



McGINNIS WOODS
Country Day School

Curriculum Guide

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Welcome to McGinnis Woods Country Day School!

Thank you for taking the opportunity to learn more about our school. Our mission is simple and focused – we are *‘Committed to Excellence’*. As a school, we are committed to ensuring that each student’s educational experience is nurturing, challenging, fun, and successful. We instill a love of learning that will be with each child for his/her lifetime.

McGinnis Woods is a *Country Day School*. By definition, a Country Day School is a small, private, non-parochial school that holds the highest standards for educational excellence, and focuses on the development of the whole child. A Country Day School fosters a strong community environment through the involvement of our families. We have an active Parent Association (PA) in place, and parents are considered an integral part of the school experience. Parents are welcomed in the classroom for visits and on field trips and have a voice with our administration in creating policy.

The school is small by design and will never have more than 3 classes per grade. Our *classroom ratios are 1:9*, and a maximum of 18 students in our classes of PreK and Kindergarten students. Our 1st grade classes have a 1:10 ratio, classes do not exceed 20 students, and 2nd through 8th a 1:11 or a maximum of 22 students with two degreed teachers in each class. This enables our teachers to provide valuable individual attention to each student, better enabling each child to excel at his/her own rate. The school seeks to provide an unsurpassed education through traditional accelerated academics and stimulating enrichment programs, in a nurturing “family” environment. With these goals and philosophies, McGinnis Woods has earned the *highest accreditations* - we are SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) and GAC (Georgia Accreditation Commission) accredited, and have accomplished both levels of excellence in only 5 years. We are very proud of that accomplishment.

Our teachers are the heart of our school. Their enthusiasm for learning is evident in the way they work with the students and the creativity of their lessons. Special enrichment programs, including Spanish, Health, Library Sciences, Technology, Physical Education, Art, Music, Band, Chorus, and Counseling/Character Education, are taught by specialist teachers, and stimulate inquisitive minds and develop lifelong learning skills.

Our students learn through a *‘hands on’ curriculum* utilizing a variety of methods beyond traditional structured classroom learning. The teachers embrace the opportunity to teach students about our local community and the world around us. Students enjoy *monthly field trips* that tie into our learning and enrich our curriculum. We often invite guest speakers to expose our students to careers, broaden their thinking and stretch their minds. Our students learn the joy found in assisting others by participating in monthly service projects that range from adopting needy families, collecting canned goods for local food pantries, Jumping for Heart with the American Heart Association, and participating in the MDA Hop-a-thon.

We have prepared this Curriculum Guide as a summary of the academic learning philosophy and processes that we have incorporated in our school. As a school, we challenge ourselves to evolve and grow by creating an environment where children come home excited every day about a new opportunity, a new word, a new challenge, and a new success. We take pride in sharing with you our vision of a quality private school experience, and trust that you will find McGinnis Woods Country Day School a dynamic place for your child to learn and grow.

Mary Johnson
Principal

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Elementary & Middle Grades Teaching Philosophy

