

Beechwood Schools

**EDGE**

Program Overview





BEECHWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



## K THROUGH 4th GRADE CORE CONCEPTS

*Defining and Learning the Core Concepts*

## 5th GRADE SEMINAR

*Application and Experience*

## 6th GRADE SEMINAR

*Continued Application and Experience with Defense of Learning*

## EMBEDDED CORE CONCEPTS

Communicate & Collaborate

Think Critically & Creatively

Reflect & Grow

Plan Strategically

Pursue Excellence of Outcomes

Sustain Inquiry

Research &  
Analyze Data

## 7th & 8th GRADE SEMINAR - SURVEY OF HIGH SCHOOL MINORS

BioMed, Entrepreneurship, Culinary, Media, Engineering, Informatics,  
Performing Arts, Environmental, Fine Arts, and Education

*8TH GRADE DEFENSE OF LEARNING*

**9TH GRADE: Students may choose a MINOR (4-year course of study)**

BIOMED



ENTREPRENEURSHIP



CULINARY



MEDIA



ENGINEERING

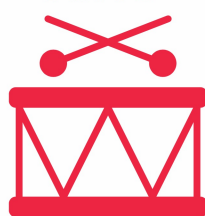


INFORMATICS



PERFORMING

ARTS



ENVIRONMENTAL



FINE ARTS



EDUCATION



SENIOR YEAR

INTERNSHIP | RESEARCH | EARLY COLLEGE/DUAL CREDIT

*SENIOR DEFENSE OF LEARNING*

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Beechwood Independent  
School District





## Educational Design Geared toward Experience

As a guiding principle of 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. The Beechwood EDGE addresses the following: To be globally competitive, our children need exposure to new content, problem solving, industry engagement, and leadership opportunities. We will provide opportunities for experiential learning to develop next generation skills while integrating the rigor of college prep content 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 - Kindergarten through 12th grade.

## EDGE Core Concepts: The Foundation



Based upon our research with universities and industries, students are lacking these skills upon entrance into college and the workforce. The core concepts are soft skills which allow ALL students to flourish in their postsecondary lives - regardless of their college or career choice. The EDGE program supplements our strong foundation of English, math, science, and social studies.

## GIVING OUR STUDENTS AN EDGE PROGRAM

The EDGE Program begins in Kindergarten and runs through 12th grade for ALL students.

- Students experience a personalized, learner-centered design while developing transferable skills across real world settings.
- We implement challenge-based curriculum focused on teaching and building the core concepts.
- We ensure a hybrid of rigorous content with rich experiences.
- Multiple universities and over 100 business partners have helped us to develop the innovative EDGE program through giving input on curriculum, creating real-world challenges for students to complete, and/or hosting senior interns.
- Students build digital EDGE folders with evidence-based documentation of their 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 Kindergarten, where 100% of students experience personalized learning opportunities. Teachers design and create innovative learning experiences for understanding. The core concepts are embedded across all academic settings and explicitly taught through a continuum K-4th grades. By introducing and incorporating these core concepts in EDGE challenges throughout the elementary curriculum, students can start to build a foundation for success. Students in 4th grade begin collecting evidence of their work and reflections in a digital EDGE folder which they utilize through 12th grade.

### 5TH & 6TH GRADE SEMINAR - BUILDING & APPLYING THE CORE CONCEPTS WITH EXPOSURE TO REGIONAL PARTNERS

Seminar is a 5th - 8th grade curriculum that is entirely challenge-based. Students begin to synthesize and apply the core concepts through a series of increasingly complex challenges. These challenges engage students in Design Thinking 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 complete a Defense of Learning demonstrating evidence of growth in the core concepts.

### 7TH & 8TH GRADE SEMINAR - THE TRANSITION YEARS THROUGH CAREER EXPLORATION

Seminar in 7th and 8th grades takes the core concepts and applies them to a study of multiple postsecondary 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. 7th and 8th grade Seminar classes give students an experience with each post-secondary field and to allow them to work with business partners to create solutions for realistic industry challenges. 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

In 9th grade, students begin their minors. A "minor" at Beechwood is a four-year specialized course of study allowing all students to develop the core concepts through innovative curriculum that is designed around experience. This uniquely personalized curriculum has been developed and aligned with our university and industry partners. During senior year, students complete their minors through an internship, research, early college, or dual credit aligned to the minor. With personalization at the forefront, students may choose whether or not to enter into a "minor" or explore multiple minors while in high school. Seniors will complete a final Defense of Learning highlighting growth in a core concept as well as a capstone EDGE experience such as internship or research project.