



Elementary **CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

Carlucci American International School of Lisbon

ELEMENTARY: Program Overview

Introduction

Welcome to the program overview for elementary students in Grades 1-5, serving children ages 6 to 11. This document provides brief descriptions of the core academic subjects, along with the specialized content areas experienced by all students. While each subject is described individually, the curriculum is designed to encourage connections across disciplines through cross-curricular themes and project-based learning. The program aims to nurture curious, capable, and confident learners through an engaging, well-rounded educational experience. This overview offers a snapshot of the learning taking place across the elementary school throughout the year. We look forward to supporting your child's journey of discovery and growth!



Leslie Selberg
Elementary School Principal

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
LANGUAGE ARTS	Gr. 1 English	Gr. 2 English	Gr. 3 English	Gr. 4 English	Gr. 5 English
	Gr. 1 EAL	Gr. 2 EAL	Gr. 3 EAL	Gr. 4 EAL	Gr. 5 EAL
MATH	Gr. 1 Math	Gr. 2 Math	Gr. 3 Math	Gr. 4 Math	Gr. 5 Math
SCIENCE	Gr. 1 Science	Gr. 2 Science	Gr. 3 Science	Gr. 4 Science	Gr. 5 Science
SOCIAL STUDIES	Gr. 1 Social Studies	Gr. 2 Social Studies	Gr. 3 Social Studies	Gr. 4 Social Studies	Gr. 5 Social Studies
PORTUGUESE	Gr. 1 Língua Portuguesa	Gr. 2 Língua Portuguesa	Gr. 3 Língua Portuguesa	Gr. 4 Língua Portuguesa	Gr. 5 Língua Portuguesa
	Gr. 1 PAL (Levels 1, 2, 3, 4)	Gr. 2 PAL (Levels 1, 2, 3, 4)	Gr. 3 PAL (Levels 1, 2, 3, 4)	Gr. 4 PAL (Levels 1, 2, 3, 4)	Gr. 5 PAL (Levels 1, 2, 3, 4)
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Gr. 1 PE	Gr. 2 PE	Gr. 3 PE	Gr. 4 PE	Gr. 5 PE
DIGITAL LEARNING	Gr. 1 Digital Learning	Gr. 2 Digital Learning	Gr. 3 Digital Learning	Gr. 4 Digital Learning	Gr. 5 Digital Learning
FINE ARTS	Gr. 1 Art	Gr. 2 Art	Gr. 3 Art	Gr. 4 Art	Gr. 5 Art
	Gr. 1 Music	Gr. 2 Music	Gr. 3 Music	Gr. 4 Music	Gr. 5 Music
PSHE	Gr. 1 PSHE	Gr. 2 PSHE	Gr. 3 PSHE	Gr. 4 PSHE	Gr. 5 PSHE

LANGUAGE ARTS

English in Grades 1 through 5

Grade 1 English

First grade students build on their reading skills by reinforcing independent reading habits and stamina through the Units of Study in Reading. They become word detectives, developing decoding skills and fluency, which are critical for proficient reading. Furthermore, students are introduced to nonfiction texts, learning comprehension strategies that help them understand and learn from informational content.

In writing, the focus is on creating small moments by writing personal narratives with focus and detail. Students also explore nonfiction chapter books, writing informational texts on topics of interest. Additionally, they learn to write reviews, expressing their opinions and providing reasons to support their views.

Grade 2 English

Second graders deepen their comprehension skills by becoming experts in nonfiction texts through the Units of Study in Reading. They strengthen their reading fluency and stamina by tackling bigger books. The curriculum also introduces series book clubs, where students develop character study and plot analysis skills by engaging with book series.

In the writing program, students learn lessons from the masters by studying narrative techniques from published authors. They also write lab reports and science books, creating informational texts based on inquiry and research. Poetry is another focus area, where students explore the structure and language of poetic forms.

Grade 3 English

Third grade students work on building a reading life, developing independence and a reader's identity through the Units of Study in Reading. They engage in character studies, analyzing characters' traits, motivations, and development. Research clubs are introduced, encouraging collaborative research and the application of nonfiction reading strategies.

In writing, third graders craft true stories by writing focused narratives with detailed scenes. They learn the art of information writing, creating structured and detailed informational texts. The curriculum also includes changing the world, where students practice opinion writing with strong reasons and evidence to support their viewpoints.

