

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What are the school hours?

Lower School: 8:15 a.m.–3:10 p.m.  
Middle and Upper School: 8:00 a.m.–3:10 p.m.

## What is the average class size?

Class sizes range from 14 to 24 students, with an average of 20. There are 14 to 16 students in each of our junior kindergarten classes with a teacher and a teacher's assistant.

## Is there a gifted program?

NSU University School provides several levels of instruction so that all students can be academically challenged within a supportive classroom that is appropriate for their ability level. NSU University School embraces the approach that teaching and learning are student-driven and developmentally appropriate. Our overall curriculum exceeds the requirements set forth by the state of Florida, and many of our students are working above grade level.

## What programs are available for students who learn differently?

Student Academic Success Services (SASS) offers students in grades K–12 programs that narrow the gap between academic potential and actual performance, while focusing instruction on how to learn efficiently and effectively. For students in grades 1–5 who have average to gifted intelligence, the Bridges Program offers an innovative, personalized, and technologically rich educational experience. The Global Scholars Program addresses the individual language and cultural needs of international students.

## How will my child's placement be determined?

Your child's placement is determined by a number of factors. Report cards, standardized test scores, teacher recommendations, and the admissions test results are used initially. Students are closely monitored during the first few weeks of school to determine whether they have been properly placed.

## What kind of information will I receive about my child's progress?

NSU University School believes that collaborative relationships between parents, teachers, and students are built on regular, open communication about classroom goals, student academic achievements, and personal development. Parents are invited to attend the Back to School Night a few weeks into the school year to meet the teachers and hear about the curriculum. In addition to regular report cards, Middle School and Upper School parents can view their child's grades on a continuing basis by logging into our secure website. Parents can expect to receive either written or oral communication from a teacher when the student is not meeting expectations. Parents are always welcome to contact any teacher via email, and a parent-teacher conference may be scheduled when requested.

## Is there a school uniform?

All students are required to wear an approved NSU University School monogrammed polo and/or oxford shirt. Lower School students may wear shorts, capris, skorts, or pants in approved colors. Middle and Upper School students are required to have the NSU University School crest on their navy, khaki, or black uniform shorts, pants, or skorts. Only flat, closed-toe shoes are permitted. Stores that sell NSU University School uniforms are Debbie's School Uniforms, [debbiesschooluniforms.com](http://debbiesschooluniforms.com); Flynn & O'Hara, [flynnohara.com](http://flynnohara.com).

## Are textbooks provided?

The purchase of textbooks is not required for students in junior kindergarten through grade 5, as classroom books are included in the tuition. Any required textbooks may be purchased through the NSU Bookstore or a bookstore of your choice. In grades 6 to 12, most books have been replaced by a digital curriculum. Schedules for Middle School and Upper School students are mailed home during the summer and contain information about digital resources and/or textbooks that may be required. Electronic books and resources are included in the Technology Fee for grades 6 to 12.

## Is lunch provided?

A variety of high-quality, nutritious foods—including hot entrées, deli sandwiches, pizza, soup, a salad bar, and desserts—are made fresh daily. The lunch program is included in the student's tuition. Lower School students receive fresh fruit (as a midday snack) daily.

## How are discipline problems handled?

Carefully developed rules and regulations are enforced to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of all students. Students have rights and responsibilities, as outlined in our *Student/Parent Handbook*, regarding assembly, privacy, learning, and discrimination. Any actions that violate the code of conduct result in disciplinary action ranging from a reprimand and conference to expulsion.

## What is the policy regarding drugs and alcohol?

NSU University School believes that all students have a right to attend a drug- and alcohol-free school. Therefore, we have zero tolerance for drug and/or alcohol use among our students.

## What is the role of technology in the classroom?

Technology enhances our 21st-century students, teachers, and learning environments. Our faculty members utilize state-of-the-art technology, including 3-D printers, SMART interactive boards, live-broadcast television studios, and more, to enrich their programs. Blackboard (a learning management system) and Digital Curriculum are technologies that offer anywhere, anytime access to course content, homework, supplemental resources, and more. The three media centers on campus are designed for research and collaboration, where the students and faculty members have access to print and digital materials to assist them in their quest for educational and informational resources.

Beginning in junior kindergarten, our students learn problem solving, critical thinking, innovation, and collaboration while leveraging the latest technology. Our students have full access to the print and electronic databases at NSU's Alvin Sherman Library. At NSU University School, we use industry-standard software, as well as the latest research methods and teaching techniques, to maximize student success. Additionally, the wireless infrastructure in every building allows for seamless

integration of all mobile devices such as iPads, Nooks, laptops, and more. We consider technology to be a significant educational tool, and students in grades 6–12 are required to bring their own devices (laptop recommended).

## What extracurricular activities are available?

NSU University School provides many opportunities for involvement and expects all students to participate in extracurricular activities as part of their total school experience. These activities include athletics, clubs, student government, and arts. An after-school activities program offers Lower School students a wide range of activities at a nominal fee (see page 8). Upper School clubs and the student government meet during advisory time, so that students who play on a sports team or participate in the arts programs after school can also participate in these activities. Additionally, community service hours are required for our high-school students.

## Is there an after-care program?

Lower and Middle School students have the option of an after care, which provides after-school supervision from 3:15–5:45 p.m.

## Are there opportunities for parents to volunteer?

NSU University School welcomes parent involvement. Volunteers regularly visit junior kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms, as well as the Lower School art room and media center. In the Middle and Upper schools, parents participate in Junior Achievement Programs, special events, and fund-raising projects. In addition, our University Family Organization (UFO) holds quarterly meetings, supports school functions, and sponsors fund-raisers. UFO provides anything a teacher or grade (from junior kindergarten to grade 12) needs.

## Is there school transportation?

NSU University School does not provide transportation. We provide a list of independent student rider services. Arrangements depend upon vendor service areas and are completely independent of the school. We will gladly assist families in finding other families in their area with whom carpools can be arranged. Visit [uschool.nova.edu/admissions/transportation.html](http://uschool.nova.edu/admissions/transportation.html) to find more information on school transportation.