In the Classroom

The Lower School curriculum is designed to tap the potential of each student at various stages of development. It is integrated so that reading and writing reinforce and extend into content areas, such as social studies and science. Units of study provide an opportunity to look at subjects from different curricular angles. Special classes (art, music, etc.) enhance the Lower School’s integrated curriculum as resource teachers closely plan joint activities with classroom teachers.

Learning is seen as a process that engages the emotional, social, physical and intellectual facets of the student. Mastery of skills is important and goes hand-in-hand with a love of learning, curiosity, character education and positive self-esteem. Each student is unique and has an individual learning style. The School’s goal is to enable each student to be successful in the classroom and to know each child well.

Our 4th Grade students participate in a Capstone program called Envision Collegiate that brings to life students’ classroom learning in a real-world context. A question or need is posed, and 4th Graders then present a solution using the design thinking process.

Social and Emotional Development
All Junior Kindergarten through 4th Grade classrooms integrate values education into the curriculum, focusing on Collegiate’s five core values.

Classroom communities devote time to thoughtfully consider the needs of others. Throughout the day, there are opportunities to learn to make wise and caring decisions and develop lasting friendships. Our Lower School counseling program also provides opportunities for students to meet as a whole class and in small groups to discuss character traits and how to manage emotions.

Literacy and Language
The literacy program embodies the integration of reading, writing, listening and speaking across all content areas. A strong emphasis is placed on these essential elements: phonics, comprehending and discussing texts, writing, developing vocabulary and spelling patterns. Our literacy and reading specialists work closely with teachers to know each child well and provide for his/her needs.

Mathematics
The mathematics curriculum is designed to provide a real-world focus, guiding students toward a greater understanding of the problem-solving process. Students also develop mastery of math facts at various grades. The program is based on Everyday Mathematics. Our math specialists collaborate with teachers and provide enrichment and reinforcement.

Science
The program is designed as a hands-on approach to develop scientific thinking and process work through investigation, developing models and finding evidence for their discoveries. There is a sequential program beginning in JK with the introduction of curriculum content and skill building.

Engineering
Engineering provides hands-on opportunities for students to use creative and critical thinking skills. Students use the Engineering Design Cycle to guide them.

Technology Use
Technology provides many benefits as an integrated teaching and learning tool. Technology is embedded within projects and activities, and students are taught the skills of digital citizenship along with how to use programs and devices. iPads are available in JK-2nd Grades for one-to-one use, and each student in 3rd and 4th Grades can use a Chromebook during the school day.

World Language
The world language program for JK-4th Grades fosters enjoyment and appreciation for learning a language. In JK-1st Grades, the focus is on exposure to the different languages. In these early grades, emphasis is on conversational French/Spanish/Mandarin Chinese using a multi-sensory approach with songs, storytelling, puppetry and hands-on activities. In 2nd-4th Grades, students will pick their target language and attend class every other day.

Social Studies
The social studies curriculum emphasizes the understanding of living within local and global communities. Units of study integrate visual, performing and creative arts into the content of the program. Geography and history are taught in context. Students are encouraged to investigate economics, social awareness and traditions that help us understand our responsibility as citizens of an ever-changing world.

Economics
Collegiate has a developmental economic education program that begins in JK. Economic concepts spiral throughout the curriculum. Lower School children learn to evaluate choices and consequences. Through hands-on experiences, they discover the meanings of wants and needs, scarcity, savings, entrepreneurship, specialization and division of labor.

Art
The art curriculum instructs students in aesthetics, art criticism, art history and art production. Whenever possible, art activities are woven into areas of classroom study.

Music
The music program is multi-faceted and includes solo and ensemble singing, music appreciation, critical listening and expressive movement. Students also explore handbells, recorders and Orff instruments. Students learn musical concepts such as simple rhythms, note names and values in the early years leading to opportunities for musical composition.

