FOUNDED IN 1914
Community SCHOOL

CURRICULUM GUIDE
2025-26

explore
THE WORLD

Community School sets the standard for academic excellence among St. Louis-area elementary schools. We balance intellectual challenge and nurturing support, allowing each child's strengths to shine.

An Education Based on Exploration

Here, education is not just an aggregation of knowledge, but a way of observing the world and exploring ideas. Our instruction is differentiated and personalized throughout the year as children gain understanding and are ready to explore new challenges.

Lower Division (Age 3 - Grade 2) Curriculum Overview

Children's experiences in the early years shape their motivation and disposition to learn. Characteristics such as persistence, initiative, curiosity, and flexibility are nurtured as children make sense of their world.

During the preschool years, much attention is given to the development of the whole child as well as social, emotional, intellectual, and physical growth. Problem solving, planning, focused attention, and pre-academic skills are key for preschoolers. All areas of the curriculum (math, language arts, literacy, science, social studies, foreign language, art, music, and physical education) are taught in engaging ways that are responsive to how young children learn.

As children move into the elementary school experience in Senior Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades, instruction is tailored to the child's development, ensuring a rich learning environment that is attentive to transitions in their intellectual growth at each milestone.

Strategies that promote mastery of new and progressively more advanced challenges are employed as faculty work to individualize instruction as much as possible. A balance between hard work and self-assessment produces a sense of competence that sets the stage for greater self-direction at older ages. The children are excited and enthusiastic learners who are active in their own learning process. Academics take on new meaning for students as they soak up new skills quickly and with increased sophistication.

The social and emotional development of a child in the early years is the key to later success. Community School fosters students' development of self-confidence and their ability to express feelings and opinions, while maintaining respectful relationships with peers and adults. Children learn to take responsibility, solve conflicts appropriately, develop leadership skills and, as they get older, begin to balance social and academic responsibilities.

Child-Focused Learning

At Community School, we craft child-focused curriculum. Our faculty take a deeply personal approach, adapting instruction throughout the year as each child progresses.

Classrooms average 20 students, with at least two lead teachers supported by a team of learning specialists. There is an overall ratio of one teacher for every seven students.

Children get just the right amount of challenge and support.

Our schedule includes frequent small group work sessions, creating perfect opportunities for one-on-one support.

The small class sizes allow teachers to truly know each student's strengths and meet them exactly where they are to help chart a path forward in understanding.

Nursery

students (children who have turned 3 by August 1) are in for an exciting year, filled with developmentally appropriate, child-centered curriculum. Meaningful, hands-on learning activities help each child progress through the unique stages of development with support from a low student-teacher ratio in the classroom. Social and emotional development, as well as intellectual growth, are promoted and reinforced through theme-based experiences as well as daily routines.

The school's curricular benchmarks begin in Nursery, building and spiraling through subsequent grades. Here, the foundation is set for children to become active problem solvers. Nursery curricular benchmarks include:

Literature/Language Arts

Develop listening proficiencies ◆ Build rich vocabulary through oral language and high-quality literature ◆ Expose to basic concepts about print ◆ Build linguistic awareness through games, rhymes, rhythmic activities ◆ Dictate ideas about work, the environment, and factual knowledge ◆ Develop writing skills through manipulative and fine motor activities

Mathematics

Identify, describe, and create with shapes ◆ Measure objects using non-standard units ◆ Create simple graphs ◆ Match and sort objects according to attributes ◆ Draw, paint, and build using math ideas ◆ Represent quantities and concepts with objects ◆ Define and solve problems by trial and error and object manipulation

Social Studies

Develop awareness of humans' basic needs and similarities ◆ Extend understanding of themselves and the world ◆ Carry out leadership roles in classroom ◆ Make individual and group decisions ◆ Order events in sequence to establish a sense of order and time ◆ Expand knowledge of the geography of Community School and class community ◆ Country studied: United States

Science

Foster an appreciation for the natural world ◆ Experiment with simple tools ◆ Respect physical environment and its conservation ◆ Explore physical properties and characteristics, solve problems, and represent observations on the physical and natural world, in earth and space ◆ Experiment with objects and materials to gather information and observe reactions ◆ Understand that all humans have basic needs and similarities

French

Practice French greetings and courtesy words ◆ Participate in songs and fingerplays about animals, fire fighters, body parts, and body movements ◆ Explore numbers up to 10 ◆ Practice following class directions and movements in French ◆ French teacher joins the classroom one morning per week

Physical Education

Practice locomotor and non-locomotor actions ◆ Develop spatial and outdoor awareness ◆ Experience rhythmic patterns in large and small muscle movements ◆ Practice ball skills ◆ Participate in creative movement activities

Music

Learn how to sing, move, and follow simple directions in a song ◆ Play music games ◆ Sing songs in a group and echo short melodic/rhythmic patterns ◆ Explore the voice through playful sounds and musical "conversations" ◆ Play simple percussion instruments, learning names and proper use ◆ Respond to rhythm, rhyme, tempo, and dynamics through movement and play

Art

Promote creativity ◆ Develop problem solving skills ◆ Experience a variety of media ◆ Develop basic fine motor skills ◆ Communicate ideas through art

Drama

Practice tracking performers ◆ Demonstrate appropriate audience behavior ◆ Identify difference between actor and audience ◆ Practice expression through theater games

Junior Kindergartners (children who have turned 4 by August 1) are eager to learn, explore their environment, and take on more responsibility. Age-appropriate, multi-sensory learning continues through a variety of settings, such as whole class and small group instruction and activity-based learning centers. Small groups allow for greater depth of learning and differentiated instruction. JK students begin keeping journals to build on emergent literacy skills, and they participate in the school buddy program. Their multi-disciplinary exploration of science takes off with Nature on the Move and units such as dinosaurs and the life cycle of a butterfly. Junior Kindergarten curricular benchmarks include:

Literature/Language Arts

Listen to high-quality read-alouds ◆ Ask predictive questions ◆ Learn relationship between letters and sounds ◆ Develop phonemic awareness of sounds, syllables, and words ◆ Improve fine motor skills for handwriting ◆ Use multi-sensory approach to letter formation and identification ◆ Write in journals based on readiness of individual children

Mathematics

Increase number sense ◆ Identify written numerals ◆ Explore half and whole relationships ◆ Learn about volume ◆ Sequence events ◆ Compile and compare data in graphs and charts ◆ Sort and classify objects into groups ◆ Gather information and evaluate data ◆ Duplicate and extend simple patterns

Social Studies

Identify how own thinking, feelings, and action are similar to or different from one another ◆ Extend understanding of themselves and world ◆ Identify commonalities and differences between families and children ◆ Research interests in social studies topics ◆ Engage in a study of Mexico

Science

Explore Missouri wildlife with regular visits from Nature on the Move ◆ Investigate characteristics of dinosaurs ◆ Experiment with simple tools ◆ Respect the physical environment and its conservation ◆ Experiment with objects and materials to gather information and observe reactions ◆ Explore physical properties and characteristics, solve problems, and represent observations of the physical and natural world ◆ Develop critical thinking skills

Music

Identify vocal concepts (singing, talking, whispering, shouting) ◆ Sing and act out story songs ◆ Learn how to sing a full song in front of an audience ◆ Identify melodic and rhythmic patterns ◆ Keep a steady beat alone and with others through movement and instruments

French

Practice French greetings and courtesy words ◆ Answer questions asked in French by understanding the context ◆ Participate in songs and fingerplays about animals, puppets, fire fighters, fruit, windmills, body parts, and body movements ◆ Explore numbers up to 10 ◆ Practice following class directions and movements in French ◆ Listen to books about dinosaurs, animals, food, and clothing ◆ Practice hand and body movements that develop coordination ◆ French teacher joins the classroom one morning per week

Art

Promote creativity ◆ Develop problem solving skills ◆ Experience a variety of media ◆ Develop basic fine motor skills ◆ Make Oaxacan wood sculptures and pinch pots using model magic during study of Mexico

Drama

Recognize and practice enunciation and projection ◆ Practice giving and taking focus ◆ Learn tools of an actor (imagination, body, voice) ◆ Practice expression of emotion ◆ Learn elements of performing ◆ Sequence story through interactive storytelling ◆ Perform an original play about cooperation

Physical Education

Develop spatial and outdoor awareness ◆ Experience rhythmic patterns in large and small muscle movements ◆ Practice ball skills, striking, climbing, and traversing ◆ Learn listening games and engage in mindfulness activities ◆ Practice locomotor and non-locomotor actions

Senior Kindergarten

Senior Kindergarten serves as a bridge to more academic learning as the children focus on reading instruction, the writing process, and developing mathematical skills. Children (who must have turned 5 by August 1) begin work in the *Fundations* program which emphasizes phonics and word analysis skills and continues through Third Grade. The year also marks the introduction of a Singapore-based approach to math, workshop model for reading and writing, and twice-weekly science in the Lower Division Science Lab.

