JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

EXCEL ACADEMICALLY

CHANGE THE WORLD
Positive Energy.

It’s everywhere at Corlears School. In the bustling hallways. Throughout every light-filled classroom. In our teachers’ smiles. And on every child’s face. Because of it, our students believe they can do anything. And so do we!

Corlears kids are kind, compassionate and curious. They ask questions, try new things, and grasp new concepts…fueled by a strong desire to know. Corlears kids never shy from an academic challenge or a chance to speak up. They’re motivated by high academic aspirations and driven to make the world a better place—starting in our own neighborhood.

The active community is hard to miss at Corlears. A certain optimistic exuberance shines in everything we do. And yes, it’s contagious. Blame it on our teachers. They create an environment so welcoming—so filled with promise and wonder—that even our youngest students believe they can change the world.

“‘We believe children must learn to solve complex problems, generate new ideas, and act on social responsibilities with compassion. We’ve designed a school just for that.’”

—David Egolf, Head of School

Programs

Nursery School (Age 2s)
Preschool (Age 3/4s)
Kindergarten (Age 5s)
Elementary: 1st-5th Grade (Age 6/7s, 8/9s, and 10s)
ACADEMICS

REASON LIKE A SCIENTIST.

THINK LIKE A MATHEMATICIAN.

WRITE LIKE A JOURNALIST.

CHANGE THE WORLD!

The world is interesting, and learning is fun.

So why not teach children to discover it for themselves? Corlears kids not only want to know how things work, but also why? Here, students of all ages dive into hands-on projects, explore what excites them, and discover new strengths. No one wants to make a difference more than they do.
How we teach is different at Corlears.

Decades of deep thinking on early childhood education has gone into the development of the distinct Corlears Curriculum. Through social studies-based projects, our students use math, science, writing, and social justice to make sense of the world around them. Expert teachers introduce big and challenging ideas and guide students as they expand their thinking and put new abilities to the test—often in a real world context. Literacy, quantitative reasoning, scientific inquiry, problem solving, and artistic expression are incorporated into every child's course of study. In addition to their classroom teachers, students work with specialists in Spanish, art, music, library, technology and physical education.

What is Culmination?

We've noticed that once students gain new insights and understanding, they usually can't wait to share them with someone. This is why we created Culmination. Half presentation, half life-sized diorama, Culmination is an exciting event for which teachers and students create informative, detailed museum-style experiences in their classroom for other students and families to visit. In the past, students have transformed rooms into barber shops, voting precincts, newsrooms, tenements, and construction sites, showcasing the depth of their new knowledge in all types of subjects!

The Corlears Curriculum

1. Teachers ignite kids' curiosity with big and challenging ideas
2. Kids dive in and explore, solving new problems, grasping new concepts
3. New understanding grows as kids apply their new knowledge to real experiences
4. Kids can't wait to share their new understanding with the community
5. Repeat
Corlears is one of the few schools in New York City that focuses exclusively on young children—and we always have. In our five decades of experience, we’ve come to understand that these early years are the most crucial formative years for every child. They set a foundation of learning and confidence for everything to come. We specialize in guiding this impressionable age group, because the start of your child’s academic life should be nothing short of exceptional.

Expert Teachers

Without a doubt, the single most impactful part of Corlears is our teachers. They hold the highest degrees in early childhood education, so when it comes to inspiring young minds, they know their stuff. Many have taught at other schools in New York City—they’ve chosen to stay at Corlears. Maybe it is because we are an innovative leader. And a model for our progressive, developmental approach to literacy, math, social studies, and social justice. Maybe it’s because we’re deliberately small. In other words, we don’t just teach subjects, we teach students—students who come with different talents, abilities and learning styles. In fact, all teachers of our 2s and 3/4s visit families at home to learn about children’s personal interests, then incorporate them into their studies. This extra effort is what makes learning more meaningful and effective. And is just one small part of what makes Corlears different from the rest.

Why multi-age classes?

