



Do You Want Your Child to LOVE School?

About Spectrum

- 72 students preschool through 8th (ages 3 -14)
- Rockford, Illinois – third largest city in Illinois outside of Chicago
- Six multiage classrooms in a nature-rich landscape
- Each level is team taught – class sizes 8:1, 10:1. 12:1
- Grounded in Dewey’s Experiential Learning, Piaget’s Developmental Theory, and Gardner’s Multiple Intelligences, Spencer’s Design Thinking (LAUNCH)
- No grades, no standardized tests, no homework-honoring childhood, readiness to learn, and relevance to the student
- Our students regularly outperform grade level peers when they articulate to high school. They know how to learn, how to ask questions, and how to think.

51 Years of the Best of Child-Centered Education

- Recognized by internationally acclaimed psychologist Dr. Howard Gardner as the best of the best for implementation of approaches to incorporate multiple intelligences
- Recognized by nationally acclaimed educator Alfie Kohn for child-centered approaches to assessment, grading, and homework.
- Visited by John Spencer for work with design thinking and the LAUNCH design cycle

At Spectrum, we believe....

- *Learning is a process that involves the whole child. It doesn't happen by children plugging in a formula or plugging children into a formula.*
- *Children learn differently and need multiple ways to express and demonstrate their learning.*
- *Deeper learning happens when children are given a chance to figure things out for themselves.*
- *Every child is gifted and it is up to the educator to figure out how to honor, develop and expand upon each child's gifts.*
- *Children deserve individually designed learning that meets them where they are at and helps them advance at their own pace.*
- *Learning is fundamentally social, connecting the learner with others and the world.*
- *Children need to feel safe at every level- socially, emotionally, academically, physically. This helps them build relationships, take risks, follow their passions, and develop empathy.*
- *School should be a place that grows leaders who change their communities and the world for the better.*

Approaches and Initiatives that Support STEM

Middle School: Real Learning, Real Work, and Apprenticeship

Learning: This program will develop skills and strategies for adults working with middle school age students on getting them ready to work and ready for work in 2022 and beyond.

Apprenticeship learning is core feature to our program design.

Advancing [Project-Based Learning](#) through an articulated continuum across all learning levels

Online learning supports for math, STEM, reading, art history, coding, science, and internet safety: Kahn Academy, Defined STEM, Prodigy, Duolingo, Reading Horizons

21st Century World Language and Culture Studies

This initiative will foster and grow in our students and community a mindset that reflects and values internationalism and global citizenship, engaging participants in multicultural friendships and positive interactions with people from other parts of the world. Learning how to learn a language and ultimately having the skills to build diverse relationships allows for quality collaboration and productivity in the workplace.

Why Spectrum?

Spectrum students have the confidence to be deeply engaged in learning, work, and communication. They have the skills to think critically and creatively. They understand how to collaborate and know how to ask questions. They can solve problems in a variety of contexts, applying what they know to what they need to do. They care about their communities, humanity, and the natural environment. They work to make a positive difference in the world.