

Lower School (Kindergarten - Grade 5)

Differentiation Makes the Difference

The NSU University School Lower School provides a strong academic foundation for children while encouraging them to explore their interests and creativity. Our research-based Lower School curriculum enables children to become engaged and effective learners. They learn to think critically, to cooperate, and collaborate with others. Our active classrooms promote a joy of learning and sets the stage for future success in school and well beyond.

Lower School seeks to find the best in all students by providing them with an instructional methodology that differs from traditional models. Our faculty approach the learning and teaching process by identifying differences in children and tailoring their teaching style based on how students in their class learn best. Classroom learning extends beyond the walls of the classroom and is rigorous, active, and engaging.

In the Lower School:

- Student learning profiles determine instruction.
- Varied instructional approaches and choices are common.
- Academics utilize an interdisciplinary, thematic approach.
- Assessment is used to inform instruction, is diagnostic, and on-going.
- Integrated use of technologies enhances individualized student learning.



Lower Elementary (Grades K-2)

All Lower School children are engaged in research-based, joyful learning, whether in the classrooms, Innovation spaces, the hallways, or the outdoors. Students in Grades K-2 enjoy a robust program of studies that not only emphasizes strong proficiency in language arts and mathematics but allows students to work with trained specialists in the areas of innovation, world languages (Spanish and French), art, music, and physical education. We consider every subject integral to developing critical, creative and flexible thinking- essential skills for the future- and we guide our students to take risks and stretch themselves in order to meet and surpass high academic standards.

Upper Elementary (Grades 3-5)

Building upon the strong foundation in Grades K-2, students in Grades 3-5 continue to refine and build upon their skills in readiness for Middle School. Beginning in Grade 3, students are placed in homeroom classes based on language arts abilities but are reassessed for math placement so as to be grouped with students who show similar proficiency of math. Students continue to enjoy the opportunity to engage with the special area teachers in the areas of innovation, world languages, art, music, and physical education.

In Grades 4 and 5, students also have the opportunity to choose an elective. This provides choice for the student and allows them to follow a passion they may have, a hallmark of the NSU University School experience. Some examples of potential elective options are television production, robotics, innovation/gardening, and Mind Lab. Students select an elective option in the Spring prior to the new school year.

Bridges

The Bridges Program at NSU University School is an innovative, personalized, and technology rich educational experience for students in Grades 2-5 who have mild to moderate learning disabilities and average to gifted intelligence. Students benefit from the academic excellence and social environment of NSU University School and learn from specially trained teachers who know how to adapt their lessons to teach children with learning differences. Additionally, both students and teachers have the educational support and services of Nova Southeastern University.



Guidance

Recognizing the key role that social-emotional learning plays in the lives of young children, NSU University School is pleased to provide three full-time Guidance Counselors who interact daily with our children. Our Guidance staff provides specific lessons in the classrooms that focus on the individual growth and development of each child as well as the skills needed to interact well in a community. In addition to classroom instruction, Guidance Counselors also provide opportunities for small groups of students to dialogue together on specific topics and/or provide individual support services for students.

Opportunities for Involvement

Lower School students have numerous opportunities to participate in a variety of extra-curricular clubs and activities throughout the year. Students may join the Spanish Club, engage in community service projects through K-Kids, or contribute art to the school environment by participating in the Art Club. Students who enjoy music have the opportunity to participate in various musical groups or performances. If a student has an interest in engineering, various groups exist to provide special learning opportunities related to design/engineering including the chance to compete with other schools. Fifth grade students take on leadership roles through participation in the morning Safety Patrol, WUTV morning news, and Student Government. There is truly something for everyone!

After Care and After School Activities

After Care is a fee-based program for students who want to play board games, watch movies, participate in outdoor play, work on homework, and/or read a book, and is available from 3:15-5:45 p.m. each day. The After-School Activities Program supplements the daily experiences of NSU University School students by providing specialized instruction in a variety of different areas for an additional fee. There are more than 30 individual class choices available, including dance, sports, crafts, cooking, and academic enrichment. The After-School Activities Program runs from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. After school enrichment is also available through NSU University School's Academy of the Arts.

