



The  
Growing Place  
School

**2023-2024**



536 Coral Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

[thegrowingplace.school](http://thegrowingplace.school)  
(305) 446-0846

# Welcome to TGPS!

## About our school

The Growing Place School is a Christian school currently serving children ages one through second grade. For the 2023-2024 school year, we will include third grade. We will add a grade level each year through 5th grade in 2025.

Established in 1963 as a ministry of the church, our school is founded on Christian beliefs, values, and traditions. We value community and family involvement, and take great pride in providing well-rounded, robust education in a nurturing, stimulating and inclusive environment. We are an accredited program through the United Methodist Association for Preschools (UMAP) and a Gold Seal Quality Care recipient from the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). The Growing Place School welcomes families from all backgrounds, faiths, ethnicities, and nationalities as we value being part of a culturally diverse community.

Our certified, experienced teaching team celebrates each child's unique individuality, supports collaboration between home and school, is committed to the field of education, participates in professional development, and strives for excellence in providing a meaningful, creative and spiritual learning experience for your child.

With low child-to-teacher ratios, small class sizes, an active parent-teacher organization, and many community outreach opportunities, we are confident that you and your family will feel at home at our school as we partner together in providing your child with the best educational experience.



# Why choose TGPS for your child?

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- **Our elementary school program** is a unique and well-established program in our community. With innovative educational approaches in place to support a strong academic program and a purposeful commitment to the arts, the environment, and culture—with field trips and community outreach—your child will develop their academic potential, 21st century thinking skills, and their role as a caring citizen in our community and world.
- **The Lamar Louise Curry Elementary Program** offers 2nd grade programming in 2022, and will add a new grade level each year until grade 5. This elementary program is committed to educating the whole child, allowing children to develop and excel academically, socially, and spiritually. Our goal is for each child to reach their full potential and to support their unique individual talents and skills. Classroom practice is built on best current practices in innovative education such as STREAM curriculum; project-based learning; small class size; individual support; social emotional learning; and strong partnerships with children, families and the community. Elementary children will have access to the Art Studio, STEM Lab, Media/Language Lab, Playground, outdoor learning spaces, and Chapel, as well as other community settings for events and activities.



# What We Offer in Elementary School

## Teaching Team

Homerooms are led by an experienced, Florida state-certified lead teacher. Teachers collaborate on curriculum planning and implementation, small group support, field trips, community outreach, and other educational goals. Extracurricular teachers, afterschool enrichment instructors, and support staff are part of the elementary teaching team as well.

## Campus and Facilities

Elementary classrooms are located in the Children's Building. Classrooms are equipped with ActivPanels®, flexible seating, and collaborative furniture. Students learn in the Art Studio, STEM Lab, Media & Language Lab, Chapel, Playground for recess and P.E., as well as other community settings for activities.

## Small Classroom Size

Kindergarten capacity is 16 students, with two teachers. First grade and higher have up to 16 students.



### STREAM CURRICULUM

Science, Technology, Reading & Writing, Engineering, Arts and Math (STREAM) are taught as part of our project-based learning curriculum. The Art Studio, STEM Lab, Media & Language Lab, Library and outdoor areas are additional learning environments.



### SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Conscious Discipline is the established classroom practice used to guide children through their social and emotional development. Mindfulness-based practice, yoga, and brain breaks are additional practices we implement for whole-child education.



### FAITH-BASED EDUCATION

Children attend Chapel on Mondays. We use Think Orange/252Kids ([252kidscurriculum.com](http://252kidscurriculum.com)) for our faith-based curriculum. Our pastors connect with classes on Thoughtful Thursdays. Prayers, devotions, and Bible stories are part of the daily routine.



## EXTRACURRICULARS

Spanish is taught as an immersion foreign language program at least three times per week. Art, music, and P.E. are integrated throughout the week.



## GREEN SCHOOL

We partner with Dream in Green and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden to amplify environmental studies. Our children consistently win awards for their eco-conscious work. The focus on sustainability and protection of our planet is at the heart of our curriculum.



## AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

After-school programs are available Monday through Friday from 3:00pm - 4:00pm. Robotics, theater, soccer, chess, ballet, dance, music, art, and STEM-geared classes are some of the choices offered.

# About Elementary School



## Things to know

- ✓ **Arrival and Dimissal.** The school day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. for K-1. Second grade and older dismiss at 3:00pm. Students can be walked in or dropped off in our carpool area. Early Morning Care, After-School Enrichment and Extended Care options are available as well. The school is open from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- ✓ **Uniforms.** Monday-Thursday; free dress Friday.
- ✓ **Lunch.** Optional lunch program or bring from home.
- ✓ **Supplies.** A grade-specific list is provided.
- ✓ **Attendance and Tardiness.** An official school record is kept for both and is reflected on the report card. We follow the guidelines set forth by Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

## A typical day in elementary school

- Arrival
- Movement
- Journals
- Community Meeting and Prayer
- Reading and Writing – Whole Group and Small Group Instruction
- Snack
- Math – Whole Group and Small group Instruction
- Recess/P.E.
- Lunch
- Science/Spanish/Art Studio/Social Studies
- Extracurriculars
- Community Meeting-Reflection
- Dismissal

## How TGPS supports confident learners & engaged citizens

- Excellence in Academic Instruction
- Community Atmosphere-Parent Involvement
- Caring and Experienced Teachers
- Faith-Based Education
- Spanish Language Program
- Field Trips
- Participation in Community Outreach Programs, such as The Fairchild Challenge and Dream in Green
- Music and Arts
- Classroom Technology
- Small Group Support/Personalized Learning

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# next steps

## Current Students

- ☐ Complete the Application Form
- ☐ Pay the Registration Fee & Tuition Payment #1

## New Students

- ☐ Complete the Application Form
- ☐ Provide Required Documents:
  - Copy of Birth Certificate/Passport
  - Recent Report Card
  - Recent Standardized Test, if Applicable
  - Completed Recommendation Form from Previous School
  - Health and Immunization Forms
- ☐ Meet & Greet with the Admission Team
- ☐ Classroom Visit
- ☐ Grade Level Readiness Assessment
- ☐ Final Acceptance
- ☐ Completion of Enrollment

## Questions?

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