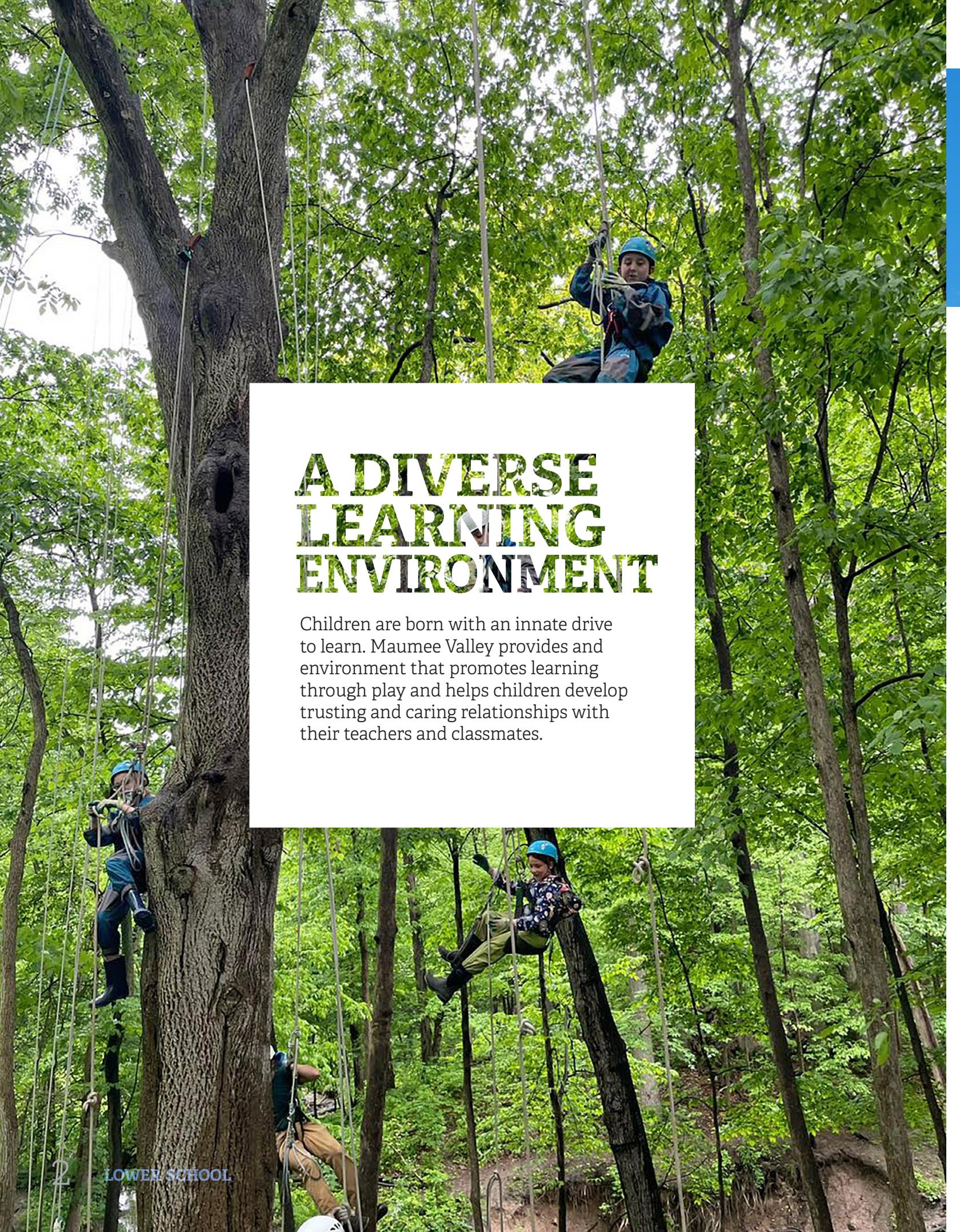




**LOWER  
SCHOOL**  
Ages 3 - 3rd Grade

[mvcds.org/lowerschool](http://mvcds.org/lowerschool)



# A DIVERSE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Children are born with an innate drive to learn. Maumee Valley provides an environment that promotes learning through play and helps children develop trusting and caring relationships with their teachers and classmates.

# AN INTRODUCTION TO LEARNING ...



**The mission of the Lower School is to provide an environment that encourages independence while valuing the time and development of individual children.**

Children construct their own knowledge through flexible instruction, self-initiated play, and the process of learning *how* to learn. We are a diverse community that fosters mutual respect and social responsibility, enhanced by a strong partnership between home and school.



