

HUMANITIES? What's That?

The humanities are the stories, the ideas, and the words that help us make sense of our lives and our world. The humanities introduce us to people we have never met, places we have never visited, and ideas that may have never crossed our minds. By showing how others have lived and thought about life, the humanities help us decide what is important in our own lives and what we can do to make them better.

Ohio Humanities Council

Humanities is about people: how people create the world they live in; how the world they live in makes them the people they are.

The Humanities Association

The calling of the humanities is to make us truly human in the best sense of the word.

J. Irwin Miller

The Humanities Department integrates Language Arts with Social Sciences, an approach that encourages students to develop an awareness of themselves, their community, and the world. Beginning in the sixth grade, students explore and appreciate world cultures and literatures in order to broaden their perspective and understand human experience.

The Girls Middle School, Palo Alto, CA

In Middle School, English and History are taught as one course in a flexible double-period. The subjects are well suited for integration, as the critical thinking skills required for the study of history are tied to the expressive language skills developed through reading and writing.

Tehiyah Day School, El Cerrito, CA

The humanities are stories of human struggle and success, conflict and community, rooted in history, literature, and other fields of knowledge. They are ways to think critically about our most meaningful journeys: the search through experience for wisdom, and the search through personal life for connections to the lives of others around us, to those who have gone before us, and to those who will come after us.

Montgomery School, Chester Springs, PA

(Humanities) in the Middle School encourages active investigation and discussion of ideas, of similarities and differences, of connections between the past and the present.

United Nations International School, New York, NY