

## ***How can I make a difference in the world?***



St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School  
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At St. Patrick's new MacArthur Campus, where Grade 6 has joined our former Grades 7 and 8 program in a new middle-school configuration, this question launches the now three-year journey to graduation.

Grade 6 focuses on the first piece of the larger question with its own question—*Who am I?*—which they consider in many advisory activities and elsewhere in the curriculum.

The Grade 7 question—*What do I do well?*—takes on the “can” of the larger question and reveals that developing oneself is not a solitary task. Our students are challenged to help each other grow through collaboration and empathy-- understanding, working with, and supporting each other.

Finally, we look outward beyond this community, toward making a difference in the world, even as that larger world is never far away from the work we do together. We ask our Grade 8 students to consider a question—*Where do I fit in the world?*—which they pursue through their Grade 8 Capstone Project. This project - based on one of the pillars of Episcopal identity, social justice - directs our students to the structures in place that support or impede our country's values of equality, freedom, and justice. Each student is challenged to consider where s/he fits in those structures and what can s/he can do to address those in need of reform.

As our students move out into the larger world, we hope our middle school program has equipped graduates with a clearer sense of how to answer the driving question: *How can I make a difference in the world?*