



953 High Street, Victor, New York 14564 www.victorschools.org p 585.924.3252 f 585.742.7020

What is the K-3 Multi-Age Program at Victor Primary School?

Program Philosophy:

Multi-age education is a child-centered educational approach to teaching based on the understanding that learning is best internalized when peers share and negotiate cognitive and social constructs within a safe and supportive environment. It is grounded in child development research and takes into account each child's unique learning rate, background knowledge, social-emotional development and interests.

By expanding the chronological age within the classroom setting, the developmental span is expanded as well. This larger span increases the genuine and spontaneous opportunities for peers to teach one another through collaboration and shared learning experiences. The two year span scaffolds and spirals so students have time to develop a deep understanding of the skills and standards across the two year curriculum.

The Multi-Age program provides vertically aligned experiences across curriculum, student leadership opportunities, and intentional peer connections, cultivating a natural environment for students to develop prosocial behaviors such as empathy, patience, perspective taking and acceptance. Through thoughtfully constructed learning opportunities, students are both teachers and learners in a supportive community. Reflecting with one another on a daily basis allows students to see themselves as both novice and expert. They see their own learning and academic development as fluid and always growing. This natural context develops leadership skills for all ages and increases their confidence and willingness to take academic and social risks.

Multi-Age classrooms utilize the same curricular standards as a single grade classroom. With a larger developmental span and a variety of peer role models, learners move forward in the way that best suits their needs. The two-year span creates naturally expanding Zones of Proximal Development, thereby creating an authentic need for students to use increasingly more sophisticated academic and communication skills in order to learn with and from their peers. We adapt two years of the curriculum to integrate the essential learnings, then purposely design opportunities for learners to engage in individualized, relevant and collaborative coursework.



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What does this look like in the Classroom?

- Students working on skills that are appropriate for their learning level.
- Independent choice, collaborative problem solving and a student-centered community.
- Students apply skills to real world topics and discuss world issues in a way that allows them to see themselves as global citizens.
- A range of abilities and talents demonstrating understanding of the same learning target.
- Deeper relationships and a stronger sense of community between teachers, students and families due to the two-year loop.

Other Things to Know About Multi-Age:

- Multi-age classrooms use the same resources and meet the same learning standards as a single grade classroom.
- There are two grades and 4 ages in each classroom.
- Numbers are balanced between “Olders” and Youngers”.
- We keep learners for two years in the same classroom, K/1 and 2/3.
- There is a lottery to get into the program. You can opt into the lottery on the Kindergarten registration form, as well as on the annual parent placement information form, K-3.
- Learning is project-based and taught through inquiry practices.
- This program is right for any child. We accept and love all children!