

SENIOR KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

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

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

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

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

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Reading

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

Resources: Foundations | Heggerty | Kids A-Z | Scholastic Magazine

Writing

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

Resources used: Writing Workshop | Foundations

Mathematics

Count fluently by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s | Practice correct number formation | Build number word recognition | Identify odd and even numbers | Sequence numbers through 100 | Reproduce and extend patterns | Introduce addition and subtraction with the support of tools and manipulatives | Interpret data from graphs and construct graphs to represent small data sets | Practice measurement with standard and non-standard units and utilize measuring tools | Create and solve simple number stories

Resources: Everyday Math

Social Studies

Deepen understanding of ourselves and our place in the world | Engage in activities regarding geography and the world around us | Identify challenges in our world and suggest solutions

Units of Study: All About Me | Family & Friends | Birds | Holiday celebrations | Animals around the World

Science

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

Units of Study: Seasons and Weather | The Five Senses | living vs. Nonliving | Apples and Pumpkins | Science of Snow | Engineering

Art

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

Music

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

Spanish

Practice simple greetings through songs and chants | Build vocabulary related to greetings, colors, families, transportation, pets, classroom objects and supplies, months of the year, sizes, fruits and vegetables, parts of the body, and numbers 1-30 | Introduce Spanish vowels and some consonants | Conjugate verbs in first person | Learn the common verbs

Resources include: Rockalingua | Pocoyó en Español | Bilingual picture books | Youtube Channels (Pingfong en Espanol, Smile and Learn en Espanol, Super Simple en Espanol, Basho and Friends)

Library

Understand proper care of library books and materials | Recognize familiar authors, illustrators, and literature | Begin to recognize basic library terms and concepts | Begin to follow basic check-out procedures | Locate the E (Everybody/Picture Book) section of the library | Develop an appreciation for books and reading | Begin to understand a healthy media balance and choices | Begin to learn how to use technology safely

Physical Education

Our lower school curriculum is movement-based. Students learn through gameplay and skill development. From Junior Kindergarten to second grade, our program is a spiraling curriculum that builds upon itself. Through this curriculum, our students will also develop and grow in sportsmanship, cooperation, and physical fitness.

Distinguish between dominant and non-dominant sides | Develop locomotor movements | Establish hand-eye and foot-eye coordination | Introduce rhythm | learn to chase and evade | Develop balancing skills | learn boundaries

Specialty Subject Schedule

Art — 30 minutes, 2 times a week

Spanish — 30 minutes, 2 times a week

library — 30 minutes, 2 times a week

Music — 30 minutes, 2 times a week

Science Specialist — 30 minutes, 1 time a week

Physical Education — 30 minutes daily