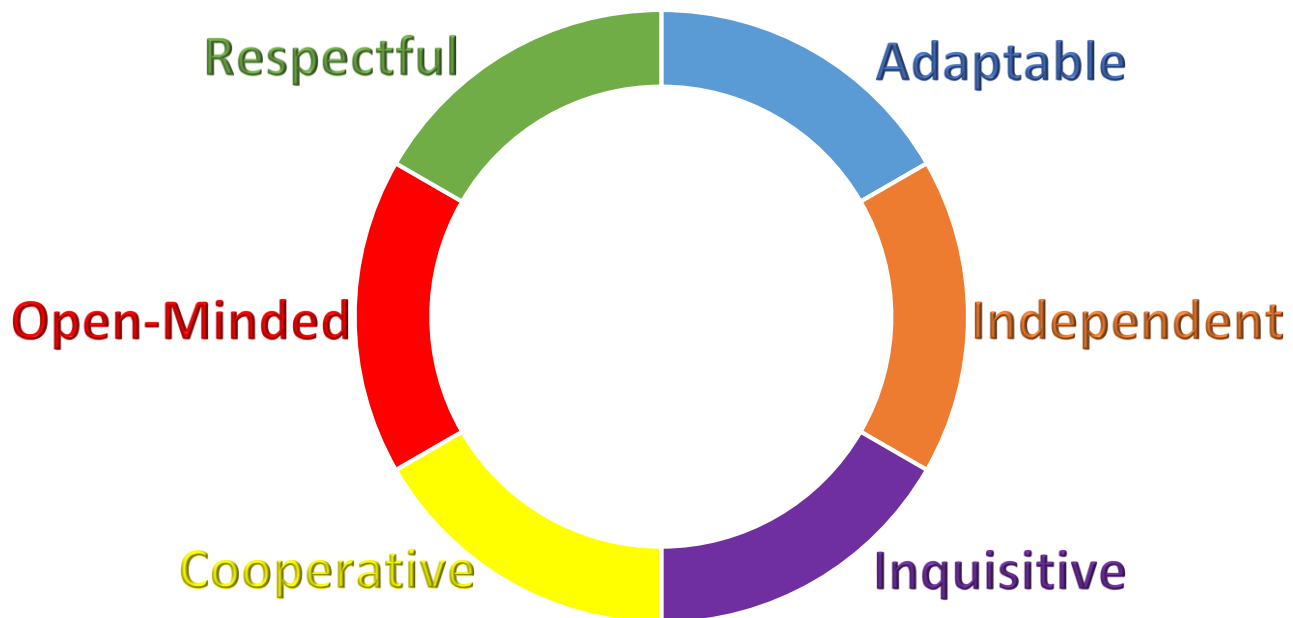


Hello parents!

First of all, thank you for joining our family at Maplewood Academy. By joining us, you have embraced the idea of learning through exploration and discovery, as well as demonstrated a passion for seeing your child grow in a free-thinking, internationally-minded environment. At Maplewood Academy we are proud to be using a curriculum that was crafted by our own development team, and will continue to be developed by our very own staff and students. That's right, the students themselves will play a vital role in the ongoing development and evolution of their own learning.

