

LOWER SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY

Whether our students are digging in the Village Garden and Outdoor Classroom and discovering grubs for the first time, sharing project work with families during the LEGO Expo, or chatting about the importance of being good citizens, the early education experts in Highland’s Lower School are teaching our students to think creatively.

We Apply the Latest Teaching Techniques to Engage Every Student

At Highland, we believe that a strong academic program tailored to the developmental needs of each child is the foundation of Highland’s Lower School experience. Traditional classroom learning must function in partnership with innovative methodologies designed to engage the individual student. We are teaching our youngest children to think, plan and figure things out. We are creating real thinkers.

Using approaches such as Responsive Classroom, ePortfolios, LEGO Leagues, STEAM activities, MakerSpace, and outdoor gardens, Highland’s Lower School is on the cutting edge of student-centered education. The world has progressed beyond the stage of memorizing random facts and standardized testing. Today, it is more a matter of how you find those facts and what you can do with them. Learn more about our educational programming by grade level. For more details, please visit www.highlandschool.org.

<p>PROGRAM LISTINGS BY GRADE LEVEL</p>	<p>Program Listings by Grade Level</p> <p>In our Lower School, students in Grades K-4 participate in the following activities throughout the academic year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish - two times a week • Physical Education - three to four times a week • Art - two times a week • Music - two times a week • Library - one time a week • Technology - one time a week • A variety of assembly presentations • A class play performance • Flexible groups for differentiated learning in Reading, Spelling, Math • Enrichment and Learning Support by certified teachers • Two to three Field Trips or Studies a year (PK3 - Grade 4) • Parent Buddy Readers (PK4 - Grade 4) • Student Reading Buddies (PK3 - Grade 4) • Community Service (PK 2- Grade 4) 	<p>Additional Support Personnel</p> <p>Mary Chrisinger Learning Support Grades PK-4</p> <p>Colette Reynolds Speech and Language Pathologist</p> <p>Renee Hannam Occupational Therapist</p>
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Early Childhood Program Philosophy

The Pre-Kindergarten program at Highland School provides a warm and supportive learning environment in which each child is nurtured. Students are encouraged to develop socially, emotionally and academically at his or her own rate of growth.

Our team of early childhood education experts has created a developmental curriculum that promotes creativity, exploration, decision-making, play and choice. Each child is encouraged to express his or her individuality through a range of activities while learning to function as an effective member of a peer group.

Pre-K 2/3 and Pre-K 3/4

- State licensed programs
 - Developmentally sound and enriched program
 - Balance of individual attention and group work
 - Language development through stories, songs, finger play and dramatizations
 - Introduction to phonemic awareness and phonics activities
 - Fine motor development through sorting, cutting, coloring and painting
 - Introduction to pre-writing skills using Handwriting Without Tears
 - Hands-on math centers
 - Science and Social Studies topics
 - Socialization skills through sharing, listening, following directions, taking turns, thinking of others
 - Gross Motor activities daily through recess and outside play and twice a week with PE specialist (PK 3/4)
 - Music daily in class and twice a week with the Music teacher (PK 3/4)
 - Library once a week with the Librarian (PK 3/4)
 - Spanish daily in class and once a week with the Spanish teacher (PK 3/4)
 - Art daily in classroom
 - Computers offered in classroom (PK 3/4)
 - Independent bathroom skills required in PK 3/4
- Please note that Early and Extended Day options are available for students in the 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. school day.*

Pre-K 4/5

- State licensed program
 - Developmentally sound and enriched program
 - Language development through stories, songs, finger play and dramatizations
 - Phonemic awareness and Phonics instruction (letter/sound relationship)
 - Fine motor development through sorting, cutting, coloring and painting
 - Handwriting Without Tears
 - Hands-on math centers
 - Science and Social Studies topics
 - Socialization skills through sharing, listening, following directions, taking turns, thinking of others
 - Spanish - two times a week
 - Physical Education two times a week
 - Music two times a week
 - Library one time a week
 - Technology one time a week
 - Art daily in classroom
 - Independent bathroom skills required
- Please note that Early and Extended Day options are available for students in the 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. school day.*

Kindergarten to Grade 4 Philosophy

In the Lower School, we realize that children are active learners who come to understand a range of concepts by interacting with their teachers, their learning environments, and other children. Through continual observation, our experienced educational specialists determine the complexity and challenge appropriate for each individual, and work as a team to design lessons that meet a range of abilities, skill levels, and interests.