The curriculum includes hands-on materials and small group experiences throughout the school day through differentiated instruction based on readiness and learning style in the areas of reading and math. Teachers are able to work daily with small groups on explicit instruction in reading strategies, as well as targeted instruction in mathematics.

Each day includes interactive center time that allows the children to pursue areas of interest. Senior Kindergarten curricular benchmarks include:

Literature/Language Arts

Develop sound/symbol relationships ◆ Build visual memory of letter formation and words ◆ Demonstrate comprehension skills ◆ Blend letter sounds ◆ Use self-correction strategies ◆ Recognize and reproduce final consonant sounds ◆ Use mental images to aid in text comprehension ◆ Listen to a variety of genres and chapter books ◆ Recognize the difference between fiction and non-fiction ◆ Increase word analysis skills ◆ Recognize and form upper and lower case letters and numerals 1-10 ◆ Introduce the writing process with a focus on narrative and opinion writing

Mathematics

Begin Singapore math program ◆ Create sets of given numbers with concrete models ◆ Use cardinal and ordinal numbers ◆ Count forward and back from a given number ◆ Skip count by 2s, 5s, and 10s ◆ Model joining and separating sets ◆ Write number sentences for addition and subtraction ◆ Describe and compare objects by position ◆ Identify, describe, sort, and classify 2D and 3D shapes ◆ Name and order days and months ◆ Compare durations of events ◆ Interpret data in tally charts and pictographs ◆ Solve real-world addition and subtraction problems ◆ Use models to explain reasoning ◆ Understand connections between quantities and written numerals

Social Studies

Identify cultural universals and make comparisons ◆ Further develop international/multicultural perspective through study of China ◆ Recognize national and religious holidays and important ideas and customs ◆ Sequence events to establish a sense of order and time ◆ Participate in community outreach project(s)

Science

Observe physical properties of objects ◆ Explain plant and animal needs ◆ Explore different kinds of weather ◆ Investigate how pushes and pulls affect the motion of an object ◆ Communicate results and share ideas using diagrams, models, pictures, and words ◆ STEM concepts such as engineering design and coding are also introduced

French

Experience French language integrated with movement ◆ Explore designated monthly themes ◆ Respond to French directives ◆ Act out vocabulary ◆ Repeat French words for movements, games, and directions ◆ Count in French ◆ Play roles, repeat vocabulary, and perform activities to a French story ◆ Identify colors in French ◆ Learn French vocabulary for places in villages and holiday observances ◆ Use French words to identify people and family members ◆ Learn French words for weather terms ◆ Identify and pronounce vocabulary through words and pictures

Physical Education

Increase spatial awareness ◆ Move while manipulating objects in a small space ◆ Build fitness through cardiovascular running/locomotor warm-up ◆ Practice core exercises, pylometrics jumping, and balance activities ◆ Participate in Brain Gym and French/P.E. ◆ Perform three steps for overhand throwing ◆ Follow instructor in mindfulness activities ◆ Dribble ball while walking and running ◆ Identify locomotor movements through drum beats ◆ Create games

with partners ◆ Explore woods through nature walks ◆ Climb and traverse ◆ Learn beginning stunts and tumbling ◆ Jump rope ◆ Learn throwing, catching, and striking

Performing Arts

MUSIC: Learn proper performance etiquette and vocal pedagogy ◆ Know, sing, and play fast vs. slow, loud vs. soft, high vs. low, and long vs. short sounds ◆ Identify steady beat ◆ Learn about instruments in an orchestra ◆ Sing in tune with a developing range solo and in group (so–mi–la) ◆ Identify differences in musical form, dynamics, tempo, duration, and expression through movement, circle games, and singing ◆ Discover Curwen hand signs ◆ Identify and perform rhythm versus beat

DRAMA: Recognize and practice enunciation, projection, and expression ◆ Practice giving and taking focus ◆ Learn tools of an actor (imagination, body, voice) ◆ Practice expression of emotion ◆ Learn elements of performing ◆ Sequence story through interactive storytelling ◆ Develop acting terms of projection and enunciation ◆ Perform an original play connected to the study of China

Visual Arts

STUDIO ART: Create drawings with confident and varied kinds of lines and shapes ◆ Apply various elements of art successfully ◆ Experience a variety of media ◆ Analyze procedures in a task ◆ Apply understanding of materials and procedures to new tasks ◆ Promote creativity and inspiration through appreciation of art history ◆ Develop creative problem solving

WOODSHOP: Understand and demonstrate safety guidelines in the woodshop ◆ Develop hand-eye coordination ◆ Work with hand tools ◆ Prepare a work station ◆ Self evaluate personal work ◆ Use 12" ruler as a measuring device, a half round file as a shaping tool, a coping saw for cutting straight and curved lines, and sandpaper for removing file marks and preparing surface for finish ◆ Add wax to preserve and highlight wood

First Grade emphasizes a structured literacy approach based on the science of reading, a literature-based approach to reading, as well as continued phonics and reading strategy instruction. Teaching groups become even smaller, allowing for increased differentiation to address readiness and skill scaffolding. Children complete their first research project on an Australian animal. Math instruction includes many hands-on experiences in order to build strong number sense and problem-solving skills.

The social studies units invite students to explore our school history, family traditions and customs, Australia, and St. Louis neighborhoods. Children take field trips to neighborhoods including The Hill, The Loop, and the St. Louis Zoo. First grade curricular benchmarks include:

Literature/Language Arts

Learn the writing process with a focus on narrative, informative, and opinion writing ◆ Develop structural analysis skills for words ◆ Demonstrate phonetic analysis of words ◆ Use self-correction strategies ◆ Become more fluent in oral reading ◆ Answer age-appropriate questions about stories ◆ Sequence a series of events ◆ Write a research paper ◆ Continue to build handwriting skills

Mathematics

Use concrete and pictorial models to create sets ◆ Use number bonds to represent number combinations ◆ Model addition and subtraction situations ◆ Use place value models ◆ Compare lengths and weight ◆ Tell time ◆ Use mental math strategies ◆ Represent and interpret measurement and data in picture, bar graphs, and tally charts ◆ Use math vocabulary that corresponds with each unit ◆ Present mathematical thinking through journaling

Social Studies

Learn map skills ◆ Incorporate international perspective through study of Australia ◆ Investigate, compare, and contrast various neighborhoods in St. Louis ◆ Research the history of Community School through artifacts and oral history ◆ Develop personal time capsule to be opened during sixth grade year ◆ Explore family traditions and customs

Science

Work like scientists: observe, predict, ask questions, solve problems ◆ Learn how scientists group animals and identify characteristics of vertebrates ◆ Explore animal habitats and compare them to native habitats in our community ◆ Observe/graph the weather and use basic weather instruments ◆ Identify the seasons and weather associated with each one ◆ Learn the importance of the sun, what causes day and night, and seasonal changes ◆ Identify objects in our solar system ◆ Investigate and measure matter (solid, liquid, gas) ◆ Discover what plants need to grow and survive ◆ Explore the role of an engineer while performing STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) problem-solving activities

