

**Highland School**  
**Lower School Bullet Points 2008-2009**

**Lower School students (K-4) have:**

French and/or Spanish- 2 times a week (K-3 has both) (Grade 4 has Spanish)  
Physical Education- 3 or 4 times a week  
Art- 2 times a week  
Music- 2 times a week  
Library- 1 time a week  
Guidance- 1 time a week  
Computer- 1 time a week  
Assembly presentations  
Class Play performance  
Accelerated Reader Program  
Flexible groups for differentiated learning in Spelling, Reading and Math  
Learning Support by certified teachers, if necessary  
3-4 Field Trips or Studies a year (PK-4)  
Parent Buddy Readers (PK-4)  
Student Reading Buddies (PK-4)  
Community Service (PK-4)

**PK 3/4**

State licensed PK programs  
Teacher and assistant in a self-contained classroom  
Developmentally sound and enriched program  
Balance of individual attention and group work  
Language development  
\* stories, songs, finger play and dramatizations  
Introduction to phonemic awareness and phonics activities  
Fine motor development  
\* sorting, cutting, coloring and painting  
Introduction to pre-writing skills using **Handwriting Without Tears**  
Hands-on math centers  
Introduction to **Touch Math**  
Science and Social Studies topics  
Socialization skills  
\* sharing, listening, following directions, taking turns and thinking of others  
Gross Motor activities  
\* daily through recess and outside play and once a week with the PE specialist  
Music  
\* daily in class and once a week with the Music teacher  
Library  
\* once a week with the Librarian  
Computers  
\* offered in classroom  
Early and extended day options for the 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. school day

## **PK 4/5**

State licensed program

Teacher and assistant in a self-contained classroom

Developmentally sound and enriched program

Phonemic awareness and Phonics instruction (letter/sound relationship)

### **Handwriting Without Tears**

Hands-on math centers

Introduction to **Touch Math**

Science and Social Studies topics

French/Spanish- 2 times a week

Physical Education- 2 times a week

Music- 2 times a week

Guidance- 1 time a week

Library- 1 time a week

Computers in the classroom

Early and extended day options for the 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. school day

## **K**

Teacher and assistant in each of 2 self-contained classrooms

Developmentally sound and enriched program

Phonemic awareness activities

Phonics-based reading program (Open Court)

Journal writing/**Step Up To Writing**

### **Handwriting Without Tears**

Math Their Way program

### **Touch Math**

Science and Social Studies units

Extended Day options

Kindergarten students are assessed for letter/sound knowledge at the beginning and end of the year. The CTOPP is administered to all Kindergarteners at mid-year to assess phonological awareness and pre-reading skills.

## **1**

Teacher and shared assistant (with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) in each of 2 self-contained classrooms

Phonemic awareness activities

Phonics-based instruction- **Words Their Way** word study and Barton Program

Flexible reading groups-Harcourt Brace series

Daily writing/**Step Up To Writing**

### **Handwriting Without Tears**

Flexible math groups/Houghton Mifflin text/**Touch Math**

Science and Social studies topics

Once a week to science lab- inquiry-based **FOSS** kits

\*Trip to the Baltimore Aquarium

Extended Day options

Grade 1 students are assessed for letter/sound knowledge at the beginning and end of the year. The STAR Reading Test is used, when appropriate, to determine a grade equivalent reading ability. Informal spelling inventories and math skills tests are also used to determine group placement. Students are reassessed several times a year.

## 2

Teacher and shared assistant (with 1<sup>st</sup> grade) in each of 2 self-contained classrooms

Phonemic awareness activities

Phonics-based instruction- **Words Their Way** word study and Barton Program

Flexible reading groups-Harcourt Brace series

Reading Workshop-Science and Social Studies topics

Once a week to science lab- inquiry-based **FOSS** kits

Daily Writing/**Step up To Writing**

**Handwriting Without Tears**

Flexible math groups/ **Houghton Mifflin text/Touch Math**

\*Famous People Day

Extended Day options

The STAR Reading Test is used in Grade 2 to determine a grade equivalent reading ability. Students are grouped according to their needs. Informal spelling inventories and math skills tests are also used to determine group placement. Students are reassessed several times a year.

## 3

Teacher in each of 2 self-contained classrooms

Literature and novel-based reading program

**Words Their Way** word study program

**Word Masters** challenge

Daily Writing/**Step Up To Writing**

Grammar

**Handwriting Without Tears**

Flexible math groups/**Houghton Mifflin text/Accelerated Math/Touch Math**

Science four times a week in science lab- inquiry-based **FOSS** kits

Social Studies-regions of the United States and the geography of North America-

**McGraw-Hill and Social Studies Alive! texts**

\*Poetry Recital

\*Trip to Stratford Hall

Study hall option

Students' reading and math skills are assessed using STAR Reading and STAR Math Tests. In addition to classroom assessment, reading comprehension is also checked using the Accelerated Reader program. All three programs are linked to a School-wide database so student progress can be tracked across the grades. Third graders are administered the ERB standardized test.

#### 4

Teacher for Language Arts/Teacher for Math and Social Studies  
Literature and novel-based reading program

**Words Their Way** word study program

**Word Masters** challenge

Daily Writing/**Step Up To Writing**

Flexible math groups/ **Houghton Mifflin text/Accelerated Math/Touch Math**

Science four times a week in science lab- inquiry-based **FOSS** kits

Social Studies- Virginia history, map studies-

**McGraw-Hill and History Alive! texts**

\*Trip to Jamestown

Study Hall option

Students' reading and math skills are assessed using STAR Reading and STAR Math Tests. In addition to classroom assessment, reading comprehension is also checked using the Accelerated Reader program. All three programs are linked to a School-wide database so student progress can be tracked across the grades. Fourth graders are administered the ERB standardized test.

#### **Support Personnel:**

Reading Resource Grades PK-2- Mary Chrisinger

Learning Support Grades 3 & 4- Katherine Ryan-Settle

Speech and Language Pathologist- Lucy Tufts (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

Differentiated Learning Specialist for Grades 3 & 4- Lee Ann McVane