



LOWER SCHOOL



OUR MISSION IS TO EDUCATE STUDENTS WHO WILL SERVE GOD AND IMPACT THE WORLD THROUGH BIBLICAL THOUGHT & ACTION.

HONOR CODE

We believe the development of Christian character is the bedrock for having a life-long impact on the world for Christ.

Our Lower School Honor Code states:
As a lower school student, I will:

Be Responsible: Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men. Col. 3:23

Be Respectful: So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Matt. 7:12

Be a Servant: Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Phil. 2:4

Be a Peacemaker: Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Eph. 4:32

LOWER SCHOOL ACADEMICS

- Bible, Math, Language Arts, History, and Science
- Special classes include Spanish, Music, Physical Education, Library/Technology, and Art
- Many opportunities for extending learning including Art enrichment, Band, instrumental lessons, and makerspace labs
- *Accelerated Reader* and *Accelerated Math*

LOWER SCHOOL HIVE

The HIVE is a place to explore and delight in the awe and wonder of God's creative work. Here, students of all ages actively engage around a topic that has application across disciplines and grade levels. Design cycle thinking, project-based and service learning are important aspects of what occurs in the HIVE. It is through these authentic experiences, rooted in God's Word that teaching and learning is truly transformational. Students begin to see themselves in God's Story, and through their love of God, look outward to love their neighbor.

RESPONSIVE CLASSROOM

The Responsive Classroom is an intentional way of fostering a school climate that is warm and inviting for all. A sense of belonging is promoted within a grace filled community where students learn and play collectively as a community of learners.

Components of the responsive classroom include:

- Engaging Academics
- Positive Class Community
- Enriching Learning Environment
- Developmentally Responsive Teaching

LOWER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- EXCEL After School
- Speech Meet
- Chess Club
- Math Olympics
- Robotics
- Coding
- Student Advisory Council
- Safety Patrol
- Science Explorers
- Teacher Helper Program
- Archery
- Jr. Naturalist

LOWER SCHOOL ATHLETICS

- Athletic clubs:
- Basketball Clinics - Jr. Knights Sports Camp
- Liverpool Soccer Club
- Malvern Basketball League
- Track and Field Clinic



DELAWARE COUNTY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

LOWER CAMPUS • GRADES 1-5

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LOWER SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

First Grade: Philadelphia Zoo, Franklin Mint Credit Union

Second Grade: Adventure Aquarium, Daniel Boone Homestead

Third Grade: Academy of Natural Sciences, Colonial Plantation, Longwood Gardens

Fourth Grade: Franklin Institute, The Pennsylvania State Capitol, Valley Forge Park, The Museum of the Revolutionary War

Fifth Grade: Cape May, Gettysburg National Historic Park, Indian Echo Caverns/Camp Calvary

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



A student's learning is deepened from what they experience. Creating the experience of stepping back in time to become "part of the story," or conducting scientific field studies teaches history and science as living, lively and engaging disciplines. History and science become alive when students are enticed to act as historians and scientists and engage in the kind of thinking historians and scientists apply to their work.

Exploration of the natural world provides an opportunity for students to authentically experience the life and earth sciences. Through firsthand experiences and hands-on learning students are encouraged to make predictions, observations, problem solve, experiment, collect data and gather research as they critically think about science, and how it relates to other areas of learning. Students are encouraged to participate in stewardship of the natural world by caring for gardens and natural areas around the Lower Campus.

The design cycle process is taught to solve real world problems. Twenty-first century skills of creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking are encouraged to help students grow in their ability to work well in a group and speak confidently in front of an audience.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

DC lower school students experience the blessing of our beautiful thirty-eight acre campus as their teachers take learning outdoors to our sprawling hills, hardwood forest, running stream, pond, and meadow – a wonderful outdoor context in which students can explore and discover! This expansive campus enables students to think deeply, work collaboratively, practice observation skills, and solve problems in a real world setting. We are pleased to partner with Waterloo Preserve on many relevant projects that benefit our community and the natural world.



FIELD STUDIES BY GRADE LEVEL

First Grade: Discovering Habitats

Students venture outdoors and use their senses to explore the places where animals live on the school grounds. Students search for evidence of the animals and plants that live near the school and learn how specific habitats provide different animals with the requirements they need to survive; food, water, shelter, and places to raise young.

Second Grade: Soil: Digging Deeper

Students get their hands dirty as they explore types of soil and investigate nutrients that cycle through soil and into plants. Students identify soil layers, and observe the unique characteristics of worms and their positive and negative impact on soil layers.

Third Grade: Evaluating a Landscape

Through the use of our stream, maps, and hands-on experiments, students evaluate soil to determine where to build foundations. Students use model augers to observe soil layers and textures in different landscapes. Students also discover how a river's speed and curves are a factor in determining the best locations for bridges.

Monarchs: Students learn about the life-cycle and migration patterns of the monarch butterfly. Two butterfly beds support our local monarch population as students identify, tag, and release them into the wild. Students participate in a monarch watch program and identify ways to promote the butterfly population.



Fourth Grade: Bluebird Monitoring

Students monitor eight nest boxes located along a bluebird trail around the school grounds in cooperation with the PA Bluebird Association. Students collect and record bluebird activity. Students also write persuasive essays about their learning for their own family nestboxes.

Fifth Grade: Seashore Ecosystem

Students conduct nature studies in the field visiting the beaches of Cape May, NJ. The tidal basin, rocky shore, and seashore ecosystems are investigated. Students learn about the community of life found along the sandy shore including mollusks, birds, and plants. Up-close investigations of lobsters, crabs and mollusks are a highlight, as is a squid dissection lab.

