

# MICDS

MARY INSTITUTE AND SAINT LOUIS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

## Diversity, Inclusion, and Cultural Opportunities

**“More than ever, our nation needs responsible men and women who can meet the challenges of this world with confidence and embrace all its people with compassion.”**

*Excerpt from MICDS Mission Statement*

At MICDS, we welcome a diversity of students to our community. We hold firm that cultural competency—empathy, compassion and the ability to collaborate cross-culturally—is foundational for thriving in the world *and* for a thriving world.

Students celebrate diversity across the arc of educational life here. They deepen their sense of self and community through affinity groups, student activities, international education, cultural exchanges, service learning and enrichment programming. Faculty and staff participate in ongoing equity and inclusion education. In and out of the classroom, students consider different perspectives and circumstances, explore cultures, learn about historical and social barriers to inclusion and encounter positive voices of change. Indeed, they become positive voices of change.

At MICDS, we are committed to welcoming, educating and affirming a diverse community, thereby meeting the challenge of our Mission and of our world.




*Diversity is the essential ingredient of our School...*

**42%** of our student body identify as students of color

**70+** metro zip codes represented

**40** languages and dialects spoken in our students' homes

**26%** of our student body receive 100% of demonstrated financial need



# 25+

nationalities featured at our  
biennial International Expo



# 50-75

students participate in international trips

## A Sampling of Curricular Activities, Groups, Events & Programs at MICDS

- **INTERNATIONAL EXPO** - parent-led, community-wide cultural education event
- **DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES** in Middle and Upper School - student-led interactive conferences that provide leadership and performance opportunities and include students from other area schools
- **PATHFINDER SUMMER INSTITUTE** in Middle and Upper School - a week long summer program for African American students
- **UPPER SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL** - a student-led group that celebrates our many cultures and offers support to international students
- **BOND LECTURE SERIES** - prominent African American speakers present at special assemblies in Upper School
- **COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS** - parent-led evening events featuring speakers on topics like cultural competency, community and more
- **FAMILY HISTORY PROJECT AND MUSEUM** - 3rd grade unit where students learn about each other's backgrounds
- **GLOBAL ACTION PROJECT** - a yearlong senior elective in Upper School English that uses non-fiction from diverse authors to explore global issues, engage in design thinking and create social enterprises to address world problems
- **PASSPORT SERIES** - offers global-themed educational and social opportunities for parents
- **CULTURAL COMPETENCY COURSES** - professional development courses for all faculty and staff led by a mix of peers and external experts
- **AFRICAN AMERICAN MENTOR PROGRAM** - mentor and support system for Middle and Upper School students
- **iIDENTITY** - Upper School student group focused on identity issues and development
- **UPPER SCHOOL AFFINITY GROUPS** - Asian Culture Club, Black Student Union, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Gay-Straight Alliance, Jewish Student Union, Muslim Student Association
- **SISTER-SCHOOL EXCHANGES WITH CHINA, ARGENTINA, FRANCE, SPAIN** - family home stays for cultural and language immersion experiences, both as hosts and guests
- **COURSE-RELATED CULTURAL TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES** - Costa Rica STEM and language/cultural immersion co-curricular trip, Shakespeare's England for theater students, Italy for Latin students
- **SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES** - helping schools in South Africa; serving in medical clinics, orphanages and nursing homes in Peru; and building houses with Habitat for Humanity in Baytown, Texas
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL AFFINITY GROUPS** - Asian Student Union, Black Student Union, Southeast Asian Student Union, Prism
- **STUDENT DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE** - national student leadership conference for Upper School students and includes students from independent schools across the country