



Rocky Hill School

The Lower School Course of Study

While offering stimulating, developmentally appropriate learning activities within our vibrant classrooms and rich waterfront campus, students gain a sense of independence, self-reliance and self-confidence. Students develop and refine academic, social and self-help skills, along with the relevant 21st Century skills that will prepare them to apply what they have learned in and out of the classroom.

The scope and sequence of the Lower School curriculum provides students the opportunity to build upon solid foundational skills. Utilizing common programs across the grades, such as *Handwriting Without Tears*, the *Orton-Gillingham* approach, *Project Read: Written Expression*, *Math In Focus*, *Lexia Reading* (online practice), *Symphony Math* (online practice), *A-Z Reading* (leveled reading, decoding, fluency, comprehension), and so on, ensures continuity and the refinement of basic skills. The integration of Virtuoso courses (Art, Health/Physical Education, Library, Music, Science, Spanish) enhances the Lower School curriculum and enriches each student's educational experience.

Grade Specific

Preschool

Social Emotional Development

- Self-reliance
- Practical skills
- Self-regulation

Listening and Speaking Skills

- Listening to others
- Lengthening attention span
- Following verbal directions
- Verbal expression
- Speaking to others

Motor Skills

- Fine Motor
- Gross Motor

Reading Readiness

- Alphabet
- Uppercase letters
- Lowercase letters
- Letter sounds
- Retelling stories
- Beginning, middle and end of stories

Writing Readiness

- First name
- Uppercase letters
- Likenesses and differences
- Self portrait
- Multiple colors in work
- Oppositional words
- Position orientation words

Math Readiness

- Number counting to 20
- One-to-one correspondence to 10
- Numeral identification and writing 1-10
- Basic shapes
- Shapes in the environment
- Categorizing sets by size and color
- Sequencing large to small

Kindergarten

Language Arts

- Upper case letters; introduction of lower case letters
- *Sentence School*: sentence structure; subjects, action words, describing words
- Decoding, fluency, and comprehension
- Initial consonants, vowels, CVC words, phonetic and non-phonetic sight words, syllabication
- Story sequencing
- Self-created fictional stories
- All About Me & How To non-fiction texts
- Using pictures as context clues
- Story setting, characters, problem and solution
- Text-to-self, text-to-text, or text-to-word connections

Math

- Numbers to 20
- Measurement
- Sequencing
- Number lines
- Size and position

- Skip counting
- Solid & Flat shapes
- Comparing sets
- Making patterns
- Calendar math
- Ordinal lines
- Addition and subtraction
- Money

Social Studies

- All About Me
- Physical and emotional features of self and others
- Developing social skills
- Family structures
- Holidays & celebrations
- Traditions & world cultures
- Seasons
- Weather
- Animal families
- Me on the Map
- American Symbols
- Famous Americans
- Our State
- Maps & Globes

First Grade

Language Arts

- *How to Spell*-Initial and final consonants, blends, short and long vowels, magic 'e' words, vowel teams, spelling rules
- Phonetic and non-phonetic sight words
- Guided Reading
- Decoding
- Reading fluency
- Reading comprehension (recalling facts and inferential thinking)
- Sentence structure; subjects, subject descriptors, predicates, connectors, predicate expanders--when, where, how (*Project Read-Written Expression*)
- Writing mechanics (capitalization, punctuation, spelling,)
- Writing conventions (content, organization and development of ideas)
- Story elements: characters, setting, plot, problem to solve
- Author studies

- Fairy tales
- Writer's Workshop
- Descriptive, Narrative, Expository and Persuasive writing
- Journaling
- Editing
- Reader Response
- Public speaking and listening

Math

- Numbers to 10
- Number Bonds
- Addition Facts to 10
- Subtraction Facts to 10
- Shapes and Patterns
- Ordinal Numbers and Positions
- Numbers to 20
- Addition and Subtraction Facts to 20
- Length
- Weight
- Time
- Money

Social Studies

- What is a family?
- Comparing and contrasting different family groups
- Families around the world
- Mapping skills
- Art masterpieces

