

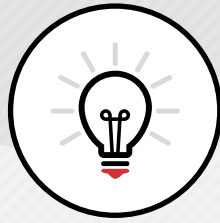
The Primary Program



Education redefined.



BASIS
INDEPENDENT™
FREMONT



Teaching **TO LEARN**

Our Primary Program (grades 1–5) sparks a love of learning in students and is designed to inspire discovery during this exciting period of their educational journey. The curriculum emphasizes content knowledge, connections between disciplines, and the skills students need to learn effectively. Our advanced liberal arts and sciences curriculum paired with a unique two-teacher model creates a learning environment that builds students’ critical-thinking skills and content knowledge while continuing to instill a sense of natural curiosity about the world around them.

“Connections is my favorite class. I love seeing how all the things that I am learning are connected. Plus, it is fun to work on projects with my friends.”

> Student, Grade 3

The Primary Program is uniquely defined by our Symbiotic Classroom, a teaching model pairing a Subject Expert Teacher with a Learning Expert Teacher for every core discipline. In grades 1–4, students are taught in integrated course blocks, where the emphasis is on connections between subjects. Grade 5 is a bridge year to the independence expected of our middle school students, and the shift in curriculum and skill development readies them for success in years to come.



The Primary Program

CURRICULUM

In grades 1–3, students take a full schedule in the liberal arts and sciences, including block coursework in the humanities, math & science, engineering, Mandarin, the arts, and physical education. In grades 4–5, courses are taught in 50-minute periods, including a period for study hall, which helps students grow accustomed to the middle school schedule that will come in the following year.

Students have specials that provide opportunities for self-discovery, connections, and self-expression throughout their week. Last but not least, the daily schedule includes recess to allow students to balance their academics with play.

WHAT IS CONNECTIONS?

Connections, a fundamental part of our primary curriculum, is an interdisciplinary course designed to challenge students to put knowledge to work creatively. This class presents students with scenarios that require the use of mental agility, creativity, and problem-solving skills as they establish links across subjects and gain a deeper understanding of the material they are learning.

Primary Curriculum

GRADES 1–3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5
HUMANITIES	ENGLISH	VISUAL ARTS
MATH & SCIENCE	MATH	INTERMEDIATE SCIENCE
READ	SCIENCE	PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY
MANDARIN	HISTORY	ENGLISH
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	MANDARIN	INTRO TO PRE-ALGEBRA
CONNECTIONS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PE
ENGINEERING	ENGINEERING	CLASSICS
VISUAL ARTS	VISUAL ARTS	MUSIC
MUSIC	MUSIC	LATIN
PERFORMING ARTS	PERFORMING ARTS	

“My teaching philosophy is based around the ideals of teamwork, communication, self-reliance and inclusiveness. When students are able to consistently work together, they create a sense of community which helps to create a safe and amazing place to learn.”

