LOWER SCHOOL
TEACHING & LEARNING
2020-21

URSULINE ACADEMY
Growth. Values. For Life.
Table of Contents

2 Lower School Teaching & Learning: Overview
4 Early Childhood Program: Two Tracks (Montessori & Kindergarten)
5 Early Childhood Program: Montessori
7 Early Childhood Program: Kindergarten
9 Early Childhood Program: Montessori & Kindergarten
11 Lower School: Primary Grades 1-3 Overview
12 Lower School: First Grade Overview & Curriculum
15 Lower School: Second Grade Overview & Curriculum
18 Lower School: Third Grade Overview & Curriculum
21 Lower School: Intermediate Grades 4-5 Overview
22 Lower School: Fourth Grade Overview & Curriculum
25 Lower School: Fifth Grade Overview & Curriculum
28 Lower School Team
Lower School Teaching & Learning

Overview

Ursuline Academy’s Lower School educates boys and girls ages 3 thru 5th grade in a warm, healthy environment where students are respected as individuals, challenged as intellectuals, and nurtured socially and spiritually. Through a student’s elementary years, a strong foundation is set in core content understanding, which is complemented by fine arts instruction and enrichment experiences. Weaved throughout a student’s schooling are opportunities to experience leadership and spiritual development grounded in St. Angela’s teachings. Rounding out your child’s education is the unique opportunity to connect with a global network of students from 105 Ursuline schools throughout the world, exposing your child to a variety of cultures, traditions, and languages. Whether your child is joining us as young as a toddler or entering our Lower School in a later year, your entire family will be warmly embraced into our community. Together, your family and our staff will guide your child through their elementary years, with confidence that they are prepared to enter Middle School by 6th grade. The following pages outlines teaching and learning at Ursuline for each grade level.

Ursuline Academy's Mission

Ursuline Academy is an independent, Catholic school community that empowers students for leadership and service in our global society.

Serviam

“Serviam” is an important concept that is felt, heard, and observed throughout UA’s campus. Serviam meaning, “I will serve,” is a concept students learn in all Ursuline classrooms starting in Early Childhood. Whether through monthly service projects or just kind gestures, students quickly learn the value of taking care of their friends and family and supporting those less fortunate than ourselves.

Academic Support

We recognize each student is uniquely different, which means each child learns differently. The Lower School employs a Learning Specialist that is directly responsible for working with classroom teachers and parents to ensure each student is learning in a way that best fits their needs. The Lower School Learning Specialist joins classroom teachers for some whole group learning and works with the teacher to identify which students would benefit from additional support or advancement. This may include but is not limited to: small group instruction, one-on-one, targeted reading intervention, book studies, speech services, math advancement, or remediation.

Students with IEPs will have their individual educational goals reviewed by the Lower School Administration during the Admissions process. The Lower School Administration, along with teachers and Learning Specialists, will determine if Ursuline’s Lower School has the right resources and supports to ensure a students success in school while receiving educational services.
We are dedicated to assisting with the development of the whole child. With this in mind, the Lower School employs a full-time School Counselor. The School Counselor works with students in the Lower School in a variety of capacities including, but not limited, to the following: classroom guidance lessons to learn and practice prosocial skills in all grade levels, individual counseling, and small group counseling. In addition, the School Counselor works collaboratively with faculty, staff, and families to help meet the needs of Lower School students.

Athletics

Through the Lower School years, students have various athletic opportunities. Beginning in third grade, students have the chance to join organized teams in multiple sports including: cross country, volleyball, fall co-ed soccer, basketball, track and field, and volleyball (beginning in fifth grade).

Lower & Middle School Athletic Mission

- Enable interscholastic athletic programs to be an integral part of the overall educational program at UA.
- Provide a positive learning experience for Christian development through a competitive environment focusing on character, sportsmanship, and teamwork.
- Promote self-esteem and respect for others in a Christian manner, with emphasis on good sportsmanship.
- Develop athletic skills and knowledge of sports.
- Encourage cooperation, friendship, and sportsmanship.

Boys

While Ursuline is a female institution in Middle and Upper Schools, we understand the value and importance for boys and girls to learn together in their early years of schooling. Throughout a young man’s experience at Ursuline, there are special opportunities for all male experiences, such as “boys club,” which is a male group led by male staff. As boys approach Middle School, Ursuline staff are mindful of the schools they will be attending for Middle and High School. Our staff are in close contact with surrounding schools so we can ensure our boys are ready to leave Ursuline prepared with the proper skills for all-male institutions or any other co-educational institution of their choice.
Early Childhood Program: Two Tracks (Montessori & Kindergarten)

Your child’s first experience in school is critically important. Their very first interactions with school will establish lasting memories that will influence their subsequent years in school. Ursuline Academy offers families two options for Early Childhood education in our newly renovated Early Childhood Wing (renovations completed summer 2020).