French

Learn communication functions (greeting, introductions, identification of friends and objects, age, date, likes and dislikes) ◆ Ask and answer questions ◆ Understand adjective agreement with colors and definite articles ◆ Learn Francophone countries, cardinal numbers, letters of the alphabet, actions ◆ Recognize printed form of vocabulary words ◆ Copy words, phrases from word bank ◆ Introduction to French culture and monuments

Physical Education

Recognize territories in team games ◆ Chase and evade in tag games ◆ Run a quarter mile ◆ Learn and practice ball skills ◆ Identify different locomotor movement through drum beats ◆ Create partner tumbling activities ◆ Throw and catch overhand ◆ Climb up and down panel of climbing wall ◆ Utilize Brain Gym exercises ◆ Practice relaxation and mindfulness activities ◆ Work with a group or partner in cooperative and problem-solving activities

Performing Arts

MUSIC: Identify tempo, dynamics, and pitch ◆ Know, sing, and play the difference between steady beat and rhythm ◆ Identify musical instruments by their instrument family attributes ◆ Sing and play instruments using rhythmic literacy skills ◆ Learn skills in simple rhythmic transcribing ◆ Use proper performance etiquette and vocal pedagogy ◆ Learn about classical and contemporary songs and composers ◆ Practice singing while using Curwen hand signs (do–re–mi) ◆ Create and perform own compositions

DRAMA: Demonstrate competency in enunciation, projection, cheating out, eye contact, tableaux, and visualization ◆ Use the tools of an actor to become a character ◆ Work cooperatively to solve problems ◆ Sequence a story ◆ Learn stage direction terms ◆ Perform *We Are Community* or an original show

Visual Arts

STUDIO ART: Utilize repeated lines to create the illusion of texture ◆ Cut complex shapes freehand ◆ Experience a variety of media ◆ Generate work with formal and informal symmetry ◆ Illustrate with basic repetition of lines, dots, or shapes ◆ Demonstrate understanding of multi-step printing process ◆ Create complex pictures using straight lines or curved lines ◆ Connect separate ideas into a cohesive whole ◆ Promote creativity and inspiration through appreciation of art history ◆ Encourage lifelong creativity and creative problem solving

WOODSHOP: Understand and demonstrate safety guidelines in the woodshop ◆ Make individual design decisions affecting the outcomes of the assigned projects ◆ Use claw hammer, half round file as a shaping tool, and nails as a design element ◆ Share completed project with classmates and teachers ◆ Analyze quality of each project and set goals for improvement ◆ Use scrap wood to create appropriate and safe projects ◆ Measure in inches and half inches

Second Grade

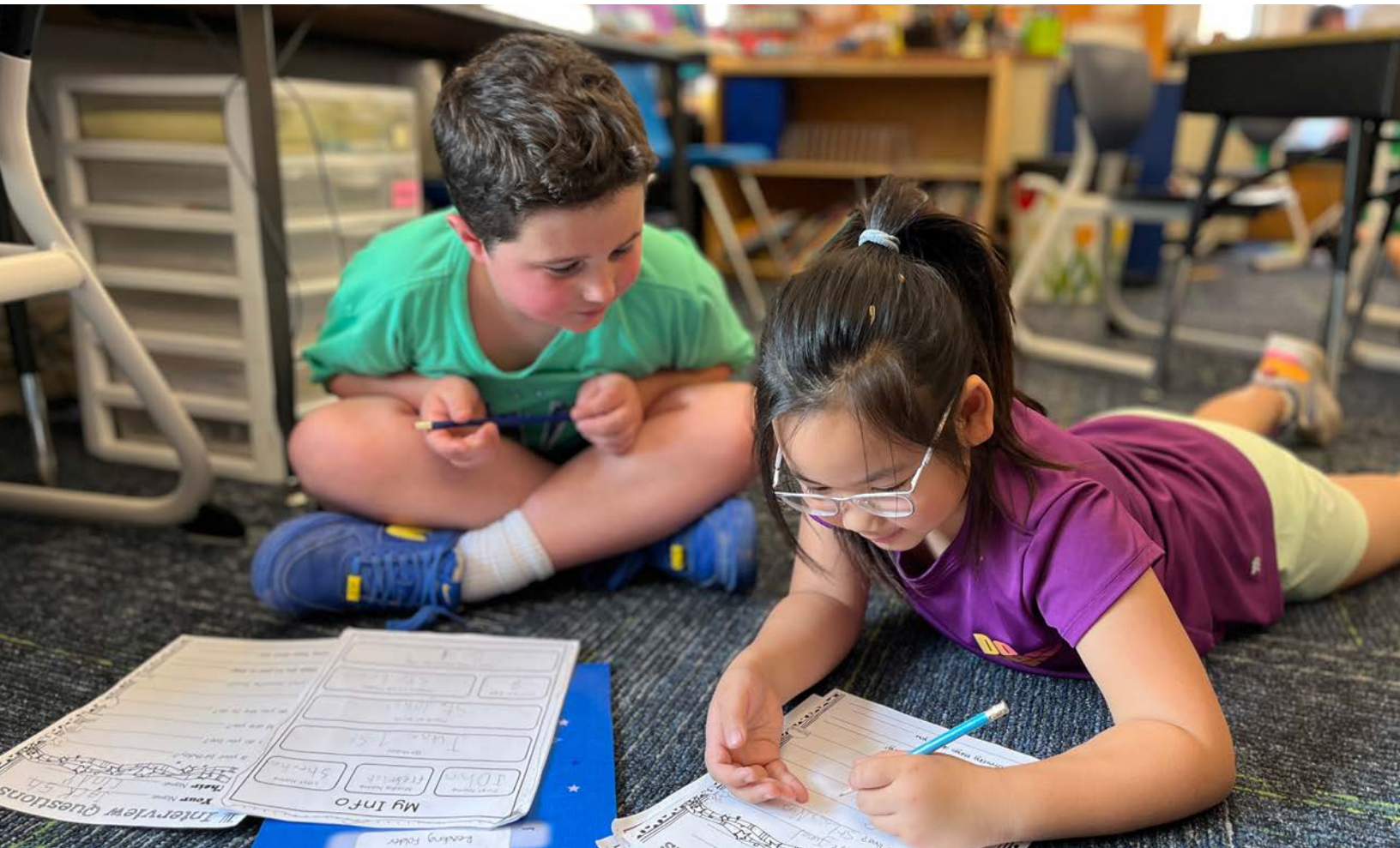
emphasizes expanding and refining skills in the area of reading—moving toward reading to learn versus learning to read. Children work more independently, as well as in cooperative group settings. Writing Workshop is a regular activity as children do research, write reports, and create their own stories. Celebrations of Writing are held during the year, where children share their work orally with parents and classmates. Mathematics instruction further secures number sense and strategies for problem solving. Children begin to use bar models as they work in our *Math in Focus* program. Instructional technology skills are furthered through the use of iPads and high-quality apps. Social studies themes throughout the year include citizenship, famous world contributors, and "What Makes a Community?" Second grade curricular benchmarks include:

Literature/Language Arts

Use a graphic organizer for factual information ◆ Continue developing the writing process with a focus on narrative, informative, and opinion pieces, as well as poetry ◆ Learn to self-edit, peer-edit, and conference with teachers ◆ Identify common and proper nouns, action verbs, and descriptive words ◆ Demonstrate word attack skills using phonetic analysis ◆ Define, identify, and write a declarative sentence ◆ Use self-correction strategies ◆ Demonstrate structural analysis skills ◆ Utilize various comprehension strategies ◆ Make inferences ◆ Express personal opinions in written form about materials read ◆ Use word attack skills when reading aloud ◆ Participate in book discussions ◆ Practice reading a variety of genres ◆ Sentence structure and elaboration are areas of focus

