



THE LOWER SCHOOL

Kindergarten Readiness

Kindergarten

Grades 1 through 5

Lower School programs offer younger children the experiential learning opportunities that develop the foundation on which long-term academic success is built. Young students soon see themselves as budding mathematicians, scientists, authors, and artists. The stress is on understanding concepts and processes as well as content because, particularly for younger students, learning how to learn is as important as learning information.

Kindergarten Readiness and Kindergarten

Winchester Thurston offers four- and five-year-old children a full-day, enriched program

organized into two classes, kindergarten readiness and kindergarten. The structure of the school day is adapted to the changing levels of each child's attention span, developing emotional independence, social and motor skills, and interests.

The early childhood team designs a curriculum that supports developmentally appropriate practice in education. Winchester Thurston believes that each child follows an individual timetable for growth and that variations in pace are normal and natural. Teachers act as facilitators, creating a learning environment in which activities and experiences match each child's interests and abilities.

Thematic strands are integrated across the curriculum including language arts, math, science, and the arts. Teachers construct a framework within which students and teachers alike develop and contribute topics that will be covered and lessons to be learned.

A cooperative spirit guides interactions in the classroom creating an environment of appreciation and respect. Faculty members communicate with the entire family, guiding both students and parents through these wonderful years of discovery and exploration.

Grades 1 through 5

Because Winchester Thurston is a college preparatory school, even the elementary-level curriculum is challenging, but support from faculty and staff is abundant as students begin to discover and explore their strengths and interests.

Classrooms are self-contained, but specialists teach enrichment areas. To accommodate diverse learning styles, teachers use various approaches, among them literature-based reading, process writing, cooperative learning, math manipulations, and hands-on science, all of which encourage problem-solving and creative thinking.

Curriculum areas include:

- Language arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social studies
- Spanish
- Computer
- Physical education
- Music
- Dance
- Art
- Library





Extended Day Program

The Extended Day Program provides a relaxed, warm, well-supervised environment in which students can work and play before and/or after the regular school day. There are structured and casual activities both indoors and out, and homework help is available.

There is no charge for the 7:30 to 8:15 morning program. There is a fee for the 3:15 to 6:00 afternoon program, which is available on a regular or drop-in basis.

The Extended Day Program is offered on all regularly scheduled school days and on several school holidays.

As a parent, you can know the school understands and values your child. There is a real closeness and warmth you don't find everywhere, not even in other independent schools.
Faye D'Ippolito, parent of two Winchester Thurston students