During the Admissions process, parents have the opportunity to reflect on who their child is to determine whether our Montessori program or our traditional Kindergarten program is the right fit.
Early Childhood Program: Montessori

Ursuline’s Montessori program introduces your child to the adventure of learning by integrating the core values of St. Angela Merici with the methods of Maria Montessori to lay a strong foundation for academic and social success. Our students work individually and cooperatively in a nurturing multi-age environment to master challenging concepts through teacher- and self-initiated experiences. Our Montessori environment promotes advanced language and analytical skill development for younger students who work and play with our older students. This cooperative play cultivates leadership and social skills allowing each student an opportunity to serve as both learner and teacher. Our students not only master academic and life skills necessary for success in our Lower School, but also develop self-confidence and character from the loving and nurturing family environment our teachers create to show the depths of God’s love.

Montessori Academics

The hallmark of the Montessori method is student driven instruction using concrete, hands on materials introduced to children sequentially and in relation to other materials in the classroom. Each day, classroom environments are thoughtfully designed by classroom staff so students are met with new learning challenges in foundational literacy and mathematical skills. The teacher acts as a facilitator for learning, delivering brief targeted lessons, followed by independent exploration. Following mini-lessons, students are set free to make autonomous choices while engaging with materials that were carefully selected by the teacher to compliment the day’s or week’s lessons. During this time of academic exploration, students discover patterns of order, develop fine and gross motor coordination, concentration, sounds, symbols, recognize the relationship between multiple concepts, and so much more. This is a sacred time in the classroom when the teacher strategically observes each student and the choices he/she is making. Over time, the teacher is able to develop a thoughtful and specific learning profile of each student, which is shared with parents.

Paramount to the Montessori experience is a child’s ability to socialize with various age groups. Whether playing with same age peers, mentoring younger peers, or engaging with older children, students are encouraged to participate in task based or play based conversations and/or interactions. These daily collaborative exchanges between students are critically important to laying the foundation for healthy life-long relationships.

Ursuline Academy maintains a membership with the American Montessori Society. Each year, our program undergoes an annual review to ensure we are upholding the gold standard for Montessori education.
Early Childhood Program: Montessori

Practical Life

True to Maria Montessori’s philosophy and Ursuline’s core values, another important component to the Montessori program is the development of “practical life” skills. Each day, students are given the opportunity to apply their learning in “practical life” situations. In other words, real world application. Embedded into the fabric of their day, students learn about self care (i.e. handwashing, feeding, dressing), care of their environment (i.e. sweeping, dusting, gardening), kitchen skills (i.e. pouring, mixing, measuring), to name a few. Grace and courtesy is an integral part of the Practical Life curriculum; these lessons help the children to learn social strategies so that they can navigate friendships and collaborations with peers and adults in their lives. Throughout the day, children are encouraged to independently navigate normal schooling routines, along the way discovering their innate abilities to independently navigate the world around them.

Cultural Lessons

Another hallmark of the Montessori curriculum is the importance of providing the students with opportunities and experiences to teach them about the world around us. Starting with basic lessons like land, air, and water, the children study and learn about landforms, continents, and countries. Through rich and stimulating lessons and activities the children get a glimpse of the world, its people, different foods, crafts, music, and holidays. Families are encouraged to share their ethnic backgrounds and travel experiences with the children. Holidays and traditions like Diwali, Eid, Day of the Dead, Hispanic Heritage, to list a few, are celebrated and recognized in the Montessori classroom. The children experience the food and culture of different countries through concrete and real objects and experiences.
Early Childhood Program: Kindergarten

Ursuline Academy’s Kindergarten program introduces your child to the first stage of formal education through fun and thought-provoking lessons in our loving and nurturing classroom environment. Focused on feeding the spiritual, physical, intellectual, social, and emotional needs of the whole child, our teachers engage your child in multi-sensory activities that promote exploration and foster curiosity, while surrounding them with literature and a language-rich environment. Your child masters advanced math, language, and artistic skills while also improving important social skills through daily interactions with students, teachers, and the school community, in preparation for success in our Lower School. Because creative expression is a program cornerstone, activities are open-ended to encourage different learning styles, which enhance the depth of your child’s academic understanding across a variety of disciplines.

