URSULINE ACADEMY

Growth. Values. For Life.

Expect More.

LOWER SCHOOL
OUR MISSION:
Ursuline Academy is an independent, Catholic school community that empowers students for leadership and service in our global society.
Welcome to Ursuline Academy!

It is my privilege to welcome your family to Ursuline Academy’s Lower School. Ursuline’s Lower School builds the foundation for boys and girls to become life-long learners. Our students are both nurtured and challenged as they discover, explore, and learn. Our teachers guide and inspire our students through engaging and exciting lessons planned to strengthen critical thinking and creative problem solving at all grade levels.

Ursuline’s Lower School is committed to developing the whole child. We enhance the student experience by including instruction in technology, foreign language, physical education, and the arts, in addition to our core academic classes. Our students not only receive the strongest academic education, but they also develop into young leaders. Whether planning and leading a service project, performing in the third grade play, or speaking in front of the entire community during a liturgy, our students become poised, well spoken, and confident. They leave the Lower School with the skills needed to be successful as they continue their educational journey.

Inspired by the spirit of St. Angela Merici, our motto is Serviam, meaning “I will serve.” We are committed to helping students grow spiritually in a values-based community. Students beginning in our youngest grades learn to look for ways to serve those in need to make our world a better place.

At Ursuline, we are a family. Our small class sizes help the students form strong bonds with each other and their teachers. The students feel safe to take risks and try new things in our supportive environment.

We are disciples. We are citizens. We are thinkers. We are pioneers. We are Ursuline! Ursuline is a special place where your child will grow, learn, serve, and lead.

Come join our UA family!

Laura Fodge
Lower School Principal

“"It’s a great school environment because the teachers always go out of their way to help you learn."”
- 5th grade student
The Value of an Ursuline Education

- **$1.2 million** in tuition assistance awarded to 45% of students.

- **An average class size of 15 students.**

- **On average, 90% of students grades 4-5 participate in band.**

- **Serviam – meaning I will serve – is at the core of Ursuline Academy’s mission and inspired by the spirit of St. Angela Merici. 100% of students participate in service projects supporting local nonprofit organizations.**

- **In 1893, Ursuline Academy Wilmington was founded by the Ursuline Sisters.**

- **Ursuline’s Lower School has 12 after-school activities such as soccer, gymnastics, sewing, dance, karate, Mandarin, coding, and Lego club.**

- **Nearly 40% of students participate in the Extended-Day Program.**

- **Ursuline’s House System includes 4 Houses:**
  - Little Skippers
  - Novas
  - Points
  - Caps

- **100% of boys in grades 1-5 participate in Boys Club—a boys only club that meets monthly for a special lunch and activity.**

- **2 recess spaces for children to play including a brand new playground installed Summer 2018.**
We are Disciples.
We are Citizens.
We are Thinkers.
We are Pioneers.
Early Childhood  
*Ages 3 – 5 Years*

Our youngest students are nurtured and provided a safe place to grow and learn. Our teachers focus on educating the whole child in a faith-based, co-ed environment with a multi-sensory approach. The Montessori and Kindergarten programs integrate the core values of St. Angela Merici to lay a strong foundation for academic and social success.

**Montessori**

• Engages both individual and cooperative learning in a multi-age environment.

• Presents challenging concepts through teacher and self-initiated experiences.

• Encourages children to focus on peace when managing themselves and interactions with others.

• Cultivates leadership and social skills, allowing each student to serve as both learners and teachers.

• Develops self-confidence and character from the nurturing family environment that our teachers create.

• Incorporates the core values of Maria Montessori.

**Kindergarten**

• Focuses on feeding the spiritual, intellectual, social, and emotional needs of the whole child.

• Engages in multi-sensory activities to promote exploration and foster curiosity.

• Encourages various learning styles with activities that are open-ended which enhance the depth of each student’s academic understanding across a variety of disciplines.

• Cultivates leadership and social skills through cooperative play, collaborative activities, and daily interactions with students, teachers, and the school community.

