



### Welcome

Anne Frank Inspire Academy (AFIA) schools are dedicated to reimaging and transforming learning. Through rigorous and innovative curricula, creative collaboration, guided learning, and an inquiry-driven model, AFIA is crafting world leaders of tomorrow. Providing K-12 education, self-driven students are inspired to develop leadership skills and achieve the pivotal critical-thinking dexterity that is necessary to attaining success in college and beyond.

Featuring a modern learning environment boasting open and copious amounts of natural light, AFIA is contemporizing the look and feel of traditional schools. Classrooms have been replaced with creative internal and external learning spaces, and students are challenged to reach beyond the confines of traditional learning tools, incorporating requirements for facilitator and student mobility, and integration of technology and collaboration into their everyday learning.

### **Student Profile**

AFIA students are academically focused, collaborative, self-motivated, and independent learners that thrive under the gentle guidance of the school's state-certified and passionate facilitators. Unique to this school model, students are encouraged to pursue independent inquiry and given the freedom to research, a model greatly complemented by parental and community involvement. At Anne Frank Inspire Academy, we believe in 'inspiring greatness' and giving students the tools necessary to harness the power of their boundless potential.

## **Our Mission & Vision**

**Mission:** To increase the capacity for human greatness. **Vision:** To reimagine and transform global learning.

### Intentional.

Small schools allowing everyone to know each other and receive the attention they deserve. Recognizing the unique gifts of students in combination with a partnership between student, facilitator, and parent, a tailored learning program is developed.

## **Our Imperatives**

At AFIA, we are active members of our community -- we belong. We are becoming experts in every life arena -- we can be great. And we know there is purpose in life; therefore, we choose to find joy. In short, we believe students can be self-directed learners, and schools can be both fun and challenging.







# Elementary Students

We have developed a small elementary school environment that allows students to receive the learning and instruction they need to support growth. We focus on building important reading and math foundational skills, as well as the self-mastery through self-management.



### **An Inspired Educational Experience**

We offer students an extraordinary experience designed to foster authentic learning that is relevant and meaningful. The programs foster a community of life-long appreciation for learning, academic excellence, opportunities to explore social and emotional wellbeing, and a sense of open-mindedness and responsible citizenship.



#### **Targeted Instruction**

Using industry-recognized academic diagnostic software, along with information our facilitators gather about students every day, a student learning plan is designed to address areas for growth and acceleration for each student.



#### **Guided Inquiry-based Learning**

As students master balanced math and reading instruction to build foundational skills, they are exposed to our guided-inquiry model. Students are guided in the design of investigations addressing open questions and problems. This fosters collaboration, risk taking, skills mastery, and greater confidence.



#### A World of Discovery

All students master the Texas TEKS standards, along with a wealth of extra curricular activities, including an experiential curriculum highlighting things and events all children should be able to experience regardless of social class or income. Art, fitness, music, dance, STEM, coding, and robotics -- AFIA provides a world of discovery.

# Middle School Students

We have developed an academically rigorous middle school that prepares students for high school, college, and career readiness. Students in middle school will be exposed to different colleges and universities, career and trade opportunities, master state standards, and learn key social-emotional skills needed to be successful in life after high school.

Middle school students are fully involved in the guided inquiry model and student-centered inquiries which provide opportunities to problem-solve, risk-take, collaborate, and fully master the content being taught.

Through guided inquiries, students engage in authentic learning experiences facilitated by AFIA facilitators. They work collaboratively with their peers addressing real-world problems while applying the skills acquired in the curriculum.

Being a small campus allows for uniquely tailored programming and the ability to adapt to changing needs and best practices:

- Student choice and voice, along with facilitator expertise, are used to create meaningful learning experiences for each student.
- Use of multiple instructional technology programs to support blended learning instruction: Edgenuity, Microsoft Teams, Reading Plus, Renaissance Star Reading and Math diagnostics.
- Character-building activities focused on growth mindsets, time management, and exposure to multiple college and career pathways.
- Student experiences such as robotics, art, choir, strings, dance, culinary, debate, journalism, yearbook, game design, coding, theater.
- Community and school service, student portfolios, college tours, and field trips to the beach, camping, and Washington DC.



AFIA's rigorous middle school prepares students for high school and beyond, while also providing opportunities to discover and explore interests fueling a lifelong love of learning.



# High School Students

We have developed an academically rigorous high school that prepares students for life beyond high school. Whether it be attending a university, community college, preparing for a trade, or joining the military or workforce, AFIA aims to develop students to be positive contributors to society.

Our students take classes in a true collegiate environment and are supported and treated as future college students. They take part in our rigorous guided inquiry model that allows students to problem solve, take risks, collaborate, and fully master content.

