Curriculum Guide
St. Paul’s prepares students to be confident and skilled learners, cultivates in them a strong sense of purpose, and inspires them to be generous and active citizens of the world.

The St. Paul’s Episcopal School curriculum charts the intellectual growth of our students, from the self-contained classrooms of the Lower School to the subject-specific classrooms of the Sixth Grade & Middle School, from concrete thinkers to abstract analyzers.

Informing every aspect of our curriculum are the values of our founders, who believed that keen analytical skills, a depth of knowledge, and a generous heart are essential qualities of an educated citizen.

What you cannot always see among the curriculum bullet points are the interconnections with our three core educational principals.

• First, as students engage with the rigorous curriculum, they also grow as fearless learners who know the value of a challenge and the confidence that comes from solving complex problems.

• Second, the service learning projects they do deepen their understanding of their math, science, or social studies lessons and demonstrate first hand the importance of what they are learning.

• And finally, their learning is deeper and more sophisticated thanks to the diverse viewpoints represented in their classrooms.

“I love having kids practice identifying problems, whether academic or social, and proposing solutions. Even when things don’t work, there is learning in that; it builds their resilience “muscle.” A growth mindset and critical thinking skills translate to all parts of their lives.”

— MARÍA RINCÓN
FIRST GRADE TEACHER
Over their years at St. Paul’s, students develop in their ability to read, appreciate, and evaluate literature. Core skills are taught in kindergarten, first, and second grades. As students become more sophisticated readers through upper elementary and middle school, they delve deeper into literary analysis, critical thinking, and spirited discussion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| K     | - Practice letter/sound correspondence  
        - Develop phonemic awareness and knowledge of phonics  
        - Grow as readers through explicit instruction in small groups  
        - Strengthen decoding and comprehension through guided reading  
        - Study phonics: short and long vowels, blends, and digraphs  
        - Develop reading comprehension strategies and vocabulary  
        - Practice fluency, expression, accuracy, and decoding strategies  
        - Improve word recognition and expression in oral reading  
        - Increase sophistication of independent reading skills and produce individual book projects  
        - Develop comprehension through oral and written responses to novels and non-fiction  
        - Develop critical thinking skills through literary analysis of character, setting, theme, and tone  
        - Read and discuss novels, short stories, myths, and tales  
        - Develop critical thinking skills through literary analysis of character, setting, theme, and tone  
        - Read and discuss novels, short stories, expository writing, and poetry  
        - Read media for literal text and sub-text  
        - Read and explore novels, short stories, poems, and plays whose protagonists represent a variety of backgrounds and challenges  
        - Identify literary elements: metaphor, symbolism, foreshadowing, theme, and historical and cultural references  
        - Read and critique literature independently and in class  
        - Analyze and identify literary themes: friendship, identity, tolerance, diversity, and beliefs  
        - Examine the main story elements of plot, character development, setting, theme, and point of view in short stories  
        - Examine literary devices of irony, foreshadowing, and symbolism in short stories, novels, and plays  
        - Analyze character development and theme in novels  
        - Explore Shakespeare’s plays and poetry  
        - Understand elements of poetry  |
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        - Develop phonemic awareness and knowledge of phonics  
        - Grow as readers through explicit instruction in small groups  
        - Strengthen decoding and comprehension through guided reading  
        - Study phonics: short and long vowels, blends, and digraphs  
        - Develop reading comprehension strategies and vocabulary  
        - Practice fluency, expression, accuracy, and decoding strategies  
        - Identify character traits  
        - Build stamina with daily independent silent reading  
        - Use evidence to support responses to literature  
        - Read and discuss multicultural literature: Native American, African American, Asian, and Latino  
        - Read literature about the Gold Rush  
        - Develop comprehension strategies  
        - Summarize information and re-tell stories  
        - Develop evidence to support responses to literature  
        - Use evidence to support responses to literature  
        - Participate in thematic novel studies  
        - Connect literature to social studies: cultural universals and ancient civilizations in literature  
        - Read and extract main ideas from non-fiction sources  
        - Connect literature to history: author, personal experience, and the modern world through discussion, journal entries, and group work  
        - Complete creative projects based on interpretations of novels and plays  |
| 2     | - Read and discuss novels, short stories, myths, and tales  
        - Develop critical thinking skills through literary analysis of character, setting, theme, and tone  
        - Read and discuss novels, short stories, expository writing, and poetry  
        - Read media for literal text and sub-text  
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        - Explore Shakespeare’s plays and poetry  
        - Understand elements of poetry  |
| 3     | - Develop comprehension through oral and written responses to novels and non-fiction  
        - Develop critical thinking skills: make inferences, discuss themes, and analyze personal voice, point-of-view, and author purpose  
        - Read and discuss novels, short stories, expository writing, and poetry  
        - Read media for literal text and sub-text  
        - Read and explore novels, short stories, poems, and plays whose protagonists represent a variety of backgrounds and challenges  
        - Identify literary elements: metaphor, symbolism, foreshadowing, theme, and historical and cultural references  
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Students are introduced to the craft of writing through Writer’s Workshop, where they develop their voice, story telling technique, and editing abilities. Grammar, spelling, and vocabulary are taught explicitly to ensure that students can communicate clearly. In sixth through eighth grades, students hone their expository writing skills as they analyze literature and history.

