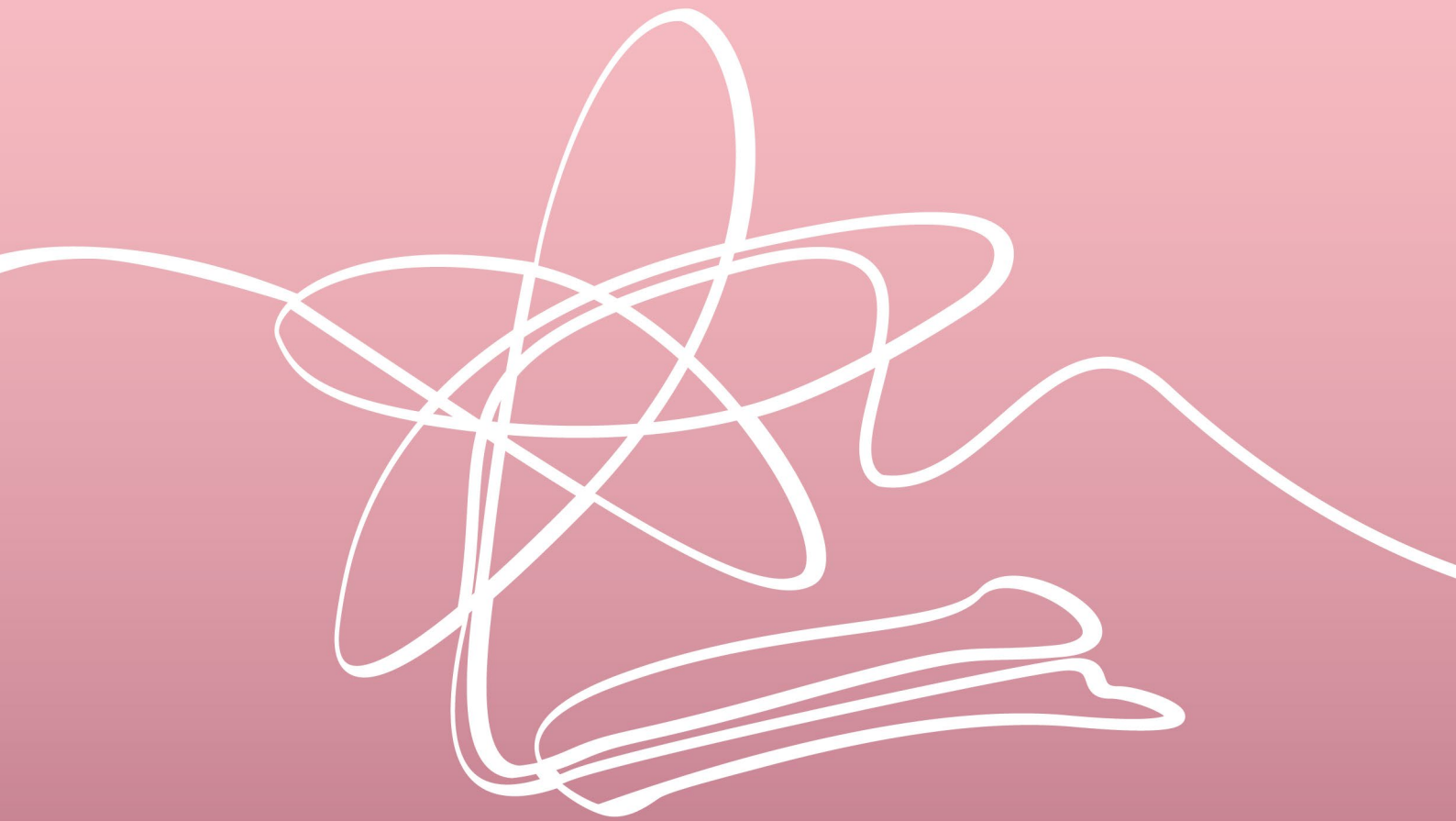




Elementary **CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

Carlucci American International School of Lisbon

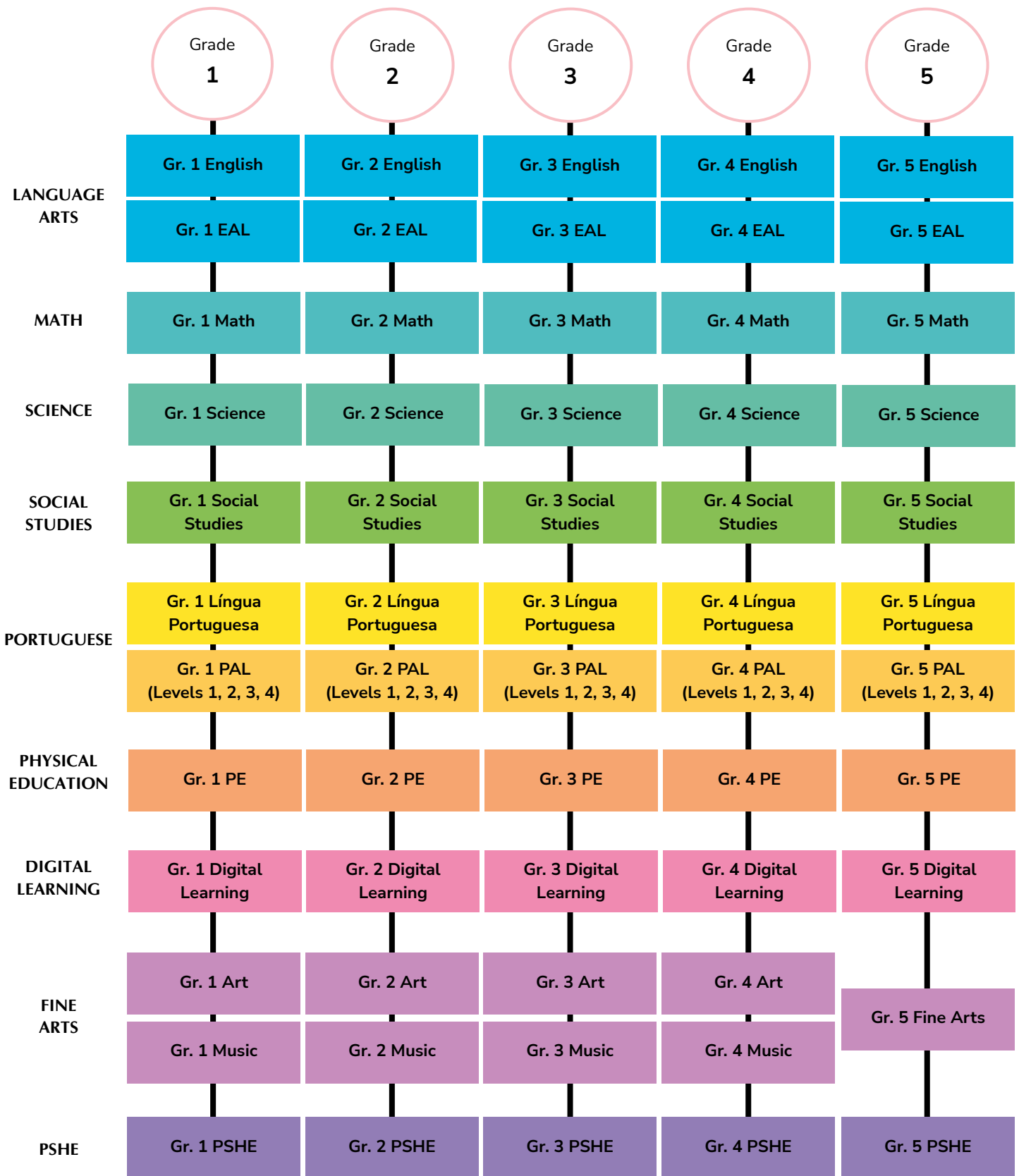
ELEMENTARY: Program Overview

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



LANGUAGE ARTS

English in Grades 1 through 5

Grade 1 English

Students build confidence and independence as readers and writers through a balanced literacy program that integrates UFLI Foundations and Units of Study. Daily explicit phonics instruction develops strong decoding, encoding, fluency, and word recognition skills while rich literary and informational texts build vocabulary, comprehension, and background knowledge. Through reading workshop, students develop strong reading habits, become strategic problem-solvers when tackling unfamiliar words, explore fiction and nonfiction, and think deeply about characters and the lessons stories teach. Writing workshop provides opportunities to craft personal narratives, informational pieces, opinion writing, and fiction while developing confidence in communicating ideas for a variety of purposes.

Grade 2 English

Students continue to strengthen their literacy skills through UFLI Foundations and Units of Study, becoming increasingly fluent, confident, and thoughtful readers and writers. Daily phonics instruction supports advanced decoding and word study while rich literary and informational texts expand vocabulary, deepen comprehension, and build knowledge about the world. Through reading workshop, students explore character development, build expertise through nonfiction, and develop empathy and curiosity as they compare ideas across texts. In writing workshop, students write narratives, informational texts, opinion pieces, and poetry while strengthening their ability to revise, reflect, and write with increasing purpose and independence.