## Highlights of the Lower School

**MULTI-AGE CLASSROOMS:** Our multi-age classrooms allow younger students to learn by watching and modeling older students who have mastered certain skills. Older students, in turn, hone what they have learned by helping to teach others. At the same time, all students gain a deeper level of understanding while encouraging compassion, teamwork, and mentoring.

**GLOBAL LEARNING.** The diversity of families who make up the Maumee Valley community has an impact on our students' experiences. Our teachers embed the cultures of our families into the curriculum, celebrating our diversity. Students participate in learning opportunities that encourage them to understand multiple perspectives and to be self-aware as well as globally aware.

**PERSONALIZED LEARNING.** Our teachers understand no two minds learn in the same way. Class sizes are intentionally kept small, and teachers use skill-based groupings and flexible instruction approaches—all mainstays of a Maumee Valley education—in an effort to stay in tune to students' individual needs and responses. Teachers offer a variety of strategies to help students learn as well as provide choice in the way students can demonstrate their understanding.

**EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.** Building a strong educational foundation begins with skill development. Students learn through discovery, self-exploration, and problem-solving. Maumee Valley takes teaching the "how" to the next level by exploring the "why" so students develop a stronger foundation and deeper understanding.

## PreKindergarten & Junior Kindergarten

# IT ALL STARTS WITH NATURE

Our PreKindergarten and Junior Kindergarten students spend a portion of their day exploring Maumee Valley's 75 acres.



Expert teachers are skilled at taking curriculum outdoors through all four seasons of the year. Teachers encourage, motivate, engage, and inspire children through positive outdoor experiences. Outdoor education allows children the time and space to develop their interests, skills, and understandings through practical hands-on experiences. Time spent outside is inspired by the Forest School philosophy, playful learning indicators, and co-created curriculum. All PreKindergarten and Junior Kindergarten teachers are certified outdoor educators.

For example, PreK/JK students use loose parts and natural materials found on the campus grounds for building, counting, forming letters, and other academic activities that align with curriculum goals. They use their bodies in different sensory experiences and improve their gross motor skills while climbing trees, rolling down hills, and balancing on logs.

At this age, students are emergent writers and can express themselves through nature drawings and journaling. Fine motor activities such as weaving vines, picking up bugs with utensils, and creating art in the mud all strengthen their hands and improve their pencil grip. They connect to nature by observing plants and animals during their free exploration time and in different mindfulness practices.

### PreK/JK program features:

- Multi-aged classrooms using co-teaching models focused on young learners
- Two classrooms each with a full-time teacher and teaching assistant
- 14:2 students-to-adults ratio
- Small group instruction
- Indoor and outdoor learning environments
- Special programs in art, music, physical education, Spanish, and library
- Opportunities to participate in After School Clubs
- Extended Time Care before and after the school day: 7:30-8 a.m. and 3-6 p.m.
- Hot and cold lunch menu selections
- Afternoon snack provided by the school



### Statement of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

At Maumee Valley, we recognize and embrace our responsibility to foster an inclusive, equitable, safe, and respectful community. We cultivate a community in which students, faculty, staff, and families feel genuinely welcome and are encouraged to learn from, with, and about one another. We honor the uniqueness of each individual and embrace diverse backgrounds, values, learning styles, and points of view to build a strong inclusive community. At Maumee Valley, we want all community members to know: We hear you. We see you. We value you.

## Kindergarten & 1st Grade

# LEARNING THROUGH PLAYFUL INQUIRY

At Maumee Valley, we believe learning through playful inquiry is the foundation for intellectual, physical, social, and emotional growth.

Play-based learning allows children to engage their minds, organize their thoughts, and store information using all their senses.

Teachers capitalize on the curiosity and enthusiasm of our young learners. Our program of play-based learning and Forest School-inspired teaching encourages students to learn best by doing. Students receive the skills, tools, materials, and attention needed to experience, explore, and experiment with their surroundings. Teachers assist them in planning, organizing, and discussing observations of the world around them.

Kindergarten students learn how to think deeply, ask questions, and listen to ideas. Our campus allows teachers to take learning outside. Students can be found strengthening fine and gross motor muscles and social-emotional skills through climbing, building, digging, working together, and problem-solving in the forest. The outside world is often brought into the classroom to incorporate nature in play-based learning activities. Students sort rocks, count acorns, order sticks from shortest to longest, and make letters and write words using materials found in nature. At Maumee Valley, we are not afraid to get dirty while learning!

