

The First Grade Curriculum includes:

- A language arts curriculum that emphasizes reading and writing across the disciplines with a focus on learning and applying phonemic awareness while uncovering the deep meanings embedded in texts.
- A mathematics curriculum that encompasses engaging and interactive lessons in patterns, numeration, computation, geometry, measurement, fractions and problem-solving.
- A social studies curriculum that explores elements of culture, geography, history, economics, and government which promotes service to others. Specific social studies units include the study of communities, including the different roles in communities, successful communities, conflict resolution, class, school, neighborhood and city communities; basic values of American democracy as illustrated through American holidays; and famous women in American history.
- A science curriculum that allows students to observe, classify, predict, draw conclusions, collect and record data that covers the pond habitat, rocks and minerals, sound and plants.

Visual Arts: First grade visual arts integrates areas of study with art history and the development of art skills. Students are introduced to the art elements: line, shape, color, texture, and space.

Skills/Mediums

- drawing
- painting
- cutting/gluing/collage
- “scratch art engraving”
- pottery
- printmaking/mixed media
- 3-D paper mobiles
- black & white ink drawings for *Creations*

Library: Through active use of our library, first graders learn: listening skills, responsible library use, identification and differentiation of several genres of literature, including fiction, non-fiction, biography, and poetry. Literature appreciation is promoted through regular enrichment activities such as author studies and storytelling. Student explore skills necessary for information literacy such as “fact finds” and reference materials.

Spanish: The **purpose** of Lower School Spanish is to introduce children to the Spanish language and its sounds. Basic vocabulary is incorporated through lessons that involve a lot of interaction in order to make the children speak the language without “thinking”. **Our goal** is to have children leave the Lower School comfortable with the Spanish sounds, comfortable with answering simple Spanish questions and knowing basic Spanish vocabulary and phrases.

Units of study include: greetings, family, animals, body parts, weather, clothing, numbers to 20, food, household items, time and days of the week. Students are also learn information about various Hispanic customs and holidays.

Technology: Technology skills are integrated throughout the first grade curriculum. Experiences include:

- Learning basic terminology and use of computers. (eg. login, logout, files & folders, open, save, print, quit, etc.)
- Keyboarding, focusing on letter location, using *Kid Keys* software.
- Using various software to practice math concepts.
- Learning to use painting tools with *TuxPaint* and *Pixie* software.
- Researching pond animals on the internet using the *Little Explorers* website.
- Illustrating the plants and animals in our pond using *Kidspiration* software.
- Exploring symmetry and patterns using *Kidspiration* software.
- Create illustrated books (including images, text, and recorded audio) using *Pixie* software.
- Create simple graphs using *Graph Club* software.

Music: The first grade music curriculum explores the following themes and skills.

- **Rhythm** Demonstrate steady beat and no beat.
Accurately echo rhythm patterns using quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests.
- **Melody** Identify melodic phrases that move upward and downward
Sing in the range of E- B
Accurately echo melodic phrases
Read and match pitch using *do, mi, sol, and la*
- **Tone Color** Identify solo and group performances
- **Form** Understand and use the repeat sign symbol
Perform songs and instrumental pieces using echo
- **Expression** Recognize louds and softs in music (dynamics)
Recognize fast and slow in music (tempo)
- **History and Style** Explore music of classical composers and music from countries around the world.
- **Vocabulary:** melody, staff, quarter note, quarter rest, eighth note, phrase, repeat sign, echo

The Second Grade curriculum includes:

A language arts curriculum in which students continue to learn to:

- Identify setting, character traits, problem and solution in stories that are read.
- Write meaningful stories that have a clear setting, multiple characters, and problem solution.
- Apply proper punctuation and capitalization rules in writing
- Write complete sentences with proper subject/verb agreement
- Apply spelling patterns in written work
- Decode words effectively
- Read silently and orally with fluency
- Comprehend written material
- Write friendly letters

