



## ABOUT ARSENAL SCHOOL

Arsenal is actually made up of two schools that share the same building. Arsenal Elementary, located on the 39<sup>th</sup> Street side of the building, serves students in Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade from the neighborhoods of Lawrenceville and Garfield. Arsenal Middle School, located on the 40<sup>th</sup> Street side, serves students in grades 6 through 8 from the neighborhoods of Lawrenceville, Garfield, Bloomfield, Friendship, and Polish Hill. Both schools offer ESL (English as a Second Language) and also pull students from other neighborhoods whose families speak a primary language other than English. Consequently, Arsenal has one of the most diverse student bodies in the entire city! Last year, Arsenal Middle School graduates moved on to some of the best high schools around, including CAPA, Allderdice, Winchester Thurston, Shadyside Academy, Sci-Tech, and Obama. While the school looks large from the outside, Arsenal is a small, tight-knit community.

### Student information:

	Arsenal PreK-5	Arsenal 6-8
# of students:	300 in K-5, plus 60 in Pre-K	190
# of nationalities represented:	17	Over 20
Economically disadvantaged students:	85%	89%
English Language Learner:	17%	17%
Special Education:	9%	28%

### Courses & programs offered:

- Academic courses in Communications, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies
- All students have courses in art, music, and wellness (gym/health/swimming), as well as library
- ESL (English as a Second Language)
- Gifted studies
- Algebra I offered at the middle school
- Emotional/Learning Support
- Life Skills Support
- Other special programs include instrumental music, chorus, African drumming, student council, mentoring, DJ workshops, and more!

### Afterschool programs:

- Intramural sports (cross-country, volleyball, basketball, swimming, soccer, wrestling, tennis)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Program (academic enrichment and support)
- Positive Spin (biking program)
- Arts in Action (using art as a tool for community activism and peace)
- Environmental Justice Club
- STEM Stars (technology program for girls)
- Strong Women, Strong Girls (mentorship program)



*New families are welcomed during Arsenal's first day of kindergarten.*



### History of the building:

In spite of Arsenal being built in the early 1930's during the Great Depression, no efforts were spared in making it one of the most beautiful schools to be built in the city. The building is constructed of Indiana limestone and Tennessee marble. The school was officially dedicated to the community on November 1, 1932. Initially built as Arsenal Trade School, over the years the building has been utilized for numerous educational purposes, including a junior high, a vocational school for girls, and a school to aid students with tuberculosis.



Arsenal was built on the site of the Allegheny Arsenal, used during the Civil War. The Allegheny Arsenal is historically noted for a gunpowder explosion that occurred at the site on September 17, 1862 and was one of the worst civilian disasters in the history of the Civil War, killing over 70 people, most of whom were young girls and women. The event is memorialized with a bronze tablet in the foyer of the middle school. Other connections to local history are visible in the chandeliers in Arsenal's auditorium (featuring horses that harken back to the Allegheny Arsenal) and in a tribute to Stephen Foster, whose father founded Lawrenceville.

### Contact information:

	Arsenal PreK-5	Arsenal 6-8
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