

# St. John School Kindergarten Curriculum

## Literacy:

I don't limit myself to one specific curriculum for teaching reading and writing. I take the best aspects of all of the curriculum listed below, and teach with flexibility. In this way, I adapt to the group and to individual needs. This also allows me to keep lessons relevant, so that my students stay interested and motivated.

Joyful Pathways to Accelerated Literacy/Nellie Edge

Kindergarten Writing and the Common Core/Nellie Edge

Units of Study for Primary Writing; A Year long Curriculum/ Lucy Caulkins

Words Their Way; Word Study for Phonics, Vocabulary and Spelling Instruction

The Daily Five; Fostering Literacy Independence in the Elementary Grades

Writers Workshop; Writing Through the Year/Deanna Jump

Guided Reading in Action/Jan Richardson

Apprenticeship in Literacy; Transitions Across Reading and Writing/Linda J. Dorn

\* I also get ideas and inspiration from colleagues through teaching "blogs", workshops/conferences.

I believe that learning to read and write must be a meaning-centered and engaging process. I intentionally teach reading and writing in a cohesive, relevant manner, and utilize a whole language approach. For example, I introduce nursery rhymes, songs and poems that the children can "read" right away. This builds confidence and is highly rewarding for them. Sight words are taught along with sentences and even "books" that they are learning to read, so there is purpose and meaning! Some of the sight words are also their spelling words, so they can use them in their daily writing. I also teach specific phonics skills through games, songs and our "morning chit chat". Writing instruction includes "mini lessons" and daily writing about what is important to them. Writing is also integrated into other subject areas such as Science and Art. In this way, the children develop high levels of literacy skills, see what they are truly capable of, and are motivated to do their very best. It is my goal for each student to be reading "real" books and to "publish" their first picture book by the end of the year. ☺

## Math

I use "Guiding Kinders; Math Workshop" as my base curriculum for math instruction. It is an excellent curriculum which was created by two kindergarten teachers, Deanna Jump and Deedee Wills. It is quite cohesive and also very engaging for my students. Each lesson includes five components; fluency, new concepts, whole group explore, student application and share. The students keep a Math Journal which is a great "summary" of everything they learn. They also each have a Math Tool Kit which provides them with such tools as counters and number lines to assist them with problem solving.

In addition to the lessons included in this curriculum, I utilize many opportunities to teach math concepts throughout the day. Several skills are reinforced each day during our calendar time. I also integrate math in a meaningful way, as much as possible, into all of our subject areas.