

About our Classes (1 of 2)

The Lower School spans from Pre-Kindergarten through 4th Grade. Ages and corresponding grade levels follow:

Age	Entry Grade
4-5yrs	Pre-Kindergarten*
5-6yrs	Kindergarten
6-7yrs	1 st Grade
7-8yrs	2 nd Grade
8-9yrs	3 rd Grade
9-10yrs	4 th Grade

* Students in Pre-Kindergarten must be 4 years old before 30 September of the year in which they enrol.

Classes in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes are generally no more than 18 pupils. Each Early Childhood classroom has one full time teacher and also one full time teaching assistant. The class teacher teaches the core subjects of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Students visit specialists for instruction in Art, Music, Physical Education, Library, Information Technology, and Languages and Cultures.

Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten Philosophy Statement

In our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes, we recognise, value, and nurture each child's uniqueness and worth. We believe it is vital to nourish natural enthusiasm for learning and build confidence and self-esteem. Our school provides a safe, positive environment where our pupils' diverse cultural backgrounds, abilities, and interests are celebrated.

Children enter school at various stages of social, emotional, physical, and academic development. Our teachers strive to meet each child's individual needs and learning styles within those four domains.

Through years of experience, we know that play is a powerful tool for learning. Experiences with sand, water, building blocks, dramatic play, table toys, art materials, music, outdoor play, games, and computers are integral to a child's development. Play activities encourage exploration and experimentation, spark curiosity and imagination, build children's abilities to solve problems, and facilitate the development of fine and gross motor skills. In addition, play also provides children with opportunities to experiment with language and work cooperatively with others.

Classes in 1st-4th Grades

Our 1st Grade classes normally have up to 18 students. Classes in 2nd-4th Grades are generally no more than 20 pupils. Each class has one full time teacher. The class teacher teaches the core subjects of Language Arts, Maths, Science, and Social Studies. Students visit specialists for instruction in Art, Music, Physical Education, Library, Information Technology, and Languages and Cultures (1st-3rd Grades) and Spanish (4th Grade).

1st-4th Grades Philosophy Statement

In the Lower School we recognise that children come to us as distinct individuals with unique experiences, backgrounds, abilities, and interests. Our teachers promote cross-cultural understanding, and differentiate instruction to meet the students' varying needs, abilities, and learning styles. We provide a balanced educational programme within a safe, stimulating environment, so that each child can learn and grow to his/her fullest potential. We promote the acquisition of social skills and the development of characteristics of successful learners. Through developmentally appropriate experiences, we expect each pupil to:

- Think purposefully
- Direct his/her own learning
- Communicate effectively
- Work productively with others
- Act responsibly as a citizen
- Demonstrate a healthy attitude to life and learning.

About our Classes (2 of 2)

As independent thinkers and learners, our pupils are encouraged to think both critically and creatively in a spirit of cooperation and open-minded inquiry. We stress the ability to work well in teams as well as individually. Through teamwork, pupils improve their communication skills, cooperative behaviours, and learn to value others.

Our Language Arts programme is designed to help students acquire the ability to write and speak well, and to examine, process, and use information gained through listening and reading skills.

Problem solving, critical thinking, and mathematical computation skills are strengthened through a balanced approach. Our Lower School curriculum also includes instruction in Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, Physical Education, Language and Culture, Library Skills and Technology. Further, Spanish and standardised testing begin in 4th Grade. Learning support services and instruction in English as an Additional Language (EAL) are also available through a combination of in-class and pull-out support.

We believe in the value of teaching through integrated units. Integrating a topic across relevant subject areas makes good teaching and learning sense because it provides a common framework, making learning more meaningful, relevant, and connected. Brain based research informs us that learning is better understood and retained longer if children see connections. Children's progress is regularly assessed, and the results provide the basis for further instructional decisions.

Communication and support between home and school are critical to us. We firmly believe that parental involvement is an essential ingredient in providing a quality education. We encourage parents to be actively involved in their child's education.