Second Grade

Language Arts

- Focus on early chapter books, non-fiction, short stories, and poetry
- Book Club - small group instruction
- Inferences, character traits, predictions, text-to-self connections, text-to-world connections, text-to-text connections, how to "silent" read, book structure, non-fiction reading research, citations of work
- Sentence structure through the predicate expander (*Project Read-Written Expression*)
- Workshop : Small Moment Stories, How To Books, Poetry Books, Informational "Expert" Writing, Letter Writing, Opinion Pieces
- *How to Spell* - Spelling Patterns - short vowels, initial consonant blends, final consonant blends, magic 'e', vowel teams, contractions, prefixes, suffixes, homonyms

- Editing

Math

- Number Sense
- Addition with and without regrouping
- Subtraction with and without regrouping
- Word Problems
- Bar Modeling
- Multiplication 2, 5, 10
- Division 2, 5, 10
- Ball Park Estimates
- Fractions
- Money
- Measurement - metric and standard
- Time

Social Studies

- What is a community?
- Mapping a community
- School community
- Geography - cardinal directions, map legend, map key, map scale, 7 continents, 4 oceans, topography, New England on a map, Rhode Island map
- Land forms
- Town buildings and structures
- Layout of a town community
- Economics
- Town government- Why are there rules?
- Rhode Island community
- The Rhode Island Fair
- Communities near and far
- Country studies of a community

Third Grade

Language Arts

- Genre study to include memoirs, biography, myths and legends
- Poetry
- Characteristics of good writing; opinion; informative essay; narrative; reporting research; and revision.
- Punctuation, sentence structure, predicate expanders, subject describers, predicate expanders that carry the action of the subject to the receiver, bound predicates (parts of speech); *Project Read: Written Expression*

- Paragraph writing
- Editing
- Reading comprehension and strategy, oral reading/fluency
- Vocabulary/word study
- Spelling
- Rubrics

Math

- Comparing and ordering numbers to 10,000
- Mental math and estimation
- Subtraction up to 10,000
- Using bar models
- Multiplication and division
- Money
- Metric length, mass, and volume
- Bar graphs and line plots
- Fractions
- Customary length, weight, and capacity
- Time and temperature
- Angles and lines
- Two-dimensional shapes
- Area and perimeter

Social Studies

- What is geography?
- Spatial reasoning
- Five themes of geography
- Seven continents, five major oceans, equator; prime meridian; longitude/latitude; compass rose; N/S/E/W directionality
- Mapping skills
- Landforms; natural disasters; weather/climate
- Study of an underdeveloped/developing/developed economy
- Final project - study a country and create a final project reflecting yearlong knowledge

Fourth Grade

Language Arts

- Vocabulary study: etymology and morphology of words, using context clues; *Vocabulary Workshop*
- Poetry: introduction to various poetry structures.
- Writing: paragraph structure, five main types of paragraphs (compare and contrast, procedural, informational, persuasive, descriptive)

- Writing process (prewriting, multiple drafts, edit and revise); *Six Traits of Writing*
- Grammar/parts of speech (*Project Read-Written Expression*)
- Spelling (review and application of rules of spelling); *Spelling Connections*
- Reading-includes comprehension (inferential and explicit), fluency, character analysis, plot structure, main idea.
- Speaking and listening Skills (*Responsive Classroom*)

Math

- Round numbers to estimate sums, differences, products, and quotients
- Find the common factor and greatest common factor of two or more whole numbers
- Correctly identify prime numbers and composite numbers
- Find multiples of whole numbers and identify common multiples and the least common multiple of two or more numbers
- Fractions and decimals (add and subtract)
- Apply mathematical skills and concepts to real-world problems
- Automatically recall products and quotients of single digit multiplication and division facts
- Identify various 3-dimensional shapes
- Calculate mean, mode, and median of a data set
- Calculate probability

Social Studies

- Explain how people, events, and developments brought about changes to the thirteen original colonies.
- Identify important people and events that played crucial roles in settling the “New World.”
- Identify important people and events that played crucial roles in the American Revolution and the formation of the United States of America.
- Explain how people, events, and developments brought about the American Revolution and the formation of the United States of America.
- Identify the importance of the Declaration of Independence.

