



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE



Our elementary school is a place where the uniqueness of every learner is recognized and celebrated. Curiosity is encouraged, minds are appropriately challenged, individual strengths and needs are recognized, and a collaborative spirit is fostered. The elementary school years are easily the most critical and influential for each student's future success. The attitude toward learning, study habits, critical thinking skills, social behaviors and self-confidence they develop in their early years have a profound impact on who they become later in life.

Teachers carefully plan lessons with a focus on essential learning objectives while setting high expectations for our elementary students. We coordinate instruction across diverse subjects and grade levels, and take advantage of our small-size classes, with low student-to-teacher ratios, in implementing the RISE (Respect, Involvement, Safety, Excellence) program. This helps students develop solid foundations and encourages them to become both life-long learners and responsible citizens.

Junior-Kindergarten

Seven Peaks School's Junior Kindergarten program encourages students to have a growth mindset, both inside and outside of the classroom. Each day is full of learning opportunities designed to help each child reach their full potential developmentally and academically. Small and large group activities promote the development of the whole child; social and emotional, fine and gross motor skills, language, science, social studies, and cognitive skills in reading and math readiness concepts. In a student-centered environment, teachers facilitate growth in their students with problem solving, demonstrating critical thinking and participation in daily activities which help to promote cooperation, collaboration and communication skills. Our Junior Kindergarten program provides a warm and nurturing environment where each child is loved for the unique and special individual that they are and valued for what they bring to our classroom community.

Literacy

The Junior Kindergarten curriculum at Seven Peaks incorporates the whole child approach to learning where every student is valued for where they are in the learning process. Age appropriate experiences in the areas of language and literacy, math, science, social studies, music, art, Spanish and physical education are integrated into each week. Teachers utilize *Zoophonics* and *Explode the Code* curriculum to teach students the building blocks of letter identification, letter sound combination and letter formation. Later in the school year, we introduce the readers' and writers' workshop model where students' individual needs are met through the use of one-on-one conferencing with the teacher as well as strategy based flexible grouping. The teacher models how to explore literature and respond thoughtfully.

Math

Junior Kindergarten students gain a strong foundation in math which is critical for ongoing conceptual understanding. Throughout the Jr. Kindergarten year, students learn through exploration in geometry, counting and cardinality, algebraic thinking, number operations and measurement. Our Jr. Kindergarten teachers work with smaller groups of students to offer differentiated instruction and individualized guidance. Throughout the Jr. Kindergarten year, students will learn to compare and contrast sets of objects and begin to count, read and write whole numbers up to 30. They will also be introduced to measurement both in standard and nonstandard units, learn to classify objects according to their attributes and explain why certain object do not belong. Math in our Jr. Kindergarten program is taught through a hands-on approach where students are encouraged to think abstractly about different concepts and use their peers to further their inquiry of the math world around them.

Social-Emotional Curriculum & Character Education

Seven Peaks School's elementary teachers use the award-winning **Kelso's Choice** curriculum as their conflict-management curriculum. This program is based on the premise that every child is capable of becoming a peacemaker. Designed around Kelso the Frog, the program offers nine options students can choose from to resolve minor conflicts on their own. Students learn to

determine the difference between minor problems they can handle and serious problems that require an adult's help.

RISE is our code of conduct at Seven Peaks. Every student learns that RISE stands for Respect, Responsibility, Involvement, Safety and Excellence. Positive reinforcement is offered to students when they show RISE!

Mindfulness is taught in our classrooms regularly by a parent volunteer, Banni Bunting. Banni has worked with children for over 20 years and she has a daughter in our middle school. Research shows that practicing mindfulness increases attention, self-regulation and empathy.

Art

Junior Kindergarten students attend art twice per week. The elementary art program emphasizes the process of creation as well as the created product. The goals for children in visual art include enjoyment of the creative process, exposure to a variety of mediums, use of art for fun and creative self-expression, and an appreciation of fine art. We explore the elements and principles of art (texture, line, shape, value, space, color), and study various artists along with their acclaimed pieces. Projects at the elementary level include drawing, printing, painting, paper mache and ceramics. In the spring, students select several pieces of his or her work to display at the Annual Art Show.

Music

Students in Junior Kindergarten have music two times per week. In the music classroom, JK focuses on the First Steps in Music Education curriculum <https://www.feierabendmusic.org/first-steps-in-music-for-preschool-and-beyond/>. The three main goals are preparing students to be

- Tuneful - to have tunes in their heads and learn to coordinate their voices to sing those tunes.
- Artful - to feel the pulse of music and how that pulse is grouped in either 2s or 3s.
- Beatful - to be moved by music in the many ways music can elicit a feelingful response.

Within these three mediums, there are eight daily exercises: pitch exploration (vocal warm-ups), fragment singing, echo songs, call and response songs, simple songs, arioso (child created tunes), Songtales, movement exploration, movement for form and expression and movement with beat.

Each year culminates with a dramatic singing show, performed for family members in late spring.

Physical Education

Junior Kindergarten students participate in physical education class twice a week. The Junior Kindergarten program focuses on basic movement principles as well as hand eye coordination, exploration of physical movement, sportsmanship, teamwork, and problem solving.

Spanish

Conversational Spanish is taught, beginning in Junior Kindergarten, with an emphasis on helping children fall in love with learning Spanish. All students at Seven Peaks learn language through listening, speaking, reading, and then writing.