Language Arts	<p>The language arts program is dedicated to fostering a lifelong love of reading and learning. Because children acquire knowledge in several different ways and rates, the program employs a rich variety of instructional strategies and reflects integration of reading, writing, listening, speaking, handwriting, spelling and vocabulary development. The genres the children are introduced to include poetry, drama, non-fiction, and quality fiction, and often correlate to the social studies and science topics being studied, as well as the Library program. The Land of the Letter People curriculum is utilized for Pre-K students. K-8 students are exposed to a literature-based reading program and a traditional basal program by McGraw-Hill. Students experience daily writing through dictation, journals, reader's response logs and writer's workshop. Inventive spelling is encouraged for our youngest learners. Kindergarten through 3rd grade follow a rule-based spelling program using a variety of spelling tools including Spectrum Spelling, Worldly Wise and Explode the Code. All other students use the Wordly Wise Series as the basis of their program. Weekly or bi-weekly spelling assessments are given in K-8.</p>
Mathematics	<p>The mathematics program has been developed using the standards developed by the <i>National Council of Teachers of Mathematics</i> as a guiding principle. The Mathematics Their Way program is used in the Pre-K and Kindergarten classes. Pre-number concepts and skills are taught, along with numeric operations, place value and critical thinking skills. Students begin using manipulatives and then progress to connecting and symbolic levels. Upper grades enrich the Mathematics Their Way curriculum with the McGraw-Hill, Harcourt, and Glencoe mathematics series, thus expanding the range of mathematical explorations. Students learn mathematics by doing mathematics. The curriculum spirals - topics are presented more than once across grade levels to ensure understanding and mastery. The program provides a variety of extensions, allowing teachers to tailor the curriculum to meet the needs of individual students. In the upper levels, assessments are given at the beginning and end of each topic. Upper grades use technology as an important component of their program.</p>
Science	<p>The school science program capitalizes on children's natural curiosity about the world around them. A variety of curriculum and approaches are utilized, including McGraw-Hill Science, Delta Science, F.O.S.S kits and Glencoe Science, all designed to meet the <i>National Science Teachers Association Education Standards</i>. Children acquire the skills to make hypotheses, ask thought-provoking questions, design experiments, collect accurate data, and analyze results. The open-endedness of many assignments downplays the notion of a simple "right" answer, thus allowing children to take risks and become creative problem solvers and critical thinkers. Flexibility in the curriculum affords students the opportunity to pursue individual and group interests. Students participate in the annual school Science Fair including the Young Inventors Award program sponsored by NSTA and Craftsman Tool. The students are challenged to invent or modify a tool. We have an outdoor classroom which we utilize for environmental activities. Field trips to such places as the Fernbank Science Center, Zoo Atlanta, Cagles Dairy, Elachee Nature Center and the Pine Mountain Wild Animal Park, coupled with in-house programs from Sawnee Power Town Square and High Touch/High Tech round out the program.</p>

<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>Social studies themes for each grade in the school introduce students to an exciting variety of people and places and begin an understanding of the world in which we live. McGraw Hill and Glencoe texts are used as springboards to introduce the topics being studied. Social Studies also serves as a unifying and motivating focus for activities across the curriculum, pulling together the children's experiences in literature, history, geography, art, music and science and thus infusing them with greater relevance and significance. Through books, films, and research material available on the Internet, students investigate similarities and differences between their own and other cultures. Integral to the program are field trips to related sites and in-house speakers. Throughout the program, the goals of sharing ideas and working in a group, as well as gaining an understanding of the vocabulary that is central to a given topic are stressed. Programs are designed purposefully to encourage teachers to bring their expertise and experience into the curriculum, as well as incorporate new ideas and trends in education. Career Day speakers round out the program.</p>
<p>Technology</p>	<p>The goal of the technology program is for students to live, learn, and work successfully and responsibly in an increasingly complex, technology-driven society. The program has been developed using national standards and has been designed to build foundation skills and processes that students need in order to work productively and creatively in their studies, as well as help students meet the challenges of the future. Students understand the operations and functions of technology systems and are proficient in the use of technology. They learn responsible use of technology and learn how technology can be used to enhance learning and increase productivity and creativity. Students utilize <i>Windows</i> operating systems and software and access multiple computers and the internet through the school network.</p>
<p>Library</p>	<p>The goals of the Library Media Program are founded in the belief that students should be lifelong learners. Students develop an appreciation of literature, a love of reading, and independent research skills. The library skills taught at each grade are chosen with particular attention to the development level of the student. The school media center supports the curriculum by helping students develop skills to locate, understand, interpret, and communicate information and ideas from books, periodicals, and computer sources. A computerized card catalog provides access to a variety of print, non-print, and electronic sources. The students come to the library to learn library skills, listen to stories, and interact with peers through different types of literature. Students continue to read several genres thus reinforcing the Language Arts curriculum, including poetry, biographies, non-fiction, and fiction.</p>
<p>Spanish</p>	<p>Foreign language is regarded as a vital tool in dealing effectively in today's changing world. Building on the young child's natural ability to acquire language, students attend Spanish classes in all grades. The curriculum looks at five areas of learning: communication, culture, connections (with other disciplines), comparisons, and communities. The program of study is flexible to allow for different levels of competency among the students. Stories read by the teacher in Spanish allow the students to hear the language spoken fluently. Games, songs, drawings, and special projects round out the program. The program is based on the national standards of FLES (Foreign Language in Elementary & Secondary Schools).</p>