Grade 3 English

Students become increasingly independent readers and writers through Units of Study, engaging with fiction, nonfiction, research, and collaborative book clubs. They learn to analyze story elements and character development, build knowledge through nonfiction text sets and research, and support their thinking with evidence as they discuss series fiction and mystery novels. Through writing workshop, students craft literary essays, informational pieces, research reports, persuasive writing, and original fiction while developing a deeper understanding of audience, purpose, and the writing process.

Grade 4 English

Students deepen their analytical thinking as they read a wide variety of literary and informational texts through Units of Study. They investigate scientific topics through nonfiction, examine character and theme in fiction, explore biographies and historical fiction, and learn to support their interpretations with evidence from the text. Through writing workshop, students strengthen their ability to communicate ideas through essays, literary analysis, realistic fiction, and discipline-based writing while developing independence throughout the writing process and confidence in expressing their thinking.

Grade 5 English

Students engage with increasingly sophisticated texts through Units of Study, becoming thoughtful, analytical readers who consider perspective, evidence, and author's craft. They explore literary interpretation through book clubs, investigate current events and news literacy, conduct research using multiple sources, examine complex issues from different viewpoints, and read fantasy literature with increasing depth and insight. Through writing workshop, students develop literary essays, journalism, memoir, and argumentative writing while strengthening their voice, supporting ideas with evidence, and writing for authentic audiences and purposes.

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

Grade 1 Science

Students investigate the properties of light and sound, observe patterns in the sky, and explore how plants and animals grow and inherit traits. Through hands-on investigations and engineering design challenges, they strengthen their ability to ask questions, collect evidence, communicate observations, and apply scientific thinking to solve meaningful problems.

Grade 2 Science

Students investigate how Earth's surface changes over time, explore the properties of different materials, and study the relationships and life cycles of plants and insects. Through investigations and engineering design challenges, they compare solutions, analyze observations, and deepen their understanding of the natural world and the ways people can care for it.

Grade 3 Science

Students investigate forces and motion, explore patterns of inheritance in plants and animals, and study weather and climate. Through investigations, data collection, and engineering design, they strengthen their ability to develop explanations, analyze evidence, and apply scientific ideas to solve increasingly complex problems.

Grade 4 Science

Students investigate the processes that shape Earth's surface, explore the complexity of human body systems, and examine how energy moves and transforms. Through scientific investigations and engineering design challenges, they analyze evidence, interpret data, and apply scientific thinking to understand and respond to real-world situations.

Grade 5 Science

Students investigate how matter and energy move through ecosystems, explore Earth's place within the universe, and study the properties and interactions of matter. Through investigations, modeling, and evidence-based argument, they apply the full range of scientific practices to deepen their understanding of the natural world and humanity's impact upon it.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies in Grades 1 through 5

Grade 1 Social Studies

Students explore how communities make decisions, how cultures around the world are both unique and connected, and how daily life has changed over time. They develop an understanding of leadership, cooperation, and responsible citizenship while strengthening map skills, exploring diverse traditions, and comparing life in the past with the present.

Grade 2 Social Studies

Students deepen their understanding of citizenship by exploring rights, responsibilities, and the role of government within communities. They investigate ancient civilizations to understand how people adapted to their environments while examining how geography, natural resources, and thoughtful decision-making influence the development of societies.

Grade 3 Social Studies

Students explore the history of Portugal, investigate Viking society, and apply economic concepts through authentic learning experiences. They examine how geography, culture, beliefs, and historical events shape societies while strengthening their ability to analyze sources, identify cause-and-effect relationships, and make informed economic decisions.

Grade 4 Social Studies

Students explore how civic action, migration, and resource management have shaped societies throughout history and continue to influence the world today. They examine justice, identity, and the movement of people while strengthening research skills, source analysis, cause-and-effect reasoning, and evidence-based argument.

Grade 5 Social Studies

Students investigate major turning points in world history, examine the history, rights, and sovereignty of Indigenous peoples, and explore the complexities of global trade. Through inquiry, primary sources, and evidence-based discussions, they develop a deeper understanding of how historical events, technological innovation, and economic systems continue to shape our interconnected world.

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 4

Grade 1 & Grade 2 Art

Students 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 Art

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 4

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, drama, and visual arts, exploring one Fine Arts discipline each quarter with their homeroom class. With two classes each week, students develop their skills in vocal and instrumental performance, visual expression, acting, and creative collaboration. Throughout the year, they participate in a variety of informal and formal performances and exhibitions that celebrate their learning and artistic growth. During the orchestra rotation, students are provided with a string instrument 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