Fifth Grade

Language Arts

- Reading historical fiction for character development, plot, theme, foreshadowing
- Similes, vocabulary development
- Book selections integrated with history units
- Comprehension\predicting\inferences
- Poetry: rhyming scheme; American and British poets; figurative and literal meaning
- Personification/Similes; examples within poetry and prose; creative writing
- Haiku/Tanka

- Analogies
- Homophones
- Idioms
- Current events
- Note taking highlighting
- Main idea supporting details
- Library/computer search skills
- Research paper quotes to back thesis
- Writing conventions (*Six Traits of Writing*)
- Voice
- Organization
- Grammar/Parts of Speech (*Project Read-Written Expression*)
- Transition sentences
- Topic sentences
- Paragraph development
- 5 paragraph essay
- Starting with a hook
- Narrative, persuasive, and expository writing
- Public Speaking
- Multi-media slide show presentation
- Listening skills
- Spelling program
- Vocabulary root program
- Editing; rubrics

Math

- Place value (whole numbers/decimals)
- Inequalities
- Add/subtract/multiply/divide (whole numbers/decimals)
- Rounding (whole numbers/decimals)
- Order of operations
- Word problem applications
- Geometry: perpendicular, ray, angles, point, line segments, angles, finding missing measures, measuring angles with a protractor
- Mean, median, mode, range
- Coordinate graphing
- Polling and graph making/predictions
- Area/ perimeter/ surface area
- Talk about math
- Fractions; part to whole relationships
- Finding missing numerator

- Making equivalent fractions
- Add/Sub/multiply/divide fractions
- Finding common denominators
- Relationship between fractions/decimals/percentages
- Percent of a number...tips....interest
- Ratios
- Probability
- Algebraic expressions

Social Studies

- Lewis and Clark exploration
- Westward Movement
- Civil War
- Immigration late 1880's to early 1920's

Virtuoso Classes

Art

The elements of art and principles of design are integral parts of all projects taught in every year of art education. All grades work to integrate the classroom curriculum into a variety of mixed medium art projects. A textile project is also incorporated into the artwork produced in each grade.

Preschool

- Art projects specific to curriculum themes

Kindergarten

- Simple stitching on a rug-making 'fabric'

First Grade

- Weft weaving and tin can knitting

Second Grade

- Knifty knitting

Third Grade

- Crocheting

Fourth Grade

- Weaving
- Cartooning

Fifth Grade

- Coil weaving
- Legacy tiles

Health

The information incorporated into each topic reflects the appropriate developmental level of the students.

Kindergarten - Grade Five

- Family and social health
- Growth and developments
- Nutrition
- Injury prevention and safety
- Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs
- Communicable and chronic disease
- Consumer and community health
- Environmental health

Library

The Lower School Library program collaborates with the classroom curriculum to promote a love of books and reading, develop and refine research skills, as well as integrate technology.

Preschool

- Library recognition
- Library behavior
- Book appreciation

Kindergarten - First Grade

- Book appreciation
- Library organization
- Care of books
- Book contents
- Variety of reading material
- Real world connections

Second Grade - Third Grade

- Information-gathering in pursuit of personal interests
- Reading for pleasure and personal growth
- Selecting appropriate resources
- Openness to divergent ideas, cultures, and abilities
- Critical response to literature
- Safe participation in social networks to gather and share information
- The research process

Fourth Grade - Fifth Grade

- Library organization
- Locating materials independently
- The need for information
- Various research processes
- Analyzing relevant information

- Use of a variety of methods and technologies
- Communicating using writing, speaking and visual literacy skills
- Author recognitions, illustrators and genres
- Fiction vs. non-fiction
- Fact vs. Opinion
- Dewey Decimal System
- OPAC and enhanced features
- Citing sources
- Plagiarism

Music

The Lower School Music Program consists of traditional music instruction (Preschool - Fifth Grade), choral (First Grade - Fifth Grade), and for Fifth Grade only, instrumental instruction.

