

# Grades 1 and 2



## **A MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM FOR GRADES ONE AND TWO**

Multi-age classrooms provide an ideal environment to support first and second grade learners during these important years of development, growth, and achievement. Through guided discovery and inquiry, our first and second grade teachers lead students to build a solid foundation in reading, writing and mathematics. Our young learners also develop an understanding of the world around them through science and social studies, discover their creative talents through music and art, and grow as responsive and responsible citizens.

### **ABOUT MULTI-AGE CLASSROOMS**

- Multi-age classrooms (a.k.a. vertical classrooms) are an intentional elementary education model that is currently used at outstanding independent and public schools across the country.
- The social, emotional, and learning development of children in grades one and two moves through a series of predictable stages and phases. Each child progresses through these phases at varying rates and with different needs. This is especially true in their literacy development as beginning readers and writers. Multi-age classrooms provide an ideal environment to support young learners during these important years of development, growth, and achievement.
- Multi-age classroom teachers understand the needs of a broad range of learners and know how to provide materials, plan curriculum, develop schedules, organize groupings, and structure classrooms accordingly.
- Multi-age classrooms promote a culture in which deep relationships are forged between the children, as well as between students and adults. Younger students benefit from the modeling and peer mentoring of older children. They then become the leaders and mentors themselves, gaining from opportunities to express their understanding about academic concepts and skills, as well as social values and competencies.

### **Grades 1 and 2 Multi-Age Classroom Highlights**

- Highly-differentiated reading program promotes individual development and incorporates a broad range of whole-language methodologies.
- Reading classes are taught using a variety of authentic literature sources such as picture books, fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.
- Creative and expository writing is introduced and developed.
- Peer reading program pairs Lower School students with Kindergarten, Preschool or Middle School partners.
- Mathematics program emphasizes understanding concepts and mastering skills through exploration and practice, applying skills to real-life problem solving, and learning through hands-on activities and the use of manipulatives.
- Science stresses inquiry-based learning, and includes topics in life, environmental, physical, earth, and natural sciences. The campus nature trail and pond provide hands-on learning opportunities for exploring native plants and animals.
- Social Studies classes focus on local communities and different cultures.
- The French and Spanish programs introduce core vocabulary and language skills while promoting each child's development as a language learner.
- Extended-Day and Enrichment Program offered until 5:30 p.m.