A math curriculum that explores:

- Recognition and continuation of patterns
- Value of coins and coin combinations
- Time telling to the nearest quarter hour
- Good reasoning in problem solving
- Written and oral explanation of mathematical thinking
- Temperature reading on thermometers
- Addition and subtraction facts
- Measurement to the nearest unit
- Identification of common three-dimensional shapes
- Addition and subtraction problems that require regrouping
- Identification of fractional parts of a whole
- Application of multiplication arrays
- Solving number stories (word problems)

A social studies curriculum that explores elements of culture, geography, history, economics and government. Specific Social Studies units include: cultural differences among geographical regions of the United States; a study of the city of Columbia; basic map skills; and the study of famous scientists through history.

A science curriculum that fosters global understandings of earth science, life science, physical science, health and the human body and space. Specific units in science include: the study of ocean life; the skeletal and muscular systems; weather; the food pyramid; and the habitat of the forest.

Visual Arts: Second grade visual arts integrates areas of study with art history. Students explore basic art elements (line, shape, color, texture, and space) and are introduced to key principles of design.

Skills/Mediums

- drawing
- shading
- painting
- cutting/gluing

- mixed media/bookmaking
- printmaking (glue-relief)
- pottery
- black & white ink drawings for *Creations*

Spanish: The **purpose** of Lower School Spanish is to introduce children to the Spanish language and its sounds. Basic vocabulary is incorporated through lessons that involve a lot of interaction in order to make the children speak the language without “thinking”. **Our goal** is to have children leave the Lower School comfortable with the Spanish sounds, comfortable with answering simple Spanish questions and knowing basic Spanish vocabulary and phrases.

Units of study include: greetings, family, animals, body parts, weather, clothing, numbers to 50, food, household items, time and days of the week. Students also learn information about various Hispanic customs and holidays. Second graders begin experimenting with writing and reading simple Spanish sentences.

Library: Through flexible scheduling of our library, second graders learn both literature and reference skills.

Literature

- Parts of a book
- Discussions based upon notable children’s literature
- Locating books in library
- In-depth author studies

Information Literacy

- Using encyclopedias with assistance
- Simple bibliographies
- Internet searches
- Note taking and reading for information
- Title searches

Technology: Technology skills are integrated throughout the second grade curriculum. Experiences include:

- Keyboarding, with a focus on both hands, using *Type to Learn 4* software.
- Learning more advanced painting tools and techniques using *Pixie* software.
- Using various software to practice math concepts.
- Creating ocean reports, acrostic poems, and other posters using *Print Shop* software.
- Using the Internet to research forest animals and other topics.
- Creating concept maps using *Kidspiration* software.
- Creating different types of graphs using *Graph Club*.
- Creating illustrated books, including images, text, and recorded audio using *Pixie* software.
- Creating a presentation, including images and text, using *Google Presentation* software.

Music: The second grade music curriculum explores the following themes and skills.

- **Rhythm** Understand beat and rhythm
Understand 2/4 time signature
Read, write, and accurately echo rhythm patterns using quarter notes, eighth notes, quarter rests, half notes, half rests.
- **Melody** Identify treble clef lines and spaces
Sing in the range of C- B
Read and match pitch using *do, mi, sol, la, and ti*

- **Harmony** Identify and perform rounds/canons
Perform broken patterns on Orff instruments
 - **Tone Color** Identify orchestral instruments families
 - **Form** Understand and use question/answer and ABA form
 - **Expression** Understand and use piano and forte dynamics
Understand and use crescendo and decrescendo
 - **History /Style** Explore music of classical composers, music from countries around the world.
 - **Vocabulary** – beat, canon, forte, rhythm, question/answer, crescendo, decrescendo, meter, broken chord, round, piano, ABA
- * Participate in class musical

The Third Grade Curriculum

In third grade, we use the Houghton Mifflin reading series, which features stories by authors such as Tomie dePaola, Dav Pilkey, and Patricia Polacco. Students learn to use a variety of strategies to improve their comprehension. Our writing is based on the Six Plus One Traits of good writing (ideas, organization, voice, sentence fluency, word choice, conventions, and presentation) and the five-step writing process (pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing). Writing assignments include personal narratives, descriptive paragraphs, instructions, and research reports

We use the Sitton spelling program, which includes skills instruction and individualized lists. We also use the Wordly Wise vocabulary program, and three times a year we participate in the WordMasters analogies challenges. Third-graders also learn to write in cursive.

