

Curriculum Details: Kindergarten through 5th Grade

English Language Arts (ELA)

The Reading & Writing Workshop model structures the ELA block. This model allows for a balanced literacy approach, based on a curriculum that integrates reading, writing, and grammar, to meet the needs of all learners. A balanced approach to literacy allows the teacher to address the standards using the following methods: whole class instruction through read alouds and mini lessons, shared reading/writing, independent reading and writing time, teachers working with small groups, and literacy centers. This model allows time for teachers to use assessment data to differentiate and meet all students' needs by working with students one-on-one or in small group settings. The workshop model provides independent time for students to build stamina, which is an important skill needed for sustained reading and writing, as well as for taking standardized assessments. Independent reading or writing time allows students to transfer skills modeled by the teacher during the whole class mini lesson to their independent work.

To address the reading foundational standards for grades K-2 our school uses the Wilson Foundations® program which is based on the Wilson Reading System® principles. Wilson Foundations® provides research-based materials and strategies. This is a structured program in foundational skills, including: phonemic awareness, phonics, word study, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, handwriting, and spelling. Wilson Foundations® also includes a parent component, informing parents of the language, strategies and skills learned in the classroom This allows for the parents and teachers to work together as a team to help our students learn to read and write.

Mathematics

The Mathematics Program in the lower grades emphasizes instruction in both computation and mathematical concepts. Students are encouraged to communicate and reason logically, and begin to understand how to become independent thinkers and problem solvers. Manipulatives are used across the program to allow students to illustrate concepts and to encourage them to apply math skills they learn to real-life problems.

Social Studies

In the primary grades learners explore the self, the family and the community. Students acquire a deeper understanding of the concept of community as they examine theirs and other communities as well as the historical, geographic, social and economic components of larger communities. Students begin to see the importance of their involvement in their own communities. Cross-curricular connections to literacy are

consistently planned so that students learn to apply the literacy skills they are developing to all subjects and content areas.

Science

The Science program is activity based. Students complete projects that explore focus questions in each grade. Simple experiments reinforce observational and analytical skills, scientific knowledge and discovery. Cross-curricular connections to literacy are consistently planned so that students learn to apply the literacy skills they are developing to all subjects and content areas.

Religion

Students receive regular instruction in Religion that focuses on the principles and doctrine upon which the Catholic faith is founded, and how we can use these principles to be more Christ-like in our daily lives. Our monthly values infusion program, which focuses on a key value every month throughout our school, teaches students be respectful of others and more conscious of their own actions, so that they may be on a path to self-discipline, enabling them to make good decisions based on solid moral ground.

Special Subjects

Students also receive weekly instruction in Mandarin, Art, Music and Physical Education.