



What Do We Offer Students in Grades 1-2?

In first and second grades, exploration, group activities and active learning continue to be vital parts of the routine. In addition, students begin to engage in increasingly complex academic work. More formal literacy and numeracy instruction is a focus, as students build on a strong foundation in number sense and language awareness from their early childhood experience to become fluent readers, writers, and mathematicians.

Personal and Social Development

Self concept; developing friendships; sharing, taking turns; expressing feelings & needs; solving problems with others

Language and Literacy

Listening & Speaking

- Hearing separate sounds within words
- Taking turns in conversation
- Listening to others with full attention
- Speaking clearly
- Expressing ideas, feelings & needs in words

Reading

- Phonics - matching letters and sounds
- Decoding words using phonics
- Sight words
- Oral reading fluency
- Comprehension

Writing

- Upper & lower case alphabet
- Invented spelling
- Conventional spelling of common words
- Simple sentences
- Paragraphs (end of 2nd grade)
- Using simple writing process

Mathematics

Grade 1 Focal Points

- Concept of addition & subtraction
- Strategies for recalling addition & subtraction facts
- Whole number relationships, including grouping in tens and ones
- Composing & decomposing geometric shapes
- Calendars

Grade 2 Focal Points

- Base ten system & place-value concepts
- Quick recall of addition & subtraction facts

- Fluency with multi-digit addition & subtraction
- Linear measurement concept & skill
- Time, money

Science and Social Studies

Guiding Questions

- How do people and animals meet their basic needs?
- What is a community?
- How are people the same in a community? How are they different?
- How do people in a community depend on one another?
- How does the physical environment (geography, weather) affect a community?

Topics of Study

Year 1 Theme: Our Land

Animal adaptations and animal shelter; Wabanaki; rocks and minerals; mapping

Year 2 Theme: The Community Around Us

Movement and locomotion; voting; jobs; bridges and structures

Art Studio

- Practice working cooperatively in an art studio setting; reflect and share processes with others
- Draw with contour & continuous line; draw a descriptive self portrait
- Develop an understanding of spatial depth in a two dimensional composition using overlapping, foreground, middle ground, & background
- Identify primary colors & mix secondary colors; use a palette
- Practice clay techniques & mixed media sculpture techniques
- Use simple printmaking tools to make relief prints
- Develop sequential imagery

Music: All About Rhythm

- Keeping a steady beat
- Musicianship: reading treble clef notes with solfege & letter names; recognizing simple time values & signatures; major scales and whole/half steps
- Singing harmonious songs highlighting letter sounds, rhymes, plays on words
- Combining music and movement

Physical Education

Further improvement of gross motor movements alone & with partners; introduction to teamwork; recognition of leadership qualities; improved social skills through play

ConnectEd

ConnectEd is the 1st-4th grade version of the Body, Mind, Spirit program, designed to foster connections between self, others, and the natural world, largely in an outdoor setting. Monthly themes may include Self, Truth, Friendship, Spirit, Discourse, Unity, Group Effort, Stewardship, and Individuality. The intention is to build vocabulary and practice skills regarding:

- Care for physical and emotional self
- Conflict management
- Decision-making as an individual and as a group
- Appreciation and awareness of the natural world
- Positive relationship between self and community
- Respect for diversity in others and in the environment