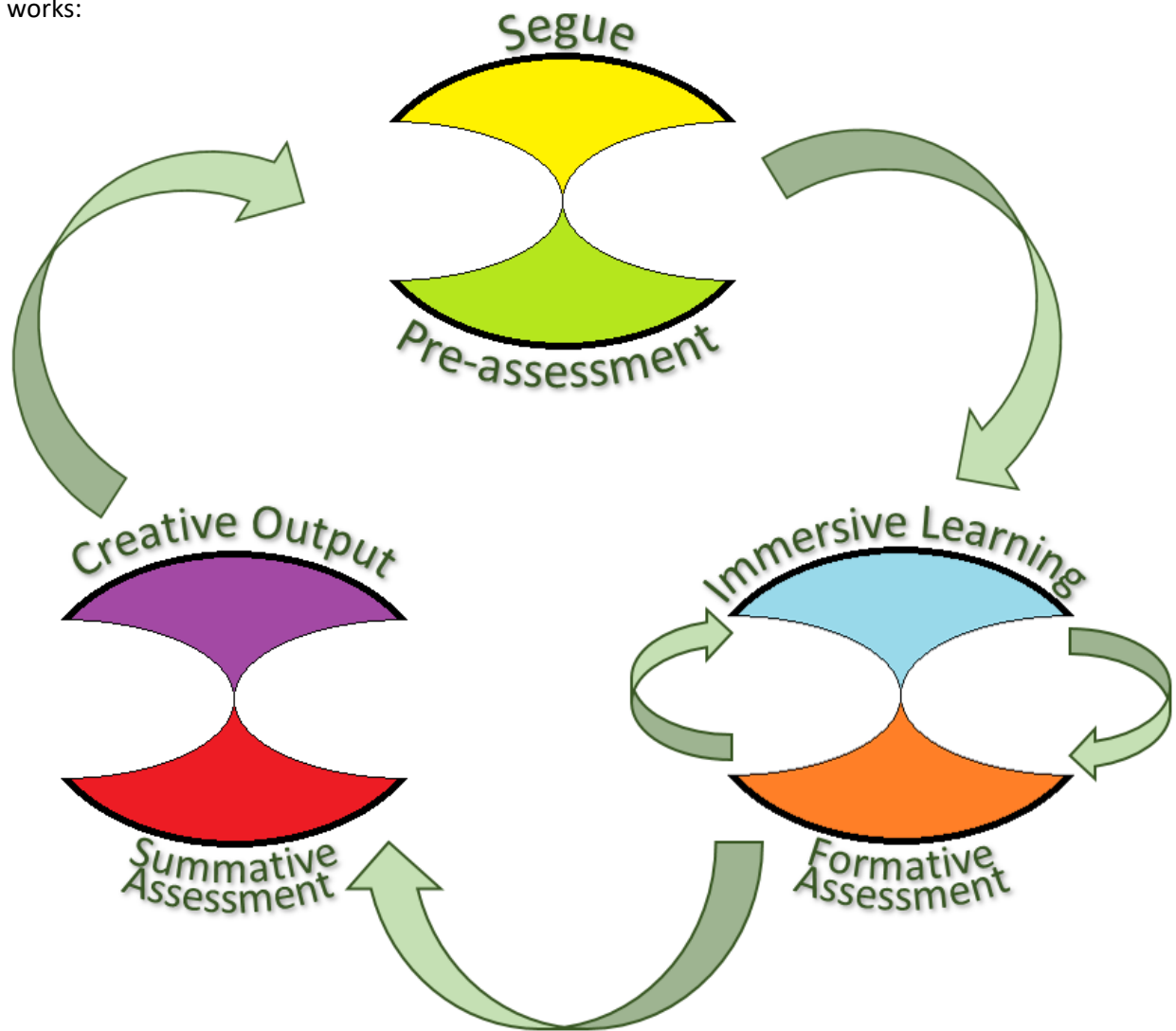
On your calendars, you will notice that the majority of class time is labeled as "Theme", rather than the typical "Math" or "English" that you may be used to. This is due to the fact that this curriculum is broken down by learning goals and personal traits, rather than subject goals. At Maplewood Academy, we aim for each child to enter Elementary School being:



This differentiation between subjects and character traits is crucial to fostering the critical thinking skills that will set your child apart from the rest when it comes time to register for Elementary School. That being said, each Topic is designed to foster one or more basic skills that may fall into these typical subjects. Mirroring this, each week a summary will be sent home which will have a breakdown of what Topics and learning goals we've covered. We hope that you can take some time over the weekends to review or expand upon some of the content from the letter.

At the onset of each new Theme, all of the teaching staff will meet together in order to design a plan for the upcoming weeks. This plan is built specifically for the children of each class, based on the learning styles, personalities and likes/dislikes of each child. Each Topic of Exploration is crafted so that each child gets as much as possible from it, and this should show by their enthusiasm at home and eagerness to answer your questions.

Our curriculum is called the ILE (Immersive Learning Environment), and here's a breakdown of how it works:



Each Theme runs in a cyclical manner, with three major stepping points. Prior to Step One, a letter will be sent home outlining our pre-assessment and summative assessment, so as to get you ready for what's coming up. We hope that you can take a few moments to encourage your child with whatever means you are most comfortable with.

Step One begins with a segue from the previous topic, which leads into the pre-assessment. Step One's primary focus is gathering a basepoint of pre-existing knowledge from the students, which is used to create or intensify an interest in the upcoming "Big Idea". During this step, the students will be introduced to their environment, which will be catered for each Theme's specific needs and learning goals.

Step Two is the area where the vast majority of the students' exploration and learning will take place. It, in itself, is run cyclically, rotating with each new Topic of Exploration (TE). The TE is introduced, explored, and then creatively assessed. Formative assessments are meant to serve as a 'pulse check' for the students as well as the teacher, to see if any ideas need to be revisited so as to solidify any necessary content. Formative assessments should be creative, fun and free of traditional 'pen and paper' testing. Student work from this step should be displayed on walls and windows for encouragement, as well as to simply add to the immersion of the environment.

Step Three is where the students will have the opportunity to produce a 'final product' which summarizes what they have learned over the course of the Theme. This should, for the most part, be a large-scale, parent-involved event so that the students can proudly display/perform what they have been working on for the past several weeks. When this step is complete, displayed materials are free to be sent home.

If there are any questions regarding the ILE, please feel free to get in touch with your classroom teachers as quickly as possible.

Shawn Elliott

Co-Owner and Co-Founder
Head of Education
Maplewood Academy