At Corlears, bringing older and younger students together is no accident. Other schools say their education is individualized—we put those words into action. We don’t pigeon-hole our children by grade, but instead focus on age and ability, placing students in specific groups based on developmental learning and readiness. The result is kids who grow and excel naturally on their own intellectual, social and emotional timetable. An added benefit of our multi-age approach is that it establishes a fluid, inclusive community, allowing students of all ages to feel safe in taking risks and pushing their own boundaries. But there’s nothing more special than a ten-year-old helping his two-year-old “buddy” walk up the stairs to the library.
Nursery: Age 2s

Two-year-olds are brimming with wonder and curiosity. With play-based learning and social interaction, we help them make discoveries about themselves, their classmates, the school community, and the world. Each day’s activities include beginning science, math, art, and language. Movement, music, and Spanish are also introduced, but hands-on investigation through play is at the core of the program. What child doesn’t love painting, sorting, singing, building, and squishing dough?

Families are an important part of the Corlears Nursery team, supporting kids, teachers, and each other. Because parents of little ones need support too!

Preschool: Age 3/4s

Preschoolers can’t wait to get to class and join their friends at morning meeting. The All About Me study gives them a chance to think and talk about their lives and families. Teachers who specialize in this age group inspire our 3/4s to ask questions and think more deeply. For example, they discover what it means to be a scientist as they set up their own experiments. They’re inspired to take care of the Earth as they get their hands dirty, digging, potting, and planting in our rooftop garden. They’re having so much fun, 3/4s don’t even realize they’re starting to develop literacy, math, and science skills, the critical building blocks they’ll need to move forward. Art, music, Spanish, and gym are also part of every week’s lessons. With expert early education teachers to guide them, 3/4s are on a wonder-filled, two-year journey, preparing for the challenges of Kindergarten.

Preschool families and teachers are in close contact at Corlears—a community with shared values, raising our kids together!

Kindergarten: Age 5

Kindergartners are bubbling with new thoughts and ideas. The Ks curriculum integrates social studies, science, math, art, and technology, fostering a growing understanding of how everything in our world is interconnected. As kids settle down to work, they apply the reading, writing, and math skills they began developing in their preschool years. Small group instruction, along with phonics and movement, bring reading and writing to life. Using iPads as tools, Kindergartners love mastering math and literacy skills. In the fall neighborhood study, Ks explore Chelsea on several walking trips, learning first-hand about maps and New York’s grid system. In our art studio, kids are free to express their newfound ideas in creative ways. Each year students study neighborhood jobs. When studying the job of an artist, the Ks created their own works of art, wrote an artist bio, and created a real classroom art gallery!

“In the big NYC, you need a small community of parents to support you, to feel connected.”
- Mother of son (4)
Age 6/7s (Dual-age 1st and 2nd grades)

Get ready…the 6/7s are transformational years. This is when students proudly become readers and writers, and using our innovative Math Workshop model, grasp new math concepts. In-depth projects spark their imaginations about the world around them. And the curriculum really comes alive as they explore the rich resources of New York City.

Our 6/7s love working together in mixed-age instruction classrooms—a place for lively collaboration. But at this stage…it’s really all about the ducks! Excitement builds as duck eggs actually incubate in the classroom. Embryology is the technical term, but what kids really want to know is, When will they hatch? Students explore habitats and types of ducks, collect data, report their findings, and learn how to care for chicks. Quack!

“...from the president to a Supreme Court Justice or even an astronaut! Thank you to all teachers, staff and students for making Corlears a magical place to learn!”

—Jade, age 10 (at Corlears since Pre-k)

Age 8/9s (Dual-age 3rd and 4th grades)

Suddenly, everything learned in the lower grades starts to come together—in profound and personal ways. History and social justice are the focus for 8/9s through a series of in-depth projects that incorporate math, science, music, art, reading, and writing. The 8/9s curriculum comes to life thanks to our fantastic New York surroundings.