Grade 4 English

Fourth graders deepen their understanding of characters and themes through the Units of Study in Reading by interpreting characters. They integrate science and reading through the unit on reading the weather and reading the world, which focuses on informational texts. Historical fiction book clubs help students understand historical contexts and character perspectives.

In writing, students work on the arc of story by crafting realistic fiction with strong narratives. They learn to write structured opinion essays through the boxes and bullets unit. Bringing history to life is another focus, where students write historical informational texts, connecting their writing to broader historical contexts.

Grade 5 English

Fifth grade students engage in complex text analysis and discussions through Literature Circles in the Units of Study in Reading. They tackle complexity by learning strategies for reading challenging nonfiction texts. The curriculum also includes argument and advocacy, where students analyze and debate issues through reading.

In writing, fifth graders enhance their narrative writing with complex structures and techniques in the narrative craft unit. They write research-based argument essays, developing persuasive essays based on thorough research. Additionally, they reflect and write about personal experiences with depth and insight in the memoir unit.

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Grades 1 through 5

Grade 1 through 5 EAL

Students who require support to access the curriculum in English are enrolled in the English as an Additional Language (EAL) program. This program is designed to help students become both socially and academically proficient in English. Students at a range of proficiency levels, from beginner to advanced, receive support tailored to their individual needs. Instruction may occur in small groups or through supported immersion within grade-level classrooms.

EAL teachers monitor each student's language development throughout the year using a combination of classroom observations, work samples, and formal assessments. The EAL curriculum is personalized to meet the evolving needs of each learner, and adjustments are made as students gain proficiency. Students exit the program when they are able to demonstrate comprehension and produce work that is mostly in line with the expectations of their grade-level peers.

MATHEMATICS

Math in Grades 1 through 5

To build a strong understanding of mathematics, students engage in key mathematical practices: making sense of problems, reasoning abstractly, constructing arguments, modeling with mathematics, using tools strategically, and recognizing patterns and structure. These practices are applied through critical content areas that evolve by grade level.

Grade 1 Math

Students build number sense through addition and subtraction strategies within 20, develop an understanding of place value using tens and ones, explore linear measurement using unit lengths, and reason about the attributes of geometric shapes.

Grade 2 Math

Focus areas include extending understanding of base-ten notation, building fluency with addition and subtraction, measuring using standard units, and describing and analyzing shapes.

Grade 3 Math

Students develop strategies for multiplication and division within 100, explore fractions (with an emphasis on unit fractions), understand the structure of rectangular arrays and area, and analyze two-dimensional shapes.

Grade 4 Math

Students build fluency with multi-digit multiplication and develop strategies for division. They explore fraction equivalence, addition and subtraction of like denominators, multiplication of fractions by whole numbers, and classify geometric figures by their properties.

Grade 5 Math

Focus shifts to operations with fractions, including fluency with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and limited division. Students extend their understanding of division to include two-digit divisors and decimals, and explore volume as an application of multiplication and division.

SCIENCE

Science in Grades 1 through 5

Across Grades 1–5, students develop essential science and engineering practices, including:

- Asking questions and defining problems
- Developing and using models
- Planning and carrying out investigations
- Analyzing and interpreting data
- Using mathematics and computational thinking
- Constructing explanations and designing solutions
- Engaging in argument from evidence
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

These process skills are cultivated each year through developmentally appropriate units in Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth and Space Science, with increasing depth and complexity from grade to grade.

Grade 1 Science

Students explore the basics of waves, light, and sound, and begin to understand organism structure, growth, and inherited traits. In Earth and Space Science, they learn about the solar system and stars.

Grade 2 Science

Focus areas include the properties of matter, ecosystem relationships, and Earth's surface changes, such as erosion, weathering, and natural landforms.

Grade 3 Science

Students study forces and motion, biological inheritance and evolution, and begin to understand human impact on Earth systems.

Grade 4 Science

Fourth graders explore energy transfer, waves and information technologies, and chemical processes in everyday life. They also study organism structure and information processing, as well as plate tectonics, Earth materials, and natural hazards.