Kindergarten Academics

Unlike the multi-aged learning approach of the Montessori program, the Kindergarten program offers students ages 5 and 6 to learn collaboratively with one another. Students are introduced to skills and concepts through teacher directed lessons followed by center-based exploration. Each day students engage with literacy and numeracy concepts, which lay the foundation for solid reading, writing, and mathematical knowledge. During a student’s first few weeks in Kindergarten, they are welcomed by loving staff that quickly start understanding who they are as learners and people. This time allows the teacher to gauge each student’s skills so daily learning may be differentiated to meet your child’s individual needs.

**Literacy development** is cultivated by encouraging students to practice oral speaking, which is the foundation of written expression. Students are provided ample opportunities to draw and visualize their ideas, which later translates to connecting visuals to written words. Starting with letter/sound recognition, blends, and word formation, students lay the foundation for sound reading and writing skills. When ready, students will participate in small, teacher led Guided Reading groups with other children of similar ability. Students will also participate in Writer’s Workshop in which students are taught very early that they too can be writers! This model of differentiated instruction allows each student to learn on their individual level. It is our goal to have every child reading by the end of Kindergarten, fully prepared to enter the rigor of first grade.

**Mathematical development** is established in numerical identification, sorting, classifying, graphing, and equating. These foundational math concepts allow students the ability to reason, synthesize, and apply learning through fun math, scientific, and musical activities. Kindergarten students also integrate technology into instructional blocks, using software such as Dreambox and Starfall.
Early Childhood Program: Kindergarten

During parts of a Kindergartener’s day, they will collaborate and work with their M5 counterparts in the Montessori program. Students are brought together for lesson studies and fun activities. By bridging our Montessori and Kindergarten programs at strategic points in the week, Early Childhood teachers are able to confidently confirm when children are ready for first grade promotion.
Early Childhood Program: Montessori & Kindergarten

Specials

During a child’s week, they participate in 6-7 “special” instructional blocks. These blocks consist of dedicated time learning music, visual arts, library/media studies, physical education, and foreign language. Ursuline Academy values the type of learning that happens outside of the core classroom environment. We recognize the power of creative expression, the development of a second language, and physical/mental health can motivate our students in unique ways, accelerating their overall student achievement.

Library, Media Studies, & Technology

All Early Childhood students have media studies (library and computers) once a week. Students learn the difference between fiction and non-fiction and are introduced to various genres of fiction. Weekly themes correlate with the seasons as well as what is being taught in the classroom. In computer class, students learn the parts of the computer and basic operational skills. Activities also correlate to seasons and classroom lessons.

Physical Health & Play

All Early Childhood students learn the value of physical education, body movement, running, jumping, and playing with peers through multiple opportunities for either physical education or outdoor play time. Every Early Childhood student is provided with two thirty-minute outdoor play times daily with an additional 50-100 minutes of physical education class time. During PE classes, students are taught cooperative games developing fine and gross motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and kinesthetics.

On our campus, we have the luxury of multiple outdoor and indoor play spaces; the Lower School's own dedicated state-of-art playground (completely renovated in 2018), green space in the center of our campus, and shared gymnasium. While using the Upper School gymnasium, students are able to interact with Middle and Upper School students.

Foreign Language & Global Education

Ursuline Academy Wilmington is one of 105 Ursuline schools throughout the world. This gives our students the chance to interact with students from other countries, cultures, languages, and backgrounds. By leveraging technology, even our youngest learners can engage with their classmates in other parts of the world. Students learn to speak with
Early Childhood Program: Montessori & Kindergarten

Students in our Early Childhood program are exposed to the arts throughout their in-class learning and dedicated specialty blocks. Ursuline values the importance of cultivating artistic talent and personal expression as early as possible. Beginning at age 3, students have visual art, music, and performing art experiences imbedded into their schedule. Teachers will often take advantage of cross content connections and bring themes of study to life in multiple disciplines, allowing children to be fully submerged into fine art experiences.

Fine Arts

Students in our Early Childhood program are exposed to the arts throughout their in-class learning and dedicated specialty blocks. Ursuline values the importance of cultivating artistic talent and personal expression as early as possible. Beginning at age 3, students have visual art, music, and performing art experiences imbedded into their schedule. Teachers will often take advantage of cross content connections and bring themes of study to life in multiple disciplines, allowing children to be fully submerged into fine art experiences.

