



Lower School

PROGRAM INFORMATION

About The Howard School

Founded in 1950, The Howard School educates students ages five through 12th grade with language-based learning disabilities and differences. Individualized instruction complements and addresses each student's needs, and helps each student understand and advocate for his or her own learning process. The curriculum focuses on depth of understanding to make learning meaningful, leading to educational success.

WELCOME TO THE LOWER SCHOOL

Lower School students' creativity knows no limits at The Howard School. Our students are scientists, engineers, mathematicians, poets, artists, and builders. We celebrate those strengths while addressing individual learning needs throughout each school day. We value each child and their unique learning and personality profile. We believe that elementary aged children need plenty of time to play, ample time to move, and specialized teaching as they navigate an academic curriculum. We believe in community and relationship building, using these strong bonds to help students better understand their own personal and academic development. Students experience a full school day of reading, language arts, math, science, social studies, art, music, and PE. From field experiences around Atlanta to author visits on campus, our students are active learners surrounded by expert teaching teams.

With two teachers in each classroom, our small classes provide opportunities for students to actively participate in their own learning with 2 teachers in each class. All students, even the youngest, participate in their own conferences twice a year. Teachers know their students well and engage them in critical reflection of their work. Self-advocacy and self-knowledge are cornerstones of our program as students and adults explore **Habits of Mind** and how we learn. Students with language disorders, dyslexia and other learning disabilities, and executive functioning deficits are successful in this environment due to the individualization and variety of teaching methods utilized.

SCHOOL HOURS

8:30 - 3:00 PM with early care starting at **7:30 AM** and aftercare provided until **5:30 PM**.

CLASS SIZES

Early Learning Class

Max 10
+ 2 Teachers

Other Levels in Lower School

Max 12
+ 2 Teachers

Full School Experience

We strive to provide our **Lower School** students with a full school experience that is rich with hands-on learning opportunities and special events, such as our Music Invitational, Talent Show, Field Day, Math Night, STEAM Day, Earth Day, Weekly Assemblies, Schoolwide Pep Rallies, and Learning Buddies. These thoughtfully curated experiences promote student reflection, growth, and independence.

A Different Approach **MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE**

Hopes and Dreams for Lower School Students:

- Students will know who they are as learners and their own underlying learning processes.
- Students will reflect on and assess the quality of their own learning, and will advocate for what they need to learn best.
- Students will capitalize on their strengths, and will identify and use tools and strategies in such a way that barriers to learning are diminished.
- Students will demonstrate that they are learning the curriculum content and basic skills that support the big ideas and essential questions in the curriculum.
- Students will express themselves in a variety of ways, including through the arts and movement.
- Students will know how to use their knowledge and skills to solve new problems and to think critically about their world.
- Students will extend the reach of their learning with technology, using it independently to research, author, and communicate.
- Students will understand and act upon their responsibility to the communities in which they live.

CURRICULUM

Language Arts/Literacy

Language, reading, and writing are explicitly taught throughout the day, and infused in all subjects. Our Speech-Language Pathologists collaborate with our classroom teachers to plan lessons that target academic, vocabulary and comprehension skills, as well as expand on students' expressive language skills.

Our strong focus on executive functioning skills also makes The Howard School unique. Our collaborative team helps students to understand how they learn and what tools they need to maximize their success. Through the **Habits of Mind** and other tools, students set goals for the year and are able to discuss their strengths and challenges. As with all of our instruction, this focus is very individualized to meet their needs.

Literacy is not taught via one single program. Our experienced educators are trained in a variety of approaches, ensuring they choose the best structured literacy methods to meet our students' needs.

Math

Lower School math instruction is designed to help students reason, solve problems, and communicate mathematically. We use standards aligned Singapore Math materials, and lessons are adapted to meet the needs of diverse learners. Instruction is multisensory, following a concrete-pictorial-abstract progression, and students learn to communicate their math thinking effectively. Teachers target instruction for varied learning profiles, for example, teaching math strategies that reduce demands on working memory or promoting the use of visual tools.

Social Studies/Science

Social Studies is an engaging, project-based journey that helps students understand the events that shape the world around them. The curriculum, which is rooted in national and state standards, includes topics about Georgia and United States History. Science takes an investigative and hands-on approach to learning about organisms, climate and weather, and life cycles, to name a few topics covered.

