

Lower School Overview



Our lower school students, from junior kindergarten to fifth grade, embark upon an educational journey that empowers them to take an active role in their learning. Students are given opportunities to set goals, reflect on their progress, and demonstrate their understanding of concepts; building their confidence as learners and leaders. Students are provided with recurring exposure to foundational skills each year, allowing them to expand and deepen their knowledge-base. This opportunity develops positive work habits, identifies the potential to expand upon concepts, and applies critical thinking skills. The curriculum is engaging and geared towards meaningful learning and real-world application. Our students build a sense of community that is founded on respect, celebration of differences, and compassion.



Language Arts

The language arts program teaches reading, writing, listening and speaking while simultaneously building students' vocabulary and knowledge across essential domains in literature. Millwood's reading program focuses on phonics-based instruction and develops key comprehension skills including summarizing, predicting, making connections, questioning, evaluating, making inferences, and drawing conclusions.

Mathematics

Concepts are taught in an engaging way that connect to real-world application, develop critical thinkers and lifelong problem solvers. Students are encouraged to use different strategies and to share their thinking in a way that promotes multiple perspectives. Students work in small groups, pairs, and individually. Teachers work to build a love of learning, as well as confident learners through different teaching methods.

Social Studies

Our social studies program is comprised of three strands extended from junior kindergarten through fifth grade. These strands include geography, world history and civilizations, and United States history. The curriculum provides our students with a broad understanding of the world beyond their immediate community. Students are involved with the social studies curriculum through direct instruction, class discussion, cooperative learning, and independent research.



Science

A hands-on approach to teaching science focuses on student involvement through observation, classification, experimentation, problem solving, and deductive reasoning. Topics from life science, physical science, and earth science are explored. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking skills which include gathering and recalling information, recording and interpreting data as well as synthesizing and evaluating information.

Physical Education

Staying true to our mission to develop the body, a strong emphasis is placed on physical education. In the lower school, our program develops confidence and competence of each student, stressing motor development and fundamental skills. Each class includes a warm-up, stretching, and strength-developing exercises. Physical fitness and the importance of developing an active lifestyle are also stressed.

World Language

The world language program offers exploration in Spanish and French beginning in junior kindergarten. Oral communication is stressed, with writing beginning in the second grade. Cultural lessons enhance the language instruction, giving each student an appreciation of the rich diversity of the Hispanic and Francophile people.

Art

Students explore a wide range of media and complete individual, as well as collaborative projects. Painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and work with clay, fiber, and found materials are all part of the curriculum. Units are designed to build on art skills and experiences as students advance through the grades. All students are introduced to artists and art history and learn to appreciate different forms of art. Along with creative expression, we are also learning and developing other important skills in the art studio.



Library

The goal of the lower school library curriculum is to foster a love of reading and an enthusiastic approach to the process of information literacy. Students are introduced to various genres of literature during library visits. Our librarian collaborates with classroom teachers to teach skills that build the student's ability to use the library and its resources as a reliable source for their reading and information needs.

Music

The music curriculum includes music appreciation; musical concepts; critical listening; solo, small group, and choral singing; studies of rhythm and notes; and instrument playing. Students are introduced to various instruments. Music from different cultures is explored, as well as how music can be used to express emotions and feelings.

Technology & STEAM

Our approach to technology instruction enables and encourages confident, practical, and imaginative uses of technology across the curriculum. Students are provided with hands-on experience with digital tools to learn coding, design, and collaboration. We have instituted Project Lead the Way's Launch curriculum in lower school. This curriculum engages students' exploratory nature through activities in topics such as engineering, computer science, and biomedical science.



At Millwood School, we don't simply provide knowledge. We inspire it. We are a Junior Kindergarten - Grade 12, college preparatory, co-ed independent day school.

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Grade Level Highlights

Junior Kindergarten

Public Speaking
Book Buddies
Nursery Rhyme Recitations
4th Grade Game Buddies
12th Grade Buddies



Kindergarten

Public Speaking
Teddy Bear Parade
Oakmulgee Dairy Farm
Hoe Down
Rainforest Day
Pond Safari at Pocahontas Park
Construction of NASA Control Center
Oceanside Café
6th Grade Buddies

First Grade

Public Speaking
Carter's Mountain Apple Orchard
Famous American Speeches
Penguin Presentations
Book Character Book Reports
Seuss Month
7th Grade Buddies

2nd Grade

Public Speaking
Cursive Handwriting
Author's Celebrations
Animal Report
Google Slides Presentation
Aerial Mapping Skills Using Drones
8th Grade Buddies



3rd Grade

Public Speaking
Ancients Museum
Global Citizenship Project
Science Museum
Character Development for Leadership
9th Grade Buddies

4th Grade

Public Speaking
State Capital
Henricus Historical Park
Jamestown
Book Float Parade
JK Game Buddies
10th Grade Buddies



5th Grade

Public Speaking
Move-up Social
Grand Caverns
Invention Convention
Kindergarten Reading Buddies
Mindful Monday (Student-Led)
Plant/Animal Cell Models
11th Grade Buddies



Millwood — School —

Be seen. Be heard. Be inspired.