• Introduces children to early literacy skills through exposure to a wealth of authentic literature, reading, and writing activities.
Lower School
Grades 1-5

Students expand upon the foundation set in Early Childhood to become independent learners in a personalized, co-ed environment. Our small class sizes allow our teachers to engage and challenge your child to grow academically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

Primary - Grades 1-3

- Embraces the core values of St. Angela as they learn the importance of responsibility and service.
- Formulates creative solutions using innovation and higher level thinking skills.
- Develops stronger reading and writing skills which increases academic mastery across all subject areas through an integrated and balanced literacy program.
- Becomes an effective communicator through public speaking and a comprehensive writing program.
- Expands their knowledge of number sense, computation, and problem solving and begins to solve more complex mathematical tasks.
- Builds leadership skills through personal relationships, cooperation, and social awareness.

Intermediate - Grades 4-5

- Embraces leadership opportunities by being positive role models for others, serving those in our community, and leading the Lower School in a variety of ways to make a positive impact.
- Strengthens problem solving skills and learns to analyze, synthesize, think critically, appreciate diverse perspectives, and collaborate with others.
- Becomes a proficient reader who excels in written communication through a comprehensive literacy program, including individualized instruction and group novel study.
- Gains confidence and models the spirit of Serviam as they live the core values of St. Angela.
- Expands the understanding for both concrete and abstract concepts to help increase interest and aptitude for success in both math and science based fields.
- Nurtures intellectual curiosity through open-ended exploration across content areas.
You can **Lead** at Ursuline
Opportunities for public speaking and to serve as role models for younger students.

You can **Explore** at Ursuline
Find your passion for learning in our art studio, outdoor classroom, computer lab, library, and STEM lab.

You can **Serve** at Ursuline
Serviam or "I will serve" is embedded in Ursuline's culture. All students organize and participate in service projects to support local charities.

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**Raiders in Action**
A case history of service and fun. Here’s how it is done at Ursuline.

**Step 1**
In late spring, a 4th grade student asks to meet with the principal to discuss an idea for a service project in the fall. She explains that her brother has Down Syndrome and she would like to raise money to support National Down Syndrome Society during National Disability Awareness Month the following October.

**Step 2**
Shortly after school has started, the now 5th grade student reminds the principal of her idea and sets up a meeting with her homeroom teacher to share her idea.
5 sports teams that are inclusive of every level including cross country, soccer, volleyball, basketball, and track & field.

Step 3
The 5th grade homeroom teacher asks the student to share her thoughts and ideas with other students in the class. Together, they decide that they want to raise money and donate it to NDSS.

Step 4
The students create posters and decide to host a dress down day for a monetary donation that will benefit NDSS.

Step 5
The students invite the President and CEO of the National Down Syndrome Society to come talk with the class about how the organization helps those with Down Syndrome and how their donation will be used.

Step 6
The students host a dress down day and raise over $400 to donate to NDSS.

You can Collaborate at Ursuline
Daily collaborative learning both in the classroom and at recess on the new multi-sensory playground.

You can Play at Ursuline
Daily collaborative learning both in the classroom and at recess on the new multi-sensory playground.
We Are...

Disciples...
- Every Friday, we gather together in the Lower School to pray, celebrate birthdays, learn about St. Angela, and recognize students’ accomplishments.
- All Lower School students seek ways to help others and participate in various service projects throughout the school year, including singing Christmas carols for local retirement homes, raising money for those in need, and making dog treats for animal shelters.

Citizens...
- The 5th graders are designated leaders of our school. Each morning, they help our Early Childhood students into school with warm smiles and words of encouragement.
- Students learn conflict resolution and anti-bullying skills as they participate in our Olweus anti-bullying program.

Thinkers...
- A dedicated mindfulness room, lovingly called the “zen den,” provides students a space where they can focus on bringing awareness to their thoughts and actions. Practicing mindfulness reduces stress, increases focus and performance, and provides a better learning experience.
- Through our school-wide Innovation curriculum, Lower School students develop creative solutions to solve real-world problems.

Pioneers...
- We value the process of learning, taking risks, and working through challenges, enabling our students to be pioneers in initiating new and innovative ideas.
- We continue to build upon our enriching STEM curriculum with hands-on learning in the classroom, STEM lab, and outdoor classroom.

WE ARE Ursuline.