The Arts

In addition to the core academic subjects, students participate in art and music classes, as well as STEAM projects throughout the day, providing additional opportunities to focus on taking responsible risks and exploring different media while enriching their classroom experiences. The culminating project in the Lower School Arts Department is a Music Invitational where each music class comes together and performs for the community. The Howard School is affiliated with the **High Museum** and **MODA**, which enhances art and STEAM education.

PE

PE/Health Education classes are offered every day of the week. The focus is fitness, wellness, team sports, strategy, flexibility, visual motor skills, and striving for personal bests.

Student-Led Conferences

Student-Led Conferences are held twice a year for Lower School students and their families. Through the development and presentation of a digital portfolio, these conferences give students the opportunity to deepen and understand their own personal learning profile, as well as identify strategies that complement their personal learning approach. A parent-teacher conference is scheduled for parents in January.

Clubs/W.I.N.G.S

As an extension of The Howard School, the after school W.I.N.G.S. Program (short for Wonder, Inspire, Nurture, Grow, and Strive) is designed to continue to make learning

meaningful, and therefore, maximize student success in all areas. Through a variety of after school and enrichment programs, the W.I.N.G.S. Program provides students with an opportunity to have constructive learning experiences in education, social recreation, health and fitness activities and artistic creativity, all with guidance from professionally trained staff. W.I.N.G.S. includes both after school activities and enrichment programs. A wide variety of Clubs are offered each year, including: coding, art, Legos, dance, nature club, slime club, drama, and more.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Language Support

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) work closely with teachers to develop approaches to curriculum that allow students with language-based learning disabilities to be successful. They promote skill development and use of strategies that further students' listening, understanding, speaking, and writing. Most of the SLP's work takes place in the context of the classrooms and in small groups with students.

Literacy Support

The Literacy Program offers students more intensive work in the areas of decoding (reading) and encoding (spelling) as needed. Literacy Specialists use a variety of programs and techniques to strengthen phonemic awareness and phonics, develop symbol imagery, and increase automaticity and fluency.

Assistive Technology Support

Assistive Technology, such as text-to-speech software, is used to support students' language, reading, and writing skills. Assistive Technology Specialists evaluate, train, and teach students to implement these tools in the classroom. The technology gives the students access to content at or above their grade level, which may be higher than their decoding level. Technology assistance for written expression gives students more freedom to express themselves along with support for identifying and correcting errors in their writing.

Math Support

The Math Specialists consult with teachers to plan their math classes, offering content differentiation and pacing recommendations. Additionally, the Math Specialists teach small groups.

School Psychologist

The School Psychologist/Counselor consults with students, faculty/staff, administration, and parents to track and support students' educational and social-emotional needs. They review learning profiles and maintain a broad perspective

on interventions, accommodations, and modifications for students. They do not provide individual or family therapy, but can make referrals to the community for such services.

Occupational Therapist

Our Occupational Therapist (OT) consultant works with teachers on a regular basis to recommend tools and strategies to maximize student engagement.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT HOWARD!

We celebrate what makes us different and what makes us the same. All people deserve respect and kindness. The Howard School has the privilege of being the only LD school in the southeast with the designation of a **No Place for Hate**® school from the Anti-Defamation League. We go through a process every year to earn and maintain this certification and distinction.

Students sign a pledge:

- I promise to do my best to treat everyone fairly.
- I promise to do my best to be kind to everyone – even if they are not like me.
- If I see someone being hurt or bullied, I will tell a teacher.
- Everyone should be able to feel safe and happy in school.
- We understand that differences make us wonderful and we won't let anyone be treated unfairly because of those differences.
- I will be part of making my school a **No Place for Hate**®.



The Howard School believes that we together hold the power to stand up for what is right for everyone. We believe that Black Lives Matter. As an educational institution, we embrace the opportunity to be anti-racist.

As a No Place for Hate School, we pledge to combat bias in all forms. This call to action means we work with our community to move beyond an awareness of racism, beyond being non-racist, and actively become anti-racist. We have compiled a list of resources for our staff to utilize as part of our instruction and for our families to discuss at home. Our Diversity Committee supports our teachers with curricular resources, activities, and information.



1192 Foster Street NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30318
404-377-7436

howardschool.org