<p>Physical Education</p>	<p>The physical education program provides every student an opportunity to enhance and educate themselves in all areas of physical fitness, muscular, and kinesthetic development in a developmentally appropriate environment. During lessons in the gym and on the playing field, students develop their skills in coordination and locomotion and gain a better sense of spatial awareness. The basic categories of sport skills, games, fitness, and fitness testing spiral throughout the curriculum and are systematically introduced as appropriate for each age. All classes undergo Fitness Testing in accordance with the Presidential Physical Fitness Challenge. Two classes per week offer a variety of positive physical education experiences that provide the framework for a healthy lifestyle. Recess is also enjoyed daily by all students in addition to P.E.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>Students at the elementary level receive a comprehensive health curriculum taught by our school's Registered Nurse. Personal health and personal responsibility are the basis for the philosophy, and the McGraw-Hill <i>Totally Awesome Health</i> text is utilized at all grade levels. Students are introduced to emotional, intellectual, community and environmental health. Emphasis throughout the year is placed on disease prevention and control. Students are taught through a variety of different methods including discussion groups, role-play, worksheets, and group activities. All Elementary and Middle School students participate in Red Ribbon Week for drug awareness. The goal of our health curriculum is to equip our students with the best practices regarding personal health issues and overall safety measures.</p>
<p>Art</p>	<p>At the elementary level, the visual arts program is designed to build concepts, skill, knowledge, and aesthetic awareness corresponding to the development and maturation of the children. The curriculum builds observation skills and encourages exploration of imagination. The student learns to make choices that enhance communication of his or her ideas. Students learn to coordinate their hands and minds in explorations through the use of various tools, processes and media. Students develop a sense of art history, including the ability to value art created by different cultures. Through critical analysis of student's own work and that of other artists via slides, students learn to interpret the meaning of artwork and to judge its purpose and value. Kindergarten through 8th grade students are taught Art and Art History weekly for 45 minutes by an Art Specialist teacher.</p>
<p>Music / Band/ Chorus</p>	<p>The music curriculum is a refreshingly creative learning opportunity for children to explore many different types of music and the wonderful world of their own imaginations. The PreK through 1st grade program is taught by a Music Specialist and is based on "Musikalische Fruherziehung", the successful music program used in the Association of West German Schools. Many colorful and entertaining visual and physical aids are used to enhance the musical experience, including hands-on rhythm instruments. Students learn listening skills, singing, ear training, introduction to the staff and musical notation, composition, and acquaintance with various musical instruments. Second graders begin pre-band and learn to play the recorder and/or glockenspiel. Other pre-band skills include the skills of creating, performing and producing music. They are introduced to music from different countries and cultures. Students in 3rd-8th grade are able to choose instruments in order to participate in the school band program. These students are instructed in music theory, reading music, breathing techniques, and technical skills enabling them to play their chosen instrument. Music is also incorporated into the classroom on a daily basis by the classroom team. Students participate both vocally and instrumentally in a school musical in the spring and a holiday program in the winter.</p>

Counseling & Character Education	<p>The school counselor works with all students, school staff, administrators, parents, and the community as a function of the guidance program. The school counselor has weekly classes with the students and sees students as needed on an individual basis. The counselor also works with all new students to ensure a smooth transition to our school. The guidance and counseling program promotes school success through a focus on academic achievement, prevention and intervention activities, social/emotional, character, career development, and advocacy. Guidance is an integral part of the education process. It is a comprehensive and developmental program of services to assist all students in developing positive self-concepts, effective relationships with others, problem-solving skills necessary to function effectively in society, and an understanding of current and potential educational and career alternatives available to them. The school counselor also teaches a character education program, which focuses on the Core Essentials curriculum. Topics explored include perseverance, courage, loyalty, self-control, and school pride.</p>
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Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

Children in the Pre-K4 program at McGinnis Woods wear uniforms and attend classes in the Elementary building. A Pre-K5 program is available for children who have successfully completed the Pre-K4 program, but may require additional reinforcement of the skills needed for successful academics in the future.

