

LOWER SCHOOL

GRADDES TK-5



*Welcome to  
Providence Day  
School*

Our sense of community establishes a caring learning environment throughout the school. The pathways to each child's future are carved by movement, engagement, collaboration, intentional design, and the use of technology as learning tools.



## OUR MISSION

---

Providence Day School exists to inspire in its students a passion for learning, a commitment to personal integrity, and a sense of social responsibility.



# Leadership



**Dr. Glyn Cowlshaw**  
Head of School



**Lisa Knight**  
Assistant Head of  
School for Admissions &  
Enrollment Management



**Erin Harper**  
Head of  
Lower School



**Jenny Tucker**  
Assistant Head  
of Lower School



**Pam Heacock**  
Assistant Head  
of Lower School

## Fast Facts

**108** Lower School  
faculty members

**Average students per class:**

**726** students in  
grades TK-5

**14**  
TK

**18**  
K

**20-21**  
Grade 1

**20-23**  
Grades 2-5

**246** faculty members  
across all divisions

**36%** students of color  
(self-reported)

**72** student countries  
of origin

**133** school-wide faculty members  
with advanced degrees



# PD PASSPORT

THE TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN—GRADE 12 CURRICULAR FRAMEWORK

## CHARACTER DISPOSITIONS



Empathy · Open-mindedness · Humility · Confidence  
Courage · Patience · Selflessness · Self-motivation  
Respect for self and others · Perseverance  
Conscientiousness · Integrity

## ESSENTIAL SKILLS



Creativity · Innovation · Critical Thinking  
Problem Solving · Communication · Collaboration  
Information Literacy · Media Literacy  
Information and Communication Technology Literacy

## NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE

- 
- World historical eras and trends, forces of historical change
  - The impact of geography on the understanding of local, regional, and global issues
  - Ideological paradigms
  - Economic systems and globalization
  - Political systems and political change
  - Social structures and social change
  - Cultural expressions through art, literature, and music
  - Major religious orientations
  - Contemporary norms and values of major cultures: U.S., China, India, Russia, Iran, South Africa, Nigeria, Israel, Turkey, Germany, Brazil, Mexico, or other important country/cultures
  - Global ecosystems and environmental impact
  - Proficiency in a world language





# The PD Passport

At Providence Day School, we intentionally create experiences that foster intercultural learning inside and outside the classroom. Knowing the world is increasingly interconnected and ever-changing, we purposefully develop opportunities for our students to become empathetic, informed, and empowered global citizens.

All students at Providence Day experience the TK-12 global education framework known as the "PD Passport," which infuses traditional classes with the content, skills, and character dispositions critical to becoming a global citizen. Our classrooms are places of discovery where learning about diverse cultures and shared experiences creates connections to our larger humanity.





## Global Curriculum

The Lower School learning experience brings a global perspective. Students are exposed to French, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese during their earliest years. Prior to entering Second Grade, one language of study is selected for the remaining four years of Lower School. Additionally, in each grade from TK through 5, students complete projects focused on learning about a different area of the world.

# Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging

Providence Day School understands that valuing diversity is the key to global citizenship. We believe in developing within our students an ability to appreciate and value the differences among people in our school community, as well as those in the larger world around us.

The Office of Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging supports and fosters a school community that reflects the increasing diversity in our nation and the world, with an appreciation for the rich variety of cultures, religions, races, sexual orientations, socioeconomic backgrounds, countries of origin, languages, and other cultural identifiers that add to the strength of our community. We are committed to actively cultivating an inclusive environment through dialogue and curriculum.





# Social Responsibility & Character Education

Social responsibility is woven throughout the curriculum at Providence Day. We emphasize cultivating a sense of connection to our community and the world, and taking action to improve the lives of others. In Lower School, with the help of two dedicated counselors, students explore gratitude, reflection, and service projects. Children focus on essential character traits:

- **Respect for Self and Others**
- **Confidence**
- **Courage**
- **Perseverance**
- **Empathy**







## The Learning Loft for TK & K

Providence Day created a Learning Loft to co-explore the learning experience with children in grades TK and K. Activities are structured to provoke ideas, problem-solving, and conflict resolution. Activities are student-driven as children are welcomed to play, create, and interact in THEIR space. The space allows for collaborative projects; blocks and Legos; tinkering space where their imagination is the limit; art using many different media; small-group work to build on literacy and math concepts; work display areas; and a variety of STEAM concepts.

