

The Institutes at Kent Denver School



Imagine, Explore, Create and Refine



PHILOSOPHY

In the Kent Denver Institute approach, teachers, academic programs, extracurricular offerings, approved student-directed study, dynamic learning spaces and access to experts in Colorado and beyond support students' quest to learn more about what inspires them.

The Institute approach emphasizes choice. Students choose whether or not to participate and what to pursue.

Age- and grade-appropriate options ensure both Middle and Upper School students can follow their interests throughout their seven-year Kent Denver journey.

Institutes complement the Middle School curriculum with options such as research opportunities, electives and service learning. Students choose topics to explore and problems to solve while gaining an appreciation for the potential impact their actions have on the world.

Middle School students who participate in an Institute may receive acknowledgment at Continuation.

The options available in the Upper School reflect students' maturity, self-awareness, ability to self-advocate and aptitude for weaving disparate threads of knowledge into a cohesive, dynamic whole. Students have supportive venues in which to pursue their interests and, in some cases, forge paths for future career endeavors.

Upper School students work with their advisor, dean, the Institute Director and the Upper School Director to create a personalized learning plan that defines expectations and required outcomes for their Institute study. Students who complete agreed-upon coursework, community service, a senior capstone project and portfolio may earn an Institute certificate at graduation beginning in the 2018–19 school year.

Hunt Family Institute for Entrepreneurial Education



The Hunt Family Institute teaches students how to bring to life ideas that add value to the world. Both Middle and Upper School students will experience the essence of entrepreneurship: taking direct action to create a product or service and advancing it. Our program will inspire, guide and support students through the process of identifying problems, implementing solutions and learning from failure and success.

Middle and Upper School students will experience the core elements of entrepreneurial thinking: inspiration, creativity, direct action, courage and fortitude.

The Hunt Institute combines entrepreneurially-oriented classes, clubs and other programming with the Kent Denver Entrepreneurial Opportunity Network (EON), which launched in 2016.

EON is a resource for students who are interested in pursuing the study of entrepreneurship and/or are looking for support and recognition of their own entrepreneurial projects.

EON supports a combination of classes, extracurricular clubs, independent projects, faculty professional development and contacts outside Kent Denver to foster and grow the spirit of entrepreneurship across our school community. EON is also supported by the EON Advisory Board, a network of Kent Denver teachers, alumni and successful for profit and non-profit entrepreneurs who advise our program informally and provide relevant industry support and guidance to Kent Denver student entrepreneurs.

Related courses, clubs and other programs for the 2018–19 academic year are listed to the right.

Related Courses, Clubs and Other Programs for the 2018–19 Academic Year

Courses

- AP Economics
- Advanced Topics in Economics (GOA)
- Business Economics and Ethics
- Business of the Entertainment Industry
- Design & Build
- Entrepreneurial Leadership (GOA)
- Entrepreneurship in a Global Context (GOA)

Clubs

- Sports Business
- Entrepreneurship
- Finance and Investment
- Outstanding Women in Business
- Bogue Café

Other Programs/Projects/Electives

- Independent Studies in Entrepreneurship
- CIE—Entrepreneurship Internships
- Entrepreneurship Senior Projects
- KDS Kids for Change (Middle School)
- Project CRISP (Middle School)

Rollins Institute for Technology and Design



The Rollins Institute is Kent Denver's hub for students who are interested in exploring technology and design, whether they are dabbling in the field, have a one-time project that requires technology and design to complete, or have a passion for technology and design that leads them to dive deep. Flexible learning spaces and program possibilities offer access to teachers and instructors, resources and machines that enable students to pursue their intrinsic interests.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Rollins Institute offers Middle School coursework, programming and independent projects inspired by student curiosity around the topics of technology and design.

Students may pursue a range of experiences that can result in a designation at Continuation—or they may decide to take a single elective.

To begin work towards a Continuation designation, students will work with the Institute Director to complete a Middle School personalized learning plan that contains the following:

- **At least three curricular projects** embedded in current offerings that focus on a topic of technology and design as approved by the Institute Director.
- **A minimum of 40 hours of technology and design programming** as determined and approved by the Institute Director. For example, students can accrue programming time through after-school technology and design courses, Interim, electives, etc.

- **Completion of a Project Intensive.** With the assistance of the Institute Director, students find and work with a teacher to complete an independent or group project that explores a technology and design topic. Students complete this intensive through participation in the one semester Project Intensive elective or the one semester Project Intensive after-school experience.
- **A capstone service project and portfolio** that students complete in the spring of the eighth grade. This project may take place during the Middle School elective block or after-school. Students work with the Institute Director to find a service experience that connects to an area of focus in technology and design. Additionally, students develop a portfolio that reflects the work they have completed throughout their Middle School experience which is presented at the end of the semester.

