



# LOWER SCHOOL

Cougar Cubby Playschool  
to  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Curriculum Overview

### Cambridge Academy Mission

Cambridge Academy provides students with an academically excellent curriculum, while fostering physical, social, and spiritual wellness within a nurturing environment.

### Cambridge Academy Philosophy

Cambridge Academy believes that high academic expectations within an atmosphere of care and mutual respect generate the most effective college preparatory education possible. The school's philosophy affirms that each individual is of infinite worth and dignity. We strive to assist each student to reach his or her potential - intellectually, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Cambridge Academy consistently nurtures a love of learning that will enable students to respond enthusiastically to a lifetime of challenges.

## Cougar Cubby Playschool

At Cougar Cubby Playschool (beginning at 18 months old), students are provided with opportunities to explore and learn through structured, developmentally appropriate activities. These experiences promote cognitive, social-emotional, and physical growth. Through interactive learning centers, circle time, music and movement, and hands-on activities, children build foundational skills in literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies. They also develop fine and gross motor skills through drawing, puzzles, games, and physical movement.

K3	K4	K5
<p><b>Language Arts</b> Students develop early listening and comprehension skills through storytelling, predicting, retelling, and interactive language activities. They explore oral language, follow directions, and practice visual and auditory discrimination. Students are introduced to uppercase letters, early writing, finger plays, and song repetition to build phonemic awareness and fine motor control.</p>	<p><b>Language Arts</b> Focus areas include recognition of upper and lowercase letters, sound-letter associations, proper letter formation, sequencing, matching, and auditory/visual discrimination. Students develop oral language, expand vocabulary, and build listening comprehension. Exposure to nursery rhymes, songs, and personal journaling encourages expressive language.</p>	<p><b>Language Arts</b> Students expand on phonics, letter-sound relationships, and decoding strategies. Instruction includes identifying nouns, verbs, adjectives, and rhyming words. They learn to write complete sentences with correct punctuation and explore different sentence types. Continued development of comprehension and fluency is emphasized through reading and writing exercises.</p>
<p><b>Mathematics</b> Children engage in hands-on activities that promote number sense, shape recognition, sorting, patterning, and one-to-one correspondence. Early concepts of measurement and size differentiation are introduced through play-based experiences.</p>	<p><b>Mathematics</b> Students learn to write and count numbers beyond 20, sort and classify, and apply math in daily life. Foundational concepts in calendar skills, simple addition, and number patterns are introduced.</p>	<p><b>Mathematics</b> Curriculum includes place value, number patterns, beginning addition and subtraction, and geometry. Students engage in graphing, time, money, measurement, and number sequencing.</p>
<p><b>Social Studies</b> Children learn about holidays, community helpers, transportation, and current events. Emphasis is placed on understanding self and developing respect for others.</p>	<p><b>Social Studies</b> Topics include holidays, family, safety, Native American culture, character development, and patriotism. Students develop an understanding of personal identity and community roles.</p>	<p><b>Social Studies</b> Topics cover self-concept, family, community, holidays, presidents, and social interactions. Students learn cooperation, manners, and cultural awareness.</p>
<p><b>Science</b> Exploration of the natural world begins with identifying colors, animals, and objects in the environment. Students develop curiosity and make simple predictions.</p>	<p><b>Science</b> Students investigate basic science concepts through themed units on birds, insects, animals, health, weather, and seasonal changes.</p>	<p><b>Science</b> Foundational science instruction includes health and the senses, life science (plants and animals), weather, magnets, space, and insect studies.</p>

1st Grade	2nd Grade
<p><b>Language Arts &amp; Reading</b></p> <p>Develop phonics, sentence structure, and grammar</p> <p>Build foundational reading comprehension and fluency using <i>Dolch Sight Words</i></p> <p>Foster independence in reading and writing</p> <p>Strengthen spelling skills and introduce grammar basics</p> <p>Practice and refine handwriting and penmanship</p>	<p><b>Language Arts &amp; Reading</b></p> <p>Strengthen functional reading and comprehension through listening and phonetic skills</p> <p>Write complete sentences and develop an understanding of parts of speech</p> <p>Expand vocabulary and introduce cursive handwriting</p> <p>Improve spelling by identifying root words, prefixes, and suffixes</p> <p>Begin creative writing and structured expression</p>
<p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>Strengthen skills in addition and subtraction</p> <p>Introduce early concepts of fractions, money, and problem-solving</p> <p>Continue development of place value, measurement, and comparison</p> <p>Explore foundational concepts in geometry and graphing</p>	<p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>Advance addition and subtraction with multiple number sets</p> <p>Introduce multiplication and multi-step problem-solving</p> <p>Enhance understanding of geometry, time, money, measurement, and data interpretation</p> <p>Develop concepts of estimation, reasoning, and capacity</p>
<p><b>Social Studies</b></p> <p>Begin formal study of geography and global awareness</p> <p>Introduce people of the world, basic government functions, and economics</p>	<p><b>Social Studies</b></p> <p>Explore community, government, citizenship, and cultural awareness</p> <p>Study global cultures, goods and services</p> <p>Build map and globe skills for geographical understanding</p>
<p><b>Science</b></p> <p>Explore plant and animal life, natural resources, and weather patterns</p> <p>Introduce foundational science concepts: matter, celestial objects, and Earth's resources</p>	<p><b>Science</b></p> <p>Deepen understanding of the plant and animal kingdoms</p> <p>Study magnets, natural resources, and physical science concepts like matter and motion</p>