Spiritual & Religious Development

Built into the daily activities of Kindergarten and Montessori students alike is prayer. Each day is book-ended with morning and afternoon prayer, reminding our students of the importance of God’s presence and influence. Weekly gospel teachings are connected to community activities, establishing a social and spiritual consciousness which guides their choices and behaviors. Students are also active participants in monthly prayer services/masses, binding them together with a larger community rooted in faith.
Lower School
Primary Grades 1-3

Building upon the foundation set in Early Childhood, students enter into the primary co-ed grades growing into a higher level of independence and critical thinkers. Lower School staff strike a balance between nurturing and rigorous classroom spaces where students feel like they are in learning families. This healthy classroom climate allows students to safely take academic risks and push themselves to begin emerging as innovative leaders of the future.

- Embrace the core values of St. Angela as they learn the importance of responsibility and service.
- Formulate creative solutions using innovation and higher level thinking skills.
- Develop stronger reading and writing skills which increases academic mastery across all subject areas through an integrated and balanced literacy program.
- Become effective communicators through public speaking and a comprehensive writing program.
- Expand their knowledge of number sense, computation, and problem solving, and begin to solve more complex mathematical tasks.
- Build leadership skills through personal relationships, cooperation, and social awareness.
- Integrate technology through use of Zoom, Google Suite, and other educational applications/software.
First grade is a critical transition year when students cross over from the beginning stages of Early Childhood to a more rigorous, academically focused educational setting. First grade is an important year where students solidify reading and writing skills, making the shift from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” Through strong reading skills, students are able to access every other discipline with ease: writing, science, social studies, religion, and fine arts.

First grade curricular content includes (but is not limited to):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELIGION</th>
<th>Curriculum material includes <strong>Gospel Weekly: Promise</strong> Liturgical symbols and gestures; basic prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary); important aspects of St. Angela's life, understanding Mass, parish, creator, Easter, Bible, Catholic, Advent, Lent, saints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL STUDIES</td>
<td>Learning around the world, our American leaders/heroes, citizenship; community helpers, current events, map and globe skills, charts and graphs; our country’s history; jobs people do around the world; celebrations around the world (note: curriculum will be updated for 2021-22 school year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>Curriculum materials include <strong>Mystery Science</strong> Design an experiment; observe/measure; group objects; energy and its effects; weather and clouds; sky (day, night, phases of the moon); human body; habitats; life cycle and ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATHEMATICS</td>
<td>Curriculum materials include <strong>Envision Math Series, Dreambox</strong> Whole numbers 1-100; money (equivalents &amp; decimal notation); single digit addition &amp; subtraction; patterns &amp; classifying; fractions (part of whole group); mathematical signs; measurement; data analysis; graphs; probability; word problems; logical reasoning &amp; use of manipulatives (digital &amp; actual)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Lower School Primary Grades: First Grade

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Curriculum materials include Fountas and Pinnell, Lucy Calkins Writing Pathways, Flocabulary, Wordly Wise

Reading level goal: E-J

Consonants; vowels; blends; types of sentences; common nouns; pronouns; capitalization and punctuation; adjectives; plurals; verbs; compound words; contractions; story structure

### FINE ARTS

General music and visual arts instruction 1-3x weekly. Each class is 50 minutes in length. In first grade, art students continue to build on the elements of design and principles of design.

- Elements of Design include: line, shape, color, size, texture, tints, and shades.
- Principles of Design include: symmetry, asymmetry, repetition, variation, pattern, rhythm.
- Principles of Creativity; imagination, curiosity.
- Subjects - vary year to year, but includes portrait, animals, architecture, and nature.

First grade music classes:
- Explore rhythmic concepts through clapping, dancing, percussion instruments, and even speaking.
- Continue to build on our knowledge of solfege with hand signs and syllables.
- Express ourselves through dance to music.
- Learn seasonal songs, as well as Ursuline’s alma mater and songs for chapel.

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE & GLOBAL EDUCATION

Spanish instruction 2x weekly, 100 minutes weekly. Each class is 50 minutes long. Students begin getting familiar with the language. During the year students will develop speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills according to their grade level with visual support.
Lower School Primary Grades: First Grade

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
Focus is on teaching students the knowledge and skills needed to be physically active for a lifetime and on developing the values of character such as respect, responsibility, honesty, sharing, sportsmanship, and goal setting. Gym class is both outdoors and indoors 1-2x weekly. 50-100 minutes weekly. In addition, students receive 30 minutes of daily recess play time.

**LIBRARY, MEDIA STUDIES, & TECHNOLOGY**
Students have media studies (library and computers) once a week. Students learn the difference between fiction and non-fiction and are introduced to various genres of fiction. Weekly themes correlate with the seasons, as well as what is being taught in the classroom.