Preschool

- Active listening with directed questions about the excerpts
- Dramatization of known song material
- Syllable clapping
- Finger plays
- Circle games
- Differentiation between singing and speaking voice
- Finding steady beat in known and unknown song material
- Two part patterns using body percussion
- Song composition
- Moving your body in the same space as others

Kindergarten – Second Grade (Raindrops)

- Active listening lessons (listening with a purpose)
- Retain and recall information about birthday artists
- Rhythm reading
- Beginning stages of score reading
- Simple Solfege reading using hand signs
- Composition projects using known material as basis
- Differentiation between beat and rhythm
- Reinforcing proper choral posture and breathing technique
- Four part patterns using body percussion, both alone and with partners
- Singing in unison with others, matching the ensemble sound
- Learning choreography – moving your body in the same space and at the same time as others
- Singing games
- Song mapping

Third - Fifth Grade (Puddles)

- Active listening lessons (listening with a purpose)
- Retain and recall information about birthday artists
- Rhythm reading, using syncopation
- Score navigation and reading
- Sight reading using Solfege syllables and hand signs
- Reinforcing proper choral posture and breathing techniques
- Composition projects using musical forms as the basis
- Singing in unison and two parts, matching the ensemble sound
- Learning choreography – moving your body in the same space and at the same time as others
- Singing games with manipulatives (rhythm sticks), but independently and with partners
- Song mapping, using correct form
- **Fifth Grade only:** Instrumental instruction (flute, clarinet, trombone, trumpet, others by approval)

Physical Education

Physical Education skills are taught at a student's level through a variety of skill-building activities in preparation for these sports/activities covered throughout the year.

Preschool

- Creative Movement
- Obstacle course
- Soccer
- Football
- Basketball
- Floor hockey (polo stick & nerf ball)
- Gymnastics
- Volleyball (beach ball)
- Jump Rope
- Underhand activities: bowling, horseshoes, ring toss
- hula-hoop, hopscotch, jelly-roll, parachute, ribbon stick, scooter, hippity-hop
- Frisbee golf
- Relay races (ribbon stick, hula hoop, hippity-hop ball)
- Field Day

Kindergarten - Fifth Grade

- Physical fitness pre-test, obstacle courses, new and traditional games
- Soccer
- Football
- Basketball

- Hockey
- Gymnastics
- Volleyball
- Jump rope
- Badminton
- Underhand activities; bowling, horseshoes, ring toss
- Hula-hoop, hopscotch, jelly-roll, parachute, ribbon stick, scooter, hippity-hop
- Frisbee golf, Ultimate frisbee
- Tennis
- Track and field
- Kindergarten swim program (at Absolute Fitness)
- Field Day

Science

Lower School Science focuses on the process of learning different disciplines of science. Content at each grade level focuses on prior knowledge in previous grades. Students incorporate claims and evidence-based reasoning. Through hands-on, inquiry-based experiments and activities in and out of the classroom, time is spent:

- Observing
- Comparing
- Classifying
- Measuring
- Predicting
- Inferring
- Formulating hypotheses
- Gathering and interpreting data.

Preschool

- Simple observations
- Tactile experiences

Kindergarten - Second Grade

- Introduce skills recycled throughout the curriculum
- Simple sketching and recording of data introduced and increased in subsequent grades
- Correct scientific methods informally taught and modeled within each lesson and reinforced through repetition

Sample units:

Kindergarten

- Living things

First Grade

- Simple machines

Second Grade

- Insects

Third - Fifth Grade

- Use of Science journals to formally organize information
- Implementation of scientific method to complete lab observations, scientific activities, outdoor experiential activities
- Independent projects and/or long term observations to apply skills and content learned

Sample Units:

Third Grade

- Birds and flight

Fourth Grade

- Motion and design

Fifth Grade

- Buoyancy

Spanish

In Lower School Spanish, the language instruction and application often connects with themes and concepts being learned in the respective classrooms. The language skills are introduced and recycled throughout the Spanish curriculum.

Kindergarten - Second Grade

- Basic communication and comprehension through oral exercises, games, audio sources and visuals
- Writing of words introduced in First Grade increases in Second Grade.
- Correct grammar informally taught, modeled within each lesson, reinforced through repetition
- Cultural and historical lessons to understand how Spanish speaking countries live and celebrate their cultures

Third - Fifth Grade

- In-depth study of Spanish phonetics introduced in Third Grade, reinforced through Fifth Grade
- Correct grammar informally taught, modeled within each lesson, reinforced through repetition
- Correctly copying and writing words and sentences
- Performing dialogues
- Making presentations
- Cultural and historical lessons to understand how Spanish speaking countries live and celebrate their cultures