# Math, Language Arts, & Sciences

## **MATH IN FOCUS**

Providence Day uses the concepts of Singapore Math for grades K through 5. This method teaches the "why" and "how" behind mathematical concepts; builds a strong foundation of number sense; encourages problem solving strategies with an emphasis on bar modeling in grades 2-5; and incorporates whole group, partner work, small group, and independent practice in math instruction.

## **FOUNTAS AND PINNELL**

The Fountas and Pinnell model is a comprehensive, systematic design for high-impact literacy instruction. Students are exposed to a wide variety of genres with a global lens; experience whole group, small group, and individual instruction; receive multiple chances for reading/text exposure through interactive read-aloud, shared reading, guided reading, independent reading, and book clubs; and use authentic texts and lessons aimed at getting students talking, writing, reflecting, and reading.

## **EXPRESSREADERS**

Created by Elise Lovejoy, ExpressReaders is a multi-layered, systematic, and sequential approach to skill development based on five foundations: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension.

## **INQUIRY BASED METHODOLOGY**

In the Lower School Science Lab, we model acceptance, kindness, and appreciating individual differences; empower students to rely on their brains and not look to teachers for answers; present open-ended challenges for students to solve; expect students to work collaboratively; model the scientific method; and most importantly, laugh and have fun together!



# Typical Lower School Schedules



Schedules are customized by grade level and rotate during the week. Here's a look at some typical days for Kindergartners and Fifth Graders:

## A TYPICAL DAY IN KINDERGARTEN

8:00–8:15 a.m.	Morning Meeting	10:25–10:55 a.m.	Handwriting Lesson, Shared Reading Story, or Writing Workshop
8:15–8:35 a.m.	Interactive Read Aloud		
8:40–9:35 a.m.	Literacy Centers (Student Collaboration time in Learning Loft; groups from each of the classes come together)	11:00–11:30 a.m.	Lunch
		11:40–12:20 a.m.	Recess
		12:25–12:35 a.m.	Calendar time
9:40–9:55 a.m.	Snack	12:35–1:00 p.m.	Math in Focus
9:55–10:25 a.m.	World Language (rotates between French, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese) or Physical Education (alternating)	1:05–1:50 p.m.	Special Area Class (Art, Music, Library, Science Lab, or Character Education)
		2:00 p.m.	Dismissal

## A TYPICAL DAY IN GRADE 5

8:00–8:30 a.m.	Morning Meeting	12:45–1:30 p.m.	Social Studies
8:30–9:30 a.m.	Math	1:35–2:20 p.m.	Science
9:30–9:45 a.m.	Break	2:25–3:10 p.m.	World Language or Physical Education (alternating)
9:45–10:45 a.m.	Language Arts		
10:50–11:20 a.m.	Recess	3:10 p.m.	Dismissal
11:20–11:50 a.m.	Lunch		
11:55 a.m.–12:40 p.m.	Specials (Band, Chorus, or Orchestra; Theater; Art; Computer; Library; Global Civics; IDEAS Lab; or Science Lab)		



# Technology & Innovation

## GRADES TK-2

Each Lower School classroom has a class set of iPads that have an assortment of apps and content to support the Lower School curriculum. Content includes material for core classes, as well as special areas including library, music, and more. Students can work together on the class iPads to gain a foundational understanding of how iPads work in education, and prepare them for personal iPads later in their academic career.

## GRADES 3-5

Students in third grade are provided with a school-issued iPad while they are in class as they begin to get acclimated with Providence Day's One to World and Digital Citizenship programs. In fourth and fifth grade, students are able to become fully involved with the One to World program as they use the iPads to learn in and out of the classroom. Students will keep their iPads through their journey into Middle School.



