

Lower School Course Outline Kindergarten

Subject: Language Arts



Introduction:

Surrounded by a print-rich environment designed to enhance their emerging literacy, Kindergarteners are engaged in speaking, listening, reading and writing activities throughout the day. Whole group activities form the foundation of the language arts program. Moving from this safe and energized platform the children are encouraged to work both independently and in small groups.

Content:

Verbal Communication:

Children learn to focus and confidently articulate both interpreted and original ideas using complete sentences. Children develop the ability to listen intently, recollect detail, follow sequence, as well as identify sounds and sound patterns.

Reading & Phonological Awareness:

The first of the program's two goals is to promote in each child a growing passion for reading. The second is to present a variety of reading skills and strategies to support literacy development. Students learn the sound-symbol association of consonants and vowels.

Written Communication:

Children freely utilize prewriting strategies (drawing and talking), revising strategies (brainstorming, talking), journal work and story/book making activities. Strong emphasis is placed on the mechanics (tools and process) of writing.

Approach:

Several instructional techniques are employed. Teacher directed instruction, interactive writing, cooperative group activities, guided reading in small groups, individual and whole group readings are among the many.

Materials:

Leveled (Fountas and Pinnell) trade books, Rigby Literacy big books and guided reading books, children's literature, and phonics practice books are some of the materials in use.

Evaluation Process:

Teacher observations form the core of the evaluation process at the kindergarten level.

Lower School Course Outline Kindergarten

Subject: Math

Introduction:

While building on a mastery of basic skills, the Kindergarten math program emphasizes conceptual understanding and problem solving, as it is specifically applicable to everyday situations. Children explore the full math spectrum using a variety of concrete materials during partner, small group and whole group activities.

Content:

Numeration:

Children learn to count, read, write, and compare numbers from 1 to 100.

Operations and Computations:

Children identify and use symbols (the same/equal to, addition and subtraction) as they create and solve a variety of number stories.

Data and Chance:

Children create and interpret various graphs, make predictions and analyze outcomes.

Geometry:

Children experiment with geometric shapes, compare their attributes, construct and analyze two and three-dimensional shapes.

Measurement:

Using formal and informal tools, the student explore and experiment with measurements of length, height, weight, volume, time and money.

Patterns and Functions:

Children explore the many facets of pattern making including generating, identifying, copying and extending patterns. Students examine number relationships through games and activities.

Approach:

A variety of instructional techniques are utilized. Teacher directed instruction leads to manipulative and inquiry based experiences. Cooperative group work and active student participation are also essential components.

Materials:

Trade books, manipulative materials, project construction, charts and graphs, measuring tools and games comprise the materials list.

Evaluation Process:

Teacher observations form the core of the evaluation process at the Kindergarten level.

Lower School Course Outline Kindergarten

Subject: Social Studies

Introduction:

Children are immersed in various, rich experiences that build on the child's understanding of self and their immediate world. These experiences initiate an appreciation of diverse peoples, their cultures and their place in our global community.

Content:

Self-awareness:

The children explore the question "Who am I?" in terms of physical, social, and emotional attributes. Children use drawing, dramatization and project development to learn about themselves and others. Children are introduced to a conflict resolution program to actively help them learn peaceful problem solving skills.

Community awareness:

Children answer the question "Where do I fit into the community of classroom, school, village, state and country?" Service projects inform children's ideas about their potential as ambassadors for their communities and help them to positively respond to the needs of others.

Global awareness:

By exploring the question "How do I find out about the big world I live in?" the children encounter the idea of likes and differences, tolerance, and respect. Research assignments, holiday traditions and the telling of history pertinent to specific occasions all promote a greater understanding of the big wide world.

Service Learning:

Students participate in school-wide service projects to promote an awareness of others' needs and to encourage a desire to help others. Under the guidance of the teacher, a class will recognize a need for service and will take leadership for implementing a school-wide project.

Approach:

Students are immersed in the process of observing change in the world around them. Children's literature prompts discussion, investigation and discovery. Art projects act to consolidate processed information and form response vehicles.

Materials:

Children's literature, trade books and child-developed research projects (via internet, library, and videos), topical art and construction projects are the materials used in the social studies program.

Evaluation Process:

Teacher observations form the core of the evaluation process at the Kindergarten level.

Lower School Course Outline Kindergarten

Subject: Science

Introduction:

The Kindergarten science program is designed to build on the children's natural curiosities concerning the world around them. The concept of CHANGE links a variety of learning experiences and investigations that are adaptable to the varied interests and abilities of each child. Concurrently, these experiences encourage each child to develop reliable observation techniques that they can utilize in problem-solving situations throughout life.

Content:

Scientific Inquiry:

Beginning with the question "What do you know?", the children engage in the discovery process. Observation skills are introduced and practiced. Resources are identified and examined both individually and in group activity. Information is then shared by and among the students.

Earth and Life Science:

With the study of the life cycle of the butterfly as a central focus, students explore the change of seasons, animal habitats and behavior, plant life and ecological responsibility.

The students learn about the Earth's rotation and its orbit around the sun. The students learn about the moon's orbit around the Earth.

Physical Science:

The students learn about their five senses and become adept at using their sense of sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell as they discover new information.

The students investigate the properties of magnets.

Health Science:

The children participate in a trimester of yoga classes. Healthy foods are identified and encouraged for meals.

Approach:

Science instructional techniques are varied, yet remain inquiry-based. Topical literature, careful observations and documentation of observations are the constructs of scientific discovery in Kindergarten.

Materials:

Trade books, children's literature, project construction, observation journals and the natural world provide hands-on, concrete materials to aid the learning process.

Evaluation Process:

Teacher observations form the core of the evaluation process at the Kindergarten level.