Students have the option to take part in dual-credit courses allowing them to graduate high school with an associate degree from Northwest Vista College or up to 18 college credit hours from the University of Texas at Austin.

AFIA does not take the term personalized learning lightly. Our innovative programs truly allow each student the opportunity to pursue greatness:

- Dual credit and OnRamps opportunities via the University of Texas and the Alamo Community Colleges.
- · Student-led seminars.
- Along with exploring colleges, universities, and careers, students begin networking through mentorships, internships, and community partnerships.
- Use of multiple instructional technology programs to support blended learning instruction: Edgenuity, Microsoft Teams, MyPath, Reading Plus,, Renaissance Star Reading and Math diagnostics.
- Student experiences such as National Honor Society, robotics, art, choir, strings, dance, culinary, debate, journalism, yearbook, game

- design, coding, theater. Students and parents can also recommend clubs and electives.
- Community and school service, student portfolios, college tours, and international field trips to study abroad.
- Naviance College Management System and Virtual Job Shadow programs ensure every student and family have the guidance they need to obtain grants, scholarships, and exposure to numerous career paths and postsecondary opportunities.



Students can earn up to 18 college credit hours in our free OnRamps program through UT Austin.

## **Instructional Pedagogy**

Facilitators help students define what is important and meaningful by reinforcing and repeating essential information, steps, processes, questions, and mindsets.

#### **KNOW: Investigate What's Worth Learning**

The "Know" stage of inquiry is designed to open up possibilities for the learner, tap into the prior knowledge and skills of the learner, challenge critical thinking, and launch a process of planning, doing, and reflecting. It is the time for hypotheses, questions, buy-in, and the time for "yes, and..."

#### **DO: Connect What's Worth Learning**

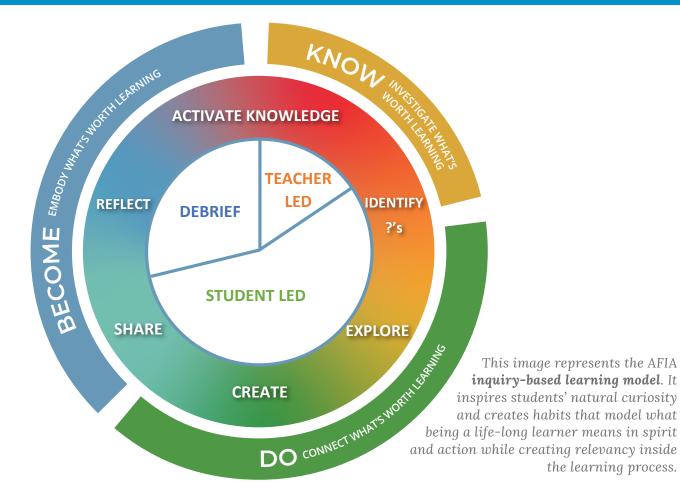
Facilitators reinforce and celebrate the learning and growth of students. They challenge students to think beyond first thought, acknowledge effort, articulate their strengths, and create an environment where they push themselves.

#### **BECOME: Embody What's Worth Learning**

Students think critically about the learning process to set goals, provide effective and continuous feedback, reflect on growth, track progress, evaluate the quality of efforts, and be accountable to their responsibilities, support of others, and self.



the learning process.



## We invite your family to join ours

Mr. Justin Johnston holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and is currently completing his doctorate at the University of Houston. Mr. Johnston has 11 years of experience as campus administrator of several ISD campuses, and three years as Head of Schools of AFIA. He enjoys spending time with his wife of 16 years, Jessica, and his son and AFIA student, Rhett.



BAN THE AVERAGE! These words waken a passion in us to develop a new vision of educational excellence. A vision that is focused on developing independent learners through guided inquiries facilitated by passionate educators.

Our belief is that there is no such thing as an average student. In our system, students are empowered to utilize critical thinking skills, problem solving strategies, and collaborate with peers to construct solutions for real-world applications. Designing such a system starts with being trusted, a commitment to excellence, and caring about stakeholders as individuals. It continues with the creation of boundaries that allow for flexibility, innovation, and creativity, all the while ensuring the focus remains on the objective of academic excellence.

The priority must be to create a true environment of collaboration between all stakeholders, but most importantly between a facilitator and their students. It is imperative that students' own voices are integrated into everyday learning experiences in order to find the joy in learning. Finally, the system must produce results to build credibility and sustainability.

I am excited to be a part of AFIA for the challenge of being truly innovative and the opportunity to increase the capacity for human greatness. Together, we will BAN THE AVERAGE in education!



**Justin Johnston** 

Head of Schools



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