In past years, students have:
• Learned about the history and geography of the Hudson River
• Discussed protests, the Black Lives Matter movement, and made protest signs
• Dove into late-19th and early-20th century immigration and the history of New York City
• Wrote letters to their elected representatives about gun violence
• Studied the Lenape and Manahatta, Native Americans who inhabited the Eastern Woodlands—and even built a wigwam

Age 10s (5th grade)

Humanities are the focus for 10s. In rigorous core projects they link science, math, the arts, and technology, reaching new levels of thinking. Each year, they explore ancient Greece, the seeds of democracy, and Greek mythology. Continuing with our rigorous Math Workshop model, they also become proficient with content needed to excel on the Independent School Entrance Exam (iSEE). The many writing, research, and hands-on engineering projects 10s tackle, expand their ability to apply new skills, solve problems, and demonstrate conceptual knowledge.

In 5th grade, leadership takes center stage. Our 10s lead every Friday school assembly and initiate year-long service projects—working to make a difference in the school, their neighborhood, and the global community. Beyond the classroom, 10s look forward to exploring social justice topics that emerge organically through group discussion. Because of our multi-age classrooms, 10s already have a jump on middle school. They can navigate more complex problems, work collaboratively, and know how to lead. At the end of the year, each graduating student delivers a heartfelt speech to the entire school community. (There’s never a dry eye in the room!) When 10s leave Corlears, they are poised and ready to take the next step as leaders at some of the best middle schools in the city.

“I know I can be anything I want, from the president to a Supreme Court Justice or even an astronaut! Thank you to all teachers, staff and students for making Corlears a magical place to learn!”

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Corlears School believes in the power of community.

At home, in school, and out in the world, community is everything. It’s who we are and how things get done. The Corlears School community is motivated by a deep commitment to social justice and driven to make the world a better place—starting in our own backyard.
Sit in on a Corlears class and you’ll feel the authentic mutual respect. It’s undeniable. Now more than ever, we believe it’s imperative that children learn to respect and appreciate difference—in the languages we speak, our beliefs and traditions, our racial identities, our age, gender, sexual orientation, and the various configurations of our families and socio-economic situations. Through active listening and questioning, Corlears kids become critical thinkers who are compassionate and informed.

The Corlears community loves to have fun together as a school.

Every year, we look forward to Spirit Week, Spring Fair, and Peach Day, which is our version of field day, when older kids go Prospect Park to play games and younger ones have a splashing-fun time with water in our own courtyard. Taking the time to appreciate and celebrate with others is a life skill we embrace daily. We hope our students will use it at Corlears and throughout their lives, creating a brighter future for us all.

“Sharing their voices makes our students feel empowered… They’ve learned that one voice can help change the world.”

— 8/9s Faculty member
When it comes time to apply to middle schools, you won’t be alone. With more than five decades of experience and an excellent reputation, we guide every Corlears family through the middle school admissions process, starting in the student’s 4th grade year. Our successful, one-on-one guidance program places students in highly competitive schools throughout New York City. In fact, nearly all Corlears 10s are accepted to at least one of their top three choices. And because they are highly sought-after middle school candidates, our graduates have received over $1 million dollars in financial aid over the past five years.
Corlears School is a progressive alternative to traditional education, built on a rigorous and time-tested academic program.

We know our approach works because our graduates go on to some of the best schools, colleges and universities in the country.

“Corlears is not just progressive, it’s also a rigorous education. It’s focused on community and social responsibility, and the faculty quality is very high. It’s a community in action.”

– Father of daughter (7), son (9)
INVEST IN YOUR CHILD’S FUTURE

We realize that sending your child here is a financial commitment, which is why we award more financial aid than any other school our size in New York City. Committed to our mission, we do our best to make Corlears accessible to everyone. But keep in mind that a Corlears education is a lifelong investment in your child’s future. You can be sure it will be worth it in the long-run—in your child’s continuing success in school, career, and life, the way it has for generations of Corlears graduates.

Tuition

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<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
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We can’t wait to meet you!

We believe every child has unlimited potential—to push their academic boundaries and make a difference. We know your child does, too! This brochure is full of details, but the only way to see if Corlears is right for you and your child is to visit.

Make an appointment today at www.corlersschool.org/admission. We’d love to hear from you.
A neighborhood school for the entire city, offering a solid academic foundation and a vibrant, inclusive community, for curious young minds ages 2 to 10.