In math we use the Envisions Math program. Third-graders strengthen their addition and subtraction skills, learn how to multiply and divide, and investigate topics such as fractions, geometry, measurement, and probability. Students are expected to memorize the times tables.

Our social studies curriculum is based on South Carolina geography and history. We study the state's regions and our history from the Native Americans to the 20th Century. Each student creates a South Carolina dictionary, and we celebrate the year with South Carolina Day in May. Third-graders also memorize the location of the 50 states.

In science we begin the year with astronomy, followed by the circulatory and respiratory systems of the body, reptiles and amphibians, and the wetlands.

Visual Arts: Third grade visual arts focuses on South Carolina artists and art from our region. There is an emphasis on creating original work while applying basic art elements & principles of design.

Skills/Mediums

- drawing
- designing
- cutting/gluing/collage
- painting
- printmaking (monoprints)
- pottery
- black & white ink drawings for *Creations*

Enrichment Project

- create collaborative book banner for SCASL Contest

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Units of study include: greetings, family, animals, body parts, weather, clothing, numbers to 100, food, household items, time, directions, places around town, and days of the week/months of the year. Students also learn information about various Hispanic customs and holidays. Third graders begin writing sentences in Spanish and reading short passages.

Library: Through flexible scheduling of our library, third graders learn both literature and reference skills.

Literature

- Author studies
- Identifies well-known authors/illustrators
- Discussion of notable children's literature including SC folklore and SC authors
- Shows discrimination in book selection
- Uses literary components of plot, setting, and characterization

Information Literacy

- Independent searches using author, title, subject
- Note-taking, bibliographies using author and title
- Web site information evaluation
- Supervised Internet searches

Technology: Technology skills are integrated throughout the third grade curriculum.

Experiences include:

- Beginning touch-typing using *Type to Learn 4* software.
- Using basic word processing and editing with a variety of software.
- Creating and sharing simple text documents using *Google Documents* software.
- Creating and sharing simple spreadsheets using *Google Spreadsheets*.
- Using a variety of software to practice math concepts.
- Using *Pixie* software to create books that incorporate images, text, and recorded audio.
- Using *Print Shop* software to create State Symbol and other posters.
- Creating an animated illustration using *Animation-ish* software.

Music: The third grade music curriculum explores the following themes and skills.

- **Rhythm** Understand meter in 2 and 3
Understand $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{4}{4}$ time signature
Read, write, and accurately echo rhythm patterns using quarter notes, eighth notes, quarter rests, half notes, half rests, dotted notes, whole notes, whole rests
- **Melody** Identify skips, steps, and repeats
Read and match pitch using *do, re, mi, so, la, low la, low so,* and *ti*
- **Harmony** Identify and perform partner songs and 3 part rounds
Understand the difference between unision and harmony
- **Tone Color** Identify orchestral instrument families with emphasis on the string family
- **Form** Understand and use introduction, coda, and fermata
- **Expression** Understand and use pianissimo, mezzo-piano, mezzo-forte, and fortissimo dynamics
Sing in tune using good posture, diction, and breath control
- **History/ Style** Explore music of classical composers, music from countries around the world.