Students learn skills such as parts of a book and library organization. In computer class, students learn the parts of the computer and basic operational skills. Activities also correlate to seasons and classroom lessons. Students work on keyboarding skills, coding, and websites related to academic learning.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**
Raider Traders, St. Francis Service & Pet Blessing, New Life Liturgy, Halloween Parade, Grandparents Day, Santa’s Shop, Christmas Pageant (note: special programs are reviewed and revised yearly in collaboration with various departments and Lower School Parent Guild)
Lower School Primary Grades: Second Grade

In Second grade, students dive deeper into literary, mathematical, social science, and religious content. It is within a child’s second grade year that he or she truly emerges as young leaders within the Lower School community. Second graders further develop skills to become independent cooperative learners, leveraging each other as academic resources as playmates. In Second Grade the children participate in and lead an all-inclusive liturgy to celebrate students that have made their First Holy Communion.

Second grade curricular content includes (but is not limited to):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELIGION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum material includes Gospel Weekly: Good News Advent; Lent; Holy Days; Part of Mass; saints; seven sacraments; Holy Communion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOCIAL STUDIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communities (needs and wants); Government (local, state, country leaders); Earth and globes; map skills; people (family heritage); communities past and present; people at work (note: curriculum will be updated for 2021-22 school year)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCIENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum materials include Mystery Science Experiments; matter; mixture; temperature; force; magnets; animal biodiversity; plant adaptations; erosion and Earth’s surface; properties and states of matter; metamorphosis; butterfly life cycle; solar system; human body; fossils; exploration of soil.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATHEMATICS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum materials include Envision Math Series, Dreambox Whole numbers 1 thru 1000; place values; compare and order amounts/money; double digit addition and subtraction; points; line segments; rays; angles; 2d and 3d shapes; equations and expressions; graphing; spatial sense; metric and standard units; mathematical reasoning; estimation; rounding; mental math</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lower School Primary Grades: Second Grade

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

Curriculum materials include Fountas and Pinnell, Lucy Calkins Writing Pathways, Flocabulary, Wordly Wise

Reading level goal - J-M

Students write and create 4 book projects. Two with fiction books, one biography book report and a research report on African Safari Animals. Vowels; double consonants; contractions; possessive nouns, verbs, adjectives; parts of a sentence, narratives, informational writing, opinion/argumentative writing

**FINE ARTS**

General music and visual arts instruction 1-3x weekly. Each class is 50 minutes in length. In second grade art students expand upon the content learned in previous grades, plus:

- Elements of Design - warm and cool colors, monochromatic colors
- Principles of Design - balance, contrast

In 2nd grade music classes we:

- Work on advanced rhythmic concepts adding in the use of different percussion instruments
- Choreography
- Learning about music in different cultures around the world
- Preparing for the Christmas pageant and the First Communion celebration
- Prepare for our Grandparent’s Day celebration with song and dance

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE & GLOBAL EDUCATION**

Spanish instruction 2x weekly, 100 minutes weekly. Using basic words and expressions in Spanish students will understand specific information they will be able to practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing in various scenarios, adding global experiences to this learning experience.
Lower School Primary Grades: Second Grade

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
Focus is on teaching students the knowledge and skills needed to be physically active for a lifetime and on developing the values of character such as respect, responsibility, honesty, sharing, sportsmanship, and goal setting. Gym class is both outdoors and indoors 1-2x weekly. 50-100 minutes weekly. In addition, students receive 30 minutes of daily recess play time.

**LIBRARY, MEDIA STUDIES, & TECHNOLOGY**
Students learn the difference between fiction and non-fiction and are introduced to various genres of fiction. Weekly themes correlate with the seasons as well as what is being taught in the classroom. The second grade focus is on author studies. In computer class, students learn the parts of the computer and basic operational skills. Activities also correlate to seasons and classroom lessons. Students work on keyboarding skills, websites related to academic learning, and digital storytelling.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**
St. Francis Service and Pet Blessing, Halloween Parade, Grandparents Day, Santa’s Shop, Christmas Pageant and Holiday Concert, “Friday Friendly,” Morning Announcements, Butterfly Study. (In the spring, we receive caterpillars and watch metamorphosis happen in our classroom). Engineer leprechaun traps. We explain our creations to the younger students who tour our traps. (note: special programs are reviewed and revised yearly in collaboration with various departments and Lower School Parent Guild)
Third grade is the midpoint of your child’s elementary experience. In third grade, students progress to the end of their primary grades experience and get ready to embark on the intermediate grades. Academic content grows significantly in sophistication and rigor. A greater focus on higher order thinking and cognitively demanding tasks are delivered to students through all disciplines. Third graders step into the spotlight during the yearly musical performance, completely performed, and choreographed by third graders; simultaneously designing and building the show’s set.

