As a member of a learning community committed to discovery, innovation, collaboration and excellence, the Cary Academy student graduates as…

**A CRITICAL THINKER** who:
- uses various types of reasoning as appropriate to the situation
- gathers, analyze and evaluates evidence, arguments, claims and beliefs
- considers major alternative points of view
- recognizes how parts of a whole interact to produce overall outcomes in complex situations
- synthesizes information and makes connections within and across disciplines
- interprets information and draws conclusions based on the best analysis
- reflects critically on his or her own learning experiences and processes

**A SELF-DIRECTED LEARNER** who:
- demonstrates intellectual curiosity and a commitment to learning as a lifelong process
- develops self-awareness as a learner and adapts his or her learning strategies accordingly
- plans, prioritizes and manages efficiently to achieve the goals of specific projects or problems
- seeks out opportunities to apply newly-acquired knowledge and skills to further his or her understanding
- takes deliberate and intelligent risks and learns from the outcome

**A CREATIVE THINKER** who:
- employs a range of strategies and techniques to generate and develop new ideas
- transfers knowledge and skills with ease to unfamiliar situations
- takes into account new and diverse perspectives and incorporates group input and feedback into his or her work
- identifies and asks significant questions that lead to better understandings
- acts on creative ideas to make tangible and useful contributions to projects or problems
- demonstrates perseverance and passion and views setbacks as opportunities to learn

**A SKILLED AND RESPONSIBLE USER OF TECHNOLOGY** who:
- employs digital technology, communication networks and electronic resources as means to access, manage, evaluate and integrate information from a variety of sources, including multilingual sources
- understands and practices the ethical use of technology
- selects and utilizes the most appropriate media and formats to convey information and ideas effectively to diverse audiences
- harnesses technology to increase productivity and support problem-solving and decision-making
- recognizes the need to balance the use of technology with time “unplugged”

**AN ADEPT TEAM PLAYER** who:
- cooperates effectively with others to generate knowledge and understanding, solve problems, and produce creative works
- contributes actively and assumes shared responsibility for collaborative work
- values the individual contributions made by each team member
- responds with an open mind to different ideas and values
- demonstrates a willingness to make necessary compromises to accomplish a common goal
- recognizes the benefits of both giving help to and receiving help from peers as a means of furthering understanding

**A CLEAR AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR** who:
- articulates thoughts and ideas appropriately using oral, written, graphic and nonverbal communication skills in a variety of forms and contexts
- listens carefully to identify underlying emotions, attitudes and intentions and decipher meaning
- asks questions to clarify assumptions and gain deeper understanding
- interacts appropriately and respectfully in diverse environments, including multilingual settings

**A MODEL OF RESPECT, INTEGRITY AND COMPASSION** who:
- understands and appreciates similarities and differences between the customs, values and beliefs of his or her own culture and the cultures of others
- takes responsibility as a global citizen and acts with the interests of the local and world community in mind
- demonstrates empathy and generosity and promotes equity and social justice
- functions as a responsible steward of both his or her immediate surroundings and the larger environment
- serves as positive role model by striving to do his or her best at all times

**A CAPABLE LEADER** who:
- is motivated to serve without need of recognition
- sees the gap between the present and the possible and acts as a catalyst for positive change
- uses interpersonal and problem-solving skills to influence and guide others
- seeks out and takes advantage of the strengths of others to accomplish common goals
- exercises power and influence in an ethical and responsible manner
- stands by his or her convictions in the face of obstacles
- recognizes and creates opportunities for inspiration