



LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM 2011-2012

HOMework

Homework is routinely assigned Monday – Thursday

Kindergarten

Homework Expectation
20 minutes/night

Grade 1

Homework Expectation
30 minutes/night

Grade 2

Homework Expectation
40 minutes/night

Grade 3

Homework Expectation
50 minutes/night

Grade 4

Homework Expectation
60 minutes/night

Grade 5

Homework Expectation
70 minutes/night

READING

is a unique and carefully designed program which allows advanced groupings with great emphasis on phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Kindergarten

Identification and review of letters, sounds, digraphs, clusters, and blends
Daily, formal reading according to individual ability beginning in October
Phonetic introduction to reading using a multi-sensory approach to word-attack skills
Reinforce perceptual skills
Junior Great Books

Grade 1

Phonics in reading and writing, regular consonants, short and long vowels
Digraphs and blends
Continue development of perceptual skills, vocabulary, structural analysis and comprehension
Promote independent of reading a
Oral reading twice daily
Junior Great Books

Grade 2

Continuing development and practice of basic reading, word attack skills, phonics, vocabulary, structural analysis
Increasing emphasis on comprehension, interpretation, figurative language
Reading for pleasure and information
Use of reference books and encyclopaedias
Oral reading twice daily
Junior Great Books

Grade 3

Continuing development of word attack skills
Increasing emphasis on:
Drawing inferences
Interpretation/comprehension
Critical thinking
Oral expression
Independent reading of quality literature
Story elements: character, setting, problem, solution
Oral reading twice daily
Junior Great Books

Grade 4

Daily oral reading, literature discussion
Independent reading in a variety of genres
Reading short stories, poetry, drama, mythology
Structured reading and skill building
Increasing emphasis on inferential skills, contextual vocabulary and comprehension—literal to critical
Junior Great Books

Grade 5

Structured reading with skill building
Reading classics, short stories, plays
Reading/studying novels
Emphasis on inferential skills
Reading correlated with other curricular areas
Independent reading
Daily oral reading/discussion
Junior Great Books

ENGLISH

is a comprehensive structured program incorporating all aspects of language arts. It includes a strong combination of grammar, creative writing, and expository writing in all grades.

Kindergarten

Development of listening skills
Listening to books and poetry
Printing letters/words with D'Nealian method
Proofreading
Beginning expository/creative writing
Formal spelling

Grade 1

D'Nealian manuscript handwriting skills
Grammar: nouns, verbs, adjectives, complete sentences, usage, punctuation
Spelling words and dictation
Expository and creative writing
Dictionary skills
Introduction to "research," including paragraph writing

Grade 2

Handwriting, including manuscript transition to cursive
Capitalization, simple punctuation, sentence structure, grammar, introduction to parts of speech, dictionary usage
Spelling
Expository and creative writing
Composition-imaginative and factual
Poetry
Introduction to note-taking

Grade 3

Creative writing/poetry
Expository writing for research papers:
 Sentence/paragraph structure
 Organizational skills
 Note-taking for rough draft
Spelling and dictation sentences
Oral presentations
Penmanship
Punctuation/capitalization
Parts of speech
Essay format for test questions

Grade 4

Vocabulary and spelling
Oral presentations
Study skills
Grammar, including parts of speech and word usage
Punctuation and capitalization
Penmanship
Creative writing, including poetry
Analogies
Use of dictionary and reference books
Paragraphs and multi-paragraph essays
Composition and report writing
Writing process, including proofreading, editing, and revising

Grade 5

Above plus:
Composition and report writing
Spelling with sentence dictation
Vocabulary-introduction to word derivation
Creative writing-fantasy and fact; poetry
Grammar-nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions
Punctuation, capitalization, penmanship
Dictionary skills
Study skills and organization
Oral language - speech

LIBRARY

prepares all students for research work and includes a school-wide library reading awards program.

