

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is where emergent readers become readers, emergent writers become writers and abstract concepts become graspable to learn. Our literary program consists of consonants and vowel studies, and journal writing. In our math program, children explore number sense, patterns, geometry, addition and subtraction. Our themes and author studies help the children to get a sense of their place in the world and learn tolerance of diversity. Here, in Kindergarten, we cover a broad spectrum of the basic skills needed for your child to be successful in reading, writing, math, science and social studies.

First Grade

Primary Prep's first grade curriculum, correlated with state standards, is designed to revisit and build upon the material from Kindergarten with a much deeper approach. Students master decoding unfamiliar words, subsequently increasing reading independence and comprehension. Students read and write in different genres of text, ranging from poetry and adventure to memoir and autobiography. Writing checklist is used to edit and develop revision skills, while finished writing achievements are published and shared between peers. While expanding knowledge of place value, addition and subtraction, measuring units, skip counting, sequencing, estimation, time, and money value- students are encouraged to use critical reasoning in choosing a method for solving math problems. In science, each student develops a strong understanding of the scientific method through in-class investigations, virtual lab experiments, and fun research based projects. Our environment, animals, plants, natural resources, weather and seasons are some of the observed science topics in first grade. Mapping skills are developed as students discover the surrounding neighborhoods and people's roles in the community they belong to. Lessons are supplemented with technology that is incorporated into classroom activities on daily basis. Students are assessed with regular performance, and summative and formative tests that are created to monitor students' progress.

Second Grade

Primary Prep's second grade curriculum begins with a review of the material in each of the subject areas is completed at the beginning of second grade, and they are further developed during the school year. In Reading, the students are encouraged to be critical thinkers. Comprehension skills, vocabulary expansion, a mastery of phonics and decoding skills, and fluency and expression skills are some of the main areas that are covered. The student is taught literary styles and literary techniques. In Language Arts, the student continues to work on their mastery of grammar and spelling, and they establish an understanding of its application to their writings. A Primary Prep second grader learns to understand the steps of the writing process. Mathematics is taught and connected to the student's life. Students learn basic number concepts and patterns, fractions, mathematical operations, geometry, data and graphs, probability, money, and time. At Primary Prep, S.T.E.M. topics are emphasized. A multitude of topics are covered in the second grade including, but not limited to understanding what a scientist is and does, technology and its presence in our world, life science, earth science, and physical science. Second graders become social scientists as they study various levels of government, and how government keeps our world safe and in good order. They understand the larger world outside of our country. Map skills, graphs, diagrams, and tables are utilized to support their lessons. The history of the United States is explored. Students learn that the United States is made up of various cultures that are blended into one American culture.

Third Grade

Primary Prep's third grade curriculum focuses on extending knowledge of grammar, reading, math, science and social studies through cross-curricular activities and the use of technology and interactive tools. Students extend reading comprehension and critical thinking skills through the development of story sequencing skills (beginning, middle and end), making inferences, drawing conclusions, understanding cause and effect, characters and the author's purpose. Context skills are used to build understanding of rhyme schemes, develop visualization skills and predict outcomes in a story. Where possible, cross-curricular connections are made in understanding content, objectives and vocabulary. Language arts extends the use of grammar concepts and speech mechanics. Understanding the writing process is a critical component that is extended in all subject areas. Students learn the writing process, how to use graphic organizers to pre-write, draft, revise, edit and publish work throughout the year. Math explores pre-algebra and geometry concepts while gaining a solid foundation in fractions, decimals, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. The science program requires students to take online tours of each chapter to enhance the learning process. In addition, the program includes a comprehensive, hands on lab component, which enhances the further development of scientific methods and vocabulary. The social studies program is comprehensive and provides them a deeper understanding of our environment, cultures and community that surround them. Understanding the writing process is a critical component that is expanded in all subject areas. Students learn the writing process, how to use graphic organizers to pre-write, draft, revise, edit and publish work throughout the year.

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade at Primary Prep is one of great excitement and growth. In this metamorphic year, children grow in independence and self-confidence, becoming more aware of personal responsibility and managing various levels of teacher expectation. Students make advances both academically and socially, allowing them to transition into becoming the "middle schooler" of tomorrow. In this pivotal year, students explore literature through reading novels as well as excerpts from authentic literature in the school reader. Expanding understanding of such components as character, plot, setting, and author's purpose throughout realistic fiction, fairy tales, fiction, simile, metaphor, poetry and much more. Math offers a year of exploring relationships among operations, problem solving, graphing, figures and angles used in everyday life. Writing encompasses skills necessary for success with the independence of personal editing and partner editing, allowing students to experience the writing styles of classmates. Writing various essays such as narratives, expository, and creative pieces allows students to strengthen the skills to take them forward. Science and Social Studies create atmospheres allowing students to explore curiosities about the world around them and the history of the country they call home. In fourth grade, New Jersey is also a focus of study, allowing the students to understand and appreciate the state that they live in. A year full of self exploration, growth and expanding independence makes for an exciting learning experience.