Mathematics

Use concrete and pictorial models to create sets ◆ Group objects into hundreds, tens, and ones ◆ Count by 1s, 5s, 10s, and 100s ◆ Use base ten models and place value charts to represent numbers up to 1,000 ◆ Compose and decompose multi-digit numbers ◆ Compare and order halves, thirds, and fourths using bar models ◆ Solve addition and subtraction money problems ◆ Use bar models to represent multiplication and division ◆ Develop foundation for studying area ◆ Compare and measure lengths using customary and metric units ◆ Find elapsed time ◆ Collect, organize, and represent data in different ways ◆ Find missing terms in table patterns ◆ Use the distributive property as a multiplication strategy ◆ Solve real world problems with addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and measurement ◆ Use technology to model and draw ◆ Conduct mathematical investigations across the curriculum and explain the results



Social Studies

Demonstrate a sense of fairness and order, rights, and responsibilities ◆ Take leadership roles within the classroom ◆ Recognize how each individual plays multiple and varied roles in society ◆ Extend understanding of themselves and the world ◆ Examine similarities and differences between thinking, feelings, and actions of self and others ◆ Research "contributors" to our world ◆ Country of study: India

Science

Practice skills that scientists use: predict, observe, classify, question, compare, measure, solve problems ◆ Label/describe the four layers of Earth ◆ Examine rocks and minerals ◆ Classify rocks by their properties ◆ Identify weathering and erosion as factors that cause Earth to change ◆ Construct model volcanoes, earthquakes, crystals, and caves to learn their role on Earth ◆ Learn how fossils form and what they tell us of plants/animals of long ago ◆ Explore properties of magnets, static electricity, and the relationship between them both ◆ Learn the importance of water: identify water pollutants and their effects on water ecosystems ◆ Connect the necessity of water in the life cycle of plants and soil composition ◆ Explore the role of an engineer while performing STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) problem-solving activities

French

Express needs ◆ Describe physical traits ◆ Indicate date ◆ Introduce and practice grammar (partitive articles, *aller*, singular, possessives, negation, gender of nouns) ◆ Describe placement ◆ Practice vocabulary (food, days of the week, clothing, months of the year, adjectives, furniture, school subjects) ◆ Recognize printed form of vocabulary words ◆ Explore French culture, celebrations, money, and geography ◆ Ask and answer questions ◆ Practice counting

Physical Education

Throw ball overhand ◆ Perform skills at varying and graduating speeds ◆ Attempt proper distance running and sprinting form ◆ Perform weave run ◆ Cross entire climbing wall ◆ Perform core exercises ◆ Trap a ball with foot ◆ Beginner basketball skills ◆ Play lead up games for upper grade units ◆ Introduction into tournaments ◆ Follow class leaders during tai chi ◆ Perform floor skills in stunts and tumbling ◆ Work with a group or partner in cooperative and problem-solving activities ◆ Practice relaxation and mindfulness activities

Performing Arts

MUSIC: Identify varying degrees in tempo, dynamics, and pitch ◆ Learn about classical and contemporary songs and composers ◆ Sing and play instruments using rhythmic literacy skills (quarter and half notes and rests, dotted half note, and eighth notes) ◆ Learn basic piano skills and repertoire ◆ Know proper performance etiquette and vocal pedagogy ◆ Learn melodic literacy (treble clef) ◆ Practice singing while using Curwen hand signs (do–re–mi) ◆ Create and perform own compositions

DRAMA: Demonstrate competency in enunciation, projection, cheating out, expression, eye contact, and visualization ◆ Use the tools of an actor to become a character ◆ Work cooperatively to solve problems ◆ Develop skills onstage to react to other characters ◆ Learn how actors fit into stage pictures ◆ Connect with audience through direct interaction ◆ Perform *Indian Folktales* connected to the country of study

Visual Arts

STUDIO ART: Create tints and shades of various colors to enhance paintings ◆ Make patterns and designs with geometric and organic lines ◆ Apply various elements of art successfully ◆ Experience a variety of media ◆ Analyze procedures in a task ◆ Create background, middle ground, and foreground in a picture plane ◆ Promote creativity and inspiration through appreciation of art history ◆ Apply understanding of materials and procedures to new tasks ◆ Encourage lifelong creativity and creative problem solving

WOODSHOP: Make individual design decisions affecting the outcome of the assigned project ◆ Use half-round file as a shaping tool ◆ Use a coping saw for cutting straight and curved lines ◆ Choose and apply finish ◆ Share completed project with class and teachers ◆ Analyze quality of each project and set goals for improvement

Across Grade Levels. . .

Academic Excellence

Our small, child-focused classrooms reach children where they are. With a 7:1 student-teacher ratio, each student gets the personalized help and encouragement needed to thrive.

Our approach to learning is hands-on. Students examine ideas and topics up close, pushing beyond rote memorization.

Test scores validate our educational philosophy. Year after year, Community students score among the highest in the nation on standardized tests—averaging 40% above national norms and 8% above other independent schools.

Public Speaking

Public speaking is a common source of anxiety, but at Community School, students master the art from a young age.

Students as young as three years old begin speaking in front of peers and teachers. Our assemblies include a range of student performances, from poetry readings to dramatic plays. Public speaking skills culminate in sixth grade, when each student takes the stage and delivers a personal graduation speech.

After School Activities

More than 75% of students participate in one or more after school activities. Extended Day is offered until 6:00 p.m. each evening. Homework Club provides time and support for students to organize and complete assignments. Mini Classes offer a wide range of topics to explore. Cross country and basketball are part of our after school athletics program for 3rd - 6th graders.

Singapore Math

In math, a Singapore-based approach guides students from concrete exploration and pictorial representation to abstract problem-solving, supported by the *Math in Focus* curriculum. Having used this approach for over a decade now at Community, we have seen an increase in students' ability to problem solve and truly understand why math works.

Our standardized test scores are higher than independent school norms—in some areas significantly—and vastly higher than national norms, proving that this approach works. Also, as a result of this success, sixth graders now have the opportunity to be in an honors math group, focusing on secondary school mathematics.

STEAM

STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) is an educational philosophy that balances technical skills with creativity and critical thinking.

Our teachers integrate science, technology, engineering, arts, and math content throughout the curriculum to help students recognize the relationships between subjects. Students learn to build connections and apply their knowledge in different settings—important skills for secondary school, college, and life. Age appropriate essential instructional technology tools, including keyboarding and digital citizenship, are taught to 3rd - 6th graders.

Multicultural Education

Multicultural education is woven throughout our curriculum (especially through social studies and literature), and promotes awareness, inclusion, and an appreciation of various cultures, religions, beliefs, traditions, opinions, and ethnicities.

Reading & Writing

Community's reading and writing program follows a workshop model that grows with students over time. In the early grades, reading is grounded in the science of reading and strengthened with Fundations, a brain-based method for teaching reading and phonics.

As students progress, they explore a variety of genres, build skills in narrative, persuasive, and informational writing, and move from literal to inferential reading comprehension.

Service Learning

Every grade level participates in a service learning experience. The causes selected by each grade are related to curriculum that students study.

Responsive Classroom

Responsive Classroom is a research-based approach to K-8 teaching that focuses on the strong link between academic success and social-emotional learning. Having a strong social-emotional curriculum equips children to take on academics with greater confidence.

Integrated Arts Education

At Community School, we weave arts education throughout our entire curriculum to build students' understanding of complex topics.

Core curriculum teachers incorporate hands-on activities in the classroom to reinforce concepts. Visual arts, music, P.E., and even woodshop teachers pull core curriculum ideas into their own lesson plans. This cross-curricular approach helps students build important connections and problem-solving skills.

Leadership

Community's leadership training starts in our earliest grades through a combination of public speaking and learning the best ways to interact with others. Students are given numerous opportunities to take leadership positions in the classrooms and speak in front of groups.

Two programs provide a wonderful way for older and younger students to interact. The Family Groups program, beginning in first grade, builds groups comprised of a child from each grade with a teacher. Groups remain the same year to year. Starting in third grade, students become a "big buddy" to students as young as JK and are role models for their younger buddies.

Leadership opportunities culminate in sixth grade, when students carry out a variety of responsibilities around the school—running Thursday assemblies, raising and lowering the flag each day, helping serve lunch tables, and more.

Community graduates are highly represented in leadership positions at their secondary schools.

