

Centers of Excellence

Each of our schools will have its own Center of Excellence (C.O.E.) in which students work with mentors (including Whittle parents) to explore an area of interest with unprecedented depth and focus. Modeled on research institutes at leading liberal arts colleges and universities, C.O.E.s will connect the Whittle learning community with the world beyond our classrooms. In state-of-the-art C.O.E labs located at the threshold of our campuses, Students will work in cohorts guided by C.O.E. directors to develop their expertise in. Our global network of C.O.E.s will develop students' learning along STEM and humanities pathways and foster design, communication, and problem-solving skills. Our older students will travel abroad with peers to other Whittle campuses to work in C.O.E.s and will develop global leadership and cultural competencies. Personalized C.O.E portfolio projects will support the college application process. In the future, we expect our older students will obtain meaningful college credit for their advanced project-based work. Whittle is also developing strategic partnerships with think tanks, top liberal arts colleges, research universities, and cultural institutions to create valuable engagement opportunities for all of our students.

Our Plans for the Early Centers of Excellence*

2019	2020	2021
WASHINGTON, D.C. International Cooperation and Diplomacy	HANGZHOU Chinese Art and Design	LOS ANGELES Film Studies and Production
SHENZHEN Design and Engineering Innovation	MUMBAI Urban Planning and Urban Challenges	LONDON Economics and Business Studies
NANJING Chinese Language, Culture and Civilization	SAN FRANCISCO Environmental Science and Food Sustainability	NEW YORK Media and Performance Studies

*At the time of this publication

Washington D.C. Center of Excellence for International Cooperation & Diplomacy

Students will learn advanced communication, active listening, and presentation skills in our D.C. C.O.E. as they build global awareness and cultural competence. They will build robust portfolio projects that showcase their verbal, written, and multi-media dexterity. Classroom learning will be enhanced with guidance from accomplished diplomats, foreign and domestic policymakers, and mediators. Our older students will have opportunities for meaningful field study with select cultural and governmental organizations and for internships. All student projects will respond to global issues and opportunities and will showcase each student's individual interests and passions. We will share advanced student work with the wider global community through published papers, blog pieces, and archived multi-media presentations, all guided by Whittle faculty and by mentors in the field.



Strategic Partnerships with Diplomatic and Foreign Policy Institutions*:

Asia Society Policy Institute DC	Council on Foreign Relations	National Geographic	Smithsonian Institute	Brookings Institute
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*Partnerships in progress

Centers of Excellence Program Model in D.C.

	Early Learning	Lower School	Middle School	Upper School
	C.O.E. work integrated into classroom Once per week during school day		C.O.E. work in C.O.E classroom and integrated into Humanities course work Twice per week during school day	
Course Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study of skills related to International Cooperation and Diplomacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deep study of D.C.-specific history, culture, language, and skills related to International Cooperation and Diplomacy Study of project-based learning methods 		
Field Work (real-world experiences)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of International Cooperation and Diplomacy work into daily projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of D.C. theme work into daily projects Guided class field trips to cultural institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field work in cultural institutions, observing best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field work in Foreign Policy companies and cultural institutions Mentorships Internships Study abroad
Project Work (hands-on collaborative learning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early stages of project work through play and exploration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme based project work in class Feedback cycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme based project work with <u>local and global peer cohort</u> Feedback cycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme based project work through internships Feedback cycle with mentors
Dissemination Work (sharing of projects with wider community)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work shared through Whittle digital platform Work posted around school Work shared through presentations within classroom and grade level cohorts 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work shared through Whittle digital platform Work posted around school Work shared through presentations locally and globally Tutoring and mentoring of youth in community to build additional projects

Whittle Centers of Excellence foster Eight Areas of Student Skill Development:

1. Global Leadership and Citizenship
2. Independent Research aligned with Global Competence and Guided Research with Expert Mentors
3. Advanced Portfolio Project Work, Archiving, and Publication
4. Collaboration with Diverse Teams across our Global Network
5. Advanced Design Thinking and Presentation Skills
6. Social Responsibility and Community Outreach
7. Digital Citizenship, Literacy, and Training in Cutting-Edge Technologies
8. Emotional Intelligence and Strategic Communication Skills

C.O.E. themes of inquiry are selected to align with the **United Nation's Sustainable Development Global Goals**. Students will be guided by mentors around the world to develop portfolio projects that address some of the greatest challenges our planet faces.



For more information, visit our website at **WhittleSchool.org** or contact our admissions team at mydcadmission@whittleschool.org in Washington D.C.