

E2 Middle Elementary Curriculum (Ms. Grogan)

Reading:

In middle elementary, students will read from various genres for a variety of purposes. Students will be exposed to fiction, historical biographies, fairy tales, poetry, mysteries, and more. Weekly reading groups include literature circle activities and book projects, vocabulary, dictionary and spelling skills, and comprehension development. Mini lessons shall include pre-reading, visualization, sequencing, main idea and summarizing, prediction, using context clues and finally reaction/reflections discussions and writing. Weekly non-fiction reading includes current events, related science and social studies themes, Time for Kids Magazine, and poetry. In addition, students will enjoy daily sustained silent reading (SSR) and read aloud. *Reading groups will be based on individual levels and needs.

Writing:

As part of writing, students will develop a deep understanding of literary elements (plot, setting, theme, character traits, etc). They will be accountable for reading and completing different reports in different subject areas. As part of the writing program, children will learn and implement the five step writing process consisting of prewriting, drafting, revising, editing and publishing (author's circle). Students will learn to write in a variety of different styles including letters, informational/research reports, stories, poetry (acrostic, haiku, cinquains), autobiographies, journals, and picture writing. Grammar includes learning the parts of speech, and spelling will include weekly lists based on developmental level word study/word attack skills as well as dictionary skills. Children will work independently as they complete works/activities, will work in pairs and in small groups.

The SEE (Sequential English Education) Program:

This year, the students will be introduced to new multisensory program of teaching reading, spelling, vocabulary, auditory discrimination and memory, and cursive writing. Each lesson presents the patterns of the English language, moving from simple to complex patterns. Students will learn, review and master the following concepts: sound symbol correspondence, word families, decoding, oral language development, paraphrasing, spelling patterns, and listening. Types of sentences, parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives) and punctuation will also be covered.

Math:

As part of the middle elementary program, students will learn and master basic operations including addition, subtraction, multiplication and estimation. Graphing will include creating and interpreting bar, line, and circle graphs. Daily word problems and mini lessons on problem solving strategies will be presented. Concepts of time (telling time to the hour, 5 minute and elapsed time) and money will be taught. Lastly, we will study fractions (creating, adding, and subtracting fractions), division, measurement (linear conversions, measurement in cooking...) and geometry (shapes, angles, polygons, area and perimeter). Daily morning math meetings will include questions about calendar, time, patterns, place value, money and other problem solving techniques. *Students will have lessons base don their individual development and needs, and will be divide into math groups accordingly. Students will learn through math groups, individual activities and math works.

Science:

Each term students will begin a new unit in science. Science offers hands-on exploration, discovery, experiments, and projects. Students will enjoy various lessons, art activities, writing assignments and presentations related to the different topics. In addition to the first two Montessori Great Lessons (Coming of the Universe and Coming of Ilfe), the following areas will be studied in depth:

Year One: Rocks, Volcanoes, and Earthquakes

Sound

Plant Growth and Development

Year Two: Study of the Santa Fe River

Weather

Animal classification with a focus on insects and arachnids

Social Studies (to be taught over two years):

As students learn Social Studies, mapping skills include weekly mini-lessons on maps, hands-on work related to skills, and activities related to continent studies (Montessori maps and works). Students will understand and use cardinal directions, and identify geographical features such as oceans, rivers, plateaus, mountains, and other landforms.

History will encompass the history of New Mexico, various Native American tribes, early colonists, and settlers in the United States. In addition, students will learn about a variety of famous historical figures through biographies and research reports.

In civics and government lessons, students will understand the rights and responsibilities of being a good citizen as members of a school and a community. In addition, students will understand the basic purposes of government in the U.S. and New Mexico.

Specials:

Each week the students will have an hour of Spanish and Art instruction with Miss Colleen. In class we will study various classical composers during music history. We will soon begin weekly in class sing along/music and movement lessons as well.

In addition, students will learn about several fine artists as we explore various styles and periods in art, and create our own master pieces.

Field Trips:

This year we are planning numerous field trips including a fall trip to Hyde Park to study the Aspens (science and art), Spanish Colonial Days at El Rancho De Las Golondrinas (history and Spanish), The Pumpkin Patch on October 25th, the Natural History Museum (science), The New Mexico History Museum, and several youth concerts at the Lensic (pertaining to our study of music history/classical composers). I will provide additional information regarding winter and spring field trips.

Rules Reminder:

All students will follow the basic rules of the school:

***We treat others with kindness and respect.**

***We treat materials with respect.**

***We treat ourselves with care.**

***Homework Reminder:**

Homework will be distributed on Monday and will include nightly reading with a reading chart/contract, math, and spelling with occasional science and social studies work as well. Miss Colleen will assign Spanish homework. Please make sure to check your child's work and return the homework folder on Friday.

Thank you!

Ms. Grogan