

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM of STUDIES

English Language Arts
Math
Science/Health
Social Studies/History
Technology
Music
Art
Physical Education
Special Education

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM of STUDIES

English Language Arts
Math
Science/Health
Social Studies/History
Technology

English Language Arts

In the Kindergarten Language Arts program the children are developing the crucial elements of early literacy. These include concepts about print, phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary and concept development, text structure and comprehension, writing, English language conventions, listening and speaking. These elements are taught through learning centers and in whole group instruction in listening to and reading stories, exploring letters and sounds, sharing ideas with peers, practicing handwriting, writing in journals, teacher directed shared and interactive writing, and singing and movement.

Mathematics

The Math curriculum strives to be child centered by providing math experiences through whole group instruction and in hands-on learning centers. Skills taught and learned include number recognition, formation and number sense; patterning, classifying and graphing; shape and color recognition; coin recognition, measuring and estimating; and simple addition, subtraction and problem solving.

Science/Health

Science and Health studies are currently imbedded in the literacy curriculum. Within the reading themes we touch upon science and health topics such as the Five Series, the Human Body, Good Nutrition, Animals and their Homes, and the Four Seasons.

History and Social Studies

The Social Studies curriculum focuses on broadening the students' knowledge of the world around them through study of themselves and how they are alike and different, their families, and the community around them. Additionally the children learn about important people in our history and important days and holidays in the United States.

Technology

The students learn the basic skills needed to operate a computer as they pertain to software use in the areas of literacy and math.

GRADE 1 PROGRAM of STUDIES

English Language Arts
Math
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Technology

English Language Arts

Reading

Students will participate in shared reading sessions, guided reading sessions; as well as working with partners as “Buddy Readers” and reading independently during a typical classroom day. They will learn consonant letter names and vowel sounds, consonant and vowel digraphs and diphthongs, decode words using phonetic blending strategies, practice reading common sight words in stories, identify noun forms within a sentence, identify the appropriate verb tense to use within a sentence, identify common antonyms, and synonyms and common compound words. They will learn to recognize irregularly spelled sight words such as “have” and to use letter sound knowledge to decode written vocabulary. They will predict story events, identify cause and effect happenings with a story, identify the main idea of a story, discuss plot, character and the setting of a story. They will be able to summarize the events of a story orally and answer questions about the story by writing a whole sentence. They will be able to visualize and draw a picture of story events.

Writing

The students will write or dictate stories that have a beginning, middle and ending. They will gather information from several sources, arrange ideas in a sensible pattern and begin to use Standard English mechanics to write whole sentences with capitalization and end mark punctuation. They will be able to answer an open-ended question by using a topic sentence. They are expected to print letters neatly and correctly on primary lined paper. They will spell unknown words using “Inventive Spelling.” They are expected to learn high frequency words and to spell them correctly.

Communication

Students will model and improve communication skills by modeling, and practicing good listening and speaking behavior, following oral directions, sharing personal experiences and by sharing their writing as authors with their classmates.

Mathematics

The students will learn to count, name and write whole numbers up to 100 during math instruction. They will identify fractions ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$), compare whole numbers in sets, and identify symbols of addition, subtraction and equal to, odd and even numbers, and all U.S. coins and the \$1 bill. They will demonstrate knowledge of addition, subtraction, and equal to by solving

problems using these concepts and solve addition facts (addends to 10) and related subtraction problems to 20. They will master addition and subtraction facts to 10.

In first grade, students will work with patterns, learning to identify, describe, create and extend simple repeating patterns. Each student will work on identifying simple patterns on a hundreds chart. They will be able to count by twos, fives, and tens.

In an introduction to algebra the students will construct and solve open sentences that have variables and write number sentences using symbols. Naming equal trades in money and measurements is also part of the curriculum.

Identifying parts of the day, days of the week and months of the year are part of the math curriculum where the students work with measurements. They will also identify dates using a calendar and tell time at half-hour intervals with analog and digital clocks. Comparing length, weight, area, and volume of objects, plus measuring and comparing common objects using metric and English units of length measurement, and using a ruler, balance scale and thermometer are all part of their math instruction.