## Kindergarten & 1st grade program features:

- Multi-aged classrooms using co-teaching models focused on young learners
- 16:1 student-to-teacher ratio
- Indoor and outdoor learning environments
- Balanced program blending academic standards, Forest School-inspired curriculum
- Small group instruction
- Special programs in art, music, physical education, Spanish, and library
- Opportunities to participate in After School Clubs
- Extended Time Care before and after the school day: 7:30-8 a.m. and 3-6 p.m.
- Flexible seating and learning environments
- Hot and cold lunch menu selections

## 2nd & 3rd Grades

# NURTURING LEARNERS, BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

When your child is in these early grades, you know your child is loved by our teachers.

Classrooms are intentionally designed to nurture young learners through cozy reading spots, flexible seating options, and a focus on exploration. Students learn how to learn as well as to engage confidently with teachers and peers. They build strong foundations in literacy, mathematics, and social-emotional skills and develop strong work habits.

Our mixed age-group setting is the foundation for cultivating thinkers, leaders, and problem-solvers. Students build skills and explore concepts through student-led inquiry, real-world challenges, and a connection to the community. We believe social-emotional learning and character development should be built alongside foundational understandings of core academic concepts. With a balanced program that includes academic standards and a Forest School-inspired curriculum, we prepare children to be empathetic stewards for an environmentally conscious world with profound love and respect for nature and their wider community.

### 2nd & 3rd grade program features:

- Multi-aged classrooms using co-teaching models focused on young learners
- 16:1 student-to-teacher ratio
- Indoor and outdoor learning environments
- Balanced program blending academic standards, Forest School-inspired curriculum
- Small group instruction
- Special programs in art, music, physical education, Spanish, library, and technology
- Opportunities to participate in both day clubs and After School Clubs
- Extended Time Care before and after the school day: 7:30-8 a.m. and 3-6 p.m.
- Flexible seating and learning environments
- Hot and cold lunch menu selections



## Keeping active in and out of the classroom

### ENRICHED CURRICULUM

Through an array of Specials and fine arts courses, students benefit from one of the region's most expansive PreK-Grade 3 educational offerings. They attend Specials every day to learn new skills and expand horizons in art, physical education, technology, music, library, and technology (grades 2-3 only).

### CLUBS & LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Students have many opportunities to develop confidence, leadership abilities, and new skills. During the school day, programs include Kid Council (developing internal school programming such as Spirit Week) and Green Team (promoting campus environmental programs). Our robust After School Clubs include Dance Club, Musical Theater, Snapology, and Writers Club.

### SPANISH

MV students begin their Spanish language-learning journey in PreKindergarten. By interacting in a lively story and conversational approach, students develop basic skills in the language. Using Spanish in our local community and beyond is also an essential part of the student experience at MVCDS.

### NATURE AS A CLASSROOM

Our Forest School-inspired curriculum infuses student-directed and nature-based learning with academic, social-emotional, and active living (motor development and healthy lifestyle) programs. These activities often occur in the woodland areas of campus, where students connect with nature, themselves, and classmates. All LS teachers are trained and certified by the Eastern Region Association of Forest and Nature Schools.

### FINE & PERFORMING ARTS

The fine and performing arts serves every student and encourages a discovery of personal passion through the arts. Visual art is a journey about expressing oneself, building skills, vocabulary and sharing stories. MV students can participate in our strings program and take fee-based music lessons after school.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION & ATHLETICS

Team activities are offered in cross-country and soccer. Students also can use our indoor climbing wall, outdoor Adventure Challenge Course, and ropes climbing on a tree certified by Metroparks Toledo.



## COME VISIT US!

See for yourself how MV can help your child blaze a unique trail.

Parents interested in the Lower School can call 419-381-1313.

To submit an online inquiry, please visit

[mvcds.org/apply](http://mvcds.org/apply)

# VISION

Personal. Experiential. Global.

# MISSION

Maumee Valley Country Day School cultivates an inclusive community of intellectual excellence where learners creatively explore their passions and boldly inspire positive change in the world.

# GUIDING PRINCIPLE

We create an environment of freedom and responsibility to Think, Speak, Explore, Choose, Connect, Be You.

## About Maumee Valley

As Maumee Valley celebrates the 140th anniversary of its founding, it remains the preeminent educational institution in northwest Ohio. It is the only accredited, coeducational, nonreligious, and independent school in the area and attracts families from northwest Ohio, southeast Michigan, and nations around the world. Enrollment is about 450 students from PreKindergarten through 12th grade. Preparing students for global citizenship and admission to prestigious universities, Maumee Valley Country Day School cultivates an inclusive community of intellectual excellence where learners creatively explore their passions and boldly inspire positive change in the world. We are known for our outstanding faculty and academics, high test scores, beautiful campus, global opportunities for experiential learning, and personal bonds between students and teachers.

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