Language Arts	<p>Pre-Kindergarten students are encouraged to try out their developing literacy and social skills with the assurance that their own knowledge and ideas are respected and valued. They learn about each letter and its sound, vowels are taught individually and then combined with various consonant combinations to form a basis for reading phonics-controlled readers. Manuscript is taught. Emphasis is placed on holding the pencil and forming the letters correctly. "Sight" words are included as needed with extensive writing, reinforcing proper manuscript writing techniques, and activities progressing into beginning journal writing and using sentences with proper punctuation. Hands on activities are used to manipulate the letters and sounds to form words. Experience charts and class books are used to record children's ideas to form group literature. Whole language activities using trade book literature and big books are integrated into other subject areas, such as science, social studies, and math. The children begin to refine their social skills by working together to solve conflicts and communicate effectively. Land of the Letter People Curriculum is taught.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Pre-K students develop an understanding and insight of the patterns of math through the use of concrete materials. They utilize a wide range of manipulatives to establish the math concepts of number, counting, shapes, graphing, fractions, place value, sorting and classifying, ordering and patterning, spatial relationships, graphing, and addition and subtraction. The concepts are transferred to the recording of number using numerals and symbols. The calendar, money and telling time to the half hour are also included. <i>Math Their Way, McGraw Hill, and Math Works</i> texts are utilized as needed.</p>
Science	<p>Pre-K students begin to gather information about their environment through the study of specific units spanning 3-4 weeks. Topics include: weather, plants, trees, seasonal changes, the body and the five senses, health and nutrition, zoo animals, pets, farm animals, dinosaurs (reptiles), insects and spiders, animals that hatch from eggs, space, oceans and any other relevant scientific news appropriate to their studies. Numerous science kits by Delta Science are used to foster hands on learning.</p>
Social Studies	<p>Pre-K students develop an awareness of their self and family, classroom relationships and their school environment. Geographical concepts such as map and globe skills are incorporated into each unit. Students share their knowledge through activities, projects and discussions. With parent participation and support, various cultural backgrounds are explored. Students enjoy field trips such as visits to the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, the Center for Puppetry Arts and area post offices.</p>
Technology	<p>Pre-K students attend computer lab every week for 30 minutes. They become familiar with basic operations and concepts of a computer system. They learn to identify the fundamental physical components of a computer system. Students learn to use the computer in a considerate and responsible manner and develop a positive attitude toward technology.</p>

Library	Pre-Kindergarteners visit the library every week for 30 minutes. Students are introduced to the library as a place to enjoy books and stories. They learn to select and check out books and to be responsible for returning them. The arrangement of a library (book location), circulation procedures, book care, parts of a book, and parts of a story are also covered.
Spanish	Pre-K students attend Spanish class 3 times each week for 30 minutes in a very interactive, entertaining style. One and two word vocabulary is heavily emphasized. Songs, games, craft projects, picture flashcard drills are incorporated into the curriculum, along with stories and videos in Spanish to develop an ear for listening for words they know. Students learn to hear a Spanish word and correctly circle the corresponding picture.
Health	Pre-K students attend Health class taught by our registered nurse 30 minutes each week. Students are introduced to basic health principles and learn how our bodies grow. They begin learning about body parts and functions and make a digestive vest model. Other topics explored include: good grooming habits, healthy food and exercise, and basic safety measures.
Art	Art is integrated into to the curriculum for Pre-K students by their primary teacher in the classroom. Students learn to manipulate art tools and materials and enjoy creating original artwork using a wide variety of materials.
Music	Pre-K students learn an introduction to movement and sounds. Students are exposed to music daily. A Music Specialist teaches the students once a week for 30 minutes.

