

SENIOR KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

In the Senior Kindergarten year, students begin meeting with teachers in small, leveled reading groups, supporting students as they stretch out words, apply their phonics and sight word knowledge, and build their capacity to comprehend the text they decode.

Budding SK writers delve into the Writing Workshop program, developing their knowledge of the writing process and expressing themselves through inventive spelling and illustrations. Celebratory publishing parties at the end of each writing unit build the confidence and excitement of our young writers as they share their finished work with peers and teachers.

The Everyday Mathematics curriculum is also introduced in Senior Kindergarten, introducing foundational concepts including addition, subtraction, money, and time.

Ample opportunities for play and discovery are built into the SK day to support a well-balanced, developmentally appropriate program. In May, families join us to celebrate the completion of the SK year with a lively SK graduation ceremony showcasing the accomplishments of our amazing Seniors!

Reading

Engage in small guided reading groups offering targeted reading instruction | Identify all letter sounds, including long and short vowels | Use appropriate strategies to decode words | Monitor for meaning while reading and make self-corrections | Participate in phonics instruction covering consonants and short and long vowels | Introduce Dolch sight words and apply them to independent reading and writing | Build story comprehension by identifying characters, setting, main idea and supporting details | Explore a variety of authors and genres | Build capacity to identify and choose reading material at the appropriate level | Engage in daily independent reading

Resources: Kids A-Z | MCP Plaid Phonics Level A | Scholastic Magazine

Writing

Generate a story with a logical sequence, supporting details, and a corresponding illustration | Begin to incorporate writing conventions such as complete sentences, appropriate capitalization, and ending punctuation | Use inventive spelling guided by phonetic knowledge | Utilize conventional spelling of familiar sight words | Write a variety of genres including "true" stories, how-to books, persuasive writing and poetry | Accept feedback and begin to incorporate minor revisions | Share writing with peers during the workshop process and during "Publishing Parties"

Resources used: Writing Workshop | Handwriting Without Tears

Mathematics

Count fluently by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s | Practice correct number formation | Build number word recognition | Sequence and write numbers through 100 | Reproduce and extend patterns | Introduce addition and subtraction to 12 with the support of tools and manipulatives | Interpret data from graphs and construct graphs to represent small data sets | Practice measurement with standard and non-standard units and utilize measuring tools | Identify coins and their values | Recognize small equivalent amounts of coins | Tell time to the hour and half-hour | Create and solve simple number stories

Resources: Everyday Math

Social Studies

Deepen understanding of similarities and differences amongst classmates | Engage in activities regarding geography and the world around us | Identify challenges in our world and suggest solutions

Units of Study: All About Me | Family & friends | Neighborhoods | Holiday celebrations | Continent study

Science

Develop an understanding of the role science plays in all aspects of life | Make predictions and draw conclusions during experimentation | Identify living vs. nonliving things | Recognize similarities and differences between plants and animals | Identify the five senses and use them in various contexts | Understand seasonal changes and related weather patterns | Engage in STEM challenges with a variety of building materials

Units of Study: Seasons and Weather | The Five Senses | Animals Ecology | Creeping, crawling creatures | Keeping fit/nutrition (classroom?) | Vehicles and Machines | Engineering

Art

Build concept of what it means to be an artist | Study artists past and present to broaden understanding of possibilities in art | Name colors and experiment with color mixing to explore color variation | Create different types of lines using different art media | Combine simple shapes into structures of varying complexity | Identify and create texture | Participate in centers incorporating different art media and exploration into a study on specific topics | Study birds in art using different media in connection with a library unit | Create a collaborative class mural | Connect art opportunities with familiar literature

Music

Practice keeping a steady beat when listening to and making music | Create rhythmic patterns | Learn and apply tempo terms “presto” and “Largo” | Use drums and various percussion instruments to explore different tempos in music | Use different kinds of sounds in choosing sound effects to portray the characters and events of sound stories | Learn and apply stylistic terms “staccato” and “legato” | Begin identifying and decoding songs using Sol, Mi, & La | Building confidence performing in front of classmates | Learning and performing in whole school concerts and performances |

Spanish

Read and illustrate Spanish mini-books | Dramatize Spanish stories | Practice sequencing and categorizing elements of Spanish texts | Sing a traditional Spanish-Ladino song about Chanukah | Practice simple greetings | Express simple preferences | Learn vocabulary for food, animals, and family members | Engage in treasure hunts, parades, and simple games | Learn about the Mexican celebration of Day of the Dead and design a personalized ofrenda.

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

Library

Understand proper care of library books and materials | Recognize familiar authors, illustrators, and literature | Begin to recognize basic library terms and concepts | Begin to follow basic check-out procedures | Locate the E (Everybody/Picture Book) section of the library | Develop an appreciation for books and reading

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

Art — 30 minutes, 2 times a week

Spanish — 30 minutes, 2 times a week

Library — 30 minutes, 2 times a week

Music — 30 minutes, 2 times a week

Science Specialist — 30 minutes, 1 time a week

Physical Education — 30 minutes daily