For the geometry curriculum, the students in the first grade will learn to identify shapes, number of corners, edges, faces, and sides, they will identify, describe, draw, and compare shapes and curved figures, learn to recognize congruent shapes, identify symmetry in shapes, and relate geometric ideas to numbers.

The students will use interviews, surveys, and observations to gather data. They will practice organizing, classifying, representing, and interpreting data using tallies, charts, tables, bar graphs, pictographs, and Venn diagrams.

Science and Technology

In the Earth Sciences curriculum the students learn about the Earth. They learn to recognize that water, rocks, soil, and living organisms are found on the earth's surface. The students are taught that the air is a mixture of gases that is all around us and that wind is moving air. They also learn about the sun and weather changes.

In the Physical Science curriculum the students learn to sort objects by observable properties and to identify objects and materials as solid, liquid, or gas. They also learn to describe the various ways that objects can move (i.e., zigzag, fast, and slow), demonstrate the way to change the motion of an object and to recognize that under some conditions, objects can be balanced.

In the Life Science curriculum the students will learn characteristics of living things, life cycles of plants and animals and evolution.

The students will be taught the correct terminology for basic components of a computer system and explore and develop keyboarding and mouse skills. They will explore basic features of a word processing program and spend time using drawing and painting applications. Students may have the opportunity to access and use teacher-selected web sites with assistance. Teachers will also help their students develop an understanding of how the computer is a tool for learning and to explore and develop understanding of how to gather information from a variety of electronic sources.

History and Social Science

Within the social studies curriculum the students identify sequences of time (days, weeks, months), learn to place events in chronological order and record dates on a calendar. Students learn to recognize a map as a flat representation of an area. The students will be able to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and identify the flag as a symbol of America. They will be able to name the current president of the United States, identify the capitol of the United States as Washington, D.C., and Boston as the capitol of Massachusetts, and identify famous Americans. Students will study the common holidays and the different ways they are celebrated. They will learn that people need to work to earn a living to be able to provide services and to buy goods. They will also learn differences between needs and wants. The students will learn about individuals, families and communities from now and long ago.

Instructional Technology

The students type words and short, simple sentences in a word processing program learning where the letter and number keys are on the keyboard. They explore basic formatting features while entering, processing, and displaying information. They continue using the primary-level simulation software practicing their skills with the mouse. A graphics program is also introduced in which the students create simple shapes and then learn to edit, resize or change colors. The students may also use pre-selected web sites with assistance.

GRADE 2 PROGRAM of STUDIES

English Language Arts
Math
Science/Health
Social Studies/History
Technology

English Language Arts

Reading

The second grade reading curriculum targets the five major components of reading instruction. These include phonemic awareness, explicit phonics instruction, vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency. These skills are addressed through the use of Harcourt's Trophies reading series, Modern Curriculum Press Phonics and leveled books for guided reading instruction. The reading and language art skills encompassed by the second grade curriculum include discussion, questioning, listening, vocabulary and concept development, a variety of genres and reading strategies, oral and dramatic performance. The primary goal of second grade is to have each child become an independent reader who is able to decode and comprehend grade level text.

Writing

Writing in the second grade program involves developing and mastering skills for both topic development and standard English conventions. Concentration is on both fiction and non-fiction, narratives with beginning, middle, and end, content, and organization with a focus on detail, and voice. The system of Process Writing is used to teach writing, revising, editing, and publishing with the application of Standard English conventions. Primary goals of second grade writing include familiarizing students with the process of paragraph formation and the expectation of using proper spelling and grammatical conventions, although "inventive spelling" is accepted for unknown words.

Mathematics

Second grade math covers number sense and operations, patterns, relations and algebra, geometry, measurement, data analysis, statistics, and probability. Students engage in problem solving, communicating, reasoning, connecting concepts to real situations, and strategies for both computation and problem solving. Important milestones for second grade are mastery of basic math facts in both addition and subtraction through twenty, place value, and regrouping of two and three digit numbers in addition and subtraction.

