

ACADEMICS

Accelerated Math

A student's age does not solely determine their math class placement. Students are encouraged to work at the math level appropriate to their individual aptitude and development. Students thrive in this system, allowing them to advance according to ability—not by grade.



Language Arts

Reading: Reading is the single most important skill a child will learn in school. Our reading instruction begins in kindergarten and is built on a phonics-based approach.

Grammar: The Shurley Grammar program used in grades 1 – 4 progressively teaches students to understand all the words in a sentence and how they relate to one another.

Writing: Writers Workshop curriculum includes research writing, creative writing, poetry writing, historical fiction, editing, and publishing.

Spelling: The Spalding method, a multi-sensory approach, is used in grades K – 4.

Lab-Based Science

By engaging the scientific method early, students refine discovery, analysis, and research skills. Science Fair is a culmination event in grade 3. Students exhibit a research paper and visual presentation board on an animal of their choice.



Arts

Our visual and performing arts programs include an art specialist, art docent-led in-classroom art lessons, and live dramatic and music performances. As part of the music curriculum, all students in grades 3 and 4 learn to read music and play the recorder. General music class is part of the curriculum in all Lower School grades.



Specialists

Art
Computer Programming (1 – 4)
Library: Information Literacy
Music
Physical Education
Science Lab/DIG
Spanish/Latin (1 – 4)



Innovation and Technology

Technical and digital literacy is a critical competency in today's world. Students develop skills utilizing various software, hardware, and web-based tools while learning to apply basic engineering principles of creative problem solving, collaboration, and structural design. In grades 1 – 6, students explore keyboarding, graphic design, and learn basic programming.



Social Studies

It is important for students to understand the world around them and have knowledge about historical events and how they impact the world today. Students study cultures in countries around the world as well as our own community, state, and nation. In grades 2 – 12, students spiral through the study of ancient, Medieval, and modern history three times.



Bible

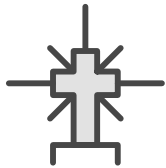
Students learn the grand narrative of the Christian faith by studying the people, places, and events in the Bible. They are taught a cohesive framework for Christianity and understand where they fit into God's plan for His people.



STUDENT LIFE

Christian Commitment

Students explore the attributes of God as the Creator and see how biblical truths apply to how we live each day through study, play, and community activities. Weekly Chapel is a time of worship, praise, teaching, and reflection.



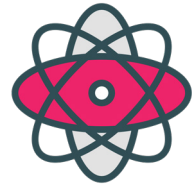
Community Service

Students express their faith through Compassion in Action projects. Each year they participate in several school-wide community service projects, such as food and clothing drives, and hands-on classroom projects to benefit those in need.



After School Programs

Bear Creek offers after school enrichment and extended day classes in our Bear Creek *Plus* program.



Big Buddies

A highlight of the month is the time students spend with their “buddies.” Students in grades 3 – 5 are paired with “little buddies” in grades K – 2 for a reading and writing mentorship. They read together and enjoy developing relationships across grade levels.

Parent Involvement

Parents play an important role in building a strong and supportive Lower School community. Students benefit from many parent volunteers who serve in the classroom to provide additional reinforcement of academic skills, chaperone field trips, and assist with class activities.

Field Trips

Frequent field trips give students the opportunity to experience hands-on learning. Field trips are integral to the overall curricular plan because they help students directly apply their learning in a variety of settings outside the classroom.

