

# ELEMENTARY

## Program Highlights 2021-2022



### Our students are learning **HOW** to learn.

They learn the strategies that help them:

- Manage time
- Organize things and thoughts
- Make and carry out plans
- Direct and focus attention
- Make connections
- Show flexibility of thinking
- Differentiate relevant information from extraneous
- Recognize and use resources

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### EACH DAY INCLUDES:

- A Class Meeting
- Reading
- Mathematics
- Writing
- Academic Club
- Science
- Art (Music, Performing Art, or Visual Art)
- Physical Education

Children need to “learn how to learn” to be successful in the 21st century. This is our philosophy in the Elementary Division at Lab. Our youngest Lab students enjoy their own campus on Foxhall Road in northwest Washington, DC. The large building, with its quiet neighborhood setting, gives children ages 6–10 the freedom to experiment and explore in comfortable, age-appropriate surroundings.

Although the Elementary program is generally the equivalent of Grades 1 through 4, there are no designated “grades”; instead students are grouped by age and developmental needs. They move through the curriculum at their own pace, developing the strengths, skills, and confidence necessary for the academic rigors that lie ahead.

Art, music, drama, and dance are core components of Lab’s curriculum at every level, starting in our Elementary program. Reading and language arts are an intensive part of each day’s work. Math, science, physical education, and The Lab School’s ground-breaking Academic Clubs round out the Elementary education at Lab.



## READING

Diagnostic data is used to develop reading goals, determine appropriate educational approaches, and monitor progress throughout the school year.

**Direct reading instruction** is delivered five days a week in small, targeted instructional groups focusing on the five pillars of literacy using an *Orton-Gillingham* framework:

- **Phonemic Awareness:** students have daily oral practice in blending, segmenting, and manipulating sounds.
- **Phonics:** students are taught how to systematically apply code knowledge to text.
- **Fluency:** students practice reading text using appropriate phrasing and speed to aid in their comprehension
- **Vocabulary:** students are directly taught the meaning of base words, prefixes, and suffixes to expand their vocabulary.
- **Comprehension:** students learn and synthesize specific strategies to allow for understanding of more sophisticated text.

## WRITTEN LANGUAGE

Written language instruction is taught by infusing the content that our students are learning in their Academic Club, science, math, and reading classes with specific writing instruction at the sentence and paragraph levels using “The Writing Revolution” method. For example, students learn mindfulness through the process of journaling.

## MATHEMATICS

Direct math instruction is delivered 50 minutes per day, five days a week in small, targeted instructional groups. The development of math programming is designed to meet individual student needs and is based upon the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. Lessons include:

- Manipulatives
- Authentic learning experiences
- Concrete-representational-abstract sequence of teaching and learning

## ACADEMIC CLUBS

Unique to The Lab School, students immerse themselves in the humanities through a dramatic framework. Following one multidimensional theme throughout the year, young learners enjoy a hands-on exploration of history, geography, literature, science, sociology, archaeology, and art. The dynamic and hands-on small-group Academic Club experiences are rich and varied.

### Our Elementary academic clubs include:

- Discovery Club
- Gods & Goddesses Club
- Silk Road Club
- American Revolution Club



### Science/STEAM

Students participate in a Science class that meets daily.

Lessons are active, hands on, inquiry-based, and guided by standards of learning. Instruction is enriched through our outdoor learning space.

Students are taught strategies to help them think critically:

- Challenge all assumptions
- Suspend judgement
- Review conclusions based on new evidence
- Emphasize data over beliefs
- The never ending testing of ideas
- The perspective that mistakes are data
- The earnest consideration of possibilities and ideas without (always) accepting them
- Looking for what others have missed

### Dance/Performing Art

- Provide an opportunity for students to write, direct, edit, and perform in multiple plays, skits, and films and through that process, develop skills in story sequencing, characterization, physical expression, and expressive language.
- Allow for study and development of pitch and rhythm in both singing and instrument exploration.
- Help students learn to take risks, express themselves through dialogue and body language, and incorporate sensory details into performance.
- Involve using dramatic interpretation of music and literature to express ideas and feelings, and are closely linked with the themes emphasized in the other arts and academic classes.