Third grade curricular content includes (but is not limited to):

**RELIGION**
Curriculum material includes *Gospel Weekly: Good News*
Annunciation; Apostle’s Creed; Ascension; Assumption; Blessed Trinity; deacon. Disciple; Holy Father; laypersons; parables; pentecost; priest; sacred vessels; vestments

**SOCIAL STUDIES**
Government at work; branches of government; fact vs. opinion; map skills; symbols and keys; natural resources and geography; Black History; 50 states; history of Washington D.C. (note: curriculum will be updated for 2021-22 school year)

**SCIENCE**
Curriculum materials include *Mystery Science*
Experiments (make models, scales); physical and chemical changes; gravity; simple machines; forces and energy; earth science; human body

**MATHEMATICS**
Curriculum materials include *Envision Math Series, Dreambox*
Whole numbers 1 thru 1000; place value to 100,000; multiplication and division; fractions; column addition, subtraction, decimals; subtraction equations with missing factors, variables, ordered pairs; mean, mode, median; probability; measurement (elapsed time, circumference, perimeter); rounding to thousands
Lower School Primary Grades: Third Grade

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Curriculum materials include Fountas and Pinnell, Lucy Calkins Writing Pathways, Flocabulary, Wordly Wise

Reading level goal M-P

Prefixes/suffixes; homophones; possessives; vowel/consonant patterns; irregular verbs; adverbs; pronouns; tense; subject and predicate; adjectives; nouns; cause and effect; predict, infer, draw conclusions; narratives, informational writing, opinion/argumentative writing

FINE ARTS

Performing arts and visual arts instruction 1-3x weekly. Each class is 50 minutes in length. Third grade participates in set design and performs in a musical production.

In third grade art students expand upon all previous learning, plus:

- Elements of Design - tertiary colors, complementary colors, tints and shades and intensity of colors
- Principles of Design - dominance/emphasis, unity, depth, foreground, background
- Principles of Creativity - invention

In third grade music classes, we begin the year by preparing for our third grade play/musical. This is a performance done solely by the third grade each November. Following the play, we begin learning how to play the recorder as we prepare for our Grandparents Day celebration in the spring. Of course, singing is also an integral part of our program where we will explore musical concepts such as rhythm, pitch, and tone.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE & GLOBAL EDUCATION

Spanish instruction 2x weekly, 100 minutes weekly. Students will use complete sentences to answer questions with assistance. Speaking, listening, reading, and writing lessons will be developed according to grade level. Introduction to multicultural Hispanic traditions will add to the students global experience.
Lower School Primary Grades: Third Grade

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Focus is on teaching students the knowledge and skills needed to be physically active for a lifetime and on developing the values of character such as respect, responsibility, honesty, sharing, sportsmanship, and goal setting. Students are introduced to the skill and health related fitness and how to apply them to their life through a variety of different activities. Gym classes are both outdoors and indoors 1-2x weekly. 50-100 minutes weekly. In addition, students receive 30 minutes of daily recess play time.

LIBRARY, MEDIA STUDIES, & TECHNOLOGY

Students have media studies (library and computers) once a week. Students learn the difference between fiction and non-fiction and are introduced to various genres of fiction. Weekly themes correlate with the seasons as well as what is being taught in the classroom. Research and reference materials are introduced. In computer class, students learn the parts of the computer and basic operational skills. Activities also correlate to seasons and classroom lessons. Students work on keyboarding skills using websites related to academic learning and coding.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

3rd Grade Musical, St. Francis Service and Pet Blessing, Halloween Parade, Grandparents Day, Santa’s Shop, Morning Announcements, ERB testing (note: special programs are reviewed and revised yearly in collaboration with various departments and Lower School Parent Guild)
Lower School
Intermediate Grades 4-5

By the time students reach fourth and fifth grades they are viewed as student leaders. While they are still elementary aged students, fourth and fifth graders now have an eye to their Middle and Upper School futures. Intermediate schedules are structured in a way that allows students to start experiencing what Middle School will be like. For example, students will switch classes and teachers for core academics, travel with their belongings, and take one greater responsibility for their independence as scholars, athletes, and artists.

