



LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE

— 2026-2027 —

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the Lower School at LMP! Our students are success stories as a result of our highly qualified, dedicated staff and supportive families. We offer a safe, nurturing, and academically rigorous learning environment that builds strong foundations in our students. As educators, we take a whole-child approach to learning, and we provide academic, social, and emotional learning experiences. The relationships built in our community are at the heart of what we value most at LMP and we encourage our students to take advantage of the opportunities we provide. Please visit our website, tour our campus, and further explore all that Lake Mary Preparatory School has to offer.



Lynna Varitek
Lower School Principal

LAKE MARY
PREPARATORY SCHOOL



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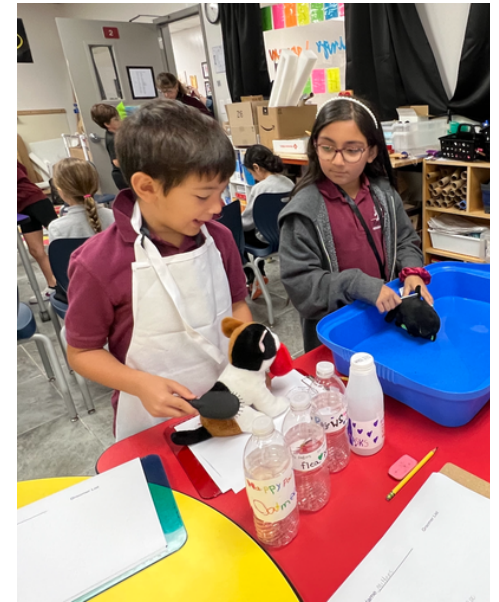
MISSION AND VISION

MISSION

Lake Mary Preparatory School is a secular private school serving students from PreK through 12th grade. Our unifying mission is to ignite the full potential of every student by preparing them academically, socially, and emotionally so they can succeed in the ever-changing world around them.

VISION

Create a safe learning environment surrounded by a culture of meaningful feedback, pedagogies, critical thinking, and challenging academics that inspire students to own their academic success and become responsible global citizens.



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

At the heart of our Lower School experience is a commitment to nurturing the whole child, academically, socially, and emotionally. Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is deeply embedded in our daily practices and school culture, supporting students as they grow into compassionate, confident, and capable individuals.

Students routinely engage in daily activities, specially designed lessons, and school-wide initiatives encouraging them to understand their emotions, communicate respectfully, and solve problems constructively. Our service learning projects empower students to take meaningful action in their communities, fostering a strong sense of purpose and global responsibility.

Additionally, we regularly invite speakers who address real-world issues, inspiring students to think critically, engage with diverse perspectives, and connect their learning to the broader world. Through intentional SEL integration, we help students become thoughtful, reflective, and engaged citizens—ready to make a positive impact both in and beyond the classroom.



LANGUAGE ARTS

Lake Mary Prep fosters a lifelong love of reading by increasing children's skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. LMP implements a variety of resources to meet the expectations of our high standards. An authentic text-rich environment blended with explicit instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension is structured through whole group, guided and independent reading practice. Students are challenged to think critically through differentiated instruction that meets the needs of all learners. Our primary teachers are trained to use the Orton-Gillingham approach using sight, hearing, touch, and movement to help students connect language with letters and words.

The LMP student will learn to write in an increasingly complex and precise manner. Children begin to learn the often difficult but exciting task of putting their words and thoughts on paper. They learn the different purposes for writing and that the style of writing changes with the purpose. Our students build strong foundations in writing while learning to develop and express clearly and creatively.

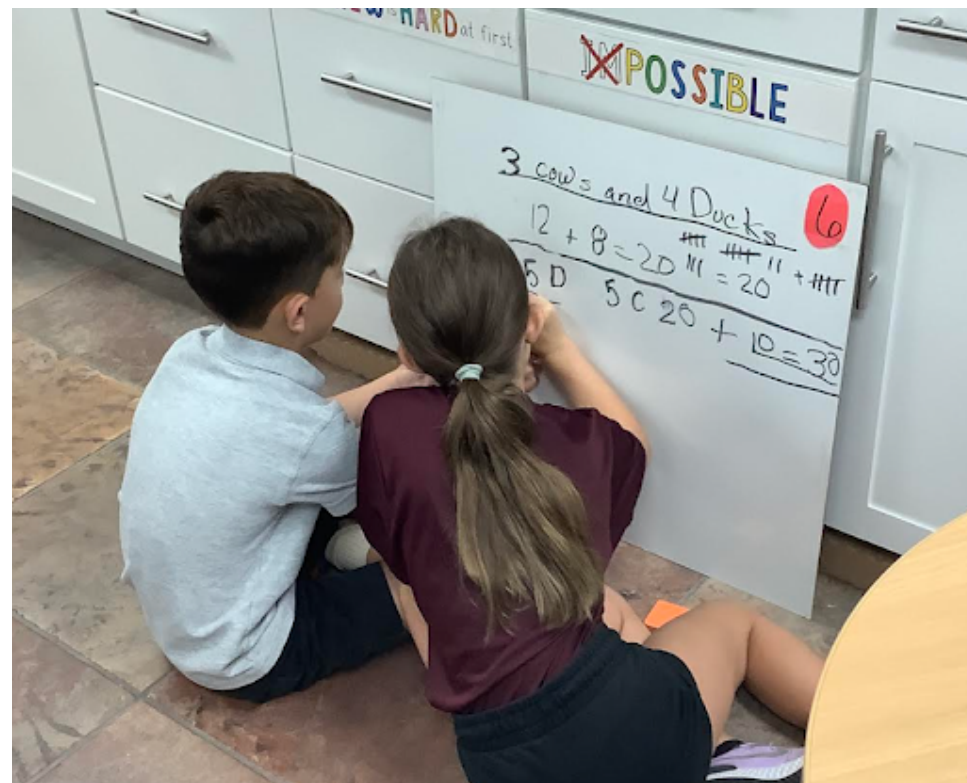
Linking reading and writing is imperative as our students learn to critically think and respond to literature while practicing the craft of writing through a reading and writing workshop approach. Individual student conferences are routinely led by our highly trained educators to build a strong foundation and lasting commitment to learning.