### Physical Education/Occupational Therapy

- Movement, a collaboration of Physical Education and Occupational Therapy and co-taught by a PE teacher and an OT, focuses on development of body awareness, sensory-motor skills and self-regulation, memory, motor planning, flexibility, strength, cooperation, self-confidence, and self-control.

### Visual Arts

- Build skills in spatial thinking, fine motor control, organization, and planning.
- Provide structured lessons where students learn technique, vocabulary, and use of tools/materials related to creating art with particular media.



### Music

- Use of music that has a historical, traditional, or cultural purpose
- Lessons focus on listening, instrument identification, and movement
- Closely linked to study in other subject areas such as social studies and art
- Exposure to a wide variety of musical genres to help develop an appreciation of music as an art form

## EXPERT CLINICAL SERVICES

Related service providers consult, collaborate, and provide professional development for faculty in order to enhance the educational experience for all students. In addition, supplemental individual and group therapy services are available.

### Departments include:

- Occupational Therapy
- Psychological Services
- Speech, Language & Literacy

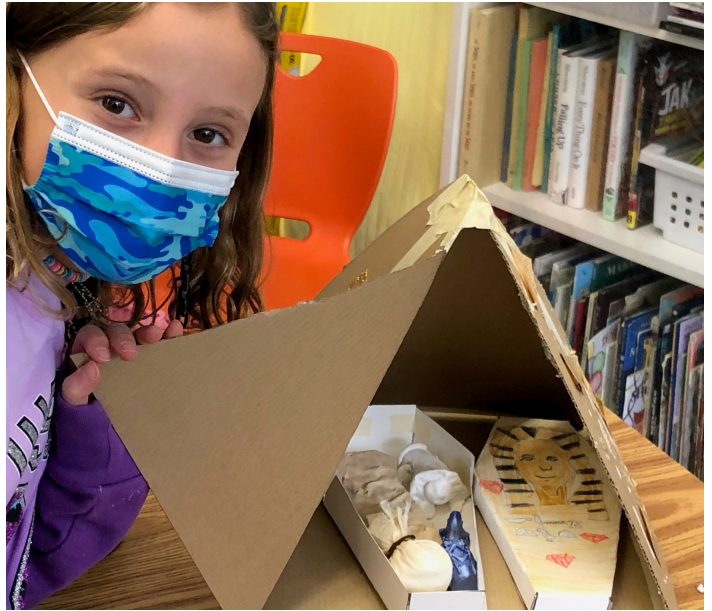
## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

A general approach to teaching, the *Responsive Classroom* emphasizes the development of social-emotional skills in a nurturing and safe school community. Components include morning meetings to:

- Directly teach the five principal social skills: cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control
- Model interactions with positive teacher language and feedback
- Guide growth of self-awareness
- Teach successful patterns of interaction
- Practice mindfulness

## AFTER SCHOOL OPTIONS

- Monday-Friday, 3:30-5:30pm
- Convenient for parents' varied schedules and stimulating for students
- Wide variety of extra-curricular activities



## TECHNOLOGY

Using laptops, iPads, interactive white boards, and other technology, students acquire 21st century skills, such as how to:

- Ask essential questions
- Find information
- Gain media literacy
- Collaborate
- Communicate
- Connect
- Learn about internet safety
- Problem solve

## LOWER SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAM

- Small-group *Orton-Gillingham* reading instruction
- Academic Clubs
- Sports, Dance, and Art
- Number Investigations

## FACULTY

- Certified Master Teachers
- High rate of faculty retention
- More than 80 percent have advanced degrees
- The average child to adult ratio is 1:6 and is even lower for our reading and math classes