Kindergarten

Acquaintance with Library
Choosing and signing out books
Care of books
Enrichment of literature through group activities
Reading stories

Grade 1

Above plus:
Location of fiction and nonfiction books
Basic parts of a story
Characters
Setting
Plot (beginning, middle, end)
Appreciation of illustrations (Caldecott Award)

Grade 2

Above plus:
Introduce the use of call numbers and specific areas of the Library
Expanding to use books in the intermediate sections of the Library

Grade 3

Above plus:
Parts of a book:
 copyright; publisher; copyright date
Use of encyclopaedias and other research sources
Folk and fairy tale unit of study
 traditional, modern, cultural and ethnic tales
Use of the Internet
Using the computerized card catalog and online databases
Use of OPAC

Grade 4

Above plus:
Introduction to Dewey Decimal System
Library research, including online reference sources
Reference material skills
Biography
Historic fiction study
Author and illustrator study
Parts of story book—further study
Bibliography

Grade 5

Above plus:
World Almanac study
Reference material skills, including online reference sources
Guidelines for using other libraries in the community and Upper School
Study in storytelling

MATHEMATICS

is accelerated and stresses logical thinking, conceptual understanding, and problem solving, as well as accurate computation. Timed tests of basic facts are given daily.

Kindergarten

One-to-one correspondence
Patterning with numbers/shapes
Relationship of set to numbers
Extensive use of math manipulatives
Reading/writing numbers to 100
Graphing
Calendar skills
Money
Time to hour, half-hour
Problem solving
Addition to 18; Introduction to subtraction
Introduction to fractions/measurements
Place value to hundreds

Grade 1

Continue place value to hundreds
Geometric shapes, congruency, lines of symmetry
Time–Calendar–Money
Measurement, including temperature, perimeter, area
Odd/even numbers
Patterning
Graphing
Fractions
Computation: addition/subtraction with/without regrouping
Quick recall of addition/subtraction facts

Grade 2

Quick recall of basic facts; multi-digit computation with/without regrouping in addition/subtraction
Problem solving; Estimation with 10's/100's
Place value to hundred-thousands
Graphing
Roman numerals
Computation with money and time
Geometry: area, perimeter
Probability
Squares/square roots

Grade 3

Computation, including money and time
Multi-digit addition, subtraction, with required multiplication, division
Place value to hundred millions
Problem solving, logic, probability
Roman numerals, time
Polygons
Measurement/area/volume/perimeter/reading scales
Fractions; decimals, equivalent, (addition, subtraction, multiplication)
Percentages • Exponents • Squares, square roots
Estimating; averaging, rounding • Making change
Metric and English system

Grade 4

Roman numerals, numeration
Computation, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions and decimals
Equivalent decimals, percents, fractions
Geometry including geometric solids, perimeter area, volume, lines, angles, circles
Measurement–U.S. customary and metric
Problem solving, word problems
Reading and drawing charts, graphs, tables
Ratio, proportion, probability and chance
Exponents and square roots
Introduction of integers

Grade 5

Above plus:
Computation, including:
Properties, numeration, geometry, problem solving, rational numbers, Roman numerals, decimals, metric measurement, area and perimeter, review of fundamental operations; whole number, fractions, decimals, estimation, statistics, percentage, prime numbers, square root, integers
Use of compass and protractor

SOCIAL STUDIES

includes a very strong “research” program of expository writing in the content areas, especially history and geography. Correlated field trips enrich studies.