MATHEMATICS

Our K-5 mathematics curriculum is grounded in a concept and inquiry-based approach that prioritizes deep understanding, curiosity, and meaningful problem solving. Rather than memorizing steps or isolated facts, students explore core mathematical concepts through hands-on experiences, real-world applications, and rich mathematical discourse.

At each grade level, students are guided to discover patterns, make connections, and develop flexible strategies for thinking mathematically. Instruction encourages questioning, reasoning, and collaborative exploration, allowing students to construct their own understanding and take ownership of their learning. Teachers design purposeful tasks, pose open-ended questions, and create opportunities for reflection and sense-making.

This approach builds a strong foundation in number sense, operations, geometry, measurement, data, and algebraic thinking. It also nurtures essential habits of mind such as perseverance, precision, and the ability to communicate mathematical ideas clearly. By emphasizing conceptual understanding, our curriculum prepares students not just to do math, but to think like mathematicians.



SOCIAL STUDIES

Global awareness, American history, geography, economics, civics, and government are at the heart of our social studies curriculum. Through the C3 framework, cooperative learning activities range from mapping, graphing, and role playing, to read aloud and analyzing primary sources. Historical inquiry and analysis will guide the instruction through storytelling, authentic text, and literature. Students learn the story of our democratic ideals, communities, and people throughout our units of study.



ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM

LMP's educational philosophy is grounded in the understanding that students learn in a variety of ways and may need support at times to be successful learners. The Griffin Learning Support Program's purpose is to assist students with learning challenges. The goal is for students to become independent, confident learners ready to successfully meet LMP's academic standards. Students with mild to moderate learning differences are empowered with self-awareness, self-advocacy, and effective learning strategies to help them meet their educational goals. It is common in the early years of Lower School for learning differences to present themselves. The LMP Counseling and Academic Support Team is equipped to help parents navigate this, should it arise.



SCIENCE

Our Lower School Science standards are primarily implemented using Picture Perfect Science, a NGSS-aligned, cross-curricular program that grounds scientific meaning through the use of picture books and inquiry-based exploration. Our students develop skills including solution-designing, analyzing and interpreting data, engaging in evidence-based argument and effectively communicating information. Students demonstrate their mastery of science concepts using real-world, student-led problem-based learning opportunities through critical thinking, collaboration and creativity.

TECHNOLOGY

LMP offers a 1:1 device-to-student ratio. PreK through Grade 3 use iPads and Grades 4 and 5 use MacBooks to prepare them with keyboarding and digital communication skills. Technology supports learning as a research and practice tool. Digital citizenship is explicitly taught.

ENRICHMENT

SPANISH

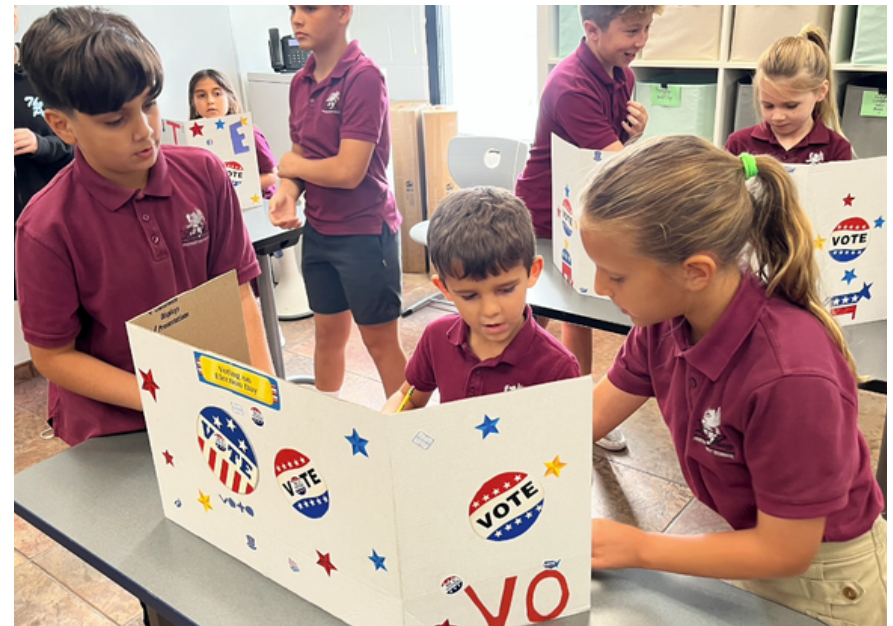
In the Lower School, PreK through Grade 5 students are engaged in a culturally-rich Spanish experience. Language acquisition is taught through songs, stories, games, activities, and authentic literature. Students are immersed in the Spanish Language and culture with a goal of developing global awareness.

