



4836 Cascade Street, N. Chesterfield, VA 23234 (804)774-9414

## **Our History**

Chesterfield Innovative Academy for Girls, located in N. Chesterfield, Virginia, is a diverse independent school for girls. Founded in 2014, CIA for Girls, inspires and empowers students to build confidence, resilience, and self-awareness as they prepare to become leaders in their families, communities, and the world.

Our approach to teaching and learning is grounded in the *Reggio Emilia Approach*, and essential components of this approach are listed below:

## **Image of the Child**

We believe that children are born thinkers and learners who observe and experiment, from their earliest months, to understand their world. Children are naturally curious, creative, and motivated to discover and learn. We believe our role as educators is to nurture and sustain these natural dispositions in an object-rich environment that contributes powerfully to learning and understanding.

## **Collaboration**

In a collaborative environment, children begin to understand their unique talents, both as an individual and as part of a group. Girls learn to negotiate conflicts when they arise, discover other students with engineering skills, or those who are creative artists. In time, girls recognize and accept the strengths of their classmates without judgment or competition which helps to foster a rich community of diverse learners.

## **The Hundred Languages Studio**

The studio is crucial to the Reggio Emilia Approach because it helps students to make their learning visible. Children use various media and expressions (clay, pen, paper, watercolor, song, imagination and science) to communicate within "the hundred languages of children". Children learn to reflect on their knowledge as they represent it in various ways.

## **The Natural World**

We are committed to exposing children to the natural world. As children observe the natural world, they are prompted to ask questions that lead to discovery in science and social studies. Students grow vegetables and flowers in raised beds which helps them attune to the seasons and connect with the natural world.

**NOW ENROLLING AGE THREE THROUGH FIRST GRADE**

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**804-774-9414**