Acting in the roles of geographers, historians, and social scientists, students explore a range of cultures through projects, simulations, readings, artistic renderings, and research papers. The curriculum emphasizes the development of critical reading and thinking skills through the study of important periods, events, and patterns in human culture.

- Practice letter/sound correspondence
- Reinforce correct pencil grasp
- Practice correct letter formation

- Practice left-to-right progression in writing
- Use developmental continuum of spelling
- Write and draw in journals
- Begin Writer’s Workshop

- Read and write poetry
- Practice print letter formation: upper and lower case letters
- Learn writing conventions: sentences and punctuation
- Study spelling patterns and frequently used words
- Read and discuss own written work with peers

- Follow the steps of the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing
- Study paragraph writing
- Practice parts of speech, capitalization, and basic sentence punctuation
- Practice manuscript letter formation using Handwriting Without Tears
- Develop presentation skills through chapel presentations, publishing parties, and sharing at morning meeting

- Write book reports, personal narratives, letters, responses to literature, and opinion pieces
- Use dialogue and similes in creative writing and poetry
- Practice grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling rules
- Learn cursive handwriting
- Develop presentation skills by presenting week to class, parents, and school

- Write organized summaries and paragraphs relating literary events to personal experiences, other texts, and the world
- Use similes, metaphors, and idioms
- Practice grammar and spelling rules
- Expand proofreading and editing skills
- Use print and online dictionary and thesaurus resources
- Practice public speaking skills
- Publish and present writing
- Study vocabulary using Classical Roots

- Develop critical thinking skills through analysis and editing of one’s own and others’ written work
- Increase breadth of vocabulary
- Develop research skills: taking notes and long-term writing assignments
- Develop manuscript writing
- Strengthen vocabulary and grammar skills
- Make oral and visual presentations
- Analyze and write poetry, short stories, and fiction

- Focus on analytical and comparative writing
- Write short stories, historical fiction, and responses to literature
- Practice research skills and report writing
- Develop grammar skills: punctuation, parts of speech, and multi-clause sentence structure
- Strengthen vocabulary

- Develop proofreading and editing skills
- Master essay writing skills: thesis development, organization, paragraph writing, and structure
- Expository text reading and note-taking skills
- Essay question responses that require a synthesis of a broad range of factual information
- United States history, culture, and geography: emphasis on indigenous populations and labor classes

- Use Writer’s Workshop to strengthen writing
- Use Writer’s Workshop: introduction to the writing process
- Use Writer’s Workshop model to complete personal narratives, informational writing, poetry, and journal entries for reflection and responses to reading
- Use the Writer’s Workshop to strengthen writing
- Focus on the writing process with greater independence and effectiveness
- Write effective paragraphs, stories, and essays
- Recognize sentence structure and parts of speech with daily grammar practice

- Write a five paragraph essay
- Practice Courageous Conversations

- Focus on analytical and comparative writing
- Write short stories, historical fiction, and responses to literature
- Practice research skills and report writing
- Develop grammar skills: punctuation, parts of speech, and multi-clause sentence structure
- Strengthen vocabulary

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- Expository text reading and note-taking skills
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- United States history, culture, and geography: emphasis on indigenous populations and labor classes
- Development of critical thinking skills
- Analysis of primary source documents

- Building a safe, respectful, and empathetic community
- Conflict resolution
- People Power Skills
- Non-violent communication
- Developing awareness of diversity within families, cultures, and religions
- Developing awareness of growth and change
- Earth stewardship
- Relationships across grade levels through Buddy Projects

- Community building: self, family, and community
- People Power Skills
- Conflict resolution and friendship
- Multicultural studies: language, celebrations, literature, holidays, and food
- Maps
- Neighborhoods

- People Power Skills development
- Change Makers: historical examples who inspire us
- Immigration: causes, challenges, and contributions
- Lakota People and American Pioneers