Physical Education
The foundation of this curriculum is motor skills development. Students develop strategic and cooperative thinking through games. In addition, students are taught the importance of personal fitness.
Civic Engagement and Service Learning
Civic Engagement and Service Learning in the Lower School is driven by the mission of the Powell Institute for Responsible Citizenship: “Responsible Citizenship at Collegiate empowers engaged, contributing citizens by nurturing students’ compassion, creativity and purpose.” The School’s goal is to develop leadership and civic responsibility in our students by connecting experiential opportunities with curricular integration. Civic Engagement programs and Service Learning experiences emphasize the importance of collaborative and reciprocal relationships with the School’s community partners. Additionally, they aim to connect student learning in the classroom to community-identified needs in the local and global community through preparation, action and reflection.

Especially for Students

Band
Fourth Grade students may begin playing an instrument and participate in small group lessons. Several performances are scheduled throughout the school year.

Cantorion
Cantorion is an after-school choral group open to all 3rd-4th Grade students. No audition or fee is required, just a love of singing! The Cantorion presents four to five performances a year.

Assemblies & Town Meetings
Students attend several assemblies that focus on religious traditions from around the world. Town meetings focus on Collegiate values and include songs, child-centered reflections and invited speakers. Select grade levels take turns preparing and presenting these special programs.

Library Club
Students in 3rd-4th Grades may join the Library Club in order to learn about all aspects of the library. They assist the librarians in many different ways.

Cougar Pals
Students new to Collegiate in 1st–4th Grades are assigned a Cougar Pal. This student helps the new student feel comfortable at Collegiate. They may get together over the summer and the Cougar Pal introduces the new student to classmates.

Campus Cub
Campus Cub teams assist students and teachers at morning arrival and dismissal. All 4th Grade students participate in this student leadership program that promotes safety and provides a community service experience on campus.

Early Morning Enrichment
Upon arrival, students in 2nd-4th Grades can choose activities such as art, math and engineering. This allows time for creativity and small group interactions with our specialists.

3rd & 4th Grade Book Clubs
Book clubs are a voluntary lunchtime reading opportunity for students in 3rd and 4th Grades. Its goal is to reinforce the enjoyment of reading in an informal atmosphere and to encourage the sharing of ideas with others.

Piano & Strings Lessons
All 2nd-4th Grade students may take piano lessons offered during the school day for an added fee. Private strings lessons are available for students K-4 as well. Strings ensembles meet twice a week.

Cougar Savings Club
Collegiate’s Lower School Bank is open to K-4th Grade students each month. It is student-run with assistance from SunTrust Bank, a teacher advisor and parent volunteers. The Cougar Savings Club has been in operation for more than 20 years and reinforces economic and financial literacy concepts.

Link It & Live It
Students in the 3rd Grade have the opportunity to become a member of a team that performs skits for the Lower School about healthy living related to food choices, exercise and rest.

Mini Mosaic
Mini Mosaic seeks to build an even better school community in the Lower School. During voluntary lunch meetings, 3rd and 4th Grade students enjoy discussions and fun activities that celebrate diversity in our community and identify ways in which to make the school community a stronger, more inclusive one. Mini Mosaic participants also have the opportunity to interact with Middle and Upper School Mosaic participants.

Especially for Each Grade (some events may be reimagined or cancelled during the 2020-21 school year due to Covid-19)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Kindergarten</th>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>1st Grade</th>
<th>2nd Grade</th>
<th>3rd Grade</th>
<th>4th Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visits to Robins Campus</td>
<td>Apple Orchard</td>
<td>1st Grade Plays</td>
<td>States Fair &amp; Hat Parade</td>
<td>Jamestown</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events with Family:</td>
<td>Spring Tea</td>
<td>1st Grade Businesses</td>
<td>Junior Great Books</td>
<td>Colonial Living</td>
<td>American Mosaic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Choice Time visits</td>
<td>VMFA</td>
<td>Virginia Living Museum</td>
<td>Studio 2</td>
<td>Museum</td>
<td>Innovation Expo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Thanksgiving, Valentine’s Day visits</td>
<td>James River Parks</td>
<td>SPCA</td>
<td>Chesapeake Bay</td>
<td>Williamsburg</td>
<td>Campus Cubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-JK picnic</td>
<td>Richmond-Specific Sites</td>
<td>Foundation’s Brock</td>
<td>Environmental Center</td>
<td>Cougar Economy &amp; Markets</td>
<td>Town Meeting Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cougar Savings Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Frontier Culture Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Envision Collegiate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>