### 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social and Emotional Development</th>
<th>World Language</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>All Junior Kindergarten through 4th Grade classrooms integrate values education into the curriculum, focusing on Collegiate’s five core values.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<th>Literacy and Language</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
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<td>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.</td>
<td>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 specialist and math resource teacher collaborate with teachers and provide enrichment and reinforcement.</td>
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<th>Engineering</th>
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<td>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.</td>
<td>Engineering provides hands-on opportunities for students to use creative and critical thinking skills. Students use the Engineering Design Cycle to guide them.</td>
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<th>Technology Use</th>
<th>Art</th>
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<td>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 1st and 2nd Grades for one-to-one use, and each student in 3rd and 4th Grades can use a Chromebook during the school day.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<th>Economics</th>
<th>Music</th>
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<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<th>Student Progress</th>
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<td>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.</td>
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**Especially for Each Grade**

### Junior Kindergarten
- Petting Zoo
- Visit to Robins Campus VMFA

### Kindergarten
- Kindergarten Chapel
- Apple Orchard
- Mother’s Day Tea
- VMFA
- James River Parks

### 1st Grade
- 1st Grade Plays
- 1st Grade Businesses
- Virginia Living Museum
- SPCA
- Richmond-Specific Sites

### 2nd Grade
- States Fair & Hat Parade
- Junior Great Books
- Studio 2
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Brock Environmental Center

### 3rd Grade
- Concert of Carols
- Colonial Living Museum
- Williamsburg
- Cougar Economy
- Jamestown
- Rube Goldberg

### 4th Grade
- Washington, D.C.
- American Mosaic
- Innovation Expo
- Campus Cubs
- Town Meeting Leaders
- Cougar Savings Club
- Frontier Culture Museum

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**Service Learning**
Community service and service learning in the Lower School are based on the shared Collegiate value of community: “A commitment to responsive and compassionate citizenship and service on campus, in the local community and in the broader world.” Service experiences emphasize the importance of reciprocal relationships with individuals served by different organizations and also aim to connect what students are learning in the classroom to needs in the local and global community. Each service learning experience stresses the importance of preparation, action and reflection. Service to others is a key component of the School’s Powell Institute for Responsible Citizenship. Each grade level has a series of projects that are designed for students to understand the importance of helping others in a hands-on, age-appropriate way. The School’s goal is to develop leadership and civic responsibility in our students. Teachers integrate classroom learning with service in the community and through experiential opportunities.

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**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 & Chapels
Students attend several assemblies that focus on religious traditions from around the world. Chapels are held a few times during the year at River Road Presbyterian Church. Chapel programs 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 others in his or her class.

### 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.

### Chat ’N Chew
Chat ’N Chew is 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.