



TELL ME ABOUT
Lower School



At every level, but especially in our Lower School, Blake teachers function as guides to help children nurture their passion for learning. They teach the skills children need in order to pursue their interests and open new doors students might not find on their own. Classes focus on both collaborative and individual efforts. Teachers take time to discuss students' feelings and ideas, help them make responsible decisions and resolve conflicts, and explore with them the value and wonder of human diversity.

- Lower School includes pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.
- A 9:1 student-to-teacher ratio and classroom size of 20–21 students enables every teacher to know every child very well.
- Half of our Lower School students are at the Highcroft campus in Wayzata — a warm, inviting, safe environment.
- The other half of our Lower School students are at the Blake campus in Hopkins — 55 acres of rolling hills. This campus is also home to our varsity athletic fields, tennis courts, pool, ice arena and Middle School.

Special-area teachers work with Lower School students to connect their academic studies with the arts and technology. Children participate in theater, music and visual arts, and language classes, and learn inquiry/research and computer skills that enable them to explore interests independently, in their own way and at their own pace.

Similarly, children learn the importance of lifelong fitness as they explore their potential in a wide variety of physical activities. Lower School physical education emphasizes participation, sportsmanship and basic skills in daily classes.

Lower School students also participate in community involvement projects that are tied closely to the academic curriculum through Blake's service learning program. Through service learning, students gain a better understanding of themselves, the world in which they live, and the opportunity and

CONSIDER THIS

Blake's approach to early childhood education is rooted in the Reggio Emilia approach, and our work with Lower School students fosters learning through a wide variety of innovative experiences.





responsibility they have to improve both. Additionally, Blake's kindergartners through fifth graders benefit from second-language learning by exploring both languages and cultures, including French, Japanese and Spanish.

**Afternoon activity program:
Pre-kindergarten**

Pre-kindergarten classes meet in the mornings. An optional afternoon pre-kindergarten program (until 3:30 p.m.) provides children an opportunity to continue creative exploration through activities in drama, art, language development, science, cooking, physical activities and more. Children may participate in the afternoon program one or more days per week.

**Extended day program:
Pre-kindergarten – Fifth Grade**

Our extended day program provides a safe, fun, home-like atmosphere for children before and after school. Children may choose from a variety of activities — games, outdoor play, computer, crafts — or they may dig into homework or relax with a good book. This wonderful care is available before school, starting at 7:30 a.m., and from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m., as well as on parent conference and teacher workshop days.



Discover Blake

You'll be surprised at what you learn and what your child can become.

To schedule a campus tour or request an application, call the admissions office at 952-988-3420. You can also apply online or download an application: www.blakeschool.org/admissions.

