



Lower School Curriculum and Instruction Description

	Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade	Fourth Grade
Bible	Christ-centered instruction is implemented in all subject areas to develop a biblical worldview. Deep Roots curriculum is used to help students learn the biblical story through the worldview framework of creation, fall, and redemption. Practical activities and lessons teach students how to apply their faith to everyday living and help develop their core values. Character Trait training focuses on the heart rather than behavior to encourage character development that springs from gratitude for what Christ did for us on the cross.				
English Language Arts - Reading	Teachers follow a balanced literacy framework utilizing Open Court curriculum for a systematic foundation largely focused on phonics, phonemic awareness, and alphabetic knowledge. This instructional method provides opportunities for word study/phonics instruction, read alouds, and guided, shared, and independent reading experiences to develop thorough literacy instruction. The Daily Five approach to our literacy block allows for purposeful instruction of reading strategies in Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Expanded Vocabulary (CAFE) through minilessons and conferring with students.		Teachers follow a balanced literacy framework utilizing Patterns of Power curriculum for a focus on grammar and vocabulary. This instructional method provides opportunities for word study, read alouds, and guided, shared, and independent reading experiences to develop thorough literacy instruction. The Daily Five approach to our literacy block allows for purposeful instruction of reading strategies in Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Expanded Vocabulary (CAFE) through minilessons and conferring with students.		
Writing	Students work in authentic ways to develop independence as writers. The Being a Writer curriculum by the Center for the Collaborative Classroom is used for writing instruction. Students participate in mini-lessons where the teacher introduces various genres of writing and models skills, followed by time in independent writing allowing for one-on-one conferencing and small group instruction.				
Math	Students build mathematical understanding through a concrete-pictorial-abstract approach. Using manipulatives first, then visual models/drawings, and finally numerical symbols, students learn to apply multiple strategies for computation and develop as problem solvers and thinkers. Into Math by HMH is the curriculum used to guide our math instruction and build continuity of math skills, such as drawing diagrams to understand word problems and provide a bridge to algebraic thinking and Mental Math to promote numerical fluency. In grades kindergarten through fourth grade, teachers use an instructional framework to include whole group lessons, small group and one on one instruction, as well as independent math tasks. This approach encourages active thinking, process, communication of mathematical ideas, and problem solving.				
Science	An inquiry-based, hands-on approach to science instruction gives students numerous opportunities to discover principles and truths of God's creation. Units in Life Science, Physical Science, Earth & Space Science, and the human body are designed to engage students in age- and grade-appropriate investigation skills. Purposeful Design is the curriculum used in 2nd-4th grades to guide science instruction.				
Social Studies	Integrated units of study support reading and writing through hands-on activities, collaborative projects, discussions, and field trips. An emphasis on friendships, authority figures, American government and citizenship, economics/goods and services, families and communities here and around the world, families and communities then and now, South Carolina and US History, and cultures of America are what drives the social studies instruction.				