Kindergarten

The Seven Peaks Kindergarten student begins a year of tremendous growth focused on the exploration and love of learning. In every avenue, whether it is through art, reading, writing, and mathematics, we are exploring dialogue, developing our academic skills, expanding our social skills, and continually being challenged to learn the responsibilities within an elementary classroom. Students work to expand their academic and social potential by approaching learning with a growth mindset where we view mistakes as learning opportunities. Our academic development focuses on reading, writing, and math as the essential building blocks used throughout our elementary and middle school grade levels.

Literacy

Students in our Kindergarten know their letters, words, and sounds. They apply this knowledge to read simple sentences and leave Kindergarten reading books at their independent level. They work all year learning to discuss literature, understand what they are reading and identifying the basic facts and ideas in what they have read, heard, or viewed. They use comprehension strategies such as generating and responding to questions as well as comparing new information to what is already known. We have daily strategy focus time where the students practice a reading strategy independently or with partners in the classroom. The teachers are working daily to expand the kindergarten student's knowledge and strategies used during reading.

Kindergarten students are able to write words, detailed beginning sentences that explain familiar objects, events, and experiences. Writing workshop is used as a basis for the writing program. They experience writing three different types of texts at their developmental level: narratives, informational "how to", and opinion pieces. Students are introduced to the very early versions of revision and editing when conferencing with teachers. Vocabulary, conventions, and word study are embedded into the program.

Math

We use EnVision by Pearson Education as our primary math program. Children learn and master procedures, concepts, and applications in all content areas. Mathematical practices are an important part of the math curriculum. These standards are based on the best practices of mathematicians and are meant to develop powerful habits of mind. We work on math inquiry, investigating math thinking, making connections, and exploring new ways to solve problems.

Core Knowledge

Each month we have a new learning focus that is weaved into the kindergarten curriculum. The topics vary but are a content-specific curriculum that is used to teach children the fundamentals of science, social studies, and art.

Social-Emotional Curriculum & Character Education: Seven Peaks School's elementary teachers use the award-winning **Kelso's Choice** curriculum as their conflict-management curriculum. This program is based on the premise that every child is capable of becoming a peacemaker. Designed around Kelso the Frog, the program offers nine options students can choose from to resolve minor conflicts on their own. Students learn to determine the difference between minor problems they can handle and serious problems that require an adult's help.

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Art

Kindergarten students attend art class twice per week. The elementary art program emphasizes the process of creation as well as the created product. The goals for children in visual art include enjoyment of the creative process, exposure to a variety of mediums, use of art for fun and creative self-expression, and an appreciation of fine art. We explore the elements and principles of art (texture, line, shape, value, space, color), and study various artists along with their acclaimed pieces. Projects at the elementary level include drawing, printing, painting, paper mache and ceramics. In the spring, students select several pieces of his or her work to display at the Annual Art Show.

Music

Students in Kindergarten attend music class two times per week. The First Steps in Music Education curriculum

<https://www.feierabendmusic.org/first-steps-in-music-for-preschool-and-beyond/> prepares students to be:

- Tuneful - to have tunes in their heads and learn to coordinate their voices to sing those tunes.
- Artful - to feel the pulse of music and how that pulse is grouped in either 2s or 3s.
- Beatful - to be moved by music in the many ways music can elicit a feelingful response.

Within these three mediums, there are eight key daily exercises: pitch exploration (vocal warm-ups), fragment singing, echo songs, call and response songs, simple songs, arioso (child created tunes), Songtales, movement exploration, movement for form and expression and movement with beat.

Kindergartners perform for friends and family twice per year; once at the winter holiday season and again in late spring.

Physical Education

Kindergarten students participate in physical education class twice a week. The Kindergarten program focuses on basic movement principles as well as hand eye coordination, exploration of physical movement, sportsmanship, teamwork, and problem solving.

Spanish

Conversational Spanish is taught, beginning in Junior Kindergarten, with an emphasis on helping children fall in love with learning Spanish. All students at Seven Peaks learn language through listening, speaking, reading, and then writing. Kindergarten students take Spanish class twice per week.

First Grade

First grade at Seven Peaks School is all about creating wonder, curiosity and excitement for learning. At Seven Peaks, First graders are asked to think about the *why* behind their learning and challenged to explain their thinking. The building blocks of reading, writing and mathematics are grown, practiced and nurtured. Approaching learning with a growth mindset is a fundamental practice in the classroom where mistakes are viewed as celebrations of growth. Throughout the curriculum, engagement practices, teamwork and social emotional learning are emphasized to expand each student's academic and social potential.

Literacy

First grade is often when the love of reading takes off and students learn the fundamentals of phonics, word patterns and comprehension. They apply this knowledge to achieve fluency when reading aloud or silently. During reading workshop, students' individual needs are met through the use of one-on-one conferencing with the teacher as well as strategy focused flexible grouping. They begin to use comprehension strategies to help them understand what they are reading. Guided lessons focus on activating prior knowledge, predicting what will happen next in the text and responding to who, what, when and how questions.

Writing workshop is the foundation for the writing program. Writing is explicitly taught daily and through a workshop model students are given ample opportunity to practice. First graders are able to write the kind of texts that they see in the world; non-fiction chapter books, poems, stories, reviews and persuasive letters. Students write for an audience of readers and their work is shared in quarterly writing celebrations with peers, big buddies and parents. Students self select topics and this is imperative in their commitment to their writing. Even as first graders the instruction teaches them the writing process including rehearsing, drafting, revising, editing and publishing. Throughout this process students are given clear and direct feedback through one-on-one conferencing with the teacher. As writers, they set goals, track their progress and decide what next steps should be in order to grow as a writer.