Upper Division (Grades 3 - 6) Curriculum Overview

As children move into the Upper Division, Community continues to emphasize hands-on exploration, research, critical thinking, collaboration, cooperation, and executive function skills. There is also an increased focus on time management and organizational skills as we begin to prepare students to be successful in the area's best secondary schools.

In third and fourth grades, students are beginning to think more abstractly and are ready to explore increasingly complex ideas. Faculty in these grades design cross-curricular units that encourage students to consider multiple viewpoints and make connections. Through literature, social studies, writing, art, drama, music, and outdoor activities, students deepen their critical thinking and integrate ideas across the curriculum.

Fifth and sixth graders are beginning to enter the world of adolescence—with its myriad of mental, physical, social, and emotional changes. Community's programming evolves to more of a middle school model, reflecting students' changing needs through advisories, electives, advanced classes, and increased leadership and service opportunities while still within the nurturing environment of an elementary school. Positive relationships with teachers are paramount, as students learn how to self-advocate and balance homework, after school activities, social interactions, and family time.

Community continues to support the emotional and social development of children in the upper grades. Attributes such as respect, assertion, cooperation, responsibility, empathy, and self-control are fostered as students grow to be the leaders in the school. Students are now able to more truly reflect on their actions and set appropriate goals for growth.

Third Grade is a special year, marking the first year of the Upper Division at Community School. Students enjoy a variety of subjects in the homeroom as well as special classes. The curriculum is integrated whenever possible so that students can relate one subject to another and connect classroom activities to real life. Students learn through a variety of means: teacher-directed lessons, repeated practice, use of manipulative materials, partner and cooperative learning projects and independent research.

Field trips supplement our study of St. Louis and Missouri, and include a court experience in the Civil Courts Building and exploring Missouri history in the Arch Museum and Missouri History Museum. The year culminates with the study of Japan and a trip to the Japanese Garden, as well as food catered from a Japanese restaurant for lunch. Third grade curricular benchmarks include:

Literature

Read with fluency and expression to support comprehension ◆ Choose a book at appropriate reading level ◆ Recognize various genres ◆ Use phonics and word analysis skills to decode words ◆ Define unfamiliar words using context clues ◆ Use self-correction strategies ◆ Visualize the events of the story or text ◆ Analyze relationships within and between texts ◆ Monitor reading for sense and understanding ◆ Identify main idea and key details of a text or story ◆ Predict events based on context clues ◆ Set goals for increasing challenges

Language Arts

Write a personal narrative, persuasive speech, and informational essay ◆ Respond using complete sentences ◆ Include several paragraphs incorporating leads, transitions, dialogue, and details in essays ◆ Identify nouns, verbs, contractions, antonyms, synonyms ◆ Use basic mechanics correctly ◆ Write poetry ◆ Learn cursive writing ◆ Set goals for increasing challenges

Mathematics

Solve one- and two-step multiplication problems ◆ Use place value models to read, write, add, and subtract numbers to 10,000 ◆ Compare fractions using models and number lines ◆ Add and subtract like fractions and money ◆ Model regrouping in addition and subtraction with place value ◆ Identify angles, perpendicular and parallel lines, polygons, quadrilaterals, symmetry and congruent figures ◆ Select appropriate units and tools to estimate and measure length, weight, volume and capacity ◆ Determine elapsed time ◆ Use bar graphs, picture graphs, and line plots to solve and check real-world problems ◆ Solve real-world problems using all operations ◆ Discuss and share ideas in paired or small-group activities ◆ Use bar models to represent real-world problems

Social Studies

Theme: What qualities make a productive member of a community? ◆ Learn basic geography skills and vocabulary of Missouri and U.S. ◆ Identify and label continents, oceans, prime meridian, equator, countries of North America, and major mountain ranges and rivers of the United States ◆ Study lifestyles of early people of this area and list needs for survival ◆ Practice note-taking skills using two-column note graphic organizers ◆ Discuss current events and their impact on people's lives ◆ Research basic information using resources provided by the teacher ◆ Learn about the founding of St. Louis ◆ Discuss the lives and cultures of the early settlers of St. Louis ◆ Country studied: Japan

Science

Practice science skills of observing, using equipment, measuring, graphing, etc. ◆ Maintain a detailed, thoughtful, and organized science journal ◆ Observe and identify forces and motion through activities and experiments ◆ Explore plants and how they reproduce ◆ Analyze different types of energy and how it is transferred ◆ Evaluate ecosystems through a pond study through analysis of school pond health ◆ Learn and apply the engineering design process ◆ (3rd and 4th grade are on a two-year curriculum cycle)

French

Recognize printed form of vocabulary words ◆ Read sentences and short paragraphs ◆ Begin to generate original sentences ◆ Introduce oneself ◆ Describe how one is feeling, school subjects, supplies, activities of the day, and the weather ◆ Indicate date ◆ Use numbers to 31 ◆ Discuss food preferences (fruits, breakfast items, drinks, and other assorted foods) ◆ Describe foods and drinks consumed at meals

Physical Education

Transition from Early Childhood Physical Education to Upper Division ◆ Recognize the importance of following directions and using good listening skills to achieve maximum success in class ◆ Establish and agree upon rules and boundaries during game play ◆ Demonstrate the ability to problem solve and communicate during a group activity ◆ Establish and maintain a pace during a 5-minute run ◆ Demonstrate an understanding of skills in units of study: soccer, cross country, flag football, field hockey, basketball, volleyball, create a game, international games, and track and field ◆ Exert maximum effort during all warm ups and exercises ◆ Foster a

positive team environment by learning the value of teamwork, cooperation, and respect for others ◆ Embrace and develop good sportsmanship by playing fair and supporting teammates

Visual Arts

STUDIO ART: Demonstrate geometric and organic shapes and forms in various media ◆ Recognize the color wheel and show understanding of analogous colors ◆ Apply understanding of materials and procedures to new tasks ◆ Promote creativity and inspiration through appreciation of art history ◆ Evaluate completed art using self reflection ◆ Discuss one's interpretation of a work of art with others

WOODSHOP: Understand and demonstrate safety guidelines in the woodshop ◆ Prepare work station ◆ Use coping saw for cutting lines ◆ Demonstrate proper use of half-round file, hand drill, and sandpaper ◆ Analyze quality of each project and set goals for improvement ◆ Share completed work with class and teachers

Performing Arts

MUSIC: Memorize the line and space names of the treble clef ◆ Maintain a steady beat while playing rhythmic and melodic instruments ◆ Define and utilize head and chest voice registers ◆ Sing with accurate pitch and intonation ◆ Use clear vocal enunciation and diction ◆ Pronounce various languages correctly ◆ Maintain melody/harmony in an ensemble setting ◆ Continue piano technique and repertoire ◆ Transition note reading to piano skills ◆ Aurally identify the works of various composers of diverse styles ◆ Produce facts on composers' lives and music

DRAMA: Demonstrate competency in fluency, enunciation, projection, cheating out, posture, expression, eye contact, and visualization during public speaking and performances ◆ Use the tools of an actor to become a character and stay in character ◆ Work cooperatively to solve problems both onstage and off ◆ Develop skills on stage to react to other characters and give and take focus ◆ Connect historical time period with physicality of people living during the early 1900s to portray characters ◆ Repeat basic dance steps ◆ Perform an original play connected to social studies

Fourth Grade

students enjoy a variety of subjects in the homeroom as well as special classes. The curriculum is integrated, and instruction is differentiated. Students can relate one subject to another and learn effectively, regardless of differences in ability.

