

Pre-Kindergarten

WORKING WITH WORDS

Phonological Awareness

Rhyming, alliteration, syllable segmenting and blending

Visual Discrimination

Recognition of letters and numbers

INDEPENDENT AND GUIDED READING (LITERATURE) - Emergent Literacy

Pre-Reading Skills

Explores books independently, listens to read aloud, participates in re-reading a story, re-enacts a favorite story with props

Comprehension Skills

Makes story predictions, listens and responds to stories, sequences events

WRITING - Emergent Literacy

Oral Expression

Expresses own thoughts and ideas, develops vocabulary

Written Expression

Illustrates to show comprehension, observational drawing, labels pictures

Kindergarten

WORKING WITH WORDS

Phonemic Awareness

Identifies initial, middle, and final sounds, identifies and produces rhyming words

Visual Discrimination

Recognizes upper and lower case letters

Decoding

Decodes age appropriate words using letter recognition, auditory discrimination, and syllable recognition

INDEPENDENT AND GUIDED READING (Literature)

Pre-Reading & Reading Skills

Reads to & with teacher, participates in reading predictable books, echo reads, reads grade-level basic sight words

Comprehension

Listens attentively to stories, retells stories and makes predictions

WRITING (Communication Skills)

Oral Expression

Participates in calendar and circle times; solves oral number stories

Written Expression

- Illustrates and composes simple sentences; uses knowledge of letter sounds to produce legible print and content; envisions self as an author; contributes to daily news and journal writing
- Responds to content material in written form using complete sentences and appropriate punctuation

Handwriting

Uses correct pencil grip; produces print in a left-to-right, top-to-bottom progression; produces upper and lower case letters from memory using D'Nealian font

First and Second Grade

WORKING WITH WORDS

Spelling

Our spelling program uses a multi-sensory approach to teach reliable patterns and rules of the English language. Words are analyzed as regular, rule, or irregular words. Sound patterns, suffixes, inflectional endings ed, ing, -bl, -ble, -del, -kle, -ckle, -tle, -kle, -fle, contractions, and high frequency words are taught.

Decoding

- The language program is phonics based and promotes sound symbol correspondences through the use of multi-sensory strategies and is designed to enrich the spelling program. It promotes instant word recognition and fluency to support comprehension.
- Knowledge of closed syllables, final stable syllables, vowel-consonant-e syllables, vowel pair syllables, consonants, consonant clusters, and special situations (ex: (a) after /w/ as in "water"), syllable division, knowledge of digraphs (ch, oo, ai), letter clusters (tch), and diphthongs (ai, ay, oy, ow) are taught.

Sight Words

- High frequency words
- Vocabulary development
- Study of synonyms, antonyms, prefixes, suffixes, and introduction of dictionary skills are taught.

INDEPENDENT AND GUIDED READING (LITERATURE)

Reading Comprehension

- Main idea, supporting details, classifying, drawing conclusions, making inferences, sequencing, comparing and contrasting, cause and effect, recalling, observing, and predicting are emphasized.

- Use of novel studies and anthologies in large group/guided reading groups ensure that students read for meaning, support, development, and share ideas.

Genres and Themes

Literature supports social studies, science, and math themes; literature consists of modern and classic fiction and non fiction; poetry; literature activities encourages students to become independent readers who use reading for personal growth and for the development of advanced reading skills.

WRITING AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Sentence Structure

Expression in complete thoughts; interrogative, declarative, exclamatory

Mechanics

Use of spelling patterns, capitalization, and punctuation

Grammar

Introduces nouns, verbs, adjectives, pro-nouns, subject/verb agreement and commas in a series

Written expression

- Writes sentences, combines and explains sentences; applies the 5 step writing process (brain storming, rough draft, revising, editing, publishing). Focus on writing topic sentences with supporting details, logical order (beginning, middle and end), and time order words.
- Forms of writing: writes comparison paragraphs, writes a solution to a problem, writes couplets, and designs an invitation.