Math

EnVision Math is an elementary wide program that balances skill instruction with instruction that develops conceptual understanding through problem-based interactive and visual learning. This research-based program is aligned with Common Core standards and topics are organized around math strands focusing on the Big Ideas and Essential Understandings of math. With the guidelines in place, math in first grade is taught as an explorative, creative subject where the answer is important, but the journey holds even more importance. First graders are asked to not only master concepts but be able to explain their thinking and be open to a variety of different strategies.

Math is structured in a workshop model where students can be seen in large and small groups, working together and alone. There are team challenges and choices within the math structure. Differentiation is key and with small class sizes this differentiation is evident in a variety of ways within the classroom setting. Children are taught, and we believe, that all students can achieve high levels in math and the growth mindset approach to problem solving helps them achieve this.

Core Knowledge

The idea behind Core Knowledge is simple and powerful: knowledge builds on knowledge. Core Knowledge at Seven Peaks is Science and Social Studies curriculum that spirals within the elementary grade levels. Students are asked to learn more than the facts. They delve deeper, experiencing the subject matter in a meaningful way. First grade Core Knowledge subjects are geography and habitats, early explorers, matter and electricity, world religions, ancient Greece, human body, American revolution and the solar system.

Social-Emotional Curriculum

A variety of resources are used to shape the important social emotional skills of the first grade class. **Kelso's Choice Conflict Management Skills** program helps guide kids by effectively teaching them peace-making and problem management skills. The program is a powerful and timely tool to build a vital life skill for the young people in today's world. The program philosophy is simple: elementary students are capable of resolving conflict. In addition, **core virtues** are highlighted by teachers monthly and touch on skills such as respect, responsibility, diligence, honesty, generosity and perseverance. These are explicitly taught as well as modeled in the classroom and beyond. The school as a whole spends time teaching **mindfulness**. This is a time where students focus on being present and learn what it means to notice the way they are feeling. There are many studies that show the science behind this practice and showcase its success in the classroom. It has been shown to help students regulate behavior and focus on their learning. The guiding principles of our code of conduct, **R.I.S.E.** (Respect and Responsibility, Involvement, Safety, and Excellence), also teach the students about how to grow as an individual and learner. To enhance community and a sense of belonging, students also

have school mentors or “big buddies” whom they meet with weekly. During this time buddies get to know each other and learn together.

Art

First grade students attend art class twice per week. The elementary art program emphasizes the process of creation as well as the created product. The goals for children in visual art include enjoyment of the creative process, exposure to a variety of mediums, use of art for fun and creative self-expression, and an appreciation of fine art. We explore the elements and principles of art (texture, line, shape, value, space, color), and study various artists along with their acclaimed pieces. Projects at the elementary level include drawing, printing, painting, paper mache and ceramics. In the spring, students select several pieces of his or her work to display at the Annual Art Show.

Music

Students in first grade attend music twice per week. They are introduced to the Quaver Music Curriculum, where they dive into online learning based on the Orff approach to music - learning by doing. Students have fun with Quaver as his character takes kids on an exciting journey through his imaginative music shop, inspiring them to discover and love music! With the help of a music laboratory, live recording studio, time-traveling phone box, and cast of hilarious characters, Quaver is an energetic teaching-assistant, helping engage young people in the marvelous world of music like never before.

Our music class is full of energetic learning that is Smartboard and personal device-based in the cloud which is also accessible on personal home applications.. This Standards-Based content aligns with NafME, NCCAS and Common Core and allows students to explore various aspects of music including beat, meter, rhythm, voice, lines and spaces of the grand staff, melody, notes and rests, tempo, dynamics, various Orchestra instruments and form. All of this is done through singing, dancing, playing instruments, creating, composing, listening, responding, performing, and evaluating.

Physical Education

First grade students participate in physical education class twice per week. The first grade PE program focuses on locomotor movement principles, hand eye coordination, fitness concepts, game/sport concepts, exploration of physical movement, sportsmanship, teamwork, and problem solving.

Spanish

Conversational Spanish is taught, beginning in Junior Kindergarten, with an emphasis on helping children fall in love with learning Spanish. All students at Seven Peaks learn language through listening, speaking, reading, and then writing.

Second Grade

Students in second grade explore the world around them in a deeper manner. They begin to mature in their understanding of a growth mindset: that growth is gained through taking risks, embracing mistakes, and persevering through challenges. It is a classroom where children are encouraged to explain their thinking in multiple ways, and in doing so are encouraged to seek deeper learning opportunities in meaningful ways. It is a place where friendship dynamics are explored more extensively, and where students begin to identify with their peers and their role within the classroom.