Students learn through multiple avenues: teacher-directed lessons, repeated practice, use of manipulative materials, partner and cooperative learning projects, independent research, and activities addressing various learning styles. Field trips supplement our studies in literature, drama, and science. Fourth grade curricular benchmarks include:

Literature

Read orally with expression and fluency ◆ Summarize what has been read ◆ Demonstrate word attack skills using phonetic analysis ◆ Develop and use extensive vocabulary ◆ Describe and discuss story elements, context clues, main idea, and supporting details ◆ Demonstrate strategies for making connections, visualizing, predicting, making inferences, retelling, questioning, synthesizing, and determining importance ◆ Practice listening comprehension skills ◆ Respond to literature through writing ◆ Select appropriate books to read independently ◆ Demonstrate comprehension of reading material

Language Arts

Use the writing process (prewriting, draft, revision, publish) to maintain focus on the topic and provide support ◆ Practice narrative, opinion, and informational writing ◆ Develop and refine strategies for writing across curriculum ◆ Create an interesting topic sentence and a concluding sentence ◆ Recognize and compose the four kinds of sentences ◆ Compose complete, non-run-on sentences ◆ Write a five paragraph essay ◆ Restate a question using PQPA (part question/part answer) in a complete sentence ◆ Identify parts of speech ◆ Understand subject/verb agreement ◆ Recognize and correctly use nouns, pronouns, verbs, prepositions, and conjunctions ◆ Apply the rules for capitalization and punctuation ◆ Write legibly and neatly; form all cursive letters correctly ◆ Identify relationships in analogies ◆ Use sensory language, similes, metaphors, alliteration and personification ◆ Compose a variety of poetry ◆ Spell words correctly in daily writing ◆ Punctuate sentences accurately with commas, apostrophes, and quotation marks ◆ Use homophones correctly ◆ We use *Wordly Wise* to support our vocabulary program

Mathematics

Solve multi-digit multiplication and division problems ◆ Use place value models to read, write, add, and subtract numbers to 100,000 ◆ Convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions ◆ Understand decimal notation through hundredths ◆ Read and write decimals that are greater than or less than 1 ◆ Add and subtract fractions and decimals ◆ Find the greatest common factor and least common multiple ◆ Identify, describe, and extend numeric patterns ◆ Use formulas for area and perimeter ◆ Figure elapsed time ◆ Construct line plots, stem-and-leaf plots, tables, and line graphs ◆ Identify prime and composite numbers ◆ Solve problems with variables, equality, and inequality ◆ Use estimation to check reasonableness ◆ Present mathematical thinking in writing ◆ Explore properties of polygons and triangles ◆ Draw and measure angles to 180 degrees ◆ Convert measurement: length, mass, and volume in customary and metric systems ◆ Multiply fractions and whole numbers ◆ Programs used include *Math in Focus*

Social Studies

Theme: Discuss what affects peoples' freedoms and opportunities ◆ Identify the civic traditions and regional differences of Pre-Colonial Indigenous People ◆ Learn about the exploration and colonization of the Americas ◆ Expand understanding of historical concepts ◆ Discuss current events ◆ Understand the climate and regions of the U.S. and South America ◆ Use the map elements of key, scale, hemisphere, orientation, and symbols ◆ Locate the political boundaries of the U.S. ◆ Continent studied: South America

Science

Practice science skills of observing, using equipment, measuring, graphing, etc. ◆ Maintain a detailed, thoughtful, and organized science journal ◆ Observe and identify forces and motion through activities and experiments ◆ Explore plants and how they reproduce ◆ Analyze different types of energy and how it is transferred ◆ Evaluate ecosystems with a pond study through analysis of school pond health ◆ Learn and apply the engineering design process through Invention Convention and making solar ovens ◆ (3rd and 4th grade are on a two-year curriculum cycle. Students have more enrichment, problem solving, and critical thinking expectations in 4th grade.)

French

Utilize French to take care of basic classroom needs ◆ Copy words or short phrases from classroom resources ◆

Ask and answer, "What do you like to do?" and "Do you want to…?" ◆ Describe the activities one does on a certain day or time ◆ Practice the question, "Where are you going this weekend?" ◆ Discuss clothing ◆ Review and apply the numbers 0 to 1,000 ◆ Read teacher-created articles for content ◆ Answer basic comprehension questions orally ◆ Practice the PQPA (part question/part answer) technique for writing complete sentence answers

Physical Education

Continue to develop accountability by demonstrating listening skills ◆ Transition efficiently throughout warm ups, the day's activity, and closure ◆ Mentor the third grade students while modeling positivity during 3rd and 4th Grade Games Day ◆ Demonstrate more independence by establishing and agreeing upon rules and boundaries during game play ◆ Recognize the value of sharing ideas when collaborating during group activities ◆ Continued refinement of skills and recognition of game rules during units of study: soccer, cross country, flag football, field hockey, basketball, volleyball, create a game, international games, and track and field ◆ Establish and maintain a pace during a 6-minute run ◆ Challenge oneself to exert maximum effort during all warm ups and exercises ◆ Appreciate competition while fostering a positive team environment by learning the value of teamwork, cooperation, and respect for others

Visual Arts

STUDIO ART: Differentiate between textured surfaces and apply in a work of art ◆ Apply patterns and design for effect ◆ Promote creativity and inspiration through appreciation of art history ◆ Apply understanding of materials and procedures to new tasks ◆ Evaluate completed art using self reflection ◆ Discuss one's interpretation of a work of art with others

WOODSHOP: Understand and demonstrate safety guidelines in the woodshop ◆ Prepare work station ◆ Develop individual designs for projects ◆ Demonstrate proper use of half-round file, coping saw, ruler, and sandpaper ◆ Analyze quality of each project and set goals for improvement ◆ Share project with class and teachers

Performing Arts

MUSIC: Create and compose rhythmic and melodic passages ◆ Identify and play treble clef notation on various melodic instruments ◆ Recognize note values and rests ◆ Identify aurally the major and minor key signatures ◆ Sing with accurate pitch and intonation ◆ Pronounce various languages correctly ◆ Maintain melody/harmony in an ensemble setting ◆ Use correct fingerings on recorder ◆ Play with good tone and pitch on recorder ◆ Transition note reading to recorder fingering ◆ Recognize instruments and their musical families ◆ Identify notes on the staff, including sharps and flats ◆ Aurally identify the works of various composers of diverse styles ◆ Learn facts about composers' lives and music

DRAMA: Demonstrate competency in fluency, enunciation, projection, cheating out, posture, expression, eye contact, and visualization during public speaking and performances ◆ Use the tools of an actor to become a character and stay in character ◆ Work cooperatively to solve problems both onstage and off ◆ Develop skills to react to other characters and give and take focus ◆ Display vulnerability and practice empathy through authentic performance of original play ◆ Practice appropriate backstage and onstage etiquette ◆ Perform *Diary of a Fourth Grader*

Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade students are taught in a middle school model to prepare them for the secondary school experience. Subjects begin to be departmentalized to help students make an easier transition to secondary school. The class is broken into halves and thirds for various subjects to help differentiate both materials and instruction.

Fifth grade students are exposed to challenging literature with complex themes. Vocabulary, writing, and research are all emphasized, as are critical thinking and comprehension skills. Academic subjects are frequently integrated with the arts program, and Band and Choir are options for the first time. Fifth grade curricular benchmarks include:

Literature

Practice comprehension strategies including inferring, summarizing, predicting, questioning, visualizing, determining importance, and making connections ◆ Practice listening comprehension skills ◆ Identify themes and author's intent ◆ Identify elements of fiction ◆ Practice oral fluency ◆ Respond to literature through writing ◆ Independently select appropriate books to read ◆ Set independent reading goals ◆ Practice using new words and take regular vocabulary quizzes ◆ Read and study adaptions of three Shakespeare plays

Language Arts

Use the writing process to generate, develop, and refine multiple pieces of writing ◆ Practice narrative writing to deepen critical thinking and sense of self, informational writing to synthesize research, and research-based argumentative writing to foster constructive skills in debate ◆ Introduce the concepts of a literary essay ◆ Develop and refine strategies for writing across curriculum ◆ Reinforce a goal-setting mindset that builds strong writing habits ◆ Form sentences using a variety of structure ◆ Introduce the concepts of a literary essay ◆ Understand rules for comma usage and conjunctions ◆ Identify Latin and Greek roots in order to learn word meaning ◆ Practice word relationships through analogies ◆ We use *Wordly Wise* to support our vocabulary program