Grade 5 Science

Students examine matter interactions, forces, and energy, and investigate how organisms function and interact within ecosystems. They explore Earth's systems, place in the universe, and human environmental impact.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies in Grades 1 through 5

Across Grades 1–5, students explore history, geography, civics, and economics through four core social studies practices:

- Developing questions and planning inquiry
- Evaluating sources and using evidence
- Communicating conclusions
- Applying disciplinary concepts and tools

Grade 1 Social Studies

Students begin by exploring identity, families, and communities. They compare global traditions and holidays, and learn about historical figures who demonstrated honesty, courage, and responsibility. Basic civic concepts such as rights, responsibilities, needs vs. wants, and the value of work are introduced. Students also develop foundational map and climate skills while reading informational texts.

Grade 2 Social Studies

Through the study of Ancient Egypt, China, and Greece, students explore how early civilizations developed communities, economies, and systems of government. They continue building inquiry skills by asking questions, analyzing sources, and sharing supported ideas. Geographic understanding expands to include continents, oceans, and key countries such as Portugal and the United States.

Grade 3 Social Studies

Students investigate the Empire of Mali and Viking societies to examine trade, governance, and cultural development during the Middle Centuries. They compare these past societies to life today using geography, economics, and civic concepts. Students strengthen their ability to analyze and interpret information through reading and inquiry-based learning.

Grade 4 Social Studies

Students examine major world events from the 18th and 19th centuries, identifying causes, effects, and connections to the present. They explore evolving political systems, freedom, and individual rights. Geography and economics are integrated through map work and the study of how resources influence societies. Students refine research and reasoning skills through independent and group activities.

Grade 5 Social Studies

Students study U.S. history from Indigenous cultures through colonization, focusing on cultural encounters, migration, and governance. Key topics include the Three Homelands, exploration, and the development of early American society. Students interpret primary sources, build evidence-based arguments, and deepen their understanding of U.S. geography and its role in shaping history.

PORTUGUESE

“Língua Portuguesa” in Grades 1 through 5

Grade 1 Língua Portuguesa

Quando os alunos chegam ao primeiro ano, já fizeram de um modo informal, as aquisições linguísticas no meio onde vivem e onde intervêm, tendo alargado competências que lhes permitem comunicar com os outros em português. O conjunto de objetivos para a primeira fase do Ensino Básico, é definido de

acordo com os princípios estabelecidos pela Lei de Bases do Sistema Educativo e apresenta os domínios de: Comunicação Oral e Escrita, num processo pedagógico centrado nos alunos que, em interação turma-professora constroem a sua aprendizagem, evoluindo progressivamente. Ao longo do ano, os alunos irão desenvolver também competências de Educação Literária. No final do ano letivo, pretende-se que o aluno tenha feito a aquisição da leitura e da escrita. Na eventualidade de os alunos transitarem de PAL Advanced para Língua Portuguesa Transicional, poderão ter uma avaliação diferenciada, atendendo a que se encontram em processo de transição.

Grade 2 Língua Portuguesa

Nesta faixa etária, encorajamos os nossos alunos a desenvolverem a competência da Oralidade, refletindo no seu funcionamento e valorizando os seus próprios conhecimentos, vivências e interesses. Desenvolverão o gosto pela escrita, produzindo os seus próprios textos usando técnicas de escrita orientada e criativa. Por esta altura, os alunos iniciar-se-ão, também, nas técnicas de organização da informação, em trabalhos de pesquisa de informação. Aprenderão também a integrar as novas tecnologias nos seus trabalhos. Ao longo do ano, os alunos irão ler e ouvir histórias tradicionais infantis de forma a criarem gosto pela literatura infantil. Na eventualidade de os alunos transitarem de PAL Advanced para Língua Portuguesa Transicional, poderão ter uma avaliação diferenciada, atendendo a que se encontram em processo de transição.

Grade 3 Língua Portuguesa

O programa da disciplina permite que os alunos continuem a desenvolver competências nos domínios de compreensão e expressão oral, leitura, educação literária, expressão escrita e gramática. Considera-se essencial que, através do uso da língua e da aprendizagem da escrita e da leitura, se mobilizem situações de diálogo, de cooperação e confronto de opiniões. Considera-se também essencial que se fomente a curiosidade de aprender, se descubra e se desenvolva, nas dimensões cultural, lúdica e estética da língua, o gosto de falar, ler e escrever. O ritmo e os níveis de progressão serão os indicadores e os reguladores do processo de aprendizagem. A adoção desta perspetiva contribuirá para que o aluno construa a sua identidade e a sua relação com o mundo. Para fomentar o gosto pela leitura, os alunos lerão vários livros em sala de aula. Na eventualidade de os alunos transitarem de PAL Advanced para Língua Portuguesa Transicional, poderão ter uma avaliação diferenciada, atendendo a que se encontram em processo de transição.

