

Lower School

Throughout this formative period in a child’s development, the Lower School is committed to supporting the growth and development of rigorous scholars, intrepid explorers, creative builders and resilient, self-aware individuals. Skills and abilities are meaningless without the disposition to use them well.

Our students’ innate curiosity will be nurtured, and their perseverance encouraged. Students will develop not just literacy, but a love for reading and researching the things they are passionate about. They will be able to solve complex math problems and understand how math can be used as a tool to address larger issues.

LOWER SCHOOL SAMPLE DAY SCHEDULE

TIME	FOCUS
Before 8:30 a.m.	Social/Planning Time
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Mind and Body
9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	Community
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Arts and Making Block
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Integrated Project Work
11:30- 12:15 p.m.	Recess/Physical Education
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.	Lunch
12:45 - 1:15 p.m.	Language and Culture Mastery Band
1:15 - 2:00 p.m.	Math Mastery and Project Work
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Literacy Workshop
3:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Community and Reflection



SOCIAL/PLANNING TIME

As students arrive at school, they will spend time in the classrooms or common areas, working on puzzles, playing games, chatting with friends and meeting with their teachers to discuss the day ahead.

MIND AND BODY

This could be a PE class, a movement or mindfulness class, game play or walk outside.

COMMUNITY

Students and teachers gather for a meeting in a classroom or common space. Morning Meeting is designed to help students transition from home to school, this time serves to build the classroom community, give students a sense of belonging and ownership, and bring everyone to a shared understanding of the rest of the day.

LITERACY

During the literacy mastery band, students work independently and in small groups on reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. They may also spend this time learning or studying their second language.

MATH

During the mathematics mastery band, students work independently and in small groups on math investigations and problem-solving, as well as consolidation of skills and understanding based on their level of development.

OUTDOOR PLAY

Students will play outside or in a space in the building.

LUNCH

Lunch is served family style, and will be a time to enjoy each other's company, practice social emotional learning skills and try new foods.

SPECIALIST

Students will go to visual and performing arts classes. These will cycle throughout the year and could include studio art, music, drama and Makerspace lab time.

SECOND LANGUAGE MASTERY

Students will have Chinese or Spanish class.

INTEGRATED PROJECT BLOCK

Students will work as a whole class, in small groups and independently on thematic projects related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This work will take place in the classrooms, common areas, art studios and Makerspaces and will weave together all disciplines. It will be closely tied to X-days and the Center of Excellence. At some point during this long block, teachers may take groups of students outside for play or incorporate some sort of movement break into the schedule.

PERSONAL PROJECT TIME

Students will have a chance to work, independently or in groups, on projects entirely of their choosing. This work will take place in the classrooms, common areas, art studios and Makerspaces. At some point during this long block, teachers may take groups of students outside for play or incorporate some sort of movement break.

COMMUNITY REFLECTION

Although reflection is incorporated into most of the day's activities, we believe it is important for the school community to gather at the end of the day for a closing meeting and reflection time. Part of this time will be spent together as a whole class, but there may be partner, small group or individual aspects as well.