

# Intermediate Years Curriculum

2022–23

## LOWER SCHOOL CORNERSTONES

There are many things we can choose to do with our time and resources, but we must decide to act on those that are most important to us in order for them to become the fabric of our culture. In the Lower School, we've chosen to focus on six cornerstone priorities for our children, families, and teachers to help us all enact our OES Essential Competencies. We are committed to utilizing inquiry, play, and the arts as our methods for exploration, differentiation, and learning.

**Relationship** is a cornerstone of our work. By relationship, we mean being connected. It is an understanding of both the me and the we: an understanding of self, of our capacities and capabilities as individuals, our connection to larger communities that support us, of ideas and perspectives that challenge us. We actively pursue Social Justice Standards in the areas of identity, diversity, justice and action as gateways to understanding ourselves, our community, and our responsibilities to each other.

**Building Meaning** is central to our work together. This priority is tied to all the others, but in the Lower School, we specifically strive to help children build meaning through storytelling, thinking routines, dialogue and reflection.

**Communication** in many languages, with accumulating proficiency, is fundamental to our practice. By 'languages' we refer to the methods of communication that come more naturally to the playful child: dramatic arts, visual arts (drawing, clay, wire, painting, building, etc.), speaking, physical expression, rhythm, and movement. We also refer to languages that come to the child through observing, teaching and honing: the languages of reading, writing, and math.

**Agency**, or the power to identify needs and take action, is aligned with our OES mission and vision to help students go out into the world to utilize their power for good. This essential mission of our school begins with our youngest children and their emerging understanding of how their words and actions influence and affect their own minds and hearts as well as those around them. We strive to help students know that when they don't know the answer or solution to a problem, they can take action to learn more and affect real change.

**Balance** is at the heart of our planning for the children's experiences. Always we navigate the flow among safety and challenge, passion and perspective, intellect and emotion, collaboration and independence, action and reflection.



	Reading	Writing	Math	Essential Questions
<b>SECOND GRADE</b>	Becoming non-fiction experts Word solving strategies Building reading stamina and power Exploring Book Clubs	Nonfiction writing Character trait / biography book Realistic Fiction Poetry	Place Value to 1,000 Measurement standard and nonstandard Addition and Subtraction within 100 Fractions & Multi-Digit Computation	How can we use research to inform, inspire and take action? What makes a person a changemaker? How can I use my own traits to take action and use my power for good?
<b>THIRD GRADE</b>	Character studies Reading to Learn & Research Clubs Historical Fiction	Crafting True Stories Art of Informational Writing Historical Fiction Changing the World thru Persuasion	Addition and Subtraction: Patterns and multi-digit Intro Multiplication and Division Measurement and Fractions	What is the story of this place we call Oregon? Since Time Immemorial? What does it mean to be seen and heard? What stories might be hidden, and how can we learn and honor them?
<b>FOURTH GRADE</b>	Interpreting Characters Nonfiction reading as researchers and advocates Analyzing poetry, exploring symbolism Realistic Fiction Book Clubs	Structured Informational Writing Persuasive essays Personal Narrative Poetry Realistic Fiction	Place Value to 1,000,000 Fractions & Decimals Strategic Multiplication and Division Cementing Addition and Subtraction	How does location influence my story and the stories of others? How are the diverse stories of the past, present, and future connected? Where does power come from and how can it be used? How can understanding multiple perspectives support us as we take meaningful action?
<b>FIFTH GRADE</b>	Interpreting Book Clubs Tackling Complexity: Moving Up Levels of Nonfiction Historical Fiction Book Clubs Notice and Note: Strategies for Close Reading	Personal narrative Research Writing Historical Fiction Playwriting	Operations in Fractions Place Value and Operations in decimals Volume and Surface Area Multiplying and dividing multi-digit whole numbers	In what ways were different civilizations technologically advanced? Where do we see the richness of culture within civilizations? How did freedom, power, and oppression impact the formation of our country? How does that legacy linger today? How do bias and privilege impact the access and experience of a group of people as they create a new home?