- Hands-on study of the Ohlone Indians, featuring field trips to Oakland Museum, UC Botanical Gardens, and all-day immersion at one of the regional parks
- Geography of the Bay Area
- Study of cultural groups in the Bay Area through performances and field trips
- African American biography project
- Identity and heritage personal histories
- Impact of explorers on the Bay Area
- California Gold Rush interactive simulation, focusing on multi-cultural perspectives, with Gold-Country overnight

- California, United States, and world geography
- European motives for exploration and the impact of settlements on native Californians
- Early California history
- Dust bowl and World War II in California
- Black Panther Party
- California artists and musicians
- Analysis of primary and secondary documents for point of view and bias

- Analyze primary and secondary sources
- African American Civil Rights movement
- European Resistance movement during World War II
- Activist movements throughout history

- Understanding cultural universals and their interconnections
- Dig 2: an introduction to archaeological methodology and ethics
- Ancient Civilizations: Egypt and Greece
- Study of farmers’ rights
- Public speaking skills: practice through simulations and presentations
- Research skills: finding and assessing quality of paper and electronic sources, taking organized notes

- Medieval Europe, the Arabian Peninsula, West Africa, Japan, and the American Eskimos
- Contributions, legacies, societies, and belief systems of peoples studied
- Geographical, political, and historical maps
- Note-taking skills: history journal
- Cause, effect, and impact of historical events
- Comparison of present-day case studies and literature to historical studies
- Social curriculum: Inclusiveness, Kindness, Empathy (IKE)

- United States history, culture, and geography: emphasis on indigenous populations and labor classes
- Development of critical thinking skills
- Analysis of primary source documents
- Expository text reading and note-taking skills
- Essay question responses that require a synthesis of a broad range of factual information
- United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, Republican form of government, and their application to current issues
- Economics

- Ancient Civilizations: Egypt and Greece
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The development of students as mathematicians is fostered through an emphasis on skills, content, problem-solving strategies, and communication. In alignment with the Virginia State Standards, the material spirals continuously building the complexity of students’ comprehension. Our core curricula, Bridges and College Preparatory Math, provide highly interactive lessons that build students’ conceptual understanding.

MATHEMATICS

1. Number recognition, writing, sequencing, and extension of number patterns
2. One-to-one correspondence
3. Patterns: creating, recognizing, extending simple patterns

1. Concepts of time: days, weeks, months, and years
2. Graphing: measuring, sorting, and representing data
3. Recognition and reproduction shapes

1. Measurement: non-standard and standard units
2. Estimation and prediction
3. Money: identifying and counting coins

1. Using multiple strategies to solve problems, such as open number lines and splitting according to place value
2. Posing and solving word problems

1. Place value to 100
2. Identifying odd and even numbers
3. Adding coins within a dollar
4. Geometry: shape attributes and vocabulary
5. Sorting, graphing, and interpreting data

1. Increasing facility with number facts: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
2. Developing problem-solving strategies, organization, and note-taking skills

1. Regrouping addition and subtraction, two-digit multiplication and division
2. Fractions, probability, and statistics
3. Measurement and geometry, algebraic concepts, and decimals

1. Solving basic operations using integers, fractions, and decimals
2. Data collection, organization, and analysis

1. Algebraic concepts and notation
2. Data analysis, probability, and graphing techniques
3. 2D and 3D geometry

1. Understanding the relationship between algebraic and geometric representations
2. Setting up ratios and proportions to solve for unknown values

1. Refining and expanding skills and concepts of algebra
2. Geometry (elective)

1. Explorations in physical science
2. Cyclone life cycles, and seasons
3. Animals and their habitats

1. Human body
2. Insects life cycles, habitats, and pollination

1. Plants and seeds
2. Penguins and Antarctica

1. Environmental impact of global climate change
2. Bird anatomy, habitats, and migratory habits
3. Electricity circuits

1. Waves and information transfer
2. Earth’s changing surface: erosion and earthquakes

1. Solar energy: observe and relate solar energy in the natural world
2. Developing facility with scientific method

1. Water quality: learn how society influences the natural world
2. Chemistry of preservation and decay: natural recycling

1. Consumer education: product testing and comparison
2. Chemistry of preservation and decay: natural recycling

1. Work as a scientist: observe, research, and develop controlled experiments
2. Classification—information gained/ information lost
3. Evolution

1. Electromagnetism
2. Exploring perception: light, vision, color, and sound

1. Critical assessment of research and scientific literacy
2. Learning about learning and the brain

1. Life processes: strategies and solutions from cells to plants to human beings
2. Genetics and heredity
3. Sex and drug education: accurate information leads to informed decisions

1. Sustainable environmental practices
2. Buddy Projects with seventh grade: studying marine worms and rock-pools

SCIENCE

The student as scientist is the focus of the science program, and so the curriculum is rooted in project-based inquiry and experiments. Students begin by learning to carefully observe the world around them and gradually become more sophisticated in their ability to track, analyze, and present data as well as to design experiments.

