

Language Arts

The Lower School provides a balanced literacy program that includes:

- **Reading:** modeled reading (read aloud), guided reading (small group instruction), shared reading, independent reading
- **Writing:** modeled writing, small group/guided writing, shared writing, interactive writing, independent writing
- **Speaking & Listening:** The four areas (reading, writing, speaking and listening) work hand in hand. We encourage sharing, presentations and active listening throughout the day in all curriculum areas.

Kindergarten



Reading:

- Concepts of Print
 - directionality
 - letters vs. words
 - one-to-one correspondence
- Decoding/Word Recognition
 - sight words
 - phonemic awareness
 - phonics
- Comprehension
 - sequencing
 - background knowledge
 - story elements
 - retelling
- Fluency
- Vocabulary

Writing:

- narrative writing
 - journal writing
- informational writing
- functional writing
 - labeling
 - lists
 - note writing
- craft
 - idea development
 - organization
- conventions
 - sentence structure
 - grammar
 - capitalization
 - punctuation
 - spelling
- writing process

First



Reading:

- Decoding/Word Recognition
 - sight words/word families
 - phonemic awareness
 - phonics
- Comprehension
 - retelling
 - sequencing
 - main idea & supporting details
 - story elements
- Fluency
- Vocabulary

Writing:

- narrative writing
 - journal writing
- informational writing
- functional writing
 - labeling
 - lists
 - note writing
- craft
 - organization
 - text structure
 - language use
 - word choice
 - voice
- conventions
 - grammar
 - capitalization
 - punctuation
 - spelling
- writing process

Second



Reading:

- Decoding/Word Recognition
 - sight words/spelling
 - phonics
- Comprehension
 - main idea & supporting details
 - story elements
 - story events
- Fluency
- Vocabulary

Writing:

- narrative writing
 - short fiction
- informational writing
- functional writing
 - writing about reading
- craft
 - organization
 - language use
 - word choice
 - voice
- conventions
 - grammar (sentence structure)
 - capitalization
 - punctuation
 - spelling
- writing process

Language Arts (cont'd)

Third



Reading:

- Decoding/Word Recognition
 - sight words/spelling
 - phonics
- Comprehension
 - cause and effect
 - compare and contrast literary elements
 - story structure
 - summarize
- Fluency
 - reflect understanding of dialogue with phrasing and expression
 - pausing and phrasing, intonation and use of punctuation is used
 - read silently at a good rate
- Vocabulary

Writing:

- narrative writing
 - short fiction
- informational writing
- poetic writing
- functional writing
 - writing about reading
 - letter writing
 - test writing (short answer)
- craft
 - organization
 - language use
 - word choice
 - voice
- conventions
 - grammar (parts of speech, tense)
 - capitalization
 - punctuation
 - spelling
- writing process

Fourth



Reading:

- Word Recognition
 - spelling
 - prefix/suffix
- Comprehension
 - cause and effect
 - compare and contrast literary elements
 - story structure
 - summarize
 - inference
 - author's style
- Fluency
 - reflect understanding of dialogue with phrasing and expression
 - pausing and phrasing, intonation and use of punctuation is used
 - read silently at a good rate
 - change style and pace to reflect purpose
 - adjust reading to process text
 - slow down and reread to solve words or think about ideas and resume good rate of reading
- Vocabulary

Writing:

- narrative writing
 - short fiction
 - biography
- informational writing
 - expository
 - essay
- poetic writing
- functional writing
 - writing about reading
 - letter writing (formal)
 - test writing (extended response)
- craft
 - organization
 - idea development
 - language use
 - word choice
 - voice
- conventions
 - grammar (paragraphing)
 - capitalization
 - punctuation
 - spelling
- writing process

