the primary school
You’ll remember the first day in our Primary School as the day you found the exact right group of adults to help educate your daughter.
HB's Prime is singularly focused on helping each girl become her best self. We provide the experiences, challenges and culture that will inspire and shape your daughter into a girl who will amaze you every day.
In 2010 we opened the spectacular Mixon Family Playground, which includes as its centerpiece the “Fusion,” our platform for imagination, cooperation and unbridled joy. The Fusion is more than a fun-space, though; it’s a metaphor for how HB’s Primary School works.

Each girl is at the center of the play and the Prime, and she is both supported and broadened by the five spokes that radiate from her. While she’s climbing, chasing, and imagining on the Fusion, she’s also experiencing the five principles of our Primary School approach:
Our Prime Community

The caring and nurturing Prime family begins in the classroom where your daughter and her teacher build a relationship of trust and compassion that sets an example for future connections within the HB community and beyond. Our unique Legacy program connects girls in the Prime to our Middle and Upper School students and strengthens sisterhood through service and school spirit.

Character & the Three Rs

In the Prime, the 3Rs are respect, responsibility and resilience. As your daughter learns the 3Rs and puts them into practice, she becomes a stronger member of our community. We believe in fostering leadership skills at a young age. Starting in second grade your daughter can become a member of our Student Council. In fourth grade, she may choose to take on a more defined leadership role by becoming a peer mediator. Our Center for Civic Engagement supports our girls’ service learning by teaching them what it means to be a valued member of the school and our larger society.
Play & Transformation

Our innovative programming exercises your daughter’s mind and spirit. Through play and exploration, we create a fun and transformative learning environment for girls. Our goal for your daughter is to develop a love of learning in her homeroom and her specialty classes. We want her to take pleasure in learning whether she is constructing in our Invention Lab, learning music through the Orff Schulwerk method or video conferencing in our Worldwide Communication Center.

Problem Solving & Thinking

We present opportunities for girls to engage in real life problem-solving throughout all disciplines and teach perseverance in the process. The more opportunities your daughter has to solve problems, the more prepared she’ll be for the complexities of our modern world. Through our distinctive Storyline curriculum, our students are able to gain the skills necessary to find information for themselves, ask key questions and go beyond textbook learning.
Confidence & Independence

The Prime community partners with parents to develop each girl’s sense of self. Your daughter will find her voice as a person in an environment that is nurturing and supportive. We value and celebrate her growth towards independence and self-confidence and offer the chance for her to try out these skills. We provide our third and fourth grade students the opportunity to further their independence and foster their passion by selecting a Choice Class.
Our Storyline teaching method will actively engage your daughter in learning through the power of storytelling. She will draw on her experiences, use her imagination, and exercise her problem-solving skills to more deeply understand subject matter across disciplines. The possibilities for discovery are endless.

Used in several countries around the world, this unique approach was developed by Primary School educational specialists in Glasgow, Scotland. Hathaway Brown was the first school to adopt Storyline in the eastern half of the United States. In 2011, HB became the first and only Midwest/East Coast Storyline training site.

Last year, HB students collaborated on an international Storyline project with students at Alvboda Friskola in Stutskar, Sweden. The two groups read “Ronia, the Robber’s Daughter” by Astrid Lindgren and discussed the text through blogs and videoconferences. In May, HB teacher Mary Boutton even traveled to Sweden to meet these Storyline partners in person.
Our dynamic curriculum will expose your daughter to art, music, dance, Spanish, technology, physical education, science and library skills. After school she can continue her path to discovering her passions in our Expression classes or Developmental Sports Clinics.
Technology is a vital part of the Prime experience. Our students learn communication, organization and research skills with the use of iPads, computers and Smartboards.

Whether she’s tinkering with Picco-Crickets, testing programming, building structures in the Invention Lab or evaluating a robot in FIRST LEGO League, your daughter will learn key engineering thinking skills at HB.
Whether it’s on the playground or in the classroom, HB girls benefit from the deliberate approach of our Primary School. Our rich curriculum will not only prepare her for school, but for life.
Girls K–12 Coed Early Childhood
Shaker Heights, Ohio
HB.edu

Call 216.320.8767 to schedule your personal tour!

Kristin Kuhn
Director of Early Childhood & Primary School Admission

Hathaway Brown

Call 216.320.8767 to schedule your personal tour!