K

1. Number and number sense to 100
2. Place value to 100,000
3. Place value to 1,000

K

1. Counting by 2’s, 5’s, and 10’s
2. Counting by 2’s, 5’s, and 10’s
3. Identifying 2D and 3D shapes

1. Introducing 2D and 3D shapes
2. Measuring length, mass, and volume with standard and metric measurement
3. Identifying polygons

1. Base 2 and Base 5
2. Ratio and proportion
3. Special projects including math story and cooperative logic

1. Life processes: strategies and solutions from cells to plants to human beings
2. Genetics and heredity
3. Sex and drug education: accurate information leads to informed decisions

1. Developing research skills, apply scientific method, write scientific arguments
2. Buddy science projects with Lower School students
3. Buddy science projects with Lower School students

1. Issues and Choices: making educated choices in a complex world
2. Chemical building blocks
3. Motion, forces, and energy
Proyecto de aprendizaje que enfocándose en

Comunicación: uso de frases, expresiones fórmulas, vocabulario, objetos del aula, y emociones

Vocabulario: días de la semana, alimentos, animales, formas, colores, números, alfabeto, y objetos de la escuela

Presentación de ideas, uso de juegos, arte, música, y danza

Interactive website

Usar la composición escrita en español

Comunicación usando cuatro modalidades: habla, presentaciones, arte, y música

Celebración de la cultura latinoamericana

Spelling and vocabulary

Glossary, including articles (masculine, feminine)

Introduction to formal grammar: conjugation, subject pronouns, syntax, agreement in gender and number

Active learning through Total Physical Response games, art, music, and dance

Use Total Physical Response storytelling model: Caneca y Chipote

Use Readfables B textbook, workbook, and interactive website

Project-based learning that focuses on authentic, meaningful situations: Verbal communication is highly emphasized

Use Total Physical Response storytelling model: Caneca y Chipote

Use Readfables 2 textbook, workbook, and interactive website

STEAM provides skills that allow students to be innovators. Our curriculum encourages collaboration and creativity. Technology and lessons about responsible use of technology are taught in developmentally appropriate ways across all grades. Engineering concepts are introduced through the use of hands-on tools, computers, and 3D printing as students design and build during maker activities.
FINE ARTS

Art gives students the chance to express their learning, their creative ideas, and their identity. Students learn techniques for two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, including drawing, collage, clay, fiber, and wire. Art history is integrated into instruction.

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<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Color mixing</th>
<th>Line, shape, texture, and color</th>
<th>Drawing: expressive lines and shapes</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Developing confidence in using art materials</td>
<td>Watercolor and Tempera painting</td>
<td>Painting: color wheel, color mixing</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Exploring media and concepts</td>
<td>Decoupage</td>
<td>Drawing: light/shade value studies</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Creating in collaboration</td>
<td>Projects based on famous artists and their techniques</td>
<td>Clay</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Drawing: contour lines, proportion, portraitures, landscapes</td>
<td>Painting: color wheel, color mixing</td>
<td>Drawing: one-point perspective</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Painting: watercolor techniques</td>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>Clay</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Drawing: contour lines, shading, grid enlarging, layout, lettering</td>
<td>Figurative drawing and painting</td>
<td>3D design: logos development and applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Guided self-portraits: Chuck Close</td>
<td>Studio art: figure drawing and painting</td>
<td>Silk screen political/social cause posters</td>
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</table>

