



Lower School Course of Study

Offering stimulating, developmentally challenging, experiential, real-world learning experiences within our vibrant classrooms and rich waterfront and woodland campus, our students gain independence, self-reliance, and self-confidence to fully embrace the excitement of exploring and discovering learning that is authentic and lasting.

The scope and sequence of the Lower School curriculum provide students the opportunity to build upon solid readiness, foundational and advanced academic skills. Some common programs and approaches used include Math in Focus, Words Their Way: Word Study for Phonics, Vocabulary, and Spelling Instruction™, Handwriting Without Tears™, the Orton-Gillingham approach, Project Read Curriculum®, and Lexia Core 5 Reading®. Through our eight Student Competencies, researched-based approaches, including project-based learning, technology, innovation, and service learning experiences, deeper learning is ensured with regard to literacy, math, social studies, active listening and speaking, problem-solving, collaboration, reflection, and much more. The Lower School's commitment to mindfulness education and the implementation of the Responsive Classroom® approach supports our strong understanding of the connection between social-emotional development and academic success.

The integration of Virtuoso classes (art, physical education/health, music, library, science, world languages & cultures) in the Lower School curriculum is an integral part of each student's educational experience. Virtuoso courses incorporate the elements of art and principles of design through mixed media and textile projects; whole-body fitness, health and wellness; general music appreciation and theory through choral, instrumental, and performance opportunities; library and research skills that foster a love of reading and thirst for knowledge; the scientific process, through claims and evidence-based reasoning and inquiry-based experiments; the basics of languages and the development of fundamental skills for language acquisition, as well as exposure to various cultures through social-cultural content and direct service.