The Lower School at Poly
In the Lower School, we recognize the importance of these early educational years, when students are mastering essential skills and discovering their place in the larger world. Our goal is to create a school community that is both welcoming and challenging — a place where children come to learn with a playful spirit and find the confidence to experiment and excel as they grow.

We devote our attention to both academic growth and social-emotional development, knowing that both are essential to our students as scholars and as people. Our teachers work closely together to maintain a strong core curriculum that builds on acquired skills as students progress through each grade. At the same time, our teachers are all dedicated experts, working continually to bring new ideas and methods into their individual subject areas.

At Poly, we view each child’s education as a partnership in which parents, teachers, and child work together to foster intellectual and personal growth. In the same way, we also consider ourselves in partnership with the larger community, instilling in our students a desire to serve others and to become contributing citizens. We strive to cultivate a respect for others and a powerful curiosity that we hope will travel with our students throughout their lives.

We look forward to welcoming you in person to the Lower School!
Our programs provide both academic challenge and personal growth

LITERACY CURRICULUM
Poly’s balanced literacy program is designed to cultivate readers, writers, speakers, and listeners who are imaginative, critical, and thoughtful. The program includes three interrelated blocks—reading workshop, writing workshop, and language/word study. We strive to create a school-wide community that values the written and spoken word. Our goal is to help students become lifelong readers and writers.

MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM
Concepts are presented using the Singapore Math program, moving from concrete objects to pictorial representations to abstract algorithms. Fewer topics taught in greater depth at each grade level help students understand the “how” as well as the “why.” By fifth grade, the program extends students’ understanding of numeration, operations, applications, and problem solving in preparation for Middle School.

THE ARTS
In visual art, students develop their artistic skills as they create. Lessons are inspired by contemporary and historical art and artists, children’s literature, and the elements and principles of art and design. Beginning in kindergarten, students explore a variety of media with knowledge and skills that build from year to year. In performing arts, all grades include general music classes that teach music reading and theory, as well as music appreciation and performance. Grades 3-4 participate in Poly’s hallmark strings program with the option of continuing in fifth grade. Drama is introduced in the third and fourth grades, and dance in introduced in fifth.
RESPONSIVE, INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION

Our approach recognizes that children learn at different rates during the early school years. Small classes allow us to be responsive to the needs and talents of every child, providing individual attention so that all students can reach their highest potential. Instructional coaches collaborate with our classroom faculty to infuse curriculum with new ideas and forward-thinking methods appropriate for each grade level.

Learn more about Lower School grade levels and courses at www.polytechnic.org
Our vibrant school culture opens students to the larger world

A MULTITUDE OF ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Poly offers students nearly boundless opportunities in the arts, athletics, club activities, community outreach, international exploration, and so much more. This broad and imaginative exposure begins in the Lower School, through field trips, local history, campus visitors, cultural events, and other activities. With these programs, we set an early foundation for Poly students to become well-rounded, thoughtful citizens of the world.

SERVICE TO OTHERS

We involve even our youngest students in service learning, seeking to foster a nurturing attitude, the habit of giving, and a feeling of responsibility from an early age. The student-driven program is designed and taught collaboratively with each classroom teacher; Poly parents provide strong volunteer support as well. Throughout the Lower School experience, our goal is to inspire children to look beyond themselves and become aware of the larger community both locally and globally.

POLYHONOR

At Poly, students join a community based on friendship, respect, and collaboration. We want our students to find joy in each other’s talents, appreciate each other’s views, and absorb experiences that unite all people. Adopted in 2018, PolyHonor represents a commitment made by students, faculty, and staff to the vision of our community:

As a member of the Polytechnic community, I will act to foster inclusion and to promote excellence in all that I do. I commit to approach my decisions with integrity, kindness, and generosity both on and off campus.
Find more information about our extra-curricular programs at www.polytechnic.org
Exceptional facilities and a beautiful campus support all our programs

On Poly’s open-air campus, you’ll discover three school divisions uniquely suited to the needs of elementary, middle, and high school students. Our Lower School facilities include:

- Light-filled classrooms equipped with the latest technology and green, sheltering courtyards for study and play;
- The Lower and Middle School Library, housing an innovation lab and a modern media center and almost 30,000 titles, including more than 30 magazines published for children and young adults;
- A dedicated science lab with an adjoining garden classroom;
- Specialized art classroom and kiln, where students explore a wide range of media, from drawing to linotype to ceramics;
- Large playing fields, a pool, and two gymnasiums where students develop locomotor skills and are introduced to team sports.

For daily photos and updates about what’s happening on campus, visit www.polytechnic.org.
LOWER SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

20 FULL-TIME TEACHERS AND ASSISTANTS

112 YEARS OF AMBITIOUS LEARNING AND LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIP

100% OF STUDENTS STUDY SPANISH

6 outdoor play areas, designed for different ages and activities

Find the steps to apply at www.polytechnic.org
Notice Of Nondiscriminatory Policy As To Students: Polytechnic School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, gender, or sexual orientation in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial aid programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.
The Lower School at Poly is part of a broader educational program that includes both the Middle School and the Upper School. Our K-12 structure allows teachers to invest deeply in each child’s development for the long term. To learn more about all three schools at Poly, visit www.polytechnic.org.