MUSIC

Music is part of the soul of St. Paul’s. All students are singers, rhythmic musicians, and performers. They develop vocal technique, play rhythm instruments, and experience music theory, movement, and drama. Students perform several times a year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Kindergarten, first, and second grade chorus</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rhythm work with hand percussion and movement games</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Introduction to world folk music</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Performance band for instrumentalists</td>
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<td>Performance band for instrumentalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Eclectic repertoire</td>
<td>Exploring the cultural role music plays in a community</td>
<td>Performance band for instrumentalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Division of the beat, pattern development, and rhythm cycles</td>
<td>Performance band for instrumentalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Intermediate conga drum technique</td>
<td>Introduction to world folk music</td>
<td>Performance band for instrumentalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Advanced drum ensemble workshop</td>
<td>Division of the beat into three and four parts</td>
<td>Development of the beat, pattern development, and rhythm cycles</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Introduction to world folk music</td>
<td>Dividing beat into three and four parts</td>
<td>Performance band for instrumentalists</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Year one drum ensemble</td>
<td>Featured performance at African American Cultural Celebration</td>
<td>Performance band for instrumentalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Year two drum ensemble</td>
<td>5-part 6/8 pattern</td>
<td>Performance band for instrumentalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Year three drum ensemble</td>
<td>Stamps, bass, and snare techniques on conga drums</td>
<td>Performance band for instrumentalists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Year four drum ensemble</td>
<td>Featured performance at Graduation</td>
<td>Performance band for instrumentalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Year five drum ensemble</td>
<td>Year six drum ensemble</td>
<td>Performance band for instrumentalists</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Year six drum ensemble</td>
<td>Year seven drum ensemble</td>
<td>Performance band for instrumentalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Year eight drum ensemble</td>
<td>Year nine drum ensemble</td>
<td>Performance band for instrumentalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Year nine drum ensemble</td>
<td>Year ten drum ensemble</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Year ten drum ensemble</td>
<td>Year eleven drum ensemble</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Year eleven drum ensemble</td>
<td>Year twelve drum ensemble</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Year twelve drum ensemble</td>
<td>Year thirteen drum ensemble</td>
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Service learning is core to the mission of St. Paul’s and is an integrated part of classroom instruction. Students engage in semester-long or year-long projects in partnership with local organizations. These projects teach students about being agents for positive change and give real-world meaning to their academic learning.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

- Traveling safely through space: walking, running, jumping, galloping, sliding, and hopping
- Traveling and changing direction quickly
- Chasing, fleeing, and dodging
- Using feedback to improve performance
- Developing muscle strength and endurance
- Developing specialized movement skills related to team sports
- Identifying proper warm-up and cool-down techniques
- Analyzing an opponent’s strengths and weaknesses and using this analysis in a game situation
- Analyzing an opponent’s strengths and weaknesses and using this analysis in a game situation

- Exploring balls: tossing, catching, striking, and kicking
- Engaging in sustained physical activity to increase heart and breathing rates
- Identifying feelings related to challenges and successes
- Using physical activity as a means of self-expression
- Understanding the relationship between practice and performance
- Participating daily in a health-enhancing physical activity
- Taking responsibility for independent practice
- Demonstrating appropriate sportsmanship in game situations
- Demonstrating appropriate sportsmanship in game situations

- Swimming: comfort, flotation, and locomotion
- Swimming: exploration and confidence
- Sharing equipment appropriately with peers
- Experiencing leadership and cooperation
- Understanding the relationship between body type and movement skills
- Distinguishing between courageous and reckless acts
- Working cooperatively with all peers regardless of skill level
- Working cooperatively with all peers regardless of skill level

Positive experiences learning and playing games and sports teach students leadership, cooperation, and competition.

**SERVICE LEARNING**

- Surprise service, such as visiting elders
- Kindness Club: service to school and community
- Pollinator Posse: grow habitat and care for monarch caterpillars and butterflies with fifth grade buddies
- Help seniors at the weekly Food Co-op by assisting with restocking, purchasing, weighing, and bagging fresh produce and bread
- Citizen Science: Conducting the Lake Merritt Bird Census of migratory birds for the City of Oakland
- Design Thinking project to improve our local community
- Pollinator Posse: grow habitat and care for monarch caterpillars and butterflies with first grade buddies
- Study the ecology of Lake Merritt and clean the lake
- Map Your World: improving the community through civic engagement
- Service to Alzheimer’s patients, toddlers at day care, and others off-site
- Service to Alzheimer’s patients, toddlers at day care, and others off-site

Through games and activities, students develop agility, strength, balance, and cardiovascular fitness.
“Sending my children to St. Paul’s has paid off so significantly in terms of how they are as people in the world. They know how to collaborate and work in teams. They know how to ask essential questions about what they’re learning. And they know how to look at a problem from all perspectives.”

- PARENT OF ST. PAUL’S ALUMNI ‘11 AND ‘14

“As teachers, we are constantly observing the kids and seeing what is triggering their questions and their engagement, what’s intriguing to them. And developing curriculum is really about planning learning opportunities that capitalize on the joy and fascination of the kids.”

- TRACEY COSGROVE, LOWER SCHOOL LIBRARIAN AND STEAM TEACHER