Kindergarten

Our community: discussions, related projects, community service, field trips
Holidays and holiday customs around the world
Community guests–career exploration
Farm

Grade 1

Environmental awareness; similarities and differences; city/country
Conservation and pollution
Holidays
Beginning map skills
Citizenship

Grade 2

Communities and how they change
Geographical features/influences
Government
Citizenship
Map skills
Environmental awareness

Grade 3

Local, state, federal government; citizenship
Ancient civilizations
African Americans/slavery
Communities
American history
Timelines, graphs, tables, charts
Conservation issues
Geography; map and globe skills
American ideals, symbols, holidays, commerce, economy
Introduction to essay test-taking

Grade 4

Geography skills
Map skills and graphing
Study and test-taking skills, emphasis on essay test-taking
Research skills, outlining, note-taking, summarizing
Nevada, past and present—coordinated field trips
Countries of the world (location, geography, culture)
 Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania
Greek mythology—National Mythology Exam

Grade 5

United States history, government, economy
States and capitals
Geography and research skills, including atlas, graphs, diagrams, tables
Early explorers and American heroes
Major current events
Test-taking skills, SQRR, outlining
Motivation/attitudes of people
Propaganda
Religious freedom/persecution
Citizenship

SPANISH

is required at all levels with emphasis on conversation and correct accent.

Kindergarten

Development of listening skills
Following directions in Spanish
Beginning conversation
Songs, games, puppets
Acting out activities
Use of visual aids and manipulatives to
 reinforce content area vocabulary
Beginning decoding skills
Popular holidays

Grade 1

Development of listening skills
Following directions in Spanish
Vocabulary building
Use of songs and games to motivate
 children to use the language and improve pronunciation
Introduction of reading and writing
Acting out simple conversations
Cultural awareness
Introduction to basic grammar

Grade 2

Development of listening skills
Continuing vocabulary building
Introduction of basic grammatical concepts through
 meaningful context
Acting out simple conversations
Reading of short dialogues
Forming simple questions and sentences to express feelings
 and to describe people, things and activities
Spanish-speaking countries
Regular verb conjugation and its application

Grade 3

Continuing vocabulary building
Asking and answering questions
Acting out stories
Describing people, places, and things
Expressing likes, dislikes, and preferences
Reading of short passages
Writing of short paragraphs
Spanish-speaking countries
Continuation of regular verb conjugation
Introduction to irregular verb conjugation

Grade 4

Continuing vocabulary building
Requesting and providing information on a number of topics
Acting out stories
Holding short dialogues
Expressing wants and making requests
Reading of longer passages
Writing of short paragraphs
Study of Latin America

Grade 5

Continuing vocabulary building
Continuing development of conversational skills in a variety of topics
Describing people, places, things, and activities using the correct
 verb forms in the present tense, present progressive, noun/adjective
 agreement, and expressions of comparison
Discussing obligations, schedules, and plans
Comparing cultures
Short presentation using vocabulary about School, sports, family
Comparing the different cultures of Spanish-speaking countries

COMPUTER

allows each student to work with a computer in a hands-on laboratory setting, learning skills applicable to all disciplines.

Kindergarten - Grade 1

Beginning computer terminology
Locate and use letters, numbers, and special keys on a keyboard
Compose and edit a word-processing document
Computer technology is used to expand student's knowledge of scientific principles
Care and use of a digital microscope

Grade 2

Continue to develop above skills plus:
Use accurate basic computer technology
Familiarity with additional special function keys
Organize, create, and save pictures using a digital microscope

Grade 3

Continue to develop above skills plus:
Daily practice keyboarding
Internet safety

Grades 4-5

Continue to develop above skills plus:
Enhancement/daily practice of keyboard skills using correct finger placement
Introduction of PowerPoint
Explain legal and ethical behaviors when using information and technology
Create and organize a multimedia presentation using text, graphics, photographs, and sound
Internet safety

Physical Education

is a sequential development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness through basic, creative movement. This includes skill development, sportsmanship, and aspects of mental, social, and physical health.

