



**NEWBERRY
ACADEMY**



LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM OVERVIEW 2025 - 2026

What We Stand For

Newberry Academy is a college preparatory school of academic excellence that values the faith and traditions of the Judeo-Christian experience. The school aims to offer a challenging curriculum that enables qualified students to pursue a lifelong passion for knowledge.

Where We're Going

Newberry Academy aspires to be a beacon of educational excellence, cultivating lifelong learners who are prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world. We envision a community where curiosity is celebrated, diversity is embraced, and every student is empowered to discover their unique gifts. By fostering integrity, leadership, and a spirit of service, Newberry Academy seeks to graduate individuals who will make meaningful contributions both locally and globally.



1st Grade

Language Arts & Spelling

- Students will develop early literacy skills through writing, phonics, spelling, and language instruction.
- Students will practice different types of writing and learn to organize ideas and add details.
- Students will focus on neat handwriting, punctuation, sentence structure, and correct word use.
- Students will build phonics and spelling skills using vowel sounds, sight words, and word patterns.
- Students will use reading and writing skills in journals, projects, centers, and cross-curricular activities.

2nd Grade

Language Arts & Spelling

- Students will strengthen grammar skills, including sentence structure, capitalization, punctuation, and usage.
- Students will grow vocabulary through focused practice with word meanings, word types, and dictionary skills.
- Students will develop phonics and spelling skills using vowel sounds, syllables, and word patterns.
- Students will write daily through journals and writing workshops to build creativity and organization.
- Literacy skills will be reinforced through hands-on, cross-curricular activities and real-world practice.

Math

- Students will build number sense through addition, subtraction, and problem solving within 10 and 20.
- Students will learn place value to 120, skip counting, and how numbers are represented.
- Students will practice measurement, telling time, and using money in real-life situations.
- Students will explore basic geometry, data, graphs, and equal shares through hands-on activities.
- Math skills will be reinforced through workshops, number talks, journals, and collaborative centers.

Math

- Students will build number sense through addition and subtraction to develop fluency and confidence.
- Students will learn place value and how to compose and decompose numbers into the hundreds and thousands.
- Students will practice problem-solving strategies for real-world and multi-step math tasks.
- Students will explore measurement, time, money, data, and graphs in practical ways.
- Math skills will be reinforced through hands-on tools, games, digital resources, and cross-curricular activities.

1st Grade

Reading

- Students will build early reading strategies and phonics skills to support accurate reading.
- Students will practice understanding and responding to fiction and nonfiction texts.
- Students will develop fluency and confidence through independent, shared, and guided reading.
- Students will form opinions, compare texts, explore themes, and respond to their reading.

2nd Grade

Reading

- Students will use reading strategies like predicting, questioning, and summarizing to improve understanding.
- Students will read a variety of genres, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and chapter books.
- Students will learn how texts are organized, including story elements, text features, and author's purpose.
- Students will build reading stamina and confidence through independent reading and thoughtful responses.

Science

- Students will ask questions, make observations, and share findings through simple investigations.
- Students will learn about living things, their parts, and how they interact with their environments.
- Students will explore Earth's materials, weather, seasons, and other observable Earth changes.
- Students will investigate light, sound, and basic concepts of motion and interaction.
- Students will use simple design and models to solve problems and explore human-made solutions.

Science

- Students will build science skills through questioning, observing, investigating, and sharing findings.
- Students will explore weather, seasons, sunlight, and local South Carolina weather and safety.
- Students will learn about solids, liquids, gases, magnets, and how materials change and interact.
- Students will investigate forces like pushes, pulls, gravity, and friction through hands-on STEM activities.
- Students will study animals, their environments, and how they survive and interact in ecosystems.

3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
<p><u>Language Arts and Reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts to build fluency and comprehension. • Students will explore multiple genres as they transition from learning to read to reading to learn. • Students will develop spelling accuracy through phonics and word pattern instruction. • Students will expand vocabulary through reading and cross-curricular word study. • Students will apply reading and spelling skills through writing, discussion, and creative responses. 	<p><u>Language Arts and Reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will read a variety of texts and use comprehension skills such as inference, comparison, and drawing conclusions. • Students will strengthen communication skills through instruction in grammar, sentence structure, and usage. • Students will build spelling and vocabulary skills through phonics patterns, syllables, and word study. • Students will practice multiple types of writing while applying grammar and vocabulary skills. • Literacy skills will be reinforced through reading, writing, projects, and presentations. 	<p><u>Language Arts and Reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will read a variety of literary and informational texts and develop strong comprehension skills. • Students will expand academic vocabulary using context clues, word roots, and figurative language. • Students will strengthen written and oral communication through grade-level grammar and usage. • Students will improve spelling and word knowledge through patterns, syllables, and word study. • Students will apply literacy skills through writing, research, discussions, and presentations across subjects.
<p><u>Math</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will build fluency and confidence in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. • Students will learn and apply multiplication and division facts through problem solving. • Students will explore fractions, including comparison and equivalence. 	<p><u>Math</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will deepen understanding of place value and number relationships. • Students will practice multi-digit addition and subtraction, multiplication, and division. • Students will explore fraction operations and connections between fractions and decimals. 	<p><u>Math</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will build number sense through multi-digit operations with accuracy and confidence. • Students will work with fractions and decimals and understand how they relate to each other. • Students will develop early algebraic thinking and problem-solving skills.

