



In order to better meet the needs of the district's diverse middle school population, a non-traditional grade 5-8 school was created. Through high order thinking skills and experiential learning, educators teach the Washington State Learning Standards with the purpose of preparing students for high school. Students participate in academic subjects that are thematically integrated throughout the morning; the last hour of each day is designed around the students applying their academic knowledge to running a city. This city is reflective of the community outside the school. Student managers oversee the operation of the city. All students have jobs and are paid city currency, which they use to pay bills, fines, tuition, and purchase items during Market. Each student is required to complete a job application packet and go through the interview process.

Through the City Escape approach to learning, students come to understand the socio-economics and political forces affecting society. They gain experience with a free market economy, taxes, technology, and community awareness. Students practice skills they will need to be productive citizens. City Escape is an hour when students apply their daily learning toward real life situations. Problem solving, critical thinking, and collaboration are areas of focus during this time.