We will ensure a hybrid of rigorous content with a rich experiential curriculum.
- We will engage the community, businesses, industry, and university for curriculum development and experience alignment; multiple universities and over 60 business partners have helped us to develop an innovative, challenge-based curriculum centered around the core concepts.
- Students will build a digital EDGE folder with evidence-based documentation of their Pre-K through 12 EDGE experiences.
- Students are assessed through their process of reflection on the application and synthesis of core concepts through Defenses of Learning at the 6th, 8th, and 12th grade transitions.



ELEMENTARY

WHERE THE EDGE BEGINS - BUILDING CORE CONCEPTS

The EDGE begins in Pre-K, which adopts a goal that 100% of its students will experience individualized learning opportunities. Teachers will design and create innovative learning experiences for understanding. Core concepts will be embedded across all academic settings. By introducing and incorporating these core concepts throughout the elementary curriculum, students can start to build a foundation for success at every transition in the EDGE program and beyond. Students in 4th grade will begin collecting evidence of their work and reflections in a digital EDGE folder that they will utilize through 12th grade.

5th & 6th GRADE SEMINAR

BUILDING AND APPLYING THE CORE CONCEPTS WITH EXPOSURE TO REGIONAL PARTNERS

Seminar is a 5th - 8th grade curriculum that refines the Core Concepts through a series of increasingly complex challenges. These challenges engage students in the Iterative Design Process as a tool for effective problem solving. Industry partners supply real-world challenges that help Seminar students apply their skills to create a meaningful and professional solution. At the end of 6th grade, students will complete a Defense of Learning demonstrating evidence of growth in the core concepts.

7th & 8th GRADE SEMINAR

THE TRANSITION YEARS

Seminar in 7th and 8th grades takes the core concepts and applies them to a study of multiple post-secondary fields, incorporating the same Seminar Challenge Process developed in 5th and 6th grades. The fields of study mirror the “minor” classes that students have an opportunity to take in high school. The idea of 7th and 8th grade Seminar is to give students an experience with each post-secondary field and to allow them to work with industry partners to complete challenges that they currently face. 8th grade culminates with a Defense of Learning showcasing student reflection and growth in the core concepts as well as rationale for the selection of a high school minor.

HIGH SCHOOL MINORS

APPLYING THE CORE CONCEPTS TO A PERSONALIZED COURSE OF STUDY

At the end of the 8th grade year, students will be able to choose a minor. The “minor” at Beechwood is a three-year specialized course of study that will allow all students to develop the core concepts through an innovative curriculum that is designed around experience. This uniquely personalized curriculum has been developed and aligned with our university and industry partners. If a student completes the three-year course of study, then he or she is eligible to have a 4th year internship, early college, or dual credit that has been aligned to his/her minor. With personalization at the forefront, students may choose whether or not to enter into a “minor” while in high school. Seniors will complete a final Defense of Learning highlighting growth in a core concept as well as their capstone EDGE experience such as internship or research experiences.

THE BEECHWOOD



Educational · Design · Geared toward · Experience

**PRE-K THROUGH 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CORE CONCEPTS**

**5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SEMINAR**

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SEMINAR**  
with *DEFENSE OF LEARNING*

**7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SEMINAR - SURVEY OF HIGH SCHOOL MINORS**

Media Design, Computer Science, Engineering, Culinary, BioMed, Performing Arts,  
Fine Arts, Business/Entrepreneurship, Education  
*8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE DEFENSE OF LEARNING*

**EMBEDDED CORE CONCEPTS**

Communication & Collaboration  
Critical & Creative Thinking  
Reflection & Growth  
Plan & Be Strategic  
Sustained Inquiry  
Excellence of Outcomes  
Research & Data

**9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO CHOOSE A MINOR 3 YEAR COURSE OF STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

**MEDIA DESIGN**

Intro to Media  
Adv. Design  
Virtual Design  
Yearbook  
Broadcasting/  
Journalism

**COMP SCI**

Intro to CS  
AP CS Principles  
AP Comp. Sci A

**ENGINEERING**

IDEA Lab I  
IDEA Lab II  
IDEA Lab III

**CULINARY**

Foods & Nutrition  
Culinary I  
Culinary II  
Master Chef

**BIOMED**

Intro BioMed  
Honors Biology  
Anatomy &  
Physiology

**PERFORMING  
ARTS**

Symphonic  
Percussion  
HS Chorus  
AP Music Theory  
Drama  
Speech

**FINE ARTS**

General Art  
Specialized Art  
Ceramics  
AP Art & Design

**ENTREPRENEUR**

Marketing &  
Business  
Intro to  
Business,  
Accounting &  
Finance  
Principles of  
Entrepreneurship

**YEAR 4** | **INTERNSHIP | EARLY COLLEGE/DUAL CREDIT (NKU, TMU, UC, GATEWAY) | DEFENSE OF LEARNING**

**EDUCATION MINI MINOR - Introduction to the Teaching Profession & Teaching Internship**

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