Literacy

The Units of Study in Reading and Writing by Lucy Calkins is our core curriculum. Both reading and writing are taught within the workshop model. During the workshop, students receive whole group strategic instruction, followed by independent practice and small group instruction. Within our workshop, students follow the Daily 5 structure and have the ability to choose their reading option: Read to Self, Read to Someone, Work on Writing, Work Work, and Listen to Reading. Spelling and grammar instruction are embedded within the program. Throughout the workshop, students have the opportunity to share the thinking and strategies they used with their classmates. They build upon their literacy foundation by exploring fluency strategies with more challenging texts, studying non-fiction in depth, and developing book series clubs. Second Grade Units focus on the following topics:

- Reading Growth: building stamina, exploring new texts, comprehension/accuracy/fluency focus
- Becoming experts in Non-Fiction
- Amping up in Reading Power: exploring deeper comprehension strategies, increased fluency skills.
- Series Book Clubs

Writing

Second grade writers become more sophisticated with developing their craft. They develop strategies to create stories to write, and write long and strong. They carefully analyze the work of published authors, and try to use some of those writing techniques in their own pieces. The students are taught specific strategies related to structure, development, and language conventions. Second graders also write for a variety of purposes (persuade, inform, entertain).

The writing units of study include:

- Improving Narrative Craft
- Writing About Reading (Opinion)
- Lab Reports/Science Books
- Poetry

Math

In second grade, students' mathematical focus is centered around solidifying their understanding of two and three-digit addition and subtraction, place value, money, measurement, geometry and time. We emphasize conceptual understanding and communication skills, as well as procedural fluency. Students are given opportunities to develop their mathematical thinking skills (i.e. noticing patterns, trying multiple strategies to solve problems, and showing their thinking in many ways), as we value mathematical curiosity, experimentation, and deep understanding.

Walk into the second grade math classroom, and you will find students working together to solve an open-ended Team Challenge, explaining and defending their strategies and solutions with their classmates. Inquiry-based instruction and issue- or problem-based learning invites students to explore concepts through questions, problems and scenarios, and in the context of relevant, real-world problems, rather than simply being presented with information. Our students learn to be flexible, creative thinkers, and articulate their thinking to others.

In our Workshop model, students self-select from a menu of appropriate math tasks related to the current mathematical standard. Each child chooses a task differentiated for their individual learning needs and interests, with support from teachers and peers. Our small class size and qualified teaching staff ensures that each child is both challenged and supported as they grow as mathematicians.

Finally, each class ends with an opportunity for students to reflect on their learning. Students are encouraged to make connections between concepts and strategies, and articulate their new understandings. Writing is an important tool for summarizing learning and constructing meaning. It allows the brain to articulate understandings, and increases the likelihood that the learning will be remembered. Reflecting allows students to know themselves as learners, and make progress in selecting appropriately challenging learning tasks.

Second grade math covers the following topics:

- Understanding the Addition and Subtraction
- Place Value to 1,000
- Mental Addition and Subtraction
- Adding and Subtracting Two and Three-Digit Numbers
- Counting Money
- Measuring Length
- Time, Graphs, and Data
- Geometry

Core Knowledge

At Seven Peaks School, grades JK-8, we utilize the Pearson Learning Core Knowledge, History and Geography curriculum. This flexible program, edited by Core Knowledge founder E.D. Hirsch, Jr., follows a specific Core Knowledge Sequence to teach key history and geography topics. With this program, our students build a unified, solid base of academic knowledge - the key to overall literacy and future success. Core Knowledge History and Geography presents the concepts of world and American history, and geography, to build important social studies concepts. Core Knowledge includes grade specific science units as well.

Topics covered by second grade include:

- Water Cycle
- Rainforest/Insects/Bugs
- U.S. Constitution
- Native Americans
- Human Body (specifically, the heart)
- Ancient Egypt
- Simple Machines/Force & Motion
- Civil Rights
- Magnetism

Social-Emotional Curriculum

A variety of resources are used to shape the important social emotional skills of the First grade class. **Kelso's Choice Conflict Management Skills** program helps guide kids by effectively teaching them peace-making and problem management skills. The program is a powerful and timely tool to build a vital life skill for the young people in today's world. The program philosophy is simple: elementary students are capable of resolving conflict. In addition, **core virtues** are highlighted by teachers monthly and touch on skills such as respect, responsibility, diligence, honesty, generosity and perseverance. These are explicitly taught as well as modeled in the classroom and beyond. The school as a whole spends time teaching **mindfulness**. This is a time where students focus on being present and learn what it means to notice the way they are feeling. There are many studies that show the science behind this practice and showcase its success in the classroom. It has been shown to help students regulate behavior and focus on their learning. The guiding principles of our code of conduct, **R.I.S.E.** (Respect and Responsibility, Involvement, Safety, and Excellence), also teach the students about how to grow as an individual and learner. To enhance community and a sense of belonging, students also have school mentors or "big buddies" whom they meet with weekly. During this time buddies get to know each other and learn together.

Art

Second grade students attend art class twice per week. The elementary art program emphasizes the process of creation as well as the created product. The goals for children in visual art include enjoyment of the creative process, exposure to a variety of mediums, use of art for fun and creative self-expression, and an appreciation of fine art. We explore the

elements and principles of art (texture, line, shape, value, space, color), and study various artists along with their acclaimed pieces. Projects at the elementary level include drawing, printing, painting, paper mache and ceramics. In the spring, students select several pieces of his or her work to display at the Annual Art Show.

Music

Second grade students are introduced to the Quaver Music Curriculum, where they dive into online learning based on the Orff approach to music - learning by doing. Students have fun with Quaver as his character takes kids on an exciting journey through his imaginative music shop, inspiring them to discover and love music! With the help of a music laboratory, live recording studio, time-traveling phone box, and cast of hilarious characters, Quaver is an energetic teaching-assistant, helping engage young people in the marvelous world of music like never before.