Grade 4 Língua Portuguesa

O programa da disciplina possibilita que os alunos desenvolvam continuamente as competências de compreensão e expressão oral, leitura, educação literária, expressão escrita e gramática. Considera-se essencial que, através do uso da língua e da aprendizagem da escrita e da leitura, se mobilizem situações de diálogo, de cooperação e confronto de opiniões e se fomente a curiosidade de aprender, se descubra e se desenvolva, nas dimensões cultural, lúdica e estética da língua, o gosto de falar, ler e escrever. O ritmo e os níveis de progressão serão os indicadores e os reguladores do processo de aprendizagem. A adoção desta perspetiva contribuirá para que o aluno construa a sua identidade e a sua relação com o mundo. Para fomentar o gosto pela leitura, os alunos lerão vários livros em sala de aula. Na eventualidade de os alunos transitarem de PAL Advanced para Língua Portuguesa

Transicional, poderão ter uma avaliação diferenciada, atendendo a que se encontram em processo de transição.

Grade 5 Língua Portuguesa

Esta disciplina motiva e desafia os alunos a exprimirem-se oralmente com clareza, de acordo com diferentes objetivos. São propostas experiências que visem a tomada de consciência da especificidade do oral, na transmissão de informações, e que permitam o treino da escuta, a compreensão e a reflexão crítica. Os alunos são também incentivados a criar hábitos de leitura que contribuam para o alargamento de competências. Além disso, a realização de atividades de escrita com intenções diversificadas é uma constante ao longo das aulas. Pela reflexão e pelo treino, apropriar-se-ão de conhecimentos gramaticais, que facilitem a compreensão do funcionamento dos discursos e o aperfeiçoamento da expressão oral e escrita. Na eventualidade de os alunos transitarem de PAL Advanced para Língua Portuguesa Transicional, poderão ter uma avaliação diferenciada, atendendo a que se encontram em processo de transição.

Portuguese as Additional Language (PAL) in Grades 1 – 5

Portuguese as an Additional Language (PAL) is offered to students who are learning Portuguese as a foreign language, except those who are in the early stages of learning English. The program is structured across four levels of proficiency: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4. It provides students with the opportunity to develop their Portuguese language skills and gain an understanding of Portuguese culture. Students who demonstrate a high level of proficiency in PAL may be placed in Transitional Língua Portuguesa, where they join a class with native speakers but receive differentiated instruction and modified assessments to support their continued language development.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

PE in Grades 1 through 5

Grade 1 PE

The Grade 1 PE curriculum focuses on improving coordination, locomotor skills, and overall motor development. Students begin with general sports skills and gradually progress toward more specific movements, though these are not yet applied in formal game situations. Emphasis is placed on fair play, safety, respect for rules, and cooperation with classmates.

Grade 2 PE

In Grade 2, students build upon the foundational skills developed in Grade 1, with a continued focus on coordination, control, and movement patterns. They begin to work more independently or in pairs,

taking greater responsibility for their participation. The curriculum promotes a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment while reinforcing concepts of fair play and collaboration.

Grade 3 PE

The Grade 3 PE program introduces the concept of strategy in games and sports through basic offensive and defensive tactics. Students apply skills learned in previous years to small game situations and develop an understanding of game organization. They are encouraged to take ownership of their practice and demonstrate responsible behavior during physical activities.

Grade 4 PE

In Grade 4, students are expected to take more responsibility for their learning by setting personal goals, reflecting on performance, and offering constructive feedback to peers. Health and fitness concepts are emphasized, helping students connect physical activity to their everyday lives. A respectful and cooperative class environment is essential for effective participation.

Grade 5 PE

The Grade 5 PE curriculum offers a balanced approach that strengthens physical fitness, skill execution, and game awareness. Students engage in lead-up games that build toward understanding strategies and tactics used in team sports. They continue to develop self-management and demonstrate sportsmanship in both competitive and cooperative settings.

DIGITAL LEARNING

Digital Learning in Grades 1 through 5

Grade 1 Digital Learning

First graders build foundational skills in device use, digital drawing, and voice recording. They explore early coding with Bee-Bots to understand sequencing and simple programming. Students collaborate on hands-on tasks and begin learning about online safety, privacy, and when to seek adult help.

