

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 and cultures. 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

Oral communication is emphasized, with writing beginning in the 1st grade. We achieve these goals through songs, interactive videos and class activities, games, and applicable hands-on learning experiences including crafts and special projects. Cultural lessons enhance the language instruction, giving each student an appreciation of the rich diversity of the Hispanic and Francophone people. Students continue their language Spanish studies in JK-2nd and French in 3rd-5th grades.

Art

Art education is an important part of the students overall development - fostering creativity, self-expression, and problem-solving skills. Our visual arts program introduces students to a wide variety of artistic techniques and media, while encouraging them to explore their own creative potential. This also includes drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, fiber, and art history. Students create their own individual projects as well as participate in collaborative group projects. It is designed to inspire a lifelong appreciation for the arts.



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 informational needs.

Music

The music curriculum is immersive and joyful. Students sing and perform songs from American popular music of today and from the past 100 years. They learn songs in other languages from cultures around the world, as well as gain an understanding of rhythm notation, musical structure, melody and harmony. Students will incorporate movement and be given opportunities to perform solos, duets, and in small ensembles.

Technology & STEAM

STEAM class integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math to teach students how to use critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills to create unique solutions to real-world problems. Technology class is a practical approach to teaching students how to use available technology to enhance their creativity and learning experience. We also learn about being a good digital citizen, coding, critical thinking, and 3-D drawing.



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.

www.millwoodschool.org | 15100 Millwood School Lane, Midlothian, VA 23112 | 804.639.3200

Grade Level Highlights

Junior Kindergarten

Public Speaking
Families & Traditions Presentations
Mystery Readers
4th Grade Buddies
Discovery Dairy - Adopt a Cow



Kindergarten

Public Speaking
Teddy Bear Parade
Rainforest Day
Oceanside Café
5th Grade Buddies
Community Helpers
Neighborhood Tour

1st Grade

Public Speaking
Carter's Mountain Apple Orchard
Famous American Speeches
Penguin Presentations
Book Character Book Reports

2nd Grade

Public Speaking
Persuasive Speeches
Cursive Handwriting
Author's Celebrations
Animal Report
Aerial Mapping Skills Using Drones



3rd Grade

International Round Square Collaboration
Ancients Museum
Global Citizenship Project
Character Development for Leadership
Communities Project
Fairy Tale Adaptations
Young Scientists

4th Grade

International Round Square Collaboration
Public Speaking
Technology Integration
State Float Parade
Fiction and Nonfiction Book Reports
JK Buddies
Inventor Wax Museum

5th Grade

International Round Square Collaboration
Kindergarten Buddies
Public Speaking
Move-up Social
Grand Caverns
Invention Convention
Kindergarten Reading Buddies
Plant/Animal Cell Models



Millwood — School —

Be seen. Be heard. Be inspired.