Our music class is full of energetic learning that is Smartboard and personal device-based in the cloud which is also accessible on personal home applications.. This Standards-Based content aligns with NafME, NCCAS and Common Core and allows students to explore various aspects of music including beat, meter, rhythm, voice, lines and spaces of the grand staff, melody, notes and rests, tempo, dynamics, various Orchestra instruments and form. All of this is done through singing, dancing, playing instruments, creating, composing, listening, responding, performing, and evaluating.

Physical Education

Second grade students are in physical education class twice a week. The second grade PE program focuses on locomotor movement principles, hand eye coordination, fitness concepts, basic sports skills, game/sport concepts, exploration of physical movement, sportsmanship, teamwork, and problem solving.

Spanish

Conversational Spanish is taught, beginning in Junior Kindergarten, with an emphasis on helping children fall in love with learning Spanish. All students at Seven Peaks learn language through listening, speaking, reading, and then writing.

Third Grade

Third grade will expand your child's horizons and give them more of a "big picture" perspective. These social skills relate not only to friendships and interactions with teachers and other students, but to more in-depth learning experiences. Third graders are primed to build upon what they've already learned, and they will use third grade math and science to continue to explore the world around them. They will also begin to think more globally as they learn more about the world beyond home and school, and they will become very interested in learning new things.

Literacy

The Units of Study in Reading and Writing is our core curriculum. For more information please visit <http://readingandwritingproject.org>. Both reading and writing are taught within the workshop model. During the workshop, students receive whole group strategic instruction, followed by independent practice and small group instruction. At the closing of workshop time, students have the opportunity to share their thinking and strategies they used with their classmates. Spelling and grammar instruction are embedded within the program.

Reading

3rd graders truly live the life of a reader, learning and utilizing critical strategies to navigate fiction and nonfiction texts. Students are spending 80% of reading time with eyes on text, reading books at their "within-reach level" while utilizing a repertoire of strategies to make meaning as they read. 3rd graders also are engaged in conversations about their reading with reading partners and book clubs, thereby lifting the level of their work as a reader. The major units of study for the third grade curriculum include:

- Building a Reading Life
- Reading to Learn: Grasping Main Ideas and Text Structures
- Character Studies
- Research Clubs: Elephants, Penguins, and Frogs, Oh My!

Writing

3rd grade writers become more sophisticated with developing their craft. They develop strategies to come up with stories to write, and write long and strong. They carefully analyze the work of published authors, and try to use some of those same writing moves in their own pieces. The students are taught specific strategies related to structure, development, and language conventions. 3rd graders also write for a variety of purposes (persuade, inform, entertain). The writing units of study include:

- Crafting True Stories
- The Art of Information Writing
- Changing the World: Persuasive Speeches, Petitions, and Editorials
- Once Upon a Time: Adapting and Writing Fairy Tales

Math

In third grade, students are further developing their number sense while exploring multiplication, division, fractions, geometry, measurement and problem-solving strategies. We emphasize conceptual understanding and communication skills, as well as procedural fluency. Students are given opportunities to develop their mathematical thinking skills (i.e. noticing patterns, trying multiple strategies to solve problems, and showing their thinking in many ways), as we value mathematical curiosity, experimentation, and deep understanding.

3rd Grade Math Curriculum:

- Number Sense - Addition and Subtraction with Larger Numbers, Rounding, and Estimation
- Multiplication and Division Meanings and Strategies
- Patterns and Relationships
- Geometry Solids and Shapes
- Fractions
- Measurement-Customary & Metric Perimeter, Area, Volume Measurement
- Time, Data and Graphing
- Multiplying with Greater Numbers Dividing with 1-Digit Numbers

Walk into the third grade math classroom, and you will find students working together to solve an open-ended Team Challenge, explaining and defending their strategies and solutions with their classmates. Inquiry-based instruction and issue- or problem-based learning invites students to explore concepts through questions, problems and scenarios, and in the context of relevant, real-world problems, rather than simply being presented with information. Our students learn to be flexible, creative thinkers, and articulate their thinking to others.

In our Workshop model, students self-select from a menu of appropriate math tasks related to the current mathematical standard. Each child chooses a task differentiated for their individual learning needs and interests, with support from teachers and peers. Our small class size and qualified teaching staff ensures that each child is both challenged and supported as they grow as mathematicians.

Each class ends with an opportunity for students to reflect on their learning. Students are encouraged to make connections between concepts and strategies, and articulate their new understandings. Writing is an important tool for summarizing learning and constructing meaning. It allows the brain to articulate understandings, and increases the likelihood that the learning will be remembered. Reflecting allows students to know themselves as learners, and make progress in selecting appropriately challenging learning tasks.

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program, our students build a unified, solid base of academic knowledge - the key to overall literacy and future success. Core Knowledge History and Geography presents the concepts of world and American history, and geography, to build important social studies concepts. Core Knowledge includes grade specific science units as well.

