

RIGOROUS CURRICULUM

Our students benefit from an academic environment that intensely promotes rigor and academic excellence. The Keith faculty is deeply committed to creating personalized academic success for all students. Gifted enrichment, accelerated reading and math programs, individualized English and spelling experiences, and academic support are the hallmarks of all classroom instruction.

SCIENCE LAB

The Lower School Science Lab is equipped with lab tables, equipment, and technology to meet the needs of our inquisitive, budding scientists. We introduce the concepts of scientific investigation (develop an idea, plan an experiment, conduct an experiment); scientific analysis (keep a logbook, analyze data, create a chart or graph); managing and working cooperatively (team building and sharing for best results); and communication (share results through written, verbal, or computer-based presentations).

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 receive content-connected Spanish instruction, and additionally Grade 5 students receive French instruction. The topics discussed in foreign language classes mirror content in core subject areas. Students engage in conversations and activities that emphasize the gradual acquisition of other languages. Classes emphasize the five C's of foreign language instruction: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS EXPERIENCES

Teachers are able to promote the development of creativity, self-confidence, and self-awareness through our fine and performing arts curriculum. Lower School students are engaged in classroom productions to learn stage presence, movement and dance, storytelling, and singing. Drawing, painting, and sculpting classes teach students persistence, perseverance, and creative thinking.

MUSIC THEORY INSTRUCTION

Our Lower School is the only school program in the region to offer music theory beginning in Kindergarten. Music theory instruction is a wonderful way to develop listening skills and introduce the "grammar of music". Students are introduced to rhythm, pitch, tone, intensity, and note reading under the direction of a faculty member. The teaching of music theory ensures that our students are well-prepared for participation in choirs, bands, and orchestra in the Middle and Upper Schools.

MUSIC LESSONS

After-school opportunities for private and small-group lessons for voice, piano, strings, and guitar may be arranged for additional fees.

BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY DEVICES

In grades 3, 4, and 5 students use Keith's filtered wireless network. Students are asked to bring "internet ready" personal computing devices to enhance academic learning. By allowing students to use their own devices, Keith classrooms can connect to global classrooms and resources creating 21st century learning opportunities.

COMMUNICATION AND PRESENTATION SKILLS

Strong communication skills are practiced daily. Teachers ensure students have the opportunity to confidently engage in classroom and school-wide presentations. Every Friday, our Lower School students host a student-led community meeting. Students are given opportunities to share classroom projects, read stories, or demonstrate a talent to enthusiastic audiences of peers and families.

SERVICE LEARNING

The Keith School mission is to prepare children for lives of meaning and purpose. Part of that preparation is to provide students with experiences for service learning. Classrooms participate in programs such as Noah's Ark Volunteers, Toys for Tots, and the Salvation Army's food drive to understand the importance of civic engagement.