



What Do We Offer Students in Grades 3-4?

What adventuresome souls these students are! Their days include field studies and field trips, experiments, plays, art, and much outdoor time.

Personal and Social Development

Self confidence; awareness of others' needs & feelings; responsibility for actions; respect for people & surroundings

Language and Literacy

Listening and Speaking

- Discussion skills
- Oral presentation

Reading

- Word attack skills, word structure, multi-syllabic words
- Oral reading fluency – readers' theater, reading buddies
- Literature & nonfiction – interpretive questioning & response, supporting ideas, novel exploration
- Varied independent reading

Writing

- Spelling age appropriate words
- Handwriting fluency
- Simple word processing
- Planning, drafting, revising, editing
- Giving & receiving constructive feedback
- Research skills – asking questions, reading for facts, summarizing, simple note-taking, distinguishing between fact & opinion

Mathematical Thinking

Grade 3 Focal Points

- Multiplication & division concepts & strategies for basic recall of facts
- Fractions & fraction equivalence
- Properties of 2-D shapes

Grade 4 Focal Points

- Quick recall of multiplication & division facts
- Fluency with whole number multiplication and long division
- Fractions: add, subtract, multiply, divide
- Concept of area & finding area of 2-D shapes

Science

Skills: Classifying & identifying organisms; hypotheses & experimental design; simple data collection & organization; using data to support ideas, see patterns, make predictions

Year 1 Topics: Plant ecology; properties of matter – the water cycle; simple machines and inventions

Year 2 Topics: Animal ecology; reading the environment of Casco Bay; circuits and pathways; sun, moon, earth and planets

Social Studies

Inquiries include field studies within our region and state, visitors, model-making, art, and drama.

Year 1, Maine: Geography; history; cultural contributions from Native Americans, European settlers, African Americans

Year 2: Landforms; US geography; our 50 states; US colonial history

Spanish

- Greetings, introductions, and simple conversations
- Listening, speaking, reading and writing familiar topics such as self, family, numbers, colors, shapes, food, home, pets, school, clothes, days of the week, and months; focus on communicating in the present tense
- Exploration of Spanish-speaking cultures

Art Studio

- Practice working cooperatively in an art studio setting; reflect and share processes with others
- Draw with contour and continuous line; draw a descriptive self portrait
- Develop an understanding of spatial depth in a two dimensional composition
- Mix secondary colors, neutrals, tints & shades; use a palette
- Practice clay techniques; develop mixed media sculptures; use printmaking tools

Music

Through their study of the Ukulele, students apply fundamentals of rhythm, melody, basic sight-reading, and musicianship.

- Learning through singing, reading, listening, dancing, and playing
- Musical Literacy: reading treble clef, solfege & letter names; simple meters; common key signatures; major scales; simple harmony, sight-singing
- *Year 1:* Maine History – emphasis on the music of Maine; the Maine Counties Song
- *Year 2:* US Geography – emphasis on American folk music; The Fifty Nifty States Song

Music Performance Classes

- *Beginner Strings* (elective): a year of group lessons for beginner violin, viola, cello
- *String Ensemble* (elective): for students who have completed at least one year of lessons & can play their instrument at the intermediate level

Physical Education

Practicing fine motor skills & more coordinated movements; sportsmanship, ability to enjoy winning & losing; teamwork, cooperation, leadership qualities; exposure to a variety of recreation & leisure activities

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
- Group project-based learning