Note: Completion of a MS Designation satisfies The Rollins Institute Upper School Orientation Seminar requirements and allows for advanced standing in other categories of Upper School work.

Sample Pathway

6th Grade

Curricular Project

CRISP project

Curricular Project

STEAM completion

After School Technology & Design

MS Construction, Problem Solving with AR

7th Grade

Elective

Virtual Worlds

Curricular Project

Final Paper in History 7—The Development of Technologies that Advanced Modern America

After School Technology & Design

Robotics Club

T&D Project Intensive

Project: TBD

8th Grade

Curricular Project

Final Paper in English 8—Human Centered Design: Collecting Stories of Progress

After School Technology & Design

Design Thinking for a Better World

After School Technology & Design

Robotics Club

T&D Service Capstone

Project: LEED Certification and the New Middle School Building

MODIFICATIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2023

Because students in the Class of 2023 will only have one Middle School year to fulfill these requirements, the project intensive will be optional and will count toward technology and design programming if completed.

UPPER SCHOOL

In the Upper School, The Rollins Institute offers experiences inspired by student interest and grounded in preparing participants to be successful in technology and design fields.

Students will have the opportunity to use technology and design to understand the design process, collaborate with others, solve complex problems and make an impact in the world around them. Along the way, they will have authentic opportunities to capture, reflect and present on the work they produce.

UPPER SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN GRADUATION CERTIFICATE

To qualify for a Technology and Design graduation certificate, students must develop and complete a personalized learning plan that is approved by the Institute Director, Upper School Division Head and Class Dean.

Personalized learning plans are just that: personalized. Therefore, requirements for a graduation certificate will vary student by student. In general, students who have the personalized learning plans approved will do work in the following six areas:

1. Orientation to the Rollins Institute and Self-Directed Study

In an online orientation to the self-directed study process, students will meet with the Institute Director, complete an initial personalized learning plan, develop a network of advocates and create a framework for their portfolio.

Students with a Middle School Technology and Design designation are exempt from student intensive orientation.

2. Technology and Design Focused Coursework

Generally, students should plan to take four years of Upper School technology and design coursework.

Students may petition to alter Kent Denver graduation requirements as part of their personalized learning plan.

Examples of qualifying coursework include:

- Advanced Topics CS: Data Structures (semester)
- Advanced Topics CS: Servers and Data (semester)
- AP Computer Science A (full year)
- AP Computer Science Principles (full year)
- Design & Build (semester)
- Social Media and Online Communities (semester)
- Technical Theater Workshop (full year)
- Computer Architecture (full year)

3. Technology and Design Focused Activities

Students should plan to participate in activities related to technology and design. Some of Kent Denver-sponsored activities include:

- Robotics Team
- Technology Team
- Independent Studies
- Hack-a-thons
- Trips to professional Technology & Design spaces
- Pop-up courses

Students may also propose non-Kent Denver activities that can fulfill some of these requirements.

4. Ethics, Service and Leadership Experiences

Students pursuing a graduation certificate should plan to participate in three seminars focused in the following areas: ethics, services and leadership. Seminars involve a technology and design project geared toward the seminar's focus.

Students will have a Kent Denver guide who supports them through the completion of a project in this area. Students will also participate in an online community with a seminar facilitator who will engage students in discussion around the seminar's focus.

Additionally, student-chosen readings and discussions around the topic (project development, ethics, leadership or service) develop a culture of professional growth in these areas. In the service seminar, students are encouraged to also use this opportunity to earn Kent Denver service hours.

5. Networking, Mentoring and Exploration Experiences

As students progress through the institute, we want them to successfully develop strategies, resources and networks that will allow them to participate in lifelong learning in technology and design. To that end, a portion of a personalized learning plan includes being mentored by professionals in the field, engaging professional literature and establishing a network of advocates who will help the student grow their craft.

6. Senior Capstone Seminar, Portfolio and Presentation of Learning

In the spring of their senior year, students complete a senior capstone intensive in which they complete a capstone project, portfolio and final presentation of learning. As in other seminars, students will work with a Kent Denver guide of their choosing to support them through the capstone project.

As with other seminars, students will participate in an online community with a seminar facilitator who will focus on supporting students in the completion of their personalized learning plan, portfolio and final presentation of learning. This capstone also fulfills the Kent Denver CIE requirement for seniors.

