

ELEMENTARY *division*

KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE



The Elementary Division years at St. John's are a time for fostering students' interests and love for learning, helping them develop their full potential. Our highly qualified and Gifted and Talented Education Certified teachers have a strong focus on differentiation within the classroom, creating an environment where every child is uniquely known. The Elementary Division follows a sequential and integrated STEAM curriculum, based on a continuum of learning from grade to grade while encouraging exploration and discovery. Beyond the core curriculum, Elementary Division students experience weekly enrichment classes taught by subject area specialists, providing a richness to the overall learning experience.



WEEKLY ENRICHMENTS

Enrichments are held once or twice weekly and are taught by subject area specialists.

- Science/Engineering
- Technology
- World Languages- Spanish and Mandarin Chinese
- Music
- Art
- Chapel
- Religion
- P.E.
- Library

EVERY CHILD IS UNIQUELY KNOWN

Small class sizes allow for close personal attention, allowing students to work in leveled ability groups that are flexible.

- Teachers are GATE Certified, facilitating student advancement beyond grade level when necessary
- Reading Wonders- a comprehensive reading program designed to reach all learners using print and digital resources
- Math- differentiated math groups at each grade level
- The curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of the individual learner
- Classroom aides in each classroom in Kindergarten-2nd grade to facilitate small group instruction and individualized attention
- Grade level aide in 3rd-5th grade to facilitate small group instruction and individualized attention
- Weekly teacher office hours after school for added support

THE ELEMENTARY EXPERIENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

- Student Council (3rd-5th grade)
- After School Programs
- Field Trips
- Garden Club
- The Arts:
 - Elementary Division Play
 - Christmas Concert and Spring Sing
 - Elementary Choir (4th-5th grade)
- Athletics:
 - Track and Field (K-8th grade)
 - Rising Cardinals (2nd-4th grade)
 - Flag Football, Volleyball, Soccer, Cross Country, Basketball

CHARACTER COUNTS AND SERVICE LEARNING

Character education and service learning are at the heart of the Elementary Division Program. St. John's strives to foster learners who are:

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| Resourceful | Collaborative |
| Respectful | Curious |
| Reflective | Confident |
| Resilient | Caring |

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KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE



KINDERGARTEN – The full-day Kindergarten program provides our youngest elementary students with an age-appropriate balance of academic and developmental skills. The strong foundation for early literacy is strengthened, and students apply their learning to decoding and blending to read and write with grade-appropriate accuracy. Math is also included in the core program and is taught using a traditional approach. Topics include addition, subtraction, and beginning concepts in geometry, fractions, time, money, and measurement. History/social science is the third core subject. As students learn the significance of working together as a community, they apply their knowledge to acts of kindness and character development that are critical to our comprehensive program.

SECOND GRADE – English/language arts in 2nd grade focuses on reading complex word structures with precision and fluency. Students learn how to identify genres, find context clues, assign meaning, and pose higher level questions in assorted texts. Increased attention is given to comprehension strategies, utilizing differentiated/leveled small groups for maximum impact. Students are exposed to a wider variety of literature, including informational and persuasive texts, and respond in writing, following the steps of the writing process. In math, concentrated attention is given to problem solving and reasoning. Students learn to add/subtract multiple digit numbers (with/without regrouping), multiply single digit numbers, use expanded units of measurement, and estimate fractional amounts. In history/social science, students learn about interdependence, national identity and government, elements of the past and present, and diversity, encouraging community outreach.

FOURTH GRADE – Students in the 4th grade enjoy an engaging English/language arts program that focuses on accessing complex texts and responding to the author's technique and craft. Students comprehend literary content with deeper understanding, citing text evidence and providing written responses to a variety of genres. Connecting reading to writing in a creative, multi-paragraph format is an area of focus. Students compose narrative, expository, informational, descriptive, and persuasive written assignments. Math continues to be differentiated, with students changing to leveled groups for maximum learning opportunities. Students continue to build on previous math concepts. Areas of focus include: identifying factors, calculating five digit problems with regrouping in addition and subtraction, and dividing through four digit dividends, and working with fractions. In history/social science, students explore the history of California from the Native Americans to modern times. Students gain a new understanding for our school's commitment to serving our community.

FIRST GRADE – Students in 1st grade successfully build upon the strong literacy base developed in Kindergarten. They begin to read with purpose and understanding, facilitated by a differentiated system that allows for maximum individual growth. Students respond to text verbally and in written expression, using a formal model for writing. Flexible grouping for math also allows students to successfully meet their potential. Math topics include: regrouping in addition and subtraction, counting mixed coins, using standard units in measurement, problem solving and reasoning, and comparing numbers using symbols. The history/social science program looks beyond local community to important features of the seven continents. Community outreach supports the character education program and the topics of working cooperatively and of group dynamics.

THIRD GRADE – English/language arts teaches 3rd grade students how to read with automaticity and appropriate pace, expression, intonation, and phrasing. Students also explore literary elements and comprehend literature from a broad range of genres. The writing process is used to write in a variety of forms including persuasive, instructional, and narrative writing. Students continue to be grouped for English/language arts and math to provide them with the close personal attention necessary for optimal success. Several areas of focus in our differentiated math program include converting, comparing, and adding and subtracting decimals, multiplication of four-digit multiplicands with regrouping, and dividing 3-digit dividends and 2-digit divisors. A focus of history/social science is the attribute identification and analysis of communities, including early Orange County Native American tribes. Students are able to investigate the ideas of interdependence and cooperation as mutually beneficial and also apply this knowledge to their community service projects.

FIFTH GRADE – The English/language arts program for 5th grade students is designed to prepare them for their transition into the Middle Division. At this point, students are able to read fluently and effortlessly with deep understanding of complex texts. Their comprehension strategies and skills are advanced, and students easily make connections across and between expository and literary works. Students are also able to write fluently using a variety of forms, including poetry, research reports, and personal/fictional narratives. The 5th grade math program builds on the strong foundation accomplished in previous grades and is appropriately challenging according to individual levels of understanding. Math topics include: computation with decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers; probability and statistics: proportion and percent; geometry; and an introduction to algebra. In history/social science, students focus on early settlers in the New World and events that lead to the American Revolutionary War. Much like the early pioneers, students explore the growth of the new United States up through Western Expansion. Character education is emphasized throughout the year through works of literature and community service.