Kindergarten

Exercises developing flexibility, balance, and strength
Physical fitness skills
Perform sequence of auditory instructions
Beginning ball handling skills, throwing catching, and dribbling
Play cooperatively with classmates
Parachute games
Teamwork, sportsmanship, cooperation

Grade 1

Physical fitness skills
Directionality (left and right, up and down, forward and backward)
Eye/hand coordination - ball handling
Creative movement
Manipulative skills (bean bags, hoops)
Self-development skills
Cooperative play

Grade 2

Perform locomotor and non-locomotor skills successfully
Sequential skills development in soccer, basketball, volley, tennis, kickball
Relays
Physical fitness skills
Cooperative play
Lead-up games
Safety

Grade 3

Perform locomotor and non-locomotor skills
Receptive motor skill development
Creative movement
Cooperative play
Lead-up games skill instruction: basketball, volleyball, badminton, hockey, football, soccer
Limited physical fitness testing
Physical fitness
Exercise
Decision making

Grade 4

Same as third grade, plus:
Physical fitness testing
Specialized perceptual motor development
Physical fitness testing
Intricate rope jumping skills
Throwing, catching, kicking, dribbling
Conflict resolution

Grade 5

Same as third and fourth grades plus:
Skill instruction: volleyball, basketball, tennis
Physical fitness testing
Growth and development
Muscular system - location, purpose
Cardio and strength training through game playing

Health

is integrated into the curriculum to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Kindergarten

Personal good health practices
Basic hygiene
Personal safety practices—grade/age appropriate
Five senses

Grade 1

Introduction of skeletal system—bones location, names
Introduction of muscular system, muscles location, purpose
Personal good health practices
Basic hygiene
Personal safety practices
Teeth and dental health

Grade 2

Personal good health practices
Personal safety practices
Good nutrition
Major internal organs: brain, heart, lungs, stomach

Grade 3

Personal health, hygiene, safety practices
Skeletal system—location, purpose
Medical discoverers: Pasteur, Salk, etc.

Grade 4

Personal health, hygiene, safety practices
Digestive system
Circulatory system

Grade 5

Personal health, hygiene, safety practices
The brain and nervous system
Effects of smoking, drugs, and alcohol on the body
Body changes and puberty

SCIENCE

is based on exploration in Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science and includes coordinated lab experiences at all grade levels.

Kindergarten

Life Science:

Planting seeds/gardening
Trees
Animals

Physical Science:

Wood and paper

Earth Science:

Clouds

Scientific process skills
Lab and safety rules
Introduction to lab equipment
Care and use of a microscope

Grade 3

Life Science:

Life structures
Human Body

Physical Science:

Physics of sound
Magnetism and electricity

Earth Science:

Water
Earth materials

Scientific process skills
Lab and safety rules
Introduction to lab equipment
Care and use of a microscope

Grade 1

Life Science:

Gardening
Plants
Insects

Physical Science:

Solids and liquids
Balance and motion

Earth Science:

Air and weather
Pebbles, sand, and silt

Scientific process skills
Lab and safety rules
Introduction to lab equipment
Care and use of a microscope

Grade 4

Continuation of:

Life Science:

Life structures
Human Body

Physical Science:

Physics of sound
Magnetism and electricity

Earth Science:

Water
Earth materials

Scientific process skills
Lab and safety rules
Introduction to lab equipment
Care and use of a microscope

Grade 2

Continuation of:

Life Science:

Gardening
Plants
Insects

Physical Science:

Solids and liquids
Balance and motion

Earth Science:

Air and weather
Pebbles, sand, and silt

Scientific process skills
Lab and safety rules
Introduction to lab equipment
Care and use of a microscope

Grade 5

Life Science:

Environments
Food and nutrition

Physical Science:

Mixtures and solutions

Earth Science:

Solar energy

Scientific process skills
Lab and safety rules
Introduction to lab equipment
Care and use of a microscope

ART

is incorporated into classroom activities as well as in formal instruction. Creativity is encouraged..