Handwriting

Correct pencil grip, formal instruction in D'Nealian manuscript; introduction of D'Nealian cursive in second grade

Third through Fifth Grade

WORKING WITH WORDS

Spelling

The spelling program is used to teach reliable patterns and rules of the English language. Students learn to analyze words and group them according to regular, rule and irregular patterns. Students do not learn a given list of words, but rather learn how to use rules and patterns to spell content words and make applications to writing.

Decoding

Decoding skills are strong by 3rd grade. Students have already learned to read and now they read to learn. Students continue to develop strategies to unlock unfamiliar words through a multisensory approach.

Vocabulary Development

Words are introduced weekly or bi-weekly where students practice definitions, matching the meaning, synonyms/antonyms, completing sentences and word associations . Strong vocabulary skills are built through focus on content words and vocabulary associated with class novels.

INDEPENDENT AND GUIDED READING - (Literature)

Reading Comprehension

- Students are taught to use prior experience to comprehend text, identify similarities and differences, predict outcomes, identify sequential order, understand simple story structure, distinguish between fiction and nonfiction, analyze cause and effect, identify main idea and important details, draw conclusions, summarize, make an explain inferences and recognize story plot.

Genres and Themes

Reading focuses on a variety of fiction and non-fiction literature including short stories, tall tales, novels, historical writings, fairy tales, biographies and poetry. These themes are driven by novel studies and tie in with the math, social studies and science classroom studies.

WRITING – (Communication Skills)

Sentence Structure

Using complete sentences, avoiding run-on and fragmented sentences, practicing the use of subjects and predicates, compound subjects and verbs, and compound sentences is emphasized.

Mechanics

Capitalization and punctuation related to sentence beginnings, proper nouns, greetings, closings and direct quotations; commas in a series, letter parts, dates, addresses, and quotations are taught.

Grammar

Using prepositions, verbs, nouns, adjectives, conjunctions, interjections, adverbs, and pronouns are practiced.

Written Expression

Students are taught paragraph development, logical order, and editing as they write descriptive and contrast paragraphs, opinion essays, How –To essays, haiku poetry, friendly letters, personal narratives, simple research reports and stories.

Handwriting

Continued instruction in D'Nealian handwriting and cursive is conducted.

Sixth through Eighth Grade

Vocabulary

- Antonyms
- Synonyms
- Analogies
- Connotation and denotation

Grammar

- Eight basic parts of speech
 - Subject complements
 - Adjective/adverb phrases

- Appositive phrases
- Irregular verbs
- Transitive/intransitive verbs (introduction)
- Independent/dependent clauses
- Participles, gerunds and infinitive phrases
- Sentence diagramming
- Mechanics
- Consistent verb tense
- Proper sentence structure
- Writing dialogue
- Pronoun/antecedent agreement
- Subject/verb agreement
- Proper comma, semicolon, colon usage

Writing Skills

- Brainstorming
- Composition
- Revision and editing
- Peer Editing
- Multiple drafts
- Informative essay
- Vocabulary words in context
- Creative writing
- Compare and contrast
- Note taking
- Recognizing main points
- Creating thesis statement and a topic sentence
- Perfecting paragraph form

Reading Skills

- Reading comprehension
- Class discussions
- Main idea
- Sequence of events
- Cause and effect
- Summarizing
- Predicting
- Meaning, theme, mood
- Questioning skills
- Highlighting skills
- Compare and contrast
- Story mapping
- Dual-entry journals

Reading

Independent/guided reading of:

- Fiction
- Non-Fiction
- Short Stories
- Metered and free-verse poetry

Oral Skills

- Mechanics of speaking
 - Enunciation/clarity
 - Volume
 - Eye contact

- Posture
- Gestures
- Intonation
- Articulation
- Pace
- Persuasion
- Responsiveness to listener

St. Gabriel's Catholic