3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Math continued</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will practice measurement, geometry, and data interpretation. • Students will apply math skills to multi-step, real-world problems throughout the year. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Math continued</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will study measurement, geometry, and data representation. • Students will apply math strategies to solve word problems and real-world situations. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Math continued</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will apply math concepts to measurement, geometry, and spatial reasoning. • Students will interpret data and use math skills to solve real-world problems.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Science</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn the scientific process through questioning, experiments, and observations. • Students will explore motion, simple machines, states of matter, and basic energy. • Students will study plants, animals, life cycles, and how living things interact with their environment. • Students will explore Earth and space topics such as weather, seasons, and natural resources. • Students will connect science to health, conservation, and everyday life. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Science (Combo STEM Class)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will develop science skills through hands-on, inquiry-based investigations. • Students will study living organisms, their structures, traits, and roles in ecosystems. • Students will explore Earth and space systems, including rocks, weather, and basic astronomy. • Students will investigate matter, energy, forces, and how systems interact. • Students will connect science concepts to real-life situations and responsible decision-making. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Science (Combo STEM Class)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will develop science skills through hands-on, inquiry-based investigations. • Students will study living organisms, their structures, traits, and roles in ecosystems. • Students will explore Earth and space systems, including rocks, weather, and basic astronomy. • Students will investigate matter, energy, forces, and how systems interact. • Students will connect science concepts to real-life situations and responsible decision-making.

3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Social Studies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn about South Carolina’s history, symbols, government, and role in the nation. • Students will develop map skills and explore Earth’s features, regions, and continents. • Students will explore citizenship, patriotism, elections, and government at state and national levels. • Students will study culture, population, migration, resources, and human-environment interaction. • Social studies skills will be reinforced through discussions, projects, maps, and hands-on activities. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Social Studies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will study major periods of U.S. history with a focus on South Carolina’s role. • Students will learn about Native Americans, exploration, colonization, and the American Revolution. • Students will explore the formation of the U.S. government and westward expansion. • Students will study the Civil War, Reconstruction, and their lasting impact. • Students will build map skills, analyze sources, and connect history to modern civic life. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Social Studies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will study U.S. history from Reconstruction through modern times. • Students will examine South Carolina’s role in national and world history. • Students will learn about industrialization, immigration, and the rise of the U.S. as a world power. • Students will explore World Wars, the Civil Rights Movement, and struggles for equality and justice. • Students will analyze sources, discuss ideas, and connect history to current civic issues.

Enrichment Areas

At Newberry Academy, learning goes far beyond the core subjects. Each week, students enjoy enrichment classes such as Music, Art, Spanish, Physical Education, Library and Agriculture. These sessions are led by talented teachers who love what they do and make each class engaging and fun.

Art

- Students explore their creativity through drawing, painting, sculpture, and other art forms using a variety of materials.
- Students are introduced to elements of art such as line, color, shape, texture, and form, along with simple techniques.
- Art activities help students strengthen fine motor skills while building confidence in their creative abilities.
- Students learn about artists, styles, and art from different cultures and time periods, fostering appreciation and respect for the visual arts.

Music

- Students learn basic musical concepts such as beat, rhythm, tempo, pitch, and melody through listening and movement.
- Students participate in group singing, instrument play, and musical games that build confidence and cooperation.
- Students listen to a variety of musical styles and learn to describe and respond to what they hear.
- Students are encouraged to express themselves through music while developing an appreciation for different types of music and cultures.

Physical Education

- Students learn and practice basic skills such as running, jumping, throwing, catching, and balancing.
- Students build endurance, strength, and flexibility while learning the importance of staying active and making healthy choices.
- Students practice following rules, working together, and showing respect for others during games and activities.
- Students develop confidence in their physical abilities while learning safety rules and discovering that physical activity can be fun and rewarding.

Spanish

- Students learn to understand and use simple Spanish words and phrases for everyday situations.
- Students build vocabulary related to familiar topics like numbers, colors, family, animals, food, and school life.
- Emphasis is placed on hearing Spanish spoken and practicing pronunciation in fun, age-appropriate ways rather than reading or writing extensively.
- Students are introduced to traditions, holidays, music, and daily life from different Spanish-speaking cultures.

Enrichment Areas Continued

Library

- Students are encouraged to enjoy books through read-alouds, independent reading, and exposure to a wide variety of genres and authors.
- Students learn how to use the library responsibly, including checking out books, returning materials, and caring for books properly.
- Students are introduced to age-appropriate skills such as identifying parts of a book, using simple reference materials, and beginning to locate information.
- Students learn foundational skills for using digital resources safely and responsibly, including basic online behavior and understanding different types of media.

Agriculture

- Students learn how plants and animals contribute to the food, clothing, and products we use every day.
- Students explore plant life cycles, simple animal care, and the needs of living things through hands-on activities and observation.
- Students learn the importance of caring for the land, water, and natural resources, including basic concepts of sustainability and conservation.
- Students participate in age-appropriate gardening, experiments, and projects that connect agriculture to everyday life.

Together, these enrichment experiences give students a well-rounded education. They support creativity, teamwork, problem-solving, and time-management—skills that will help them thrive both inside and outside the classroom. At Newberry Academy, we aim to prepare every child not just for academic success, but for confident, capable growth in all areas of life.

Newberry Academy Lower School

The journey from 1st to 5th grade is a time for students to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Along the way, students will build confidence, practice responsibility, and develop important life skills. Each step encourages curiosity, creativity, and respect for others. This journey supports students as they learn, grow, and discover their potential each day.

SOAR EAGLES SOAR!