- 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.
- Integrates technology through use of Zoom, Google Suite, and other educational applications/software. Fourth and fifth graders are provided iPad devices to work with during the school day and while at home.
Lower School Intermediate Grades: Fourth Grade

Intermediate programming begins in fourth grade when students’ intellectual and social development continues to be challenged through academic, enrichment, and extracurricular activities. Students begin moving away from self-contained classrooms and start to experience changing classes and instructors, preparing students for Middle School. At the beginning of fourth grade, a greater focus is placed in self-sufficiency and executive management skills as students track and manage their time and assignments.

Fourth grade curricular content includes (but is not limited to):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELIGION</th>
<th>Curriculum material includes Gospel Weekly: Venture Absolution; act of faith; Beatitudes; commandments; Communion of Saints; contrition; Corporal Works of Mercy; covenant, holiness; Joyful Mysteries; New and Old Testaments; Rosary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL STUDIES</td>
<td>Latitude and longitude, map scales; atlas and globe; 5 themes of geography; physical features of the Northeast region; history and culture of Delaware in the constitution and early American life; Delaware today, “Delaware Day.” (note: curriculum will be updated for 2021-22 school year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>Curriculum materials include Mystery Science Experiments, property of light and heat, classifying sound; magnetism; plant structure and function; animal structure and function; Forces in Motion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATHEMATICS</td>
<td>Curriculum materials include Envision Math Series, Dreambox Read, write, and place values to the millions; fractions; decimals to the thousands; prime; subtraction (missing addends, four digits); division; addition; multiplication properties; mental math strategies, expressions and equations; double digit multiplication and long division; order of operations; geometry concepts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Lower School Intermediate Grades: Fourth Grade

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Curriculum materials include *Fountas and Pinnell, Lucy Calkins Writing Pathways, Flocabulary, Wordly Wise*

Reading level goal: P-S

Literature circles/novel studies, literature discussions; word roots; prefixes/suffixes; irregular verbs; adjectives; adverbs; possessives; compound sentences; subject and predicate; main idea; details; text organization; summaries; writing (opinion, narrative, informative); oral reports; forms of poetry; research; descriptive paragraphs.

### FINE ARTS

General music and visual arts instruction 1-3x weekly. Each class is 50 minutes in length.

In fourth grade art, students expand upon all previous learning, plus; Visual Concepts - sequence and symbolism.

In fourth grade music we begin our band program. At the end of the third grade school year, students are exposed to different instruments, and through the guidance of the band director (if the student is interested), an instrument that suits the student is chosen. This is followed by an optional band camp in the summer before fourth grade where students receive individual and group lessons to help prepare them for the upcoming year. For those choosing not to do band there is still plenty of musical instruction involving rhythm, dance, singing, and maybe even a little drama.

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE & GLOBAL EDUCATION

Spanish instruction 2x weekly, 100 minutes weekly. Students will use basic words and expressions in Spanish. They will understand short Spanish texts containing familiar words and expressions. Speaking, listening, reading, and writing lessons will be combined with multicultural Spanish traditions. Students will experience live interaction with native Spanish speakers through Zoom sharing cultural activities and traditions from Hispanic countries like The Lord Of Miracles from Perú, French penpals.
Lower School Intermediate Grades:
Fourth Grade

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Focus is on teaching students the knowledge and skills needed to be physically active for a lifetime and on developing the values of character such as respect, responsibility, honesty, sharing, sportsmanship, and goal setting. Students continue to learn and apply the skill and health related fitness components through a variety of activities. Gym classes are both outdoors and indoors 1-2x weekly. 50-100 minutes weekly. In addition, students receive 30 minutes of daily recess play time. Bi-weekly health classes focused on the dimensions of wellness, puberty, nutrition, and body systems.

**LIBRARY, MEDIA STUDIES, & TECHNOLOGY**

Students have media studies (library and computers) once a week. Students learn various study skills and research. Weekly themes correlate with the seasons as well as what is being taught in the classroom. In computer class, students work with the Google Suite academic resources. Activities also correlate to seasons and classroom lessons. Students continue to work on keyboarding skills, websites related to academic learning, coding, and digital citizenship.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

Insieme TV, The Lord Of Miracles from Perú, St. Francis Service and Pet Blessing, Halloween Parade, Grandparents Day, Santa’s Shop, Morning Announcements, UA Global penpals, and ERB testing. (note: special programs are reviewed and revised yearly in collaboration with various departments and Lower School Parent Guild)
Lower School Intermediate Grades: Fifth Grade

In this final year, fifth graders are identified as student leaders guiding their younger counterparts in various aspects of the Lower School life. Fifth graders are expected to maintain a rigorous academic caseload and extracurricular activities. Fifth graders lead daily prayers and begin leading various religious events. During fifth grade, Ursuline’s male students are prepared for a transition to a new school for sixth grade and our young women look ahead to transitioning into Ursuline’s Middle School.