3rd grade Core Knowledge topics include:

- Astronomy
- The Human Body
 - The Muscular System
 - The Skeletal System
 - The Nervous System
- Light and Optics
 - Vision
 - Hearing
- Ancient Rome
- Important Rivers of the World
- Vikings
- Early Exploration of North America
- Ecology
 - Forest Ecology
 - Fire Ecology
 - River Ecology

Social-Emotional Curriculum

A variety of resources are used to shape the important social emotional skills of the third grade class. **Kelso's Choice Conflict Management Skills** program helps guide kids by effectively teaching them peace-making and problem management skills. The program is a powerful and timely tool to build a vital life skill for the young people in today's world. The program philosophy is simple: elementary students are capable of resolving conflict. In addition, **core virtues** are highlighted by teachers monthly and touch on skills such as respect, responsibility, diligence, honesty, generosity and perseverance. These are explicitly taught as well as modeled in the classroom and beyond. The school as a whole spends time teaching **mindfulness**. This is a time where students focus on being present and learn what it means to notice the way they are feeling. There are many studies that show the science behind this practice and showcase its success in the classroom. It has been shown to help students regulate behavior and focus on their learning. The guiding principles of our code of conduct, **R.I.S.E.** (Respect and Responsibility, Involvement, Safety, and Excellence), also teach the students about how to grow as an individual and learner. To enhance community and a sense of belonging, students also have school mentors or "big buddies" whom they meet with weekly. During this time buddies get to know each other and learn together.

Art: Students attend art twice a week. The elementary art program emphasizes the process of creation as well as the created product. The goals for children in visual art include enjoyment of the creative process, exposure to a variety of mediums, use of art for fun and creative self-expression, and an appreciation of fine art. We explore the elements and principles of art (texture, line, shape, value, space, color), and study various artists along with their acclaimed pieces. Projects at the elementary level include drawing, printing, painting, paper mache and ceramics. In the spring, students select several pieces of his or her work to display at the Annual Art Show.

Music: Students in third grade attend music four times each week. They are introduced to the Quaver Music Curriculum, where they dive into online learning based on the Orff approach to music - learning by doing. Students have fun with Quaver as his character takes kids on an exciting journey through his imaginative music shop, inspiring them to discover and love music! With the help of a music laboratory, live recording studio, time-traveling phone box, and cast of hilarious characters, Quaver is an energetic teaching-assistant, helping engage young people in the marvelous world of music like never before.

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Physical Education

Third grade students are in physical education class twice a week. The third grade PE program focuses on locomotor movement principles, hand eye coordination, fitness concepts, basic sports skills, game/sport concepts, exploration of physical movement, sportsmanship, teamwork, and problem solving.

Spanish

Conversational Spanish is taught, beginning in Junior Kindergarten, with an emphasis on helping children fall in love with learning Spanish. All students at Seven Peaks learn language through listening, speaking, reading, and then writing.

Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade is an exciting year where students are becoming more self-reliant and independent. Study skills and work habits are sharpened as they prepare for the academic years ahead. Students will take more risks and become more in control of their learning as we progress through our engaging curriculum. The fourth grade is an exciting year full of fun, hands-on learning experiences that all 9 and 10 year olds adore.

Language Arts

The Units of Study in Reading and Writing (Lucy Calkins) is our core curriculum. Both reading and writing are taught within the workshop model. During the workshop, students receive whole group strategic instruction, followed by independent practice and small group instruction. At the closing of workshop time, students have the opportunity to share their thinking and strategies they used with their classmates. Spelling and grammar instruction are embedded within the program.

Students in fourth grade are reading a wide variety of texts, with increasing accuracy and understanding. They read daily for a sustained period, both independently and with guided practice. Reading comprehension is reinforced through active reading strategies such as predicting, connecting and inferring. In addition to content based and individual choice books, students will read a number of class novels.

Reading Units of Study include:

- Interpreting Characters: The Heart of the Story.
- Historical Fiction Book Clubs
- Interpretation Book Clubs
- Nonfiction Book Clubs

Students in fourth grade are writing daily through **Writer's Workshop**. The students focus on three main types of writing throughout the year: narrative, opinion/persuasive, and informational. The class will focus on the structure of their pieces as well as development and language conventions. Students craft clear, coherent sentences and paragraphs that support a thesis statement. Their writing shows they consider their audience and purpose. Students learn writing is a process as they progress through the stages of drafting, revision, and editing. Multi-paragraph compositions are practiced, which include an introductory paragraph with an established thesis, supporting paragraphs with evidence from texts and a concluding paragraph. Vocabulary, grammar, and spelling are embedded into the program.

Math

In fourth grade, students spend the majority of their year understanding of the four basic operations (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing), extending their skills to include fractions, measurement and geometry. Students are given opportunities to develop their mathematical thinking skills (i.e. noticing patterns, trying multiple strategies to solve problems, and showing/explaining their thinking in many ways), as we value mathematical curiosity, experimentation, and deep understanding.

Walk into the fourth grade math classroom, and you will find students working together to solve an open-ended Team Challenge, explaining and defending their strategies and solutions with their classmates. Inquiry-based instruction and issue- or problem-based learning invites students to explore concepts through questions, problems and scenarios, and in the context of relevant, real-world problems, rather than simply being presented with information. Our students learn to be flexible, creative thinkers, and articulate their thinking to others.

In our Workshop model, students self-select from a menu of appropriate math tasks related to the current mathematical standard. Each child chooses a task differentiated for their individual learning needs and interests, with support from teachers and peers. Our small class size and qualified teaching staff ensures that each child is both challenged and supported as they grow as mathematicians.

