

PURNELL SCHOOL

# why choose purnell?



because

*here you can discover your  
strengths and passions*

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## The Affinities Program®

At Purnell School, girls discover their **strengths** and use them to carve out a path toward a **meaningful future**. Purnell girls make specific goals to **reach new heights both academically and outside the classroom**. Purnell helps each student uncover her strengths through **self-discovery**, which is key to helping our students **find and create meaning in their lives**. During **Affinities Seminars**, throughout their time at Purnell, students discover what **activities make them feel strong**, how they **best learn**, and how to **build strong relationships**. Our students use this information to **explore career paths** and set themselves up for **success in college**. The entire community then encourages each student to **practice, utilize, and enhance her strengths each and every day** by participating in our many **extracurricular activities**, **advocating for her own learning**, participating in **sports**, the **visual and performing arts**, and a **plethora of elective classes**.

# The Affinities Program consists of three parts:

## Part One: Affinities Seminar

The 9th grade focuses on **Connecting**. During several Grade-Based Seminars throughout the year, students participate in hands-on, creative, real-world applicable activities; learn how to build healthy relationships; and discover, name, and utilize their learning strengths.

The 10th Grade focuses on **Activating**. During several Grade-Based Seminars, students participate in hands-on, creative, real-world applicable activities to discover, name, and utilize their teamwork and learning strengths.

The 11th Grade focuses on **Envisioning**. During several Grade-Based Seminars, in the spring term, students participate in hands-on, creative, real-world applicable activities to envision a future career, begin the college process, and secure a summer internship using their strengths.

The 12th Grade focuses on **Proclaiming**. During several Grade-Based Seminars, in the spring term, students work on writing their college application essays, creating and practicing their senior speech, and applying gratitude to the people who have helped them throughout their high school career.

## Part Two: Demystification

Each student is demystified in her first year at Purnell. A faculty member gathers extensive data to understand the student's strengths, affinities, and weaknesses, and develops appropriate learning strategies. The student is presented this information during a 30-minute meeting and an alliance is formed between the student and her teachers to continually invest in utilizing strengths and affinities while addressing weaknesses. Faculty utilize this knowledge in and out of the classroom during the student's time at Purnell to maximize her success in school and in life.

## Part Three: Live your strengths

As part of the Affinities Program, students are given a multitude of opportunities to utilize their strengths in and out of the classroom. Students may be given a choice of assessments based on her strengths, or a teacher may encourage a student to choose a topic for a project based on an affinity. Activities and out-of-class opportunities are provided for students so they may dabble in their various strengths and interests. Every Wednesday a different student showcases her strengths for the entire community during morning meeting. Our Professional Women Career Speaker Series helps students learn more about how they can apply their strengths in the future. And each student's advisor has in-depth knowledge of her advisee's strengths so he/she may encourage personal growth and academic success.

*"You don't go to school to be better at school; you go to be better at life."*

*- Brooke Malik, Director of the Affinities Program*

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For more information or to schedule a visit:



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