Our program balances strong academics and enriching special area offerings, fine and performing arts opportunities and community service endeavors. Through Responsive Classroom teachings, students build upon their skills to become respectful members of the school community.

We understand traditional classroom learning must function in partnership with innovative methodologies that engage the whole student. Whether Highland's Lower School students are tagging migrating butterflies, caring for chickens or designing creations in our MakerSpace, they are learning to work collaboratively and think creatively.

Kindergarten

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.

- Developmentally sound and enriched program
- Phonemic awareness activities
- Phonics-based reading program/Daily Five
- Journal writing/Step Up To Writing
- Handwriting Without Tears
- Math Their Way/Singapore Math program
- Hands-on math centers
- Science and Social Studies units
- Once a week to science lab - inquiry-based FOSS kits
- Extended Day options for students participating in the full-day program (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Grade 1

Grade 1 students are assessed for letter/sound knowledge at the beginning and end of the year. A Qualitative Reading Inventory (QRI) is used to determine reading ability. Informal spelling inventories and math skills tests are also used to determine group placement. Students are reassessed several times a year.

- Phonemic awareness activities
- Phonics-based instruction-Words Their Way word study
- Daily Five framework for reading and writing/Step Up To Writing
- Handwriting Without Tears
- Singapore Math
- Science and Social Studies units
- Once a week to science lab- inquiry-based FOSS kits
- Annual field trip to the Baltimore Aquarium
- Extended Day options for students participating in the full-day program (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Grade 2

A QRI is used in Grade 2 to determine reading ability. Informal spelling inventories and math skills tests are also used to determine group placement. Students are reassessed several times a year.

- Phonemic awareness activities
- Phonics-based instruction- Words Their Way word study
- Daily Five framework for reading and writing/Step Up To Writing
- Handwriting Without Tears
- Singapore Math
- Science and Social Studies units
- Once a week to science lab- inquiry-based FOSS kits
- Famous People Day
- Field trip to Oak Shade Farm to learn about organic farming
- Extended Day options for students participating in the full-day program (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Grade 3

A QRI is used in Grade 3 to determine reading ability. Informal spelling inventories and math skills tests are also used to determine group placement. Students are reassessed several times a year. Third graders are administered the ERB standardized test.

- Literature and novel-based reading program/ Daily Five
- Words Their Way word study program
- Word Masters challenge
- Daily Writing/Step Up To Writing
- Grammar
- Handwriting Without Tears
- Singapore Math/STAR Accelerated 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 through Social Studies Alive! text
- Poetry Recital
- Trip to Stratford Hall
- Study Hall/Extended Day options for students in the full-day program (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

Grade 4

A QRI is used in Grade 4 to determine reading ability. Informal spelling inventories and math skills tests are also used to determine group placement. Students are reassessed several times a year. Fourth graders are administered the ERB standardized test.

- Literature and novel-based reading program/ Daily Five
- Words Their Way word study program
- Word Masters challenge
- Daily Writing/Step Up To Writing
- Grammar
- Handwriting Without Tears
- Singapore Math /STAR Accelerated Math
- Science four times a week in science lab-inquiry-based FOSS kits
- Social Studies- Virginia history, map studies
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and History Alive! texts
- Field trip to Second Street School in Waterford
- Overnight field trip to Jamestown
- Study Hall/Extended Day options for students in the full-day program (8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)