Topics covered include:

- Multiplication and Division
- Generating and Analyzing Patterns
- Place Value
- Addition and Subtraction of Whole Numbers
- Multiplying by 1 and 2-Digit Numbers
- Dividing by 1-Digit Divisors
- Equivalent Fractions and Ordering
- Adding and Subtracting Fractions with Like and Unlike Denominators
- Mixed Numbers
- Measurement Units and Conversions
- Measurement Problems
- Geometry

Core Knowledge

At Seven Peaks School, grades JK-8, we utilize the Pearson Learning Core Knowledge, History and Geography curriculum. This flexible program, edited by Core Knowledge founder E.D. Hirsch, Jr., follows a specific Core Knowledge Sequence to teach key history and geography topics. With this program, our students build a unified, solid base of academic knowledge - the key to overall literacy and future success. Core Knowledge History and

Geography presents the concepts of world and American history, and geography, to build important social studies concepts. Core Knowledge includes grade specific science units as well.

Topics covered by the fourth grade include:

- Map Skills and World Mountains-Field trip to Lava Lands/Lava River Caves
- Meteorology
- Europe in the Middle Ages- Middle Ages Festival
- Dynasties of China
- Circulatory and Respiratory System- Red Cross Blood Drive
- Electricity and Magnets
- Geology- Overnight field trip, OMSI field station at Camp Hancock(Geology focus)
- The American Revolution

Social-Emotional Curriculum: Kelso's Choice Conflict Management Skills program helps guide kids by effectively teaching them peace-making and problem management skills. The program is a powerful and timely tool to build a vital life skill for the young people in today's world. The program philosophy is simple: elementary students are capable of resolving conflict. In addition, **core virtues** are highlighted by teachers monthly and touch on skills such as respect, responsibility, diligence, honesty, generosity and perseverance. These are explicitly taught as well as modeled in the classroom and beyond. The school as a whole spends time teaching **mindfulness**. This is a time where students focus on being present and learn what it means to notice the way they are feeling. There are many studies that show the science behind this practice and showcase its success in the classroom. It has been shown to help students regulate behavior and focus on their learning. The guiding principles of our code of conduct, **R.I.S.E.** (Respect and Responsibility, Involvement, Safety, and Excellence), also teach the students about how to grow as an individual and learner. To enhance community and a sense of belonging, students also “younger buddies” whom they meet with weekly. During this time buddies get to know each other and learn together. The fourth grade also visits the Touchmark retirement community on the first Wednesday of each month to meet with our “senior buddies”. This partnership not only promotes respect of our elders and the formation of intergenerational friendships, but it increases our involvement in our larger Bend community.

Art: Fourth grade students attend visual arts classes twice a week. The visual arts program focuses on developing the elements of art to understand the fundamentals and build art appreciation. Throughout the year 4th grade studies the art and artists from around the world, focusing in on the art of Africa and China and the art movements of the middle ages, guided by the sequential timeline of Core Knowledge. We cover a wide variety of materials and methods of artistic design from collage and painting to 3-dimensional sculpture and ceramics. Students attend visual arts classes twice a week. At Seven Peaks the arts are considered a “core” subject where we understand the potential they have to develop creative, problem-solving thinkers. In May, all SPS

students artwork will be showcased in an *All School Art Show* where we honor each student's creativity and beautifully crafted work.

Music: Students in fourth grade attend music four times each week. They are introduced to the Quaver Music Curriculum, where they dive into online learning based on the Orff approach to music - learning by doing. Students have fun with Quaver as his character takes kids on an exciting journey through his imaginative music shop, inspiring them to discover and love music! With the help of a music laboratory, live recording studio, time-traveling phone box, and cast of hilarious characters, Quaver is an energetic teaching-assistant, helping engage young people in the marvelous world of music like never before.

Our music class is full of energetic learning that is Smartboard and personal device-based in the cloud which is also accessible on personal home computers. This Standards-Based content aligns with NafME, NCCAS and Common Core and allows students to explore various aspects of music including beat, meter, rhythm, voice, lines and spaces of the grand staff, melody, notes and rests, tempo, dynamics, various Orchestra instruments and form. All of this is done through singing, dancing, playing instruments, creating, composing, listening, responding, performing, and evaluating.

Physical Education: Fourth grade students are in physical education class twice a week. The fourth grade PE program focuses on locomotor movement principles, hand eye coordination, fitness concepts, basic sports skills, game/sport concepts, exploration of physical movement, sportsmanship, teamwork, and problem solving.

Spanish: Students attend Spanish 4 times per week.

Fifth Grade

Overview

Fifth grade is a ton of fun! We have many exciting, meaningful traditions that our elementary students look forward to. In fifth grade, for the first time, we grow to two classes of students, with two core teachers (math/science and reading/social studies). This framework intentionally prepares our fifth graders for middle school, as they learn to manage their personal belongings, bring appropriate supplies to each class, and adjust to different teachers.

In fifth grade, character education, growth mindset, and an inquiry-based approach create the foundation of our rigorous academic program. Students leave the fifth grade as reflective thinkers, ready to navigate the academic and organizational challenges of adolescent life.

Our emphasis of reflective thinking dovetails well with our middle school's IB philosophy. Our student-centered instructional models are also designed to prepare kids for a middle school transition where anxiety is minimized. Finally, practicing a growth mindset prepares students to change and grow through the medium of their mistakes.