› Mr. Miller, Math SET, Primary Grades

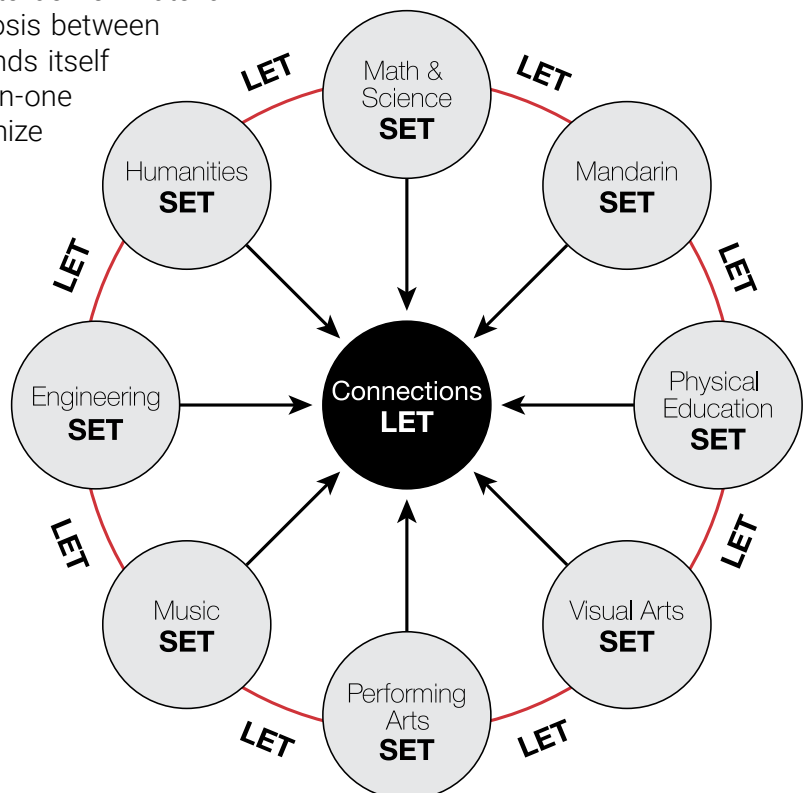


Our Teaching Model: THE SYMBIOTIC CLASSROOM

Students are greeted each morning by their Learning Expert Teacher (LET). This LET will support their daily learning as the students move from one classroom to another, where they have different Subject Expert Teachers (SETs) for every core class. Together, these experts focus on building a classroom culture of social-emotional support and academic excellence, and work to craft lessons that are both advanced and accessible to all students. They not only help students feel safe, supported, and ready to learn at an advanced pace, but determine the best ways to deliver material and promote student engagement. The symbiosis between these two expert teachers in the classroom lends itself to provide the flexibility necessary to do one-on-one work with students, small group work, and optimize classroom learning in real time.

"I really like my teachers because they always encourage questions. The way they teach always encourages us to be part of the lesson."

› Anjali, Grade 5



Building CULTURE & COMMUNITY

Building a community and developing friendships is just as important as the learning taking place in our classrooms. Through a robust offering of clubs, sports, and group activities, as well as various support avenues to help students build confidence, we celebrate the diverse interests of our students as they connect their studies with the real world and uncover new talents and skills.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Deans & Directors of Student Affairs

Deans and directors ensure students can identify the many different channels and resources around school to help them achieve their goals, academic or otherwise.

School Counselor

The school counselor provides students with social-emotional support. The counselor creates a safe space for students to express their feelings and help them to develop skills that support their overall well-being, contributing to success in school and beyond.

Student Hours

All teachers hold weekly office hours where they work with students individually or in small groups to check in on progress, review content or homework, work on extra skills, and more. In the primary years, student hours are teacher and parent-driven.

Social-Emotional Growth

Our teachers work to support students' individual needs and reinforce that school is a safe place for exploration, taking risks, making mistakes, and facing challenges. We use the *Second Step Social-Emotional Learning Program* to focus on mindfulness, empathy, respect, problem solving, and emotion management.

SPARKING INTERESTS & DISCOVERING PASSIONS

We offer and encourage student participation in clubs, sports, and activities that promote physical and mental health, foster social engagement, and develop leadership skills. Each year begins with an extracurricular fair introducing families to the wide selection of opportunities available to discover passions outside of the classroom. Below is a sample of our extracurriculars for primary students:

Basketball	Tennis	Engineering 4 Kids	RoboBricks
Ping Pong	Art of Cartooning	Food Explorer's Club	Science Made Fun!
Self-Defense	Chess Club	Math Club	Scratch Programming
Soccer	Clay Sculpture	Multi Media Arts	Speech and Debate

PROJECT WEEK!

Project Week is four days designated for students in all grades to engage in fun, multi-disciplinary group projects that challenge them to be cooperative learners and work as a team. From digging into science, art, and math embedded in classic children's stories to learning the investigative techniques involved in a crime scene, Project Week will have a project for everyone!

Primary Program OUTCOMES

In the Primary Program, our students:

- 1 | Learn to be comfortable asking questions, utilizing their creativity, engaging with others, sharing opinions, and expanding their problem-solving skills
- 2 | Uncover connections between different subjects, forge an understanding that concepts outside the classroom do not exist in silos, and bridge content-rich coursework with critical inquiry and curiosity
- 3 | Build important social and communication skills, as well as develop the ability to approach problems or challenges from multiple angles
- 4 | Retain and improve knowledge as major topics are spiraled throughout every grade level to ensure mastery

Contact us:

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