



Foundation Subjects:

The Foundation Subjects are integral to preserving a broad and balanced curriculum, where all types of learners can grow and flourish physically, mentally, and creatively. These subjects are taught through systematic skills instruction, followed by the opportunity to use those skills within exploration of their projects in History and Social Sciences, and Science.

These include: The Performing Arts (Music, Dance and Drama), **Art, Design and Technology and Physical Education** (to develop gross motor skills, provide the aerobic exercise essential for growing bodies, and inspire a desire for lifelong health and fitness).



Developing Life-Long Learners:

We seek to create the best learning environment for your child so that they have the ability to concentrate, think critically, express ideas and communicate respectfully.

Overview of Curriculum for 3rd - 6th Grades

Integration of subjects throughout the curriculum provides more meaningful learning experiences.

Language and Literacy:

Reading, writing, speaking, and listening are inter-related skills. These are taught in an integrated way, through daily systematic instruction, followed by application activities. A range of genres of fiction and non-fiction texts are studied at word level, sentence level, and whole text level. Children develop understanding and enjoyment of stories, poetry, plays, and non-fiction. They transfer their knowledge and skills in reading non-fiction across their wider projects. They learn to justify their views about what they have read both verbally, and in writing. We source texts that are extremely interesting to our children. Through active listening, we meet their imagination, and explore together.

Key skills include: Reading (de-coding and comprehension), Writing (spelling, sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, form, and purpose), Speaking and Listening, Presenting.

Science:

Knowledge, skills and understanding in biology, chemistry and physics are developed through systematic instruction of skills with science equipment, alongside opportunities to transfer these skills across science projects. Children work in groups to design, carry out, and evaluate projects of scientific inquiry. They work in groups and independently to use source materials such as reference books, the internet, and experts, to inform their projects.

Key topics: Environment (plants, animals, the ecosystem), Energy and Inventions, Weather, Solar, and Human Biological Systems, Geology.

Mathematics:

Our approach to math involves daily systematic instruction in critical math skills, followed by activities which employ those skills to solve math problems in real-life application. This way math skills are not simply abstract concepts, enabling children to engage with math in more meaningful ways. We use multiple strategies to solve math problems; there is usually more than one route to the correct answer and we believe in exploring all methods to find the right method for each child so they can be confident in their abilities. Our approach encourages team-work and peer-coaching.

Key skills include: Number sense and operations, Units of Measurement, Data Collection, presentation, and interpretation, Geometry, Simple algebra, Probability, Problem solving.

History and Social Sciences:

Children explore key topics which are relevant to their understanding of the world, both globally and locally. We use a range of 'ways in' to these topics, drawing on skills learned in all curriculum areas. Children collaborate with their peers and outside experts to develop their own projects around these topics, exploring sub-topic areas that particularly interest them.

Key topics: Maryland history and geography, United States history and geography, Introduction to world geography and culture, Movement of people (exploration, immigration and emigration), Ancient and Medieval world.

Director of Upper Elementary Curriculum

Under the direction of Sam Clements Hall, 3rd – 6th Grade students and staff use The Project Approach, a model introduced in the U.S. by international educators Lilian Katz and Sylvia Chard, inspired by European schools and the Constructivist paradigm. Sam is a British teacher and academic of 20 years' experience. She was a Senior Lecturer in Education at London South Bank University (UK) for 6 years before moving to the U.S. in 2017. Sam worked as a licensed general primary teacher, school leader, then county education advisor in UK public schools, before working in teacher education. Collaborations include schools in Lithuania, Greece, and Spain - raising achievement in Music and P.E. - and her doctoral work looked at developing teacher identity and creativity. Sam has been teaching piano while raising her daughter, who joins our Kindergarten class, and Sam is excited to be part of this forward-thinking school team!

Neuro-Diversity & Learning Differences:

Neuro-diversity is the viewpoint that variations of the human brain are normal, not regarded as a deficit to learning. Our variety of teaching methods gives every child equal opportunity to succeed. Our individualized learning approach is for every student, so students with formal accommodations such as IEPs or 504 plans are not set apart. Our Special Educators are integral to the teaching team; which includes parent, child. Goals are established and progress is tracked together.



Faith & Love in Practice

As an outreach of the church, many ask, "Why don't you teach religion?" A hallmark of John Wesley's approach to Christian living was his call to 'put faith and love into practice.' Our school is an expression of faith and love: a classroom community formed to affirm the dignity of every child, lay a moral foundation of critical and creative thinking and teach children how to listen, share and communicate across our differences.

The Wesley Approach

A central theme of our time together is celebration of what we learn from each other. The Wesley approach values the transformative growth that a classroom provides in raising children who will one day accept the faith for themselves. A monthly non-denomination chapel service is led by Rev. Wilkerson. After school activities offered by the church include Kids Bible Academy, Family Mission Projects, Children's Choir, and Summer Camps.



Overview of Grades

3rd - 6th

Our Approach

Developing Learners for Life