# INNOVATION

At Providence Day, innovation goes far beyond the use of technology, and is woven into every aspect of teaching and learning. In Lower School, that might be illustrated via opportunities for students to design their own board games or write their own comic books, or to experiment with materials from the “tinker table” available in the Library.

IDEAS@PD is a new TK-12 curricular framework that weaves together the topics of innovation, design, entrepreneurship, analytics, and sustainability. Lower School offerings include the Tech Tank, where students are introduced to concepts around computer science and problem solving, and the IDEAS Lab, a new elective for 5th graders that takes place in the IDEAS Xchange on campus. The school created the IDEAS Xchange in the Dickson-Hemby Technology building during summer 2022 and it is bringing together new forms of collaboration among faculty and students of all ages.

Our base set of tools is the **G-Suite or Google apps suite, including:**

-  **Gmail**
-  **Google Calendar**
-  **Google Drive**
-  **Google Docs**
-  **Google Slides**
-  **Google Sheets**



# Clubs & Activities

## LOWER SCHOOL CLUBS

- Science Olympiad, grades 4, 5
- Battle of the Books, grade 5
- Engineering/STEAM Clubs, grades 4,5
- Lower School Musical, grades 4,5
- Kaleidoscope Group (Equity & Social Justice Learning), grade 5

## LOWER SCHOOL ENRICHMENTS

Each spring and fall, students may choose from a variety of after-school enrichments offered through the Extended Day program. They include sports, STEM, and art-themed activities.

## EXTENDED DAY

The Extended Day Program promotes the social, emotional, and physical development of each child through nurturing relationships, flexible scheduling, and choices that reflect each child's individual, interests. The Extended Day Program operates out of the Levin Family Extended Day House, enhanced by new state-of-the-art playground. Students may attend just on certain days each week or sign up to attend five days a week.





# Arts

We are committed to nurturing creativity and confidence at all levels of learning. Comprehensive exposure to visual arts, music, and theatre is essential to the complete educational experience for each student.



TK-4 students experience a curriculum in music and visual arts. In 5th grade, students participate in either Band, Orchestra, or Chorus (no prior experience required). In addition, 4th and 5th grade students have an opportunity each year to audition for a musical theatre production.



# Athletics

Participation in the Providence Day athletic program provides student-athletes with the opportunity to pursue excellence, build long-lasting relationships, and grow both physically and emotionally. Our student-athletes develop lifelong skills and lessons in personal integrity and teamwork.

In Lower School, the introduction to Athletics begins in Physical Education classes taught by dedicated faculty. Students have the opportunity for the introduction to sports skills via after-school enrichments through the Extended Day program. Through pep rallies and Lower School nights at varsity games, students develop their school spirit.

***Go Chargers!***



## Alumni Community

Providence Day School cultivates its vibrant network of more than 4,000 alumni who keep in touch via social and networking opportunities, and assist Upper School students in their college selection process. Alumni parents remain a part of the school family. Once a Charger, Always a Charger!







## Parent Community

All Providence Day parents are members of the Parents' Association, whose mission is to work with the school to foster an engaged community through volunteer activities, fellowship opportunities, and fundraising events that support families, faculty, and staff. Additionally, parents are encouraged to join the Charger Club, which strengthens the athletic experience through fundraising and volunteerism; and Friends of the Arts, supporting visual and performing arts.



“ My wife always says to ‘bloom where you’re planted,’ and PD is a very fertile place. Not only are the parents very supportive of each other, but I have found our kids’ friends within the PD community are wonderful people, and are developing into wonderful young adults.

**John Olin**, father of students in the classes of 2020, 2022, and 2023





# Campus

Providence Day cultivates a vibrant, active environment full of innovative spaces. Our campus supports a year-round slate of activities, programs, celebrations, and events. Explore an interactive map at [www.providenceday.org](http://www.providenceday.org).



To explore the application process, visit  
[www.providenceday.org/admissions](http://www.providenceday.org/admissions).

Follow Providence Day:



**PROVIDENCE DAY**  
SCHOOL

*We exist to inspire.*

---

Providence Day School  
5800 Sardis Road  
Charlotte, NC 28270  
704.887.6000  
[pds.admissions@providenceday.org](mailto:pds.admissions@providenceday.org)