Mathematics

Multiply multi-digit numbers ◆ Find quotients involving multi-digit dividends ◆ Use place value models to read, write, add, and subtract numbers to 10,000,000 ◆ Convert fractions to decimals and decimals to fractions ◆ Use ratios ◆ Convert fractions to percents ◆ Add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and decimals ◆ Find the area of triangles ◆ Represent and analyze data in a double bar graph ◆ Compare experimental results and theoretical probability ◆ Use the order of operations ◆ Simplify and solve algebraic expressions ◆ Graph linear equations ◆ Use calculators and technology to solve problems ◆ Practice bar model and other problem-solving strategies

Social Studies

Identify the causes and effects of the American Revolution ◆ Investigate the U.S. Constitution and the branches of government ◆ Examine culture and cultural diversity ◆ Discuss current events ◆ Locate and label the fifty states of the U.S. ◆ Develop economic awareness ◆ Country of study: United Kingdom

Science

Apply the engineering design process through LEGO robotics ◆ Explore cells and microorganisms by using compound light microscopes ◆ Apply the scientific method and science skills ◆ Differentiate between the various body systems and learn about their function ◆ Learn about chemistry through hands-on experiences including chemical and physical change experiments and Bohr models ◆ Evaluate electricity and how it works through creating series and parallel circuits and testing conductors and insulators ◆ (5th and 6th grade are on a two-year curriculum cycle)

French

Recognize and follow classroom commands and general directions ◆ Discuss family members, occupations, and free time activities ◆ Use greeting and farewell courtesies ◆ Discuss items carried in a backpack ◆ Recognize if a noun is masculine, feminine, or plural ◆ Discuss food ◆ Recognize the definite articles (*le*, *la*, and *les*) ◆ Express the time and when events occurred ◆ Recognize the partitive articles (*du*, *de la*, and *des*) ◆ Discuss and apply familiar vs. formal speech ◆ Identify school subjects and what one does in class ◆ Acquire vocabulary and language structures needed to read a variety of French mini-novels ◆ Recognize and use interrogatives in oral and written comprehension questions ◆ Discuss and retell story events ◆ Orally answer comprehension questions over reading material ◆ Answer basic comprehension questions in written form

Physical Education

Demonstrate more independence while problem solving and communicating during team building activities ◆ Consistently put forth effort and work efficiently during warm ups, the day's activity, and closure ◆ Continue to recognize the value of sharing ideas when collaborating during group activities ◆ Foster an appreciation of nature while enjoying the outdoors during the Fifth Grade Hike ◆ Demonstrate an understanding of game rules and implement them in more self-regulated activities ◆ Work on more complex formations and advanced skills and strategies during units of study ◆ Continue to put forth maximum effort during daily runs and exercises by choosing more repetitions and longer, more challenging cross country runs ◆ Celebrate individual and group successes while participating in the 5th and 6th Grade Track Meet

Visual Arts

STUDIO ART: Analyze procedures in a task ◆ Create negative and positive space ◆ Demonstrate a variety of drawing techniques ◆ Apply understanding of materials and procedures to new tasks ◆ Promote creativity and inspiration through appreciation of art history ◆ Evaluate completed art using self reflection ◆ Discuss one's interpretation of a work of art with others

WOODSHOP: Understand and demonstrate safety guidelines in the woodshop ◆ Prepare work station ◆ Demonstrate proper use of marking tools to lay out lines ◆ Showcase correct use of crosscut, back, and coping saws ◆ Use try square, gouge, mallet, sandpaper, block plane, sander grinder, surform, file, and scraper to complete projects ◆ Analyze quality of each project and set goals for improvement ◆ Share project with class and teachers

Performing Arts

MUSIC: Identify and notate various music symbols in different styles of music ◆ Recognize and play correct notes, note values, and rests on melodic/rhythmic instruments ◆ Create and play rhythmic/melodic passages using AB and ABA form ◆ Aurally identify rhythm, pitch, and tempo within various pieces of music ◆ Sing with accurate pitch and intonation ◆ Use clear vocal enunciation and diction ◆ Maintain melody/harmony in ensemble setting ◆ Use correct breathing and phrasing ◆ Identify and play notes (including sharps and flats) and rhythms correctly ◆ Pronounce foreign languages accurately ◆ Identify all notes on the treble clef staff ◆ Aurally identify the works of various composers of diverse styles ◆ Recognize and play syncopated rhythms

DRAMA: Demonstrate increased competency in fluency, enunciation, projection, cheating out, posture, expression, eye contact, and visualization during public speaking and performances ◆ Use the tools of an actor to become a character and stay in character ◆ Work cooperatively to solve problems both onstage and off ◆ Model correct stage pictures to show focus ◆ Translate Shakespearean texts and convey tone and emotion of character ◆ Practice appropriate backstage and onstage etiquette ◆ Perform Shakespeare monologues and productions of *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream,* and *Romeo and Juliet*

BAND: Demonstrate the proper assembly and care of an instrument ◆ Learn scales and perform songs ◆ Perform the 4/4, 3/4, and 2/4 time signatures ◆ Count and perform rhythms correctly ◆ Perform ensemble pieces ◆ Study the history of music

CHORUS: Understand and demonstrate vocal production skills ◆ Perform music written in two- and three-part harmony ◆ Understand and demonstrate ensemble singing skills ◆ Perform a varied repertoire from various time periods, cultures, and styles ◆ Define and demonstrate the concepts of pitch, rhythm, and meter, using standard notation ◆ Demonstrate sight-reading and ear-training skills

Sixth Grade is a year of great change physically, socially, and academically for children. Sixth graders begin to search for who they are as individuals, and they are eager to assert their independence. It is a year filled with great privileges and great responsibilities as the students begin to take on their roles as the leaders of the school, as well as begin their final preparations for secondary school.

Critical and analytical thinking and writing are emphasized in the classroom, and teamwork is stressed through a variety of outdoor education initiatives. Sixth grade curricular benchmarks include:

Literature

Independently read age- and level-appropriate materials on a consistent basis ◆ Listen, retain, and follow age-appropriate directions and oral passages ◆ Recognize grade-appropriate sight words ◆ Determine the meaning, pronunciations, and derivations of words using a glossary, dictionary, and/or thesaurus ◆ Sequence events ◆ Identify the main idea and specific details ◆ Determine cause-effect ◆ Distinguish fact and opinion ◆ Answer questions about story characters, setting, and significant details ◆ Locate literal details ◆ Recognize inferential details ◆ Summarize materials read ◆ Distinguish between first, second, and third person ◆ Recognize point of view ◆ Relate isolated incidents to the central idea of a story ◆ Identify character traits and development

Language Arts

Practice narrative, opinion, and informational writing ◆ Develop and refine strategies for writing across curriculum ◆ Learn and identify parts of speech such as prepositional phrases and direct objects ◆ Form complex sentence structures by adding prepositional phrases and clauses ◆ Employ enriched vocabulary and add purposeful, descriptive language ◆ Practice brainstorming techniques and organized thinking using graphic organizers ◆ Practice writing strategies and observe model texts ◆ Form strong topic and concluding sentences ◆ Create stories that reflect personal life lessons and story elements ◆ Practice how to support ideas with researched material ◆ Locate resources and actively read and research material before beginning to write ◆ Cite sources within essays ◆ Practice word relationships through analogies ◆ Define words using the correct part of speech ◆ We use *Wordly Wise* to support our vocabulary program

Mathematics

Honors math available for students who qualify ◆ Apply concept of prime factorization ◆ Develop and apply standard algorithms for multiplication and division of fractions, decimals, and whole numbers ◆ Understand rational numbers ◆ Find square or cube of a number ◆ Use negative numbers to locate points of the coordinate plane ◆ Find the greatest common factor or least common multiple of two or more whole numbers ◆ Develop and find formulas to find the area of geometric shapes ◆ Use bar models to compare ratios ◆ Identify parts of an algebraic expression using mathematical terms ◆ Use bar modeling and geometric tools to solve problems ◆ Develop and apply formulas to solve problems ◆ Practice various problem-solving strategies

Science

Apply the engineering design process through LEGO robotics ◆ Explore cells and microorganisms by using compound light microscopes ◆ Apply the scientific method and science skills ◆ Differentiate between the various body systems and learn about their function ◆ Learn about chemistry through hands-on experiences including chemical and physical change experiments and Bohr models ◆ Evaluate electricity and how it works through creating series and parallel circuits and testing conductors and insulators ◆ (5th and 6th grade are on a two-year curriculum cycle. Students have more enrichment, problem solving and critical thinking expectations in 6th grade.)

