Renaissance Middle School specializes in providing our students with the tools necessary to make meaningful connections with their learning. It's not simply about what we are teaching the students—it's HOW we guide them to access information and apply it with purpose.

Engagement

Disengagement plays a crucial role in students reaching their full academic potential. Our staff strives to engage students by exciting them about the world around them. By designing lessons that incorporate effective engagement strategies, our teachers maximize the takeaways for our students for each lesson delivered.

Hands on Learning
It has been proven through research that students learning through the hands-On method are prone to acquiring deeper comprehension of lessons in comparison with the ones they only see or hear. There is a tremendous amount of research that supports the theory that the more senses a learner has to utilize during a specific lesson, the more likely they are to reach established learning targets.

**Project Based Learning**

The Renaissance Middle School Schedule incorporated block scheduling. Having students for 80 minutes a day allows our teachers to design lessons that include brief direct instruction, utilizing the rest of the time to work directly on the actual skill presented in the form of a project. Whether there is a worm dissection, collaborative math problem, dramatic skits, books reviews or or through art work-there are many ways we incorporate project based learning.

**Everywhere is a Classroom**

At Renaissance, students and staff know that a classroom is not exclusive to a school building; a classroom does not always have walls. We participate in learning everywhere! Both during the regular school day and during our field experience trips, Renaissance students go to where the learning is! Whether we're taking hikes to Harriman State Park, volunteering at the food bank, exploring a Hindu temple, analyzing the diversity of life at Sandy Hook, reliving history at the African Burial Grounds, and gallery hopping in Chelsea are just a few of the multitude of locations that we consider as part of the Renaissance Middle School’s campus.
Collaboration

At Renaissance, we respect the individual, embrace all learning styles, and celebrate the strength of all of our students. We have found that by providing the opportunities for students to work collaboratively, they learn to value the similarities and differences between each other as well as to capitalize on each other's strengths to reach success.

Leadership

All students are guided to understand the impact their decisions have on themselves and the world at large. Renaissance students are empowered through classroom experiences, with public speaking, community service, social action and student government. These approaches and others effectively grow student leaders who fully embody all that is required to become productive global citizens.

Community Service

Accountability, responsibility and community. These few tenets help students with understanding and developing compassion for themselves and others. Understanding that we are all responsible
for each other is the core of Renaissance Middle School’s mission. We strive to develop students who have an understanding that even very small actions and gestures can make a world of difference.

The Arts for All

No auditions necessary. All students participate in the Arts at RMS. Whether its performance arts (Dance, Chorus, or Band), visual arts (painting) and/or digital arts (3d Design), our students benefit exponentially from the exposure to the type of thinking and creativity that tend to be fostered through participation in arts classes. (and confidence too) Through interdisciplinary instruction in the classrooms, our students quickly learn that that knowledge and skills obtained through our art classes are not only for the stage.

Discovery

Finding your identity is one critical part of the middle school journey. Our goal is that by the time students leave us to go on to high school, they are well on their journey to understanding who they are as an individual, how they fit into their immediate and surrounding communities/world, who they are as a learner, what their strengths are and how to capitalize on all of this knowledge so they thrive in high school and beyond.