

# Lower School

## Science and Social Studies Instructional Program 2022 - 2023

There have been several changes in our science program over the last few years. Through discussions about what would be best for students, the following has emerged as areas for emphasis: depth over breadth; wonder and exploration through both regular use of the science lab and scheduled outdoor education; introduction to formal science education based on developmental readiness; as well as, the importance of modeling continuous collaboration for students.

Grade Level(s)	Primary Focus	Structure
<b>PreK and K</b>	Wonder and Discovery Outdoor Experiences Stations/Manipulatives for Exploration Available in Classrooms	Teachers introduce units in their classrooms and consult with the NEAL coordinator to regularly utilize outdoor spaces on campus.  Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten build up to a collaborative weekly outdoor education block, in addition to capitalizing on teachable moments for exploration throughout the week.  Social studies and science alternate in an organic way that is situated in real-world application (e.g., seasons, holidays, etc.).
<b>1st</b>	Wonder and Discovery Outdoor Experiences Introduction to Formal Science Instruction and Lab	Teachers introduce units in their classrooms and consult with the NEAL coordinator to regularly utilize outdoor spaces on campus and the lab (typically 2x a week depending on unit).  First grade students visit the Crocker for a weekly outdoor education block. Social studies and science alternate and are situated in real-life application.
<b>2nd/3rd</b>	Regular Science Instruction and Lab Experiences Wonder and Discovery Outdoor Experiences	Students alternate between in-depth science and social studies units. A flexible rotation schedule is followed, which has a switch approximately every 3 weeks. One homeroom teacher in the grade level teaches science and one homeroom teacher teaches social studies. The teacher who teaches science co-plans and co-teaches with the NEAL coordinator.  Science/SS classes are 4x a week (one subject at a time for students) for 45 minutes. Students visit the lab 2 - 3x per week, depending on the unit.  <b>Both</b> science and SS classes engage in scheduled outdoor education 1x per week for 45 minutes.
<b>4th</b>	Regular Science Instruction and Lab Outdoor Experiences Wonder and Discovery	Students alternate between in-depth science and social studies units. A flexible rotation schedule is followed, which has a switch approximately every 3 weeks. During the science rotation, students visit the lab for class. Classes are held 4x a week for 45 - 60 minutes.  Fourth and fifth grade are both departmentalized so that students have three teachers throughout the day for core subject areas.  <b>Both</b> science and SS classes engage in scheduled outdoor education 1x per week for 45 minutes.

