



WARE ACADEMY

Head of School: Thomas L. Thomas, III
Co-educational Day School
Pre-Kindergarten Three through Eighth Grade
www.wareacademy.org

THE SCHOOL

Ware Academy is an independent school for students in Pre-Kindergarten Three through Eighth Grade. The school empowers each student to achieve academic excellence, emphasizing the development of mind, body and character. The primary objectives are to educate the whole child to his or her fullest potential and for students to acquire a respect and a desire for learning in order to develop into independent, life-long learners in preparation for productive and fulfilled lives. The school embraces and appreciates that students possess individual styles.

Ware Academy was founded in 1949 as the Gloucester County Day School with thirteen students in a building on Lawyer's Row, in Historic Gloucester Village. After moving to its current location on a twenty-acre campus, the school has room to accommodate over 150 students.

FACULTY

The Ware Academy faculty is comprised of dedicated men and women with college degrees who have been retained as a result of their experience, enthusiasm and commitment to education. Teachers act as advisors to their students, guiding them in overall academic and social progress. Ware Academy's faculty are a vital link between the student and the family.

Thomas L. Thomas, III was appointed Head of School in 2004 and holds a B.A. from The University of Richmond and an M.A. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He has twenty-eight years of teaching experience, twenty-five of which have been in independent schools. Mr. Thomas is a member of the Board of Directors for the Virginia Association of Independent Schools.

ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIPS

Ware Academy is accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools; and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, the National Junior Honor Society, the Educational Records Bureau and the Secondary School Admission Test Bureau.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

The Ware Academy Fine and Performing Arts Program inspires appreciation for the mutual relationship between the artist and the student, and the discipline required for confident and creative self-expression. Students are exposed to new experiences and to building individual creativity and self-confidence as an artist and performer through hands-on activities and attending live performances. Visual and performing arts classes are available for grades Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade, reinforcing themes from the classroom. All grades have the chance to discover and explore different cultures, styles and media. Professional artists visit the school regularly, involving and immersing the children in their specific art style and culture.

ATHLETICS

As a part of Ware Academy's commitment to the development of the whole child, the Physical Education and Athletic Programs focus on physical growth and on instilling basic values that build character, self-discipline and self-esteem. The Athletic Program develops and promotes life-long habits in fitness, nutrition, team sports and recreational activities. Physical activity promotes self-confidence. Participation in athletics provides an opportunity to learn lessons about leadership, commitment, cooperation, sportsmanship and teamwork on a daily basis. In addition, the Athletic Department annually organizes school events such as Spirit Week, Blue/Green Field Day and pep rallies to help strengthen school spirit.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

There is a strong commitment to community service at Ware Academy. Students and faculty participate in many activities and with organizations such as Save the Bay Foundation Shore Clean-Up, Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society, Gloucester Convalescent Home, Laurel Shelter, Red Cross Blood Drives, Hands Across Mathews, Hands Across Middlesex, Salvation Army, Gloucester-Mathews Free Clinic, Adopt-A-Family and Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Discipline is primarily handled by the classroom teacher at all grade levels. Student expectations for conduct, dress, homework and tardiness are clearly outlined in the Parent Handbook and are reviewed at the beginning of the year, and thereafter as necessary, by all teachers. The expectations for behavior are consistent across all grade levels; however, consequences for misbehavior vary appropriately by grade level and division. There is open communication between teachers and parents, allowing a partnership to help children develop their character to the fullest potential. Any case of extreme misbehavior is brought to the Head of School's attention.

In the Primary and Lower Schools, students are expected to behave in a responsible and courteous manner. Teachers define and discuss concepts such as cooperation, respect, kindness and honesty through the Character Education Program. Classroom discussion of these values occurs formally and informally as teachable moments arise.