3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
<p><b>Language Arts &amp; Reading</b></p> <p>Strengthen reading comprehension through phonics, vocabulary development, and listening skills</p> <p>Improve writing with a focus on grammar, punctuation, and proofreading</p> <p>Learn to organize main ideas and supporting details, draw conclusions, and write for clarity and structure</p> <p>Expand the use of adjectives, adverbs, and different verb tenses</p> <p>Practice using a dictionary and thesaurus to support reading and writing</p> <p>Continue developing creative and narrative writing skills</p>	<p><b>Language Arts &amp; Reading</b></p> <p>Refine sentence structure and usage, including proper capitalization and punctuation</p> <p>Strengthen spelling skills and apply phonetic rules</p> <p>Practice writing across various genres, including narrative, opinion, and expository</p> <p>Explore literature through text analysis and vocabulary enrichment</p> <p>Encourage fluent oral reading and exposure to a wide range of literary genres</p> <p>Continue development of written expression and critical thinking</p>	<p><b>Language Arts &amp; Reading</b></p> <p>Expand understanding of sentence structure, parts of speech, mechanics, and grammar</p> <p>Apply new vocabulary and spelling strategies across all subject areas</p> <p>Strengthen reading comprehension through higher-level texts</p> <p>Develop writing skills for various purposes, including creative, narrative, and research writing</p> <p>Practice public speaking and presenting written work</p> <p>Assign outside reading to foster independent learning and literary appreciation</p>
<p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>Advance understanding of number theory, operations, fractions, mixed numbers, and estimation</p> <p>Explore measurement, geometry, statistics, and graphing</p> <p>Introduction to algebraic thinking, including expressions and equations</p>	<p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>Reinforce number operations and introduce concepts in algebra and geometry</p> <p>Study spatial sense, probability, measurement, and graphing</p> <p>Develop problem-solving strategies using data analysis and reasoning</p>	<p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>Master multi-step operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals</p> <p>Explore more complex concepts in algebra, measurement, and geometry</p> <p>Deepen understanding of data analysis, probability, and problem-solving</p>
<p><b>Social Studies</b></p> <p>Study the history of South Carolina, with a focus on the American Revolution</p> <p>Explore state geography, land resources, and map-reading skills</p>	<p><b>Social Studies</b></p> <p>Study early American history, from the exploration and settlement of North America to the American Revolution, the birth of the nation, westward expansion, and the Civil War</p>	<p><b>Social Studies</b></p> <p>Continue the study of American history, beginning with the Civil War and progressing through the World Wars, the Great Depression, the Cold War, and modern history</p>
<p><b>Science</b></p> <p>Introduction to the scientific method and core science concepts, including force, motion, mechanics, sound, and electricity</p> <p>Explore ecosystems, geology, the water cycle, magnets, and natural resources</p>	<p><b>Science</b></p> <p>Investigate organisms and their environments, weather, light, and electricity</p> <p>Emphasize scientific reasoning and inquiry-based learning</p>	<p><b>Science</b></p> <p>Engage in a deeper study of life sciences, including cell biology, body systems, reproduction, and ecosystems.</p> <p>Explore earth sciences such as fossils, rock cycles, and oceans</p> <p>Investigate physical science concepts like matter, energy, and motion</p>

## **Enrichment Areas**

In addition to the core curriculum, students in these grade levels participate in weekly enrichment classes, including library, music, art, drama, Spanish, physical education, and guidance. These classes are led by highly qualified specialists who bring expertise and enthusiasm to each subject area.

Our early learning program places a strong emphasis on social, emotional, and physical development. Students are guided in building essential self-help skills such as separating comfortably from parents, caring for personal belongings, showing respect for others' property, sharing, and taking turns. Additionally, the program supports both gross and fine motor development and introduces students to the foundational concept of homework, helping to establish early habits of responsibility and independence.

These enrichment opportunities not only enhance their academic experiences but also equip them with important life skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, time management, and creative expression.

Cambridge Academy ensures that students are well prepared for future academic challenges and personal growth.

**AIM HIGH!**