

Lower School Curriculum

2024-2025

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Math: Students engage in hands-on learning to develop basic math skills through problem-solving in everyday contexts. Activities include interactive routines and math games to reinforce understanding and fluency.	Math: Second-grade math focuses on fundamental procedures, concepts, and applications in four key areas: understanding base-10 notations, enhancing fluency in addition and subtraction, applying standard units of measurement, and exploring shapes through description and analysis. Problem-solving is emphasized with regular topic revisitation. Students practice through interactive games and activities, with written work emphasizing explanation and deep mathematical thinking.	Math: Third-grade math builds on foundational concepts, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Students also explore basic fractions, measurement, geometry, and problem-solving strategies using a hands-on and critical thinking approach.	Math: Students master the four fundamental operations and develop algebraic thinking skills. The curriculum explores measurement and basic geometry and introduces concepts in statistics and probability.
Language Arts: First-grade language arts adopts a structured literacy approach emphasizing phonemic awareness, phonics, word study, writing, grammar, spelling, and vocabulary. The curriculum strongly emphasizes developing reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension skills.	Language Arts: Second-grade language arts instruction empowers learners to enhance their reading comprehension, fluency, phonics, writing, spelling, grammar, and public speaking skills.	Language Arts: In third grade, the curriculum includes comprehensive instruction in reading comprehension, vocabulary development, grammar, and writing skills. Students are also introduced to more complex literary genres and literary analysis.	Language Arts: Fourth-grade students explore various literary genres to foster a passion for reading and writing.
Science: First-grade science fosters curiosity and a positive attitude toward science through inquiry-based instruction and hands-on experiences.	Science: Second-grade science instruction involves exploring topics in life, earth, and physical sciences in a creative and engaging hands-on approach.	Science: Third-grade science covers various topics, including astronomy, chemistry, meteorology, and geology. Students deepen their understanding through scientific labs and hands-on learning activities.	Science: Fourth-grade scientists utilize microscopes to study cell structures, delve into botany, investigate animal life cycles, and explore ecology through research and projects.
Social Studies: First-grade social studies is hands-on and project-oriented, focusing on self, family, community, map skills, calendar skills, and basic research skills.	Social Studies: Second-grade social studies covers citizenship, friendship, communities, cultures, the election process, American symbols, and further develops map skills.	Social Studies: Third-grade social studies expands to include learning about the school, city, state, and all fifty states. Activities include state research, poster construction, and participation in the annual State Fair, where students present about their state.	Social Studies: Fourth-grade social studies features "America's Past," a thematic curriculum that delves into the history of America. Students explore and critically analyze key events that have shaped our nation's history.

Fine Arts: Art classes in the Lower School emphasize creating art, exploring art history, and understanding art criticism and aesthetics, with a focus on design elements. Students engage in hands-on, creative work and study major artists, which supports their aesthetic development and visual discrimination. Each student's progress is nurtured individually.

Music classes are designed to build self-esteem and confidence through self-expression and creativity. Students participate in activities like singing, instrument playing, listening, and movement. Inspired by Carl Orff and Zoltan Kodaly, the curriculum reinforces reading, writing, public speaking, and math skills while exploring global music traditions. The goal is to foster a lifelong appreciation for music and lay the groundwork for future studies in the Performing Arts.

Library: Lower School students enjoy weekly library visits where they engage in storytime, interactive activities, and lessons that span literacy and STEM. They also have the chance to check out books and STEM kits. The library staff plays a vital role in fostering a lifelong love of reading, working closely with classroom teachers and communicating with parents to build a vibrant reading community.

Physical Education: Daily physical education classes are coeducational and focus on fundamental movement concepts and skills essential for physical development. Activities are sequenced to allow for skill application, refinement, and expansion, integrating character education throughout the program.

Spanish: The Spanish curriculum emphasizes correct pronunciation and the ability to construct simple sentences, building foundational language skills in a supportive environment.