



3. Traditions

Areas of Excellence

Section 3

1. Maintaining an **educational environment** which radiates high expectations and also offers the means to achieve it.
2. **Nurturing** each student as if that child was the only one in attendance.
3. Firmly adhering to well proven traditional Cougar Mountain Academy values and procedures in order to assure **continuity in general excellence**.
4. Offering the very **best in education** and values for each student regardless of the degree of parent involvement and support.
5. Offering a tuition structure which is **compatible with the general excellence** and offerings of the School.
6. Seeking **individual solutions** to individual problems whether that involves student, parent or both thereof.
7. Maintaining School Staff on all levels on the basis of **continuous excellence, dedication** and **performance**.
8. Providing a School facility which is pleasant, unique and encourages the **love of School** and learning.
9. Offering patience, love, consistency, attention and compassion **to each student** in everyday school life.
10. Offering a departmentalized multi-teacher concept of education where each teacher or staff member functions in the area of **personal strength and choice** (Kindergarten through Fifth Grade).
11. Offering an **individualized curriculum** where learning is not limited to grade level and where each student is given the opportunity to develop maximum individual potential in the traditional academic subjects of Language Arts, Communication, Reading, Mathematics and Geometry.
12. Encouraging creativity, independent thinking, goal orientation, self-confidence and the quest for personal excellence **for each student**.
13. Maintaining the position of the Academy on the **leading edge** of academic excellence.
14. Maintaining a **high level** of communication between Parent and the Academy.

15. Offering a curriculum which is compatible with current **international standards** in order to assure success when confronted with the challenges of the future.
16. Assuring grade to grade **excellence** by the application of minimum grade standards in place of social promotion.
17. Maintaining an environment which by its very essence naturally nurtures families and students of all denominations, all ethnic backgrounds, all national origins and a range of socio economic levels where all students can **harmoniously develop** individual potential and fulfill high expectations.

Student Achievement - National Standard Test Results Section 3

Prior to 1976 a variety of National Standardized Tests were administered depending on grade level.

To facilitate an overall School performance analysis on a year to year basis, starting in 1976 Cougar Mountain Academy adopted the California Achievement Test (CAT) and later the Metropolitan Achievement Test (MAT). The standardization of test format established a School average on a yearly basis for the Academy.

Individual and overall School scores for these past years have been exceptional and rank in the top 5% on a national level. All Kindergarten through Upper Elementary students are required to take the Metropolitan Achievement Test each year in May.

Cougar Mountain Academy does not practice social promotion. In addition, each student is required to achieve, without exception, all of the minimum grade standards prescribed by the Academy for each grade level.

The following School average scores represent all students in Grades K through 5. Highest attainable score is 99 percentile.

1976 - 77.....	CAT.....	93.2 percentile
1977 - 78.....	CAT.....	95.1 percentile
1978 - 79.....	CAT.....	95.8 percentile
1979 - 80.....	CAT.....	94.3 percentile
1980 - 81.....	CAT.....	95.2 percentile
1981 - 82.....	CAT.....	93.1 percentile
1982 - 83.....	CAT.....	94.7 percentile
1983 - 84.....	CAT.....	96.1 percentile
1984 - 85.....	MAT.....	97.6 percentile
1985 - 86.....	MAT.....	96.7 percentile
1986 - 87.....	MAT.....	96.7 percentile
1987 - 88.....	MAT.....	97.8 percentile
1988 - 89.....	MAT.....	95.4 percentile
1989 - 90.....	MAT.....	96.7 percentile

1990 - 91.....	MAT.....	94.7 percentile
1991 - 92.....	MAT.....	95.7 percentile
1992 - 93.....	MAT.....	95.0 percentile
1993 - 94.....	MAT.....	96.7 percentile
1994 - 95.....	MAT.....	94.6 percentile
1995 - 96.....	MAT.....	93.4 percentile
1996 - 97.....	MAT.....	93.9 percentile
1997 - 98.....	MAT.....	95.7 percentile
1998 - 99.....	MAT.....	97.5 percentile
1999 - 00.....	MAT.....	95.3 percentile
2000 - 01.....	MAT.....	95.7 percentile
2001 - 02.....	MAT.....	97.4 percentile
2002 - 03.....	MAT.....	97.0 percentile
2003 - 04.....	MAT.....	96.5 percentile
2004 - 05.....	MAT.....	97.2 percentile
2005 - 06.....	MAT.....	97.1 percentile

Individual and overall School scores for these past years have been exceptional and rank in the top 5% on a national level.

International Student Body

Section 3

Cougar Mountain Academy **admits, encourages** to attend and **welcomes** students of any race, color, denomination, nationality and ethnic origin.

The Academy is proud of its **international student body and flag display** sponsored by past and current students featuring the flags of over 50 countries.

Children with limited knowledge of the English language are welcomed, nurtured and thrive through total immersion in the Academy's individualized program.



Non-Denominational Values

Section 3

Cougar Mountain Academy is a non-denominational School where students are taught to **respect** beliefs and directions pursued by others and to be **proud** of their own denominational values and heritage. Holidays at the Academy are commemorated in a happy but moderate manner to allow the 'home and family' to fully expedite the meaning of the occasion.

Patriotic Values

Section 3

Students at the Academy begin each day by reciting the Pledge to the Flag and singing a patriotic song. The American Flag flies above the school throughout the year. Students assemble in the courtyard around the flag-pole several times each year.



Love of Learning

Section 3

Love of Learning is a direct result of excellence in achievement. The **curriculum is individualized**, creates a solid foundation and promotes **pride in personal achievement**. In addition to the prescribed curriculum, students also choose from a wide selection of elective classes in order to pursue a particular area of interest.

Involvement in the Community

Section 3

Cougar Mountain Academy **supports** the surrounding community by participating in community and local events and has received a number of awards for its involvement.

Each Learning Group at the Academy **sponsors** a family in need over the holidays.

Donations of food, clothing and other gifts are collected and distributed to a variety of community food banks throughout the year.

The Academy **supports** environmental issues and the cause of wildlife in the natural world by supporting the Issaquah Zoo. The Academy has been declared a '*Living Classroom School*' by the Zoological Society of Washington.



Leadership Opportunities

Section 3

The individualized curriculum at Cougar Mountain Academy provides **leadership opportunities** to all students. In the classroom, students learn to be successful public speakers and to project proper composure in front of familiar audiences. All students gain self confidence through participating in unique non-competitive, individualized events that promote the importance of responsibility, accountability and reliability. Students at the Academy have opportunities on a daily basis to practice and to grow into **leadership positions** that prepare them for a future of promise.



Faculty to Student Ratio

Section 3

To assure **academic excellence**, close relationships and individualized instruction, the overall school faculty to student ratio is maintained at or below 10 full time students per faculty member. Individual Learning Group size is limited to a maximum of 16 students. The ideal class size and faculty to student ratio assure a high level of **individual instruction** and at the same time allow **optimum interaction** and **social growth** for every child attending Cougar Mountain Academy.

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