The Singapore Framework for Math Education was adopted by Newman in 2007 for our kindergarten to 5th grade students. Newman is committed to teaching Singapore Math as it is designed to create an environment where all of our students are challenged to develop essential skills and the deepest mathematical understanding. Our goal is to provide a rigorous and engaging math curriculum that develops students as mathematicians and thinkers.

Singapore Math is based on the most proven and effective research on instruction and student learning. Problem Solving is at the heart of the Singapore Math Framework. Skills, Concepts, Processes, Metacognition, and Attitude support and surround Problem Solving in equal parts and each is equally important. The pedagogy of Singapore Math is Concrete to Pictorial to Abstract. This allows students to develop a deeper understanding of the concepts being taught, learning both the “why” and the “how.” Students develop a strong foundation through this philosophy, enabling them to make sense of their work rather than just memorizing and repeating.

Newman’s Middle School and Upper School teachers have seen significant signs that the group of students who started with Singapore Math since 2007 are collectively stronger mathematicians. In class, these students are able to apply their arithmetic skills to solve problems more effectively and accurately, retrieve prior knowledge more quickly, and make connections between mathematical concepts more readily. Our students continue to benefit from this strong foundation.

Newman is committed to continuing education and professional development of all of our teachers. Teachers regularly attend workshops and have support from our math coach to further develop knowledge of content and pedagogy.
LOWER SCHOOL BALANCED LITERACY

Newman’s Balanced Literacy Curriculum enables teachers to use an integrated approach to teaching Language Arts and gives all of our students the opportunity to gain proficiency in reading, writing, word study and grammar, communication, and handwriting. The Balanced Literacy Curriculum encourages differentiated instruction and learning based on the student’s individual needs and interests, while offering authentic reading and writing experiences. These authentic opportunities for introducing skills are modeled by the teacher through mini-lessons and are reinforced through practice on the student’s “just right” level either independently, in partnerships, or in small groups with teacher guidance.

Reader’s Workshop includes Shared Reading, Guided Reading, and Independent Reading. Using these methods, students develop a love of reading and are exposed to a variety of strategies and skills. Based on formal and informal assessments, teachers gain insight into each student’s growth and development as a reader, helping to further develop decoding, fluency, and comprehension skills. Reader’s Workshop allows teachers to effectively differentiate student reading levels in their classrooms so that all children are engaged and reading independently, becoming confident, motivated, and enthusiastic readers.

Word Study and Grammar includes phonemic awareness, phonics, word patterns, vocabulary, and grammar. Using the Words Their Way program, teachers are able to formally and informally assess each student’s spelling knowledge and differentiate spelling instruction for each individual in the classroom. The goal of Word Study is for every student to become a spelling problem solver and make informed choices when applying spelling patterns in their everyday writing.

Communication is an essential life skill. We strive to foster good listening and speaking skills in every grade at Newman, encouraging our students to feel comfortable sharing their ideas and actively listening to others’ ideas.

Writer’s Workshop includes Shared Writing, Guided Writing, and Independent Writing. Using the Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Writing Workshop, lessons focus not only on the mechanics of writing, but also on the craft and style of writing. Teachers use a variety of instructional methods including whole-class sessions, small-group mini-lessons, student-teacher conferences, and sharing of written work. Students write every day and thus see themselves as writers.

Handwriting focuses on correct letter formation and pencil grip. Newman uses the Handwriting Without Tears program to help all of our students become fluent writers who can easily get their ideas on paper accurately and efficiently.