Fifth grade curricular content includes (but is not limited to):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELIGION</th>
<th>Curriculum material includes Gospel Weekly: Venture Catholic; charism; commitment; grace; minister; Original Sin; Paschal Mystery; prayer; rosary; Seven Sacraments; sig; Transubstantiation; vocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| SOCIAL STUDIES | Understanding government under the Constitution; map skills; European Exploration and settlement; Native American culture; Black History; American Revolution; Civil War; Reconstruction; Women’s Movement; Civics and Citizenship.  
(note: curriculum will be updated for 2021-22 school year) |
| SCIENCE | Curriculum materials include Mystery Science Experiments; The Rock Cycle, minerals, sedimentary, igneous, metamorphic; Fossils: Trace & Bone, molds, casts, carbonization, mummification, pre-mineralization (petrified); Changes to Earth; Space, Planets, Moon, Sun; Cells; Body Systems; Digestive, Circulatory, Nervous, Lymphatic, Muscular; Respiratory, Skeletal |
| MATHEMATICS | Curriculum materials include Envision Math Series, Dreambox Divisibility; multiples; exponents; fractions (LCD, reciprocals, mixed numbers with renaming), decimals (ten thousandths, greater than one, multiply by a whole number, decimal times a decimal); addition (four digit, estimating, mental math); subtraction (four-digit, zeros); money ( multiply, divide, estimate sums, differences); multiplication (multi-digit); division (determine unit cost); associative, commutative properties; order of operations; grouping linear functions; ratio and proportion; percent; coordinate geometry; measurement; capacity; perimeter; circumference; area; problem solving graphs; frequency table; stem and leaf plots; complex word problems |
## Lower School Intermediate Grades: Fifth Grade

### English Language Arts
Curriculum materials include Fountas and Pinnell, Lucy Calkins Writing Pathways, Flocabulary, Wordly Wise
Reading level goal: S-V
Novels, Literature Circles, Literary Terms, Figurative Language, Genres and Sub-genres, Poetry, Informational Text, Quizlet, Flipgrid, Reading Strategies and Skills.

### Fine Arts
General music and visual arts instruction 1-3x weekly. Each class is 50 minutes in length.

In fifth grade art students expand upon all previous learning, plus: Visual Concepts - rendering and shadow.

In fifth grade music, students will become more involved in chapel services such as the fifth grade bible ceremony, as well as the Stations of the Cross in preparation for Easter. Band students will learn more advanced instrumental techniques as we prepare them for Middle School. They will perform a seasonal concert before Christmas break and participate in the spring Evening of the Arts and the Grandparents Day celebration.

### Foreign Language & Global Education
Spanish instruction 2x weekly. 100 minutes weekly. Students will be able to produce brief messages in Spanish and answer basic questions without assistance. Speaking, listening, reading, and writing lessons, will be combined with games, songs, movies, and multicultural experiences. Students speak with native Spanish speakers through Zoom. They will be able to share, ask, and answer questions related to the topics learned such as The Lord Of Miracles from Perú and French penpals.
Lower School Intermediate Grades: Fifth Grade

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Focus is on teaching students the knowledge and skills needed to be physically active for a lifetime and on developing the values of character such as respect, responsibility, honesty, sharing, sportsmanship, and goal setting. Students continue to learn and apply the skill and health related fitness components through a variety of activities. Gym class both outdoors and indoors 1-2x weekly. 50-100 minutes weekly. In addition, students receive 30 minutes of daily recess play time. Bi-weekly health classes focused on the dimensions of wellness, growth and development, nutrition, and body systems.

**LIBRARY, MEDIA STUDIES, & TECHNOLOGY**

Students have media studies (library and computers) once a week. Students learn various study skills and research. Weekly themes correlate with the seasons as well as what is being taught in the classroom. In computer class students work with the Google suite academic resources. Activities also correlate to seasons and classroom lessons. Students continue to work on keyboarding skills, websites related to academic learning, coding, and digital citizenship. Students receive a school issued email account.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

Insieme TV, Bible Ceremony, 5th Grade Leadership Retreat, St. Francis Service and Pet Blessing, Halloween Parade, Grandparents Day, Santa’s Shop, Afternoon Prayer and Announcements, and ERB testing. (note: special programs are reviewed and revised yearly in collaboration with various departments and Lower School Parent Guild)
## Ursuline Academy's Lower School Team

Please reach out if you have any questions or would like more information about your child’s learning experience.

<table>
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<th>Title及Email</th>
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<tbody>
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