



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 a 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 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. Over the years the school has grown to its current location on a twenty acre campus with a current enrollment of 140 students.

ADMISSION

Ware Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, nationality, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational, employment, and admission policies, or its scholarship, athletic, and other school administered programs. Admission to Ware Academy is based upon availability of space and the applicant's transcripts, previous test scores, a class visit, and an admission test.

All applicants and families are encouraged to visit the campus to discuss the school's program and the applicant's candidacy with the Director of Admission or the Head of School. In order for a student to be considered for admission, an application for enrollment, parent questionnaire and non-refundable application fee of \$75 must be submitted.

FINANCIAL AID

Ware Academy offers financial aid on the basis of need. The process and your personal information are confidential. The procedures and the reports provided by School and Student Services for Financial Aid, to which Ware Academy subscribes, are considered in determining

monetary awards, which are made and reviewed annually. First-round financial aid applications are due mid-February of each year.

FACULTY

The Ware Academy faculty consists of eighteen dedicated men and women with college degrees and have been sought as a result of their experience, enthusiasm and commitment to education. Teachers act as advisors to their students, guiding them in their overall academic and social progress. Ware's faculty is 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-six years of teaching experience, twenty-five of which have been in independent schools.

ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIPS

Ware Academy is accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools; is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools and the National Junior Honor Society.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents are expected to be involved in the activities of the school and its fundraising endeavors. The Ware Academy Parent's Association (WAPA) exists to coordinate fundraising projects as well as enriching activities for the students. Many volunteer opportunities are available.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Ware Academy has two scholarship offerings - the Pickett and Founders' scholarships. The Pickett Scholarship will be awarded to a current rising seventh or eighth grade student who most demonstrates the embodiment of Ware Academy academically, athletically, socially, and moralistically as well as displaying community orientation.

For the 2009-10 school year the Founders' Scholarship is awarded to a new rising fifth grade student and will cover half of the tuition. Once a student has been named as the Founders' Scholar, the student upon continuous meeting of requirements of the award, will receive a fifty percent grant each year he/she is enrolled at Ware Academy.

DEVELOPMENT AND ANNUAL GIVING

Ware Academy is an incorporated not-for-profit organization under a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees. As a private independent school, Ware Academy has two sources of income: tuition and charitable contributions. Because tuition only covers approximately 83% of each child's education, the "gap" is raised through the philanthropy of our family and friends. Each donation provides many direct benefits for our students and faculty.

The largest ongoing source of non-tuition funds for the school is the Annual Giving Fund. Donations to this fund are unrestricted, giving Ware the flexibility towards meeting the most pressing needs and seizing opportunities as they arise.

Gifts may also be restricted which 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, athletics, student life, and/or financial aid.

All donations are tax deductible.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Discipline is handled primarily 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 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 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.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

There is a strong commitment to community service at Ware Academy. Students and faculty participate in many activities and 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.

TRANSPORTATION

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

ATHLETICS

As a part of Ware Academy's commitment to the development of the whole child, the physical education and athletic program focuses on physical growth and instilling basic values that build character, self-discipline and self-esteem. The 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.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

The Ware Academy Arts Program inspires the appreciation for the mutual relationship between the artist, student, and the discipline required for confident and creative self expression. Students are exposed to new experiences, and 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 the 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 monthly, involving and immersing the children in their art and culture.

DAILY SCHEDULE

All students begin the school day at 8:05am. Pre-kindergarten students have the option of dismissal at Noon or 3:00pm. Kindergarten through eighth grade students are dismissed at 3:30pm. After care is available for children in pre-kindergarten four through eighth grade from 3:30 to 6:00pm for an additional fee.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Ware Academy students in kindergarten through eighth grade are expected to wear Dress Uniforms on Mondays from October 1st to March 31st, special occasions and 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 Primary and Lower School girls wear jumpers, blouses and sweaters, while Middle School girls wear skirts, oxford shirts, and sweaters. A blazer is optional.

Ware Academy's daily uniform includes skirts, skorts, jumpers, shorts and pants with several color options. There is a relaxed dress option (Ware Fun Wear) on Fridays. Outerwear, athletic wear and used uniforms are available for purchase from the Surf Shop.

COMMUNICATION

Ware Academy uses folders that go home with the students each Friday as an ongoing means of communication. Student work and important announcements are transported in the “Friday Folder” which are to be returned to the homeroom teacher each Monday. Other methods of communication include letters mailed to families, email and a bi-weekly newsletter posted on our website.

Middle School students are responsible for recording their assignments in their homework journals, having parents sign tests, papers and projects..

LUNCH

There is a Hot Lunch Program provided by a local restaurant Monday through Thursday. The menu is available at the beginning of each month. The Athletic Department has pizza available for purchase on Fridays. Students may bring their own lunch and drink (water, juice or individual milk). Lunch is generally eaten in the classrooms 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 by the playground (weather permitting).