

FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

First grade students proudly develop their independence in this pivotal year. Nightly homework and spelling tests are introduced and students use the opportunities to build their organization, responsibility, and study habits.

Through small guided reading groups, students learn a variety of strategies to support decoding, engage in word work, and build comprehension skills across an assortment of genres. First grade authors engage in the writing process to develop written pieces during daily Writing Workshop. Authors eagerly share their writing with classmates in the Author's Chair each day. Perhaps a favorite writing project of our students is a nonfiction research project on bats!

First graders celebrate themselves as mathematicians. Each day math centers, partner work, and hand-on games and activities fuel mathematical flexibility, fluency and learning .

Students relish their increased time in the science lab as the subject becomes fully departmentalized, and they particularly enjoy their time in the Drosten Greenhouse as part of their plant study.

Students venture off campus for field trips in their first grade year, a highlight of which is a visit to the Children's Village at The Magic House as a culmination to their study of economics in social studies.

Reading

Help students utilize decoding strategies while reading for meaning independently | Self-correct and monitor for meaning ☒ Solidify sight word knowledge | Engage in phonics instruction in long and short vowels, ☒irregular vowels, blends and digraphs | Use a variety of methods to decode more complex and unfamiliar words | Identify basic parts of speech | Develop reading fluency by pausing at punctuation, reading in longer phrases, and incorporating expression | Read and build comprehension of a variety of genres | Deepen comprehension by recalling information that is both explicit and implicit within the text | Recognize basic story elements, main idea and supporting details and draw conclusions from a text

Resources used: | Kids A-Z | Classroom fiction and nonfiction literature| MCP Plaid Phonics Level B | Scholastic Magazine | Seesaw activities| Building blocks with blends and digraphs and various hands on manipulatives

Writing

Brainstorm creative writing topics | Develop writing with a clear beginning, middle, and end | Experiment with opening hooks, word choice, and sentence structure | Write a variety of genres including small moment narratives, non-fiction, persuasive writing, and poetry | Engage in daily independent practice with editing and conventions | Share writing with peers in the Author's Chair | Memorize and present a poem of choice ☒ Begin weekly spelling tests

Resources used: Writing Workshop | 6 +1 Traits of Writing | Handwriting without Tears | Spelling Connections

Mathematics

Recognize place value through the thousands | Decompose numbers to 20| Indicate greater than, less than, or equal to | Tell time to the half hour | Identify coins and calculate small coin and dollar combinations | Solve "Estimation Mysteries" and estimate answers for two-digit addition and subtraction problems | Identify lines of symmetry| Introduce fractions and geometric figures | Write a number sentence to solve a word problem | Use standard and non standard measuring tools for measuring length| Identify and use strategies for adding and subtracting numbers up to 20| Engage in math games and centers in small groups| Encourage mental math skills and number conversations

Resources: Everyday Math | many hands on tools, games, and manipulatives

Social Studies

Build understanding of how to earn and budget with money | Explore needs and wants and supply and demand | Participate in field trip to The Magic House connected to study of economics | Read and explore a variety of print and digital resources to synthesize information and draw conclusions about historical events | Complete writing projects connected to social studies topics | Study maps to identify continents, land forms, and directions

Units of study include: Economics | Maps | The First Thanksgiving | Global and Domestic Poverty | Saint Louis history and landmarks

Science

Make predictions and hypotheses | Incorporate specific scientific vocabulary into classroom discussions | Sequence the life cycle of various living things (i.e. butterfly, frog, chicken) | Define vertebrates and their characteristics | Explain the purpose of all major body systems | Locate major organs and body parts | Identify types of teeth and parts of teeth and key aspects of dental care | Understand what plants need to grow and plant a variety of types of plants | Introduce 3 types of rocks and how they are formed

Units of study include: Vertebrate Animals | Human Body | Dental Health| Plants (includes planting in greenhouse) | Life Cycles | Rocks

Art

Use the concepts of line, shape, color, texture and form to express themselves creatively | Explore a wide variety of art media including paint, various drawing supplies, clay, collage, textiles and sculpture | Develop observational skills to draw and watercolor orchids | Complete a cross-curricular study with science demonstrating the symmetry of butterflies through butterfly paintings incorporating warm and cool colors | Identify primary and secondary colors and understand how color mixing is used by making color wheels | Use knowledge of shapes and textures to create a clay project | Learn about various artists to inspire and influence different art projects and methods | Create multi-media art projects

Music

Distinguish between high and low tones from singing and instruments | Identify and incorporate dynamic levels | Build repertoire of folk songs, chants, games and pentatonic songs | Distinguish between long and short sounds and imitate patterns with long and short sounds | Learn the dynamics “piano” and “forte” | Use rhythmic knowledge to decode the rhythms in familiar songs | Read rhythms and write rhythmic notation including quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests | Begin introduction to Orff instruments and learn mallet technique | Begin reading three notes songs and melodies | Use bodies as instruments to add percussion to familiar songs | Building confidence performing in front of classmates | Learning and performing in whole school concerts and performances

Spanish

Learn to identify classroom materials in Spanish | Read and illustrate Spanish mini-books | Dramatize Spanish stories | Practice sequencing, categorizing and comparing elements of Spanish texts | Learn about the migration of Monarch butterflies to Mexico and their role in the celebration of the Day of the Dead | Learn the letters of the Spanish alphabet and practice the distinct sounds of Spanish vowels and consonants | Learn to express key emotions, observations, and preferences

Resources include: Había Una Vez curriculum from The Storyteller’s Corner | Mundo de Pepita Spanish mini-books | Rockalingua | Bilingual picture books

Library

Locate A through Z in the E section of the library | Explain the significance of the Show-Me Award | Identify the difference between E/F and NF literature and locate these sections in the library | Locate books in the library that are a “good reading fit” | Identify story elements within picture books

Physical Education

Our lower school curriculum is a movement based curriculum where the students learn through game play and skill development. From our Junior Kindergarten to our second grade, our program is a spiraling curriculum that builds upon itself. Through this curriculum our students will also develop and grow in sportsmanship, cooperation and physical fitness.

Distinguish between dominant and non-dominant sides | Develop locomotor movements | Establish hand-eye and foot-eye coordination | Introduce rhythm | Learn to chase and evade | Develop balancing skills | Learn boundaries

Specialty Subject Schedule

Science — 45 minutes, 4 times a week
Art — 45 minutes, 2 times a week
Music — 30 minutes, 2 times a week
Spanish — 30 minutes, 2 times a week
Library — 45 minutes, 2 times a week
Physical Education — 30 minutes daily