



Lower School Grades K-4

Inspiring and energizing thinkers and citizens

Through **passion, imagination, and connection**, Lower School students grow as creative thinkers, informed citizens, and enthusiastic *people for others*. Our hands-on approach builds deep knowledge, genuine skill, and earned confidence, preparing your child for the challenges of Middle and Upper School and life beyond.

*To get ready for all that comes next, students **step forward** in ingenuity, confidence, and teamwork through projects like these...*

Lower School

*"The Lower School program
at St. Francis is a great
balance of play, creativity,
and serious academic skills.
It's an amazing blend, and
our child is thriving."*

-parent



THE WORLD THROUGH MANY LENSES

Children love learning about other places and people—and our integrated third-grade humanities unit ignites their curiosity. Choosing a country to explore in depth, students use multimedia tools and literary skills to examine topography, landmarks, animals, customs, and traditional tales. They present their research to the class, then write and share original stories featuring the country.

The more details they learn, the more students' excitement grows—and their empathy expands for people everywhere.

WOLFIE'S BOOKSTORE

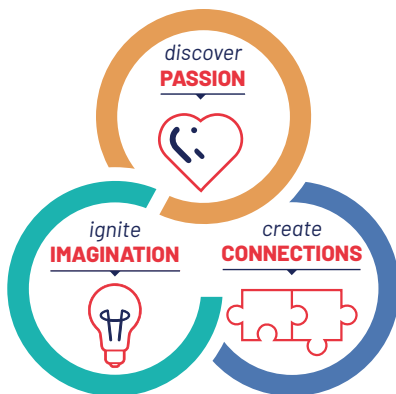
What could be better than writing your own books? How about also creating your own store to sell them? To plan and operate Wolfie's Bookstore, kindergartners build writing, reading, speaking, math, and teamwork skills. Preparing for the grand opening, they publish and categorize their books, create signs, assign and practice jobs, make play money to distribute, and rehearse live readings. On the big day, parents, teachers, and staff members enthusiastically buy and discuss our children's books with them.

As the thrill of the successful launch lingers, students see themselves as authors and entrepreneurs, whose teamwork resonates throughout the larger community.

PEOPLE FOR OTHERS COUNCIL

In our People for Others Council, students use their visual art and writing skills to make crafts, design visual art, and write letters, expressing love and gratitude to our communities. Along with our Joyful Sounds choir, they bring hope and happiness to our friends in retirement homes, the St. Francis community, and Houston.

Discovering how even small kindnesses can lift another person's spirits, students seek more opportunities to make positive change. Fortunately, they can continue their work in the People for Others Council in Middle School.



*Our P.I.C. Approach:

Passion, imagination, and connection come together to shape, joyful, eager learners at every age.

At a Glance: Lower School Curriculum



CURRICULUM

Through St. Francis's P.I.C. Approach,* your child's own curiosity and empathy inspire deep knowledge and high achievement.

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) Using digital and analog techniques, students ask complex questions, conduct experiments, collect and analyze data, and discover solutions to real-world problems.

Visual and Performing Arts Fostering brave self-expression and illuminating new perspectives, our arts program builds technical skills in visual art and music, alongside social and emotional agility.

Technology Students develop proficiency with increasingly complex digital tools as they practice online safety and citizenship.

Humanities Our interdisciplinary approach to reading, writing, and social studies sparks creativity, curiosity, and critical thinking while teaching foundational skills including grammar, composition, and spelling.

Math Our Lower School math program gives students a deep understanding of numbers and how they work in the real world—building their confidence as they reach and exceed grade-appropriate milestones.

Spanish We weave Spanish into the daily learning environment of our Lower School through songs, games, prayers, and conversation. Instruction intensifies as students move through grade levels.

Physical Education Lower School students enjoy PE classes with a wide variety of activities every week. At this level, we emphasize fitness and teamwork—habits that serve students all their lives.

SIGNATURE OFFERINGS

Spiritual Education Through chapel and religion classes, students learn to connect what they believe with how they live.

Social, Emotional, and Academic Learning This research-based program ensures students develop self-management and relationship skills to increase their academic, personal, and civic success.

Art à la Carte Developed by St. Francis parents in 1986, this parent-taught program helps students explore the visual arts as educated critics, building confidence and inspiring their own creativity.

School of Music Our instrumental and vocal program is available to students K-8. For an additional fee, students have the option to attend private or small-group lessons with professional musicians after school or during enrichment periods.

Leadership Opportunities Students gain leadership experience by taking on ambassador roles and participating in service opportunities, including reading Scripture in chapel and serving on the Leadership Council.

Alpha Community Time Fourth graders lead this gathering every Friday when the entire division joins together to pray, say the Pledge of Allegiance, and sing the National Anthem. Students then greet each other and participate in collaborative activities, promoting a positive, fun, interactive learning community.

Ready to learn more? We invite you to schedule a tour at StFrancisHouston.org/Admissions/Visit. If you have questions, e-mail the Lower School Admissions Office at KSpinelli@StFrancisHouston.org or call 713.458.6117.