Social Studies

Determine significant characteristics of a place ◆ Describe a region in terms of culture, physical features, and industry ◆ Discuss reasons why migrations are key events ◆ Explain significant human-environment interactions ◆ Examine relationships between people and their environment ◆ Locate and describe various places, locations, and resources ◆ Examine movement between people, products, information, and ideas ◆ Use various strategies to collect and organize information ◆ Examine the causes of the Civil War ◆ Explore and analyze primary source documents ◆ Discuss current events ◆ Identify the five geographic regions of Africa ◆ Define, evaluate, and discuss stereotypes and how they pertain to Africa ◆ Practice note-taking and test-taking skills ◆ Area of study: Egypt

French

Utilize French to take care of classroom needs ◆ Follow classroom commands and general directions ◆ Actively employ the vocabulary and language structures presented in prior terms ◆ Acquire the vocabulary and language

structures needed to describe people (adjectives) ◆ Acquire the vocabulary and language structures needed to describe where one is going and why ◆ Recognize and employ adjective agreement ◆ Describe what people do on the weekend ◆ Acquire the vocabulary and language structures to discuss daily routines and chores ◆ Conjugate the verbs *aller*, *avoir*, *être,* and *faire* ◆ Acquire the vocabulary and language structures needed to participate in student-led book clubs ◆ Recognize and use interrogatives in oral and written comprehension questions ◆ Discuss and retell events of the story

Physical Education

Demonstrate knowledge to effectively and thoroughly plan an activity ◆ Show the ability to effectively communicate during a group challenge ◆ Recognize the balance between being a vocal leader and one who encourages others to share their ideas ◆ Model positive sportsmanship and teamwork during all units of study ◆ Apply leadership skills during the Team Challenge Course ◆ Foster a continued appreciation of nature and being outdoors at the Sixth Grade Camping Trip ◆ Celebrate individual and group successes while participating in the 5th and 6th Grade Track Meet ◆ Highlight individual and team progress over winning ◆ Foster a positive and inclusive atmosphere where everyone feels valued and respected

Visual Arts

STUDIO ART: Analyze procedures in a task ◆ Gather relevant information for work ◆ Apply understanding of materials and procedures to new tasks ◆ Promote creativity and inspiration through appreciation of art history ◆ Evaluate completed art using self reflection ◆ Discuss one's interpretation of a work of art with others

WOODSHOP: Understand and demonstrate safety guidelines in the woodshop ◆ Prepare work station ◆ Produce detailed plans for individual project ◆ Demonstrate proper use of the necessary hand and power tools required to complete individual project ◆ Analyze quality of each project and set goals for improvement ◆ Share project with class and teachers

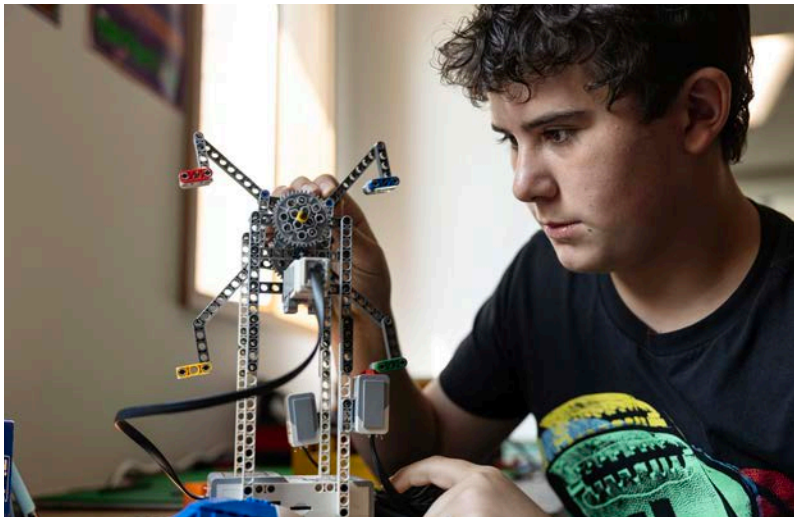
Performing Arts

MUSIC: Identify and notate melodic sequences within an eight measure phrase ◆ Connect to various styles and genres of guitar pieces ◆ Play correct strum patterns and chords ◆ Use new guitar fingerings accurately ◆ Collaborate in small ensemble settings ◆ Sing with accurate pitch and intonation ◆ Use clear vocal enunciation and diction ◆ Maintain melody/harmony in ensemble setting ◆ Use correct breathing and phrasing ◆ Pronounce foreign languages accurately ◆ Connect with the genre and style of music ◆ Incorporate accurate notes and notation ◆ Include correct rhythms, rests, and time signatures ◆ Utilize melodic sequence structure as a base for composition ◆ Aurally identify the music of composers of diverse musical styles ◆ Learn facts on the lives and works of various composers

DRAMA: Master fluency, enunciation, projection, cheating out, posture, expression, eye contact, and visualization during public speaking and performances ◆ Synthesize the tools of an actor to become a character and maintain a character onstage using motivation and objectives to get what the character wants ◆ Develop skills on stage to react to other characters and give and take focus ◆ Lead teams as designers of the set, costumes, makeup, props, choreography, and publicity for the musical ◆ Lead assemblies modeling public speaking tools (posture, hook, enunciation, expression, eye contact, projection, and pacing) ◆ Perform in assemblies (year-round) and in culminating musical

BAND: Play with an acceptable, mature, and characteristic sound ◆ Perform in 2/2, 6/8, and 9/8 time ◆ Play the chromatic scale ◆ Perform more complex syncopated rhythms ◆ Study the history of music ◆ Perform pieces in the jazz style

CHORUS: Understand and demonstrate vocal production skills ◆ Understand and demonstrate ensemble singing skills ◆ Perform music written in two- and three-part harmony ◆ Define and demonstrate the concepts of pitch, rhythm, and meter, using standard notation ◆ Perform a varied repertoire from various time periods, cultures, and styles ◆ Demonstrate sight-reading and ear-training skills



FOUNDED IN 1914

Community SCHOOL

Community School's mission statement and educational philosophy flow from the ten educational principles upon which the school was founded. These principles have defined the ethos of the school and the education of thousands of young children for decades. Community School continues to believe in the educational values they represent.

Mission Statement

Nurturing the gifts of mind, body & spirit

900 Lay Road, St. Louis, MO 63124
(314) 991-0005 || (314) 991-1512 *fax*
CommunitySchool.com

Ten Guiding Principles

1. The school should recognize the child as an individual with individual differences, and an inherent right to develop these differences.

2. The school should set up the schedule with freedom to develop these differences. There should be freedom, but freedom with control.

3. The school should see to it that children are trained to become independent thinkers, to express themselves freely and accurately, free of embarrassment or self-consciousness, and to assume responsibility and carry it through to a successful end.

4. The school should provide a classroom atmosphere of child-teacher cooperation, as opposed to the teacher-dominated classroom. The teacher should be a source of informed assistance to whom children can go for direction in their search for desired material.

5. The school should have teachers sufficiently rich in background to enable them to provide classroom material that will spark a child's imagination, keep it alive, and encourage each child to want to know more.

6. The school should make children aware of their immediate world, their place in that environment, and their responsibility in global issues.

7. The school should cultivate in each child a spirit of courtesy, an appreciation for individual differences, and respect for the opinion of others.

8. The school should open a child's eyes to the wonders of nature, the stars, the universe and the world around them.

9. The student must be led to appreciate the beauty in literature and the fine arts and should be encouraged to create any or all of them.

10. The child should be made to understand that the so-called tool subjects (reading, writing, and arithmetic) are means of securing the goals toward which one strives and to this end each child must become proficient.