



The table below lays out the Thomas MacLaren curriculum for kindergarten through fifth grade. Classes are 45 minutes long, with the exception of English, which is 90 minutes, and Leisure, which is 35 minutes. The schedule also includes time for an Extension Hour, which allows for double lessons of certain classes.

Kindergarten through 5th Grade	
<b>Music</b>	Kodály singing
<b>Mathematics</b>	Singapore Math
<b>English</b>	Phonics, spelling, handwriting, grammar
	Junior Great Books
	MaLaren reading list Institute for Excellence in Writing
<b>Studio Art</b>	Core Knowledge
<b>Science</b>	Core Knowledge
<b>History</b>	Core Knowledge
<b>Geography</b>	Core Knowledge
<b>P.E.</b>	SPARK (Sports, Play, and Active Recreation for Kids)
<b>Leisure</b>	Read-aloud with puzzles, drawing, handicrafts, penmanship

MacLaren’s Lower School curriculum is built on the Core Knowledge Sequence, a rigorous and elegant set of standards and curricular content. Although Core Knowledge materials are not used in every subject, the standards delineated in the Sequence, and the foundational principles that undergird it, are instrumental in the overall architecture of the program.

Lower School students are immersed in dual cultures of reading and mathematics. They experience works of genuine literary merit in different settings, from writing- and discussion-based classes, to leveled reading groups, to daily read-alouds. Authors and illustrators we read include Eleanor Farjeon, Langston Hughes, Norton Juster, Madeleine L’Engle, and Maurice Sendak, among many others. In mathematics, we use the internationally-recognized Singapore Math curriculum, which both teaches to mastery and helps students to become fluent mathematical thinkers.

Music and P.E. are daily classes. The Kodály concept is a comprehensive and sequential program designed to build musicianship and foster a love of music through the singing of folk songs. SPARK is an award-winning, research-based P.E. curriculum that promotes lifelong wellness in a fun, active, noncompetitive atmosphere.