- **Vocabulary** – duple meter, step, 3-part round, introduction, triple meter, skip, partner song, fermata, measure, repeat, dynamics, bar line, unison, coda, posture

The Fourth Grade Curriculum includes:

- A language arts program that emphasizes reading and writing in all subject areas through a balanced literacy approach. Literature and writing circles are used to explore novels and creative writing.
- A mathematics curriculum that includes the study of patterns, numeration, computation, geometry, measurement, fractions and problem-solving through the use of manipulatives.
- A social studies curriculum that studies early United States history, the make-up of a civilization, map skills, latitude and longitude, and the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Greece, completed by the Create-a-Country exhibition.
- Inquiry-based science instruction that covers force and motion, landforms and rivers, simple machines, and the study of ants and bees, and the digestive system.
- Inquiry-based, cross curricular projects are utilized throughout the year.
- Technology is integrated into the curriculum.

Visual Arts: The fourth grade visual arts curriculum integrates units of study and art from ancient civilizations (Prehistoric, Sumer, Egypt, Greece). Emphasis is placed on planning, designing, originality, creativity, craftsmanship, and the use of basic art elements & principles of design.

Skills/Mediums

- drawing
- etching/printmaking
- mask-making
- pottery
- carving/sculpting
- black & white
- illustrations for cover of *Creations* literary publication

Enrichment Project

- paper-mache alligators

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Units of study include: greetings, family, adjectives, animals, body parts, weather, clothing, numbers to 100, food, household items, time, directions, places around town, jobs/professions, and days of the week/months of the year. Students are also learn information about various Hispanic customs and holidays. Fourth graders begin to write and read Spanish sentences and paragraphs.

Library: Through flexible scheduling of our library, third graders learn both literature and reference skills.

Literature

- Search with author, title, subject, and key word
- Discuss notable children's literature
- Begin to evaluate quality of books, especially biographies
- In-depth author studies
- Genre studies
- Explore literary awards
- In-depth unit of biographies

Information Literacy

- Locate materials using call numbers
- Introduction to Dewey Classification System
- Note-taking
- Bibliographies using title, author, publisher, and publication date
- Discus Databases
- Evaluation of internet sites
- Developing good multiple resource research skills

Technology: Technology skills are integrated throughout the fourth grade curriculum. Experiences include:

- Practicing touch-typing using *Type to Learn 4* software.
- Creating and sharing text documents using *Google Documents* software.
- Creating and sharing presentations using *Google Presentation* software.
- Creating and sharing spreadsheets using *Google Spreadsheets*.
- Using a variety of software to practice math concepts.
- Using *Pixie* software to create books that incorporate images, text, and recorded audio.
- Learning page layout basics using *Print Shop* software.
- Creating a sophisticated presentation, incorporating scanned images, computer drawings, text, and bibliography. This presentation becomes part of the Create-A-Country Exhibition.
- Creating an animated illustration using *Animation-ish* software.
- Use the SCRATCH programming language to create simple games and simulations.

Music: The fourth grade curriculum explores the following themes and skills.

- **Rhythm** Understand and use syncopated rhythms (ti ta ti) and sixteenth notes
Read, write, and accurately echo rhythm patterns using quarter notes, eighth notes, quarter rests, half notes, half rests, dotted notes, whole notes, whole rests
- **Melody** Identify and use the note names of the treble clef staff
Read and match pitch using *do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, low la, low so,* and *ti*
- **Harmony** Discriminate between the use of unison and harmony
Perform broken chords and 2-note chords on xylophones
- **Tone Color** Identify various instruments of the four orchestral families by sight and sound
Understand that sound is produced by vibration
- **Form** Identify rondo form

- **Expression** Sing with proper dynamics
Sing in tune using good posture, diction, and breath control
 - **History/ Style** Explore music of classical composers, music from countries around the world.
 - **Vocabulary** – strings, pitch, tempo, allegro, woodwinds, rondo form, accelerando, andante, percussion, interlude, ritardando, syncopation, brass, unison, harmony, moderato
- * Participate in class musical and school Christmas program (Lessons and Carols)