Science and Technology

The second grade science and technology curriculum is based on investigations and learning experiences. Units of earth and space science include earth's materials, weather, sun as the source of heat and light and periodic phenomena.

Physical science units are the observable properties of objects, states of matter, and position and motion of objects. Life science study consists of characteristics of living things, life cycles, heredity, evolution and biodiversity, and living things and their environment. Technology/engineering encompasses materials and tools and engineering design.

History and Social Science

Second graders learn about world and United States history, geography, economics, and government by studying more about who Americans are and where they came from. They explore their own family's history and learn about distinctive achievements, customs, events, places, or landmarks from long ago and from around the world. The primary concepts and skills covered are history and geography, civics and government and economics with an emphasis placed on time lines, map skills, cultural heritage and customs.

Instructional Technology

Second grade students will demonstrate a working knowledge of responsible computer use. They will continue to practice keyboarding skills, creating sentences and short stories in a word processing program, and explore pre-selected websites. Students will use software to practice math skills and be introduced to and begin using "Scholastic Reading Counts".

GRADE 3 PROGRAM of STUDIES

English Language Arts
Math
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Social Studies/History
Technology

English Language Arts

Reading

The reading curriculum consists of the students working to master certain skills which are: building vocabulary, sequencing, drawing conclusions, comparing/contrasting, predicting, identifying point of view, author's purpose, understanding cause and effect, identifying narrative elements, making inferences, recognizing figurative language, and summarizing. Genres and their characteristics the students are introduced to are: fantasy, mystery, historical fiction, realistic fiction, non-fiction, biography, folktales, poetry, and drama.

Writing

In grammar, parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, (pronouns), subjects/predicates, identifying and writing complete sentences, types of sentences, and punctuation (. ? ! , ' " ") are all covered in class, and students are expected to apply these skills in their daily writing.

Learning the correct spelling of words is important when practicing writing skills. In teaching writing skills the students go through steps beginning with prewriting strategies, then learning to construct main idea sentences, detail sentences, and conclusion sentences as well as including voice in their written work. They engage in writing 5 sentence paragraphs (main idea, details, conclusion), process writing, revising/editing, personal narrative writing, expository writing (essay), letter writing, and poetry. While they are learning and practicing these skills, other areas are covered such as synonyms/antonyms, base words/prefixes/suffixes, word origins, plurals, contractions, possessives, subject/verb agreement, dictionary skills, and cursive writing. Final work is sometimes done on a computer and certain computer skills are required such as keyboarding, Internet research, and word processing.

Mathematics

Math facts (addition and subtraction through 20, multiplication and division through 9 tables) are important building blocks for mastering mathematics. Additional areas that are covered in the math curriculum are: numeration to ten thousands in various forms, addition/subtraction with regrouping to ten thousands, multiplication of two digits by one digit, fractions (equivalent fractions, addition, subtraction, mixed numbers), geometry, time, money, probability, patterns, analysis and data collection, graphing, and problem solving.

Science and Technology

In science the students will be introduced to or continue developing their knowledge in the areas of: Earth Science: soil, weather, water cycle, Earth's history, and the solar system; Life Science: plants/animals, plant structures and functions, adaptations, and energy and living things; Physical Science: properties of matter, states of matter, forms of energy, electrical energy, magnetic energy, and sound and light; Technology: simple machines and connecting technology and nature.

History and Social Science

The third grade curriculum in history and social science covers Massachusetts economics, geography, and history, including Massachusetts' Native Americans, Colonial America, the Revolutionary War, notable people in Massachusetts history, significance of key American documents (Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, Constitution), and local government, geography, and history.

Instructional Technology

The students will follow rules for responsible computer use. They will learn how to log onto the network and save and access files on the network. They will be able to practice basic keyboarding skills, type sentences and paragraphs in a word processing program, and explore basic formatting. The students will conduct research on teacher-selected websites. Other technology expectations and opportunities will include creating basic slide shows, creating projects (newspapers, books) in a word processing program, using software to practice math skills, and utilizing "Scholastic Reading Counts!" for reading comprehension.