In the Middle School, students pledge to uphold the ideals of honor by signing the Middle School Honor Code. All students are presumed to have integrity and take on personal responsibility for maintaining the atmosphere of trust at Ware Academy.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents are encouraged to be involved in the activities of the school and its fundraising endeavors. The Ware Academy Parent's Association exists to coordinate fundraising projects, enriching activities for the students and informational opportunities for parents. Many volunteer opportunities are available.

DEVELOPMENT AND ANNUAL GIVING

Ware Academy is an incorporated, not-for-profit organization governed by a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees. As a private independent school, Ware Academy has three sources of income: tuition, charitable contributions and fundraising events.

The largest ongoing source of non-tuition funds for the school is the Ware Academy Fund. Each contribution made to the Ware Academy Fund provides direct funding for educational initiatives that tuition alone does not cover. Contributions are an investment in the education of every child at Ware. Each donation sends a message that you believe in Ware Academy's mission and you support the program offered to every child enrolled at the school. In addition to the Ware Academy Fund, the school hosts three major fundraising events: the Annual Auction, Bobby Stewart 5K Walk/Run and the Annual Golf Tournament.

Donations may also be restricted. Restricted gifts are designated for special programs or specific purchases which may not be included in the operating budget. Restricted gifts meet a specific need of an academic department, the Fine and Performing Arts Program, the Athletic Program, student life, and/or the Financial Aid Program.

No gift is too small, and every gift opens a door of opportunity. All donations are tax deductible.

COMMUNICATION

Ware Academy uses folders that go home with the Primary and Lower School students each Friday as an ongoing means of communication. Student work and important announcements are sent in this "Friday Folder" which is to be signed and returned to the homeroom teacher each Monday. Daily announcements and/or reminders are written in each student's homework agenda. Middle School students are responsible for recording assignments and reminders in their homework agendas, and taking tests, projects, compositions and papers home to be signed. Parents may check Middle School assignments and class announcements on the website.

Other methods of communication include mailed letters and reports, e-mailings and quarterly newsletters posted on the website. In addition, a "Friday Folder" for parents is posted each week on our website under the CURRENT NEWS/FROM THE MAIN OFFICE tab. **This is the primary way school happenings are communicated, and parents are expected to check**

it weekly.

DAILY SCHEDULE

All students begin the school day at 8:05 a.m. Pre-Kindergarten students have the option of dismissal at either noon or 3:00 p.m. Kindergarten through Eighth Grade students are dismissed at 3:30 p.m.. **After care is available for children in Pre-Kindergarten Four through Eighth Grade from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for an additional fee.**

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Ware Academy's Kindergarten through Eighth Grade students are expected to wear the designated Dress Uniform every Monday from October 1st through March 31st, on special occasions and on most field trips. The Dress Uniform for boys consists of ties, oxford shirts, khaki or navy pants with sweaters for Primary and Lower School, and blazers for Middle School. The Dress Uniform for girls consists of jumpers, blouses and sweaters for Primary and Lower School. Middle School girls wear skirts, oxford shirts and sweaters. A blazer is optional.

Ware Academy's Daily Uniform includes shirts, skirts, skorts, jumpers, shorts and pants with several color options. There is a relaxed dress option ("Ware Wear") on Fridays. Outerwear, athletic wear and used uniforms are available for purchase from the school store.

LUNCH

A Hot Lunch Program is offered through a local restaurant Mondays through Thursdays. Menus are available at the beginning of each month. The Athletic Department offers pizza for purchase on Fridays. Students may also bring their own lunch and drink (water, juice or individual milk) each day. Lunch is generally eaten in the classroom or under the pavilion (during warm weather) for grades three through eight. Primary School teachers often take their classes outside to the picnic tables for lunch (weather permitting).

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is available to Middlesex and Mathews Counties for an additional fee. Routes are established each year to best serve our student riders.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Ware Academy offers financial assistance on the basis of need. The process, and each applicant's personal information is confidential. The procedures and the reports provided by *School and Student Services for Financial Aid*, to which Ware Academy subscribes, are considered when determining monetary awards (which are made and reviewed annually). First-round awards for assistance are determined by March 15th each year.