Kindergarten

Drawing and painting from imagination
Exploring various mediums
Patterns
Teacher-directed activities designed to build a strong foundation in listening, following directions, developing fine motor and perceptual skills

Grades 1-2

Emphasis on creative and self-directed work/following directions
Painting
Collage
Cutting and pasting
Design
Experimenting with style/mediums, primary/secondary colors
Use of mixed mediums

Grade 3

Same as above with standards suitable to grade level
Integrated fine arts
Art appreciation
Still life
Self portraits
Elements of design
Variety of mediums

Grade 4

Same as above plus:
Drawing/sketching
Still life; landscapes
Printing
Reproduction of design
Perspective
Water color, pastels
Illustration

Grade 5

Same as above plus:
Chalks, other mediums
Maps
Scale drawing
Contour, abstract, concrete drawing
Illustrative writing
Depth perception; shadowing;
3-dimensional patterning

CITIZENSHIP

is stressed at all grade levels.

Kindergarten - Grade 5

Respect for self and others, including:
Courtesy/manners, kindness and dedication to high academic and moral standards, honesty/integrity, tolerance, social skills, friendships, preventing verbal/physical abuse

Responsibility to self and others, including:

- Independent thinking
- Service to others
- A commitment to excellence

Community service, examples:

Visits to hospitals, nursing homes, etc.; bake sale to benefit NSPCA, UNICEF, recycling, Adopt-A-School, Scouting for Food, Make-A-Wish

Citizenship programs presented by each class provide recognition of students who are achieving and maintaining these high standards

MUSIC

is based on the Orff-Schulwerk approach, integrating movement, speech, song, instrumental play, and creative dramatics. Creative thinking is encouraged and developed through improvisation.

Kindergarten

Sensitivity to pulse in music
Movement games-reaction training
Creative movement
Differentiation of high/low; up/down
Differentiation of fast/slow
Differentiation of vocal qualities: speak, sing, whisper, shout
Development of independent singing
Singing games and repertoire
Beginning skills in playing Orff instruments
Recognition of timbres

Grade 1

Sensitivity to pulse in music
Differentiation of pulse and rhythm
Movement games-reaction training
Creative movement
Kodaly rhythmic notation
Differentiation of high/low; upward/downward melodic contour
Curwen hand signals (Sol-Mi-La)
Symbolization of same/different phrases
Simple bordun accompaniments on Orff instruments
Classification of instrumental timbres

Grade 2

Sensitivity to pulse in music
Differentiation of pulse and rhythm
Movement games-reaction training
Creative movement
Kodaly rhythmic notation
Curwen hand signals (Sol-Mi-La-Do Re)
Symbolization of simple forms (AB, ABA)
Perform simple ostinati
Simple bordun accompaniments on Orff instruments
Classification of instrumental timbres

Grade 3

Sensitivity to pulse in music
Differentiation of pulse and rhythm
Movement games-reaction training-folk dance
Creative movement
Kodaly rhythmic notation
Question/answer technique
Curwen hand signals (Do-Re-Mi-Fa-Sol-La-Ti-Do)
Musical alphabet-treble clef lines and spaces
Canon
Symbolization of simple forms (AB, ABA)
Simple bordun accompaniments on Orff instruments
Classification of instrumental timbres

Grade 4

Sensitivity to pulse in music
Differentiation of pulse and rhythm
Reaction training-folk dance-creative movement
Kodaly rhythmic notation
Question/answer technique
Curwen hand signals
Musical alphabet-treble clef lines and spaces
Soprano recorder
Canon
Symbolization of simple and extended forms
(AB, ABA, AABA, ABC, Rondo)
Simple bordun, moving bordun, tonic and chord accompaniments on
Orff instruments
Classification of instrumental timbres

Grade 5

Sensitivity to pulse in music
Differentiation of pulse and rhythm
Reaction training-folk dance-creative movement
Kodaly rhythmic notation
Question/answer technique
Curwen hand signals
Musical alphabet-treble clef lines and spaces
Soprano recorder
Canon
Symbolization of simple and extended forms
(AB, ABA, AABA, ABC, Rondo)
Simple bordun, moving bordun, tonic and chord accompaniments on
Orff instruments
Classification of instrumental timbres