LIBRARY

The library supports and promotes a lifelong love of reading. Students are exposed to a variety of literature through storytelling and book discussions, which help them discover authors, genres, and series of books they will enjoy. The library hosts book fairs, author visits, and book clubs to expand literacy in our community. Our library is an inviting place where reading and information literacy are honored.

GNN JR NEWS

Our Grade 5 students design and produce a daily news show, GNN Jr., for Lower School students to view. The goal of GNN Jr. is to provide the foundation for TV Production, which is offered in Secondary School.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education program fosters a love of lifelong physical health. Developmentally appropriate activities and milestones are the foundation of our physical education curriculum. Primary grades learn the skills to participate in team activities. Intermediate grades apply those skills with a focus on teamwork and sportsmanship by participating in a variety of sports. Students are well prepared to pursue future involvement in LMP's athletic programs and lifelong physical well-being.

ART

Students gain an appreciation for art as they manipulate clay, paper mache, chalk, oil pastels, paint, fiber arts, and glass. During the year, we focus on the elements of art: shape, line, color, texture, value, space, and form. Students immerse themselves into the world of art history and learn about the life of artists as they become creators, imitating the techniques of the artists. Students foster creativity, self-expression, confidence, and an understanding that their work is unique and of value.

THINK TANK

Think Tank is a design thinking class for Kindergarten through Grade 5. Inspired by the creative problem-solving program, Odyssey of the Mind, the Think Tank curriculum builds critical thinking through problem-solving strategies, coding, logic, and collaboration. The goal of Think Tank is to prepare students for an ever-changing world around them.



MUSIC

Our music program includes many different styles of music and movement. Our youngest students learn a range of songs from traditional early childhood repertoire to current hits. Movement is expressed through creative dancing, choreography, and using ribbon streamers and scarves to show individual interpretations of the music. Students explore music with instruments such as xylophones, drums, and rhythm sticks. Students perform in two annual performances to demonstrate their progress and concert etiquette.

VIOLIN

In Grades 1-3, students learn to play the violin. The students learn to work as a team by playing music together as an ensemble. The songs range from traditional folk songs to current radio hits. Music fundamentals such as rhythm, pitch, beat, and tone are reinforced by singing and being able to play each song on the violin. Students perform in two annual concerts.

ORCHESTRA

Grade 4 and 5 students have the option to choose orchestra to continue their string education and have the choice of playing the violin, viola, or cello. Students begin to read standard music notation, play orchestra literature typically performed by middle school ensembles, and are able to achieve advanced musicality based on learning string instrument fundamentals in Grades 1-3. Students perform in two annual concerts and prepare to continue playing in the Middle School Orchestra. The music performed has independent parts, which challenge students and improve their critical thinking skills, teamwork, and self-confidence. When the independent parts are combined, music ranging from famous classical pieces to music from movies and radio motivates students to improve their playing and enhance their love for music.

CHORUS

All students in Grades 4 and 5 take Chorus as part of their musical education. Students learn to sing in unison and read sheet music in parts of a variety of musical genres. Our music selections are varied and expose students to music from different time periods. Chorus students may also participate in community events to sing the National Anthem.

THEATER

Grade 4 and 5 students will engage in active warm-ups and theatre games to help them move from dramatizations with simple plots to ones with more complex plots, characters, and ideas. Pantomime (non-verbal movement) develops from early stages of spontaneity and imitation to structured movement that communicates specific emotions and ideas. LS Theater program unit studies include: observation, creating ensemble, establishing environment/a character/an objective, focus and concentration, utilizing voice and stage directions. Grades 4 and 5 also have the opportunity to perform in a full production on the LMP stage.

BAND

Students who choose Band in Grades 4 and 5 focus on the instrument selection process, music theory, fundamentals of music and instrumental performance. Band instruments include the flute, saxophone, clarinet, trombone, trumpet, and percussion instruments. Students follow a beginning band curriculum and learn the aligned foundational skills of their chosen instrument. Students participate in two performances each year and work collaboratively make music as a band.

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Accredited by FCIS, SAIS, and AdvancED

Lake Mary Preparatory School (LMP) admits students of any race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. LMP does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and national or ethnic origin in administration of its employment practices, educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic or other school-administered programs.