Literacy

Fifth grade is a busy and transformative year in terms of Literacy expectations. We start off by developing independent reading behaviors through the framework of [The Daily Five](#) curriculum. This curriculum is grounded in a student centered approach that emphasizes student choice and the use of personal reading strategies. Areas of specific focus include:

- Comprehension
- Accuracy
- Fluency
- Word Work

In January, we transition to the rigorous curriculum of [Lucy Calkins Reading Units of Study](#). This curriculum is also strategy-focused and inquiry-based, requiring high-level analyzing and synthesizing of ideas. Units of study include:

- Non-fiction - Increasing Levels of Complexity
- Interpretative Book Clubs - Analyzing Themes

In terms of writing, we use [Lucy Calkins Writing Units of Study](#). This curriculum follows a workshop model that prioritizes strategy-based instruction and gives students tools great authors use to raise the level of their writing. Google docs provide our medium of instruction, allowing the teachers to give feedback in a real-time format, while conferring regularly with individual students, coaching each student as they progress as writers.

Units covered include:

- Narrative
- Argumentative Essay
- Memoir
- Research

Math

In fifth grade, students spend the majority of their year solidifying their understanding of the four basic operations (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing), extending their skills to include fractions and decimals. We emphasize conceptual understanding and communication skills, as well as procedural fluency. Students are given opportunities to develop their mathematical thinking skills (i.e. noticing patterns, trying multiple strategies to solve problems, and showing their thinking in many ways), as we value mathematical curiosity, experimentation, and deep understanding.

Walk into the fifth grade math classroom, and you will find students working together to solve an open-ended Team Challenge, explaining and defending their strategies and solutions with their classmates. Inquiry-based instruction and issue- or problem-based learning invites students to explore concepts through questions, problems and scenarios, and in the context of relevant, real-world problems, rather than simply being presented with information. Our students learn to be flexible, creative thinkers, and articulate their thinking to others.

In our Workshop model, students self-select from a menu of appropriate math tasks related to the current mathematical standard. Each child chooses a task differentiated for their individual learning needs and interests, with support from teachers and peers. Our small class size and qualified teaching staff ensures that each child is both challenged and supported as they grow as mathematicians.

Finally, each class ends with an opportunity for students to reflect on their learning. Students are encouraged to make connections between concepts and strategies, and articulate their new understandings. Writing is an important tool for summarizing learning and constructing meaning. It allows the brain to articulate understandings, and increases the likelihood that the learning will be remembered. Reflecting allows students to know themselves as learners, and make progress in selecting appropriately challenging learning tasks.

Fifth grade math covers the following topics:

- Place Value (hundred billions to thousandths)
- Multiplying and Dividing Large Numbers
- Decimals (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing)
- Fractions and Mixed Numbers (adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing)
- Volume of Solids (geometry)
- Units of Measure (customary and metric units)
- Organizing and Displaying Data
- Classifying Plane Figures (Geometry)
- Coordinate Geometry
- Pre-Algebra

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Topics covered in the fifth grade include:

- Classification
- Cells
- Chemistry
- Endocrine System
- World Geography and Great Lakes of the World
- Ancient Cultures - Aztec, Inca, Maya
- Renaissance
- European Colonization and Exploration
- Westward Expansion
- U.S. States Geography

Social-Emotional Curriculum

Fifth grade is an important year developmentally. Students are becoming more aware of their peers and learn to navigate relationships with tact and kindness. We encourage fifth graders to advocate for themselves in friendships and with teachers, as we know that kids build resiliency by solving problems themselves, moving toward autonomy and self-reliance.

Fifth graders join the rest of the school community in emphasizing a core virtue each month, such as respect, responsibility, loyalty, courage, etc. Once per week, we work on mindfulness, teaching students to be aware of their own thoughts and actions, and gaining tools to respond to difficult or stressful situations with calmness and intention, instead of reactivity. Fifth graders look forward to our “Little Buddy” time on Fridays, when they spend time with a 1st or 2nd grade buddy, reading together, sharing their writing, and mentoring a younger child.

Fifth graders have multiple opportunities to extend their learning off-campus. In September, we celebrate the reading of the novel *Hatchet* by building cardboard boats, and attempting to successfully navigate across the outdoor pool at the Athletic Club of Bend. October finds us learning science and building community on a 2-night overnight to Camp Tamarack Outdoor School near Suttle Lake. Other field trips include Science Night, sponsored by Bend Research, Frontier Days at the High Desert Museum, and a trip to various cafes in downtown Bend to share stories written during our narrative writing unit.

In the spring, we spend a few weeks learning about financial literacy and job skills, culminating with a field trip to Portland to participate in Junior Achievement’s BizTown. This is a highlight for students, as they participate in mock job interviews, and “work” in a simulated job for the day. We also spend the night at the Oregon Zoo, participating in overnight Zoo Snooze program.

Art: Fifth grade students attend visual arts classes twice a week. The visual arts program focuses on developing the elements of art to understand the fundamentals and build art appreciation. Throughout the year 5th grade studies the art and artists from around the world,

focusing in on the art of Japan and United States and the art of the Renaissance, guided by the sequential timeline of Core Knowledge. We cover a wide variety of materials and methods of artistic design from collage and painting to 3-dimensional sculpture and ceramics. Students attend visual arts classes twice a week. At Seven Peaks the arts are considered a “core” subject where we understand the potential they have to develop creative, problem-solving thinkers. In May, all SPS students artwork will be showcased in an “All School Art Show” where we honor each student’s creativity and beautifully crafted work.

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Physical Education: Fifth grade students are in physical education class twice a week. The fifth grade PE program focuses on movement principles, hand eye coordination, fitness concepts, basic sports skills, game/sport concepts, exploration of physical movement, sportsmanship. teamwork, and problem solving.

Spanish: Same as above.