Grade 2 Digital Learning

Second graders develop independence using on-screen simulations and robots like Probot to solve programming challenges. They use creativity apps, begin structured typing, and build digital models to explore problem-solving. Digital safety skills include recognizing private information, secure passwords, and safe websites.

Grade 3 Digital Learning

Third graders expand their coding skills through loops, procedures, and debugging using robots and block-based platforms. They create multimedia presentations, animations, and begin using cloud tools. Instruction includes evaluating sources, improving keyboarding, and understanding respectful, responsible online behavior.

Grade 4 Digital Learning

Fourth graders explore advanced coding, robotics, and digital drawing through geometry and project-based challenges. They design, test, and refine digital solutions collaboratively while learning presentation and file management skills. Digital citizenship lessons focus on media literacy, respectful communication, and digital footprints.

Grade 5 Digital Learning

Fifth graders apply computational thinking to create games, multimedia stories, and robotic projects using variables and coordinate systems. They use AI-enhanced tools, plan and revise creative work, and manage their digital files and presentations. Emphasis is placed on evaluating online content, digital identity, and maintaining balance in technology use.

FINE ARTS

Art in Grades 1 through 5

Grade 1 & Grade 2 Art

Students in Grades 1 and 2 focus on the artistic processes of creating, performing, and responding. They explore and combine elements of art such as line, shape, color, and texture using a growing range of materials, tools, and techniques. Projects draw from both imagination and observation, primarily through drawing, painting, and mixed-media sculpture. Students are introduced to artwork from a variety of artists and cultures, expanding their visual literacy and appreciation. Artwork is displayed throughout the school year and featured in the Winter Showcase and Spring Show.

Grade 3, Grade 4 & Grade 5 Art

In Grades 3 through 5, students deepen their engagement with the creative process through more intentional planning and reflection. They develop and refine original ideas into completed artworks that demonstrate a clear understanding of the elements of art and principles of design. Students are encouraged to evaluate and discuss their work and the work of others, connecting their artistic choices to personal meaning and broader cultural contexts. Artwork is displayed throughout the year, including at the Winter Showcase and Spring Show or Spring Concert.

Music in Grades 1 through 5

Grade 1 & Grade 2 Music

Students in Grades 1 and 2 focus on the artistic processes of creating, performing, and responding. They begin to identify and perform basic music elements such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and solfege. Musical understanding is reinforced through singing, playing, and participation in multicultural songs and games. Creativity is nurtured through improvisation and simple composition. Students perform twice a year at the Winter Showcase and Spring Show.

Grade 3 & Grade 4 Music

In Grades 3 and 4, students build upon foundational skills to explore more advanced concepts in music notation, rhythm, and melody. They perform musical rounds and participate in Orff ensembles that integrate movement and collaboration. Students engage with music from various world cultures through drumming and marimba playing, fostering global awareness and community connection. They perform twice annually at the Winter Showcase and Spring Show.

Grade 5 Fine Arts

Grade 5 students rotate through choir, orchestra, and drama, with each discipline lasting one quarter. In the 4th quarter, students choose which area to pursue further in preparation for Middle School electives. With two classes per week, students explore vocal and instrumental performance and stagecraft. Performance opportunities include informal and formal presentations throughout the year. Students are provided with a string instrument for the orchestra rotation and are not required to purchase or rent one.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, AND HEALTH EDUCATION (PSHE)

PSHE in Grades 1 through 5

The PSHE program supports students' personal, social-emotional, and health development by helping them build the knowledge, skills, and attributes needed to thrive as individuals and community members. Lessons promote self-awareness, empathy, responsible decision-making, and respectful relationships.

Digital Citizenship is embedded within the curriculum to promote a safe and positive digital culture, teaching students how to navigate online spaces responsibly.

Weekly PSHE topics may include:

- Cooperation and Citizenship
- The “Hidden Curriculum” (social norms and expectations)
- Friendship and Social Skills
- Emotions and Self-Esteem
- Bullying and Conflict Resolution
- Peer Pressure and Communication Skills
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Nutrition, Puberty, and Transitions (age-appropriate)
- Stress Management (Grade 5)
- Digital Citizenship topics include:
 - Password Security
 - Digital Footprints
 - Protecting Personal Information
 - Digital Etiquette
 - Cyberbullying Awareness and Prevention