Kindergarten Curriculum

Language Arts	<p>The language arts curriculum is organized around the theory that all children can learn to read and write. Classrooms are print rich and provide students opportunities to explore many language concepts. The setting is safe and supportive which enables all learners to develop confidence, take risks, learn to work independently, and develop social skills. Positive attitudes towards reading and learning are an important part of the curriculum. The reading series of McGraw-Hill is utilized, along with the use of journal writing, sight words and leveled readers. Children move through the various levels of the reading series in accordance with their growth and development. Students read all types of literature with a focus on building comprehension. They begin the road to becoming lifelong readers through teacher read alouds and reading self selected books at their own level. Students develop writing skills through mini-lessons, as well as focused and self-selected writer's workshop format. They read and spell words through interactive activities that build phonemic awareness and help children apply phonics.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Kindergartners continue to explore math concepts through the use of a hands-on approach guided by the <i>Math Their Way</i> curriculum. The Harcourt 1st grade curriculum is used as the basis of the program. Concepts include estimation and measurement, basic geometry and spatial sense, patterns and their relationship to each other, as well as number sense and problem solving. Telling time, basic money concepts, and addition and subtraction are reviewed and expanded.</p>
Science	<p>Kindergarten students learn and become familiar with the properties of physical sciences, life sciences, and earth and space sciences throughout the year. Students are actively engaged in hands on/mind on science activities that include data collection, observations, and class science projects. They use their five senses to sort and classify sizes, sounds, tastes, orders, textures, and temperature. Many Delta Science kits are used to round out the program.</p>
Social Studies	<p>The kindergarten curriculum is designed to help students learn about themselves and others. The students learn about doing things alone and doing things together in the community. Students are invited to share their ideas about families with the knowledge that every family is unique and special. They learn about the differences between needs and wants. They examine the map of the United States, as well as the seven continents. Students develop awareness about their community, city, state nation and the world. The social studies curriculum is divided into the following areas: geography, economics, symbols of America, sociology, political science and history.</p>
Technology	<p>Kindergartners attend computer lab weekly for 30 minutes. Students review and expand the concepts learned in Pre-K. They learn to locate and use letters and numbers on the keyboard, control the mouse to point and click a specific button or menu selection, turn a computer on, load a CD, and use appropriate software to draw a picture. Students are also introduced to appropriate internet usage.</p>

Library	Kindergartners visit the library weekly for 30 minutes. The skills learned in Pre-K are reinforced and expanded. Students continue to enjoy the stories read during their weekly visits. As they become able to use the library independently, students begin to find books that they can check out and read on their own. They learn to identify the call number and under what the parts of a call number are used for. Students learn the difference between fiction and non-fiction.
Spanish	Kindergarten students continue their Spanish classes 3 times a week for 30 minutes. One and two word vocabulary is reinforced, and songs, games, craft projects, cultural celebrations, and picture flashcard drills are incorporated into the program. Students are exposed to more of the written word and the sounds that the letters make. The Wright Group program, <i>Viva el Espanol</i> , is used in conjunction with the Rei America, Inc curriculum.
Physical Education	Kindergartners learn the basics of how to throw, catch, and kick balls of various sizes. Students are encouraged to master the correct form of basic exercises such as sit-ups, push-ups, running, jogging, skipping, and jumping. They develop basic strength, endurance and coordination of large muscles. Students learn how to work cooperatively with others and how to discriminate between general and personal space. They complete a ¼ mile run/walk as part of their fitness testing.
Health	Kindergartners attend Health class 30 minutes each week. Students are introduced to human body growth. They are taught to be the "hand washing police" and instruct others. The food pyramid is introduced and students learn to identify healthy foods by utilizing learning aids and making smoothies. "Feeling Frogs" are used to discuss emotions and feelings. Other topics explored include: safety precautions, medicine, alcohol, tobacco, and the importance of exercise.
Art	Kindergartners learn to create art with different subjects and themes and learn about Western and non-Western artists. Through creating their own artwork, they learn the basic art elements of color, line shape, form, texture and pattern. A wide array of materials and techniques are used to model, construct and compose original artwork.
Music	Kindergartners learn to participate in song stories, singing games and music dramatizations.

First Grade Curriculum

Language Arts	<p>First graders are encouraged in their growing love of reading and writing. Students are engaged weekly in phonics, word study, spelling, grammar, independent reading, guided reading, handwriting and the writing process. Phonetic and word building skills are addressed, and students learn to build words based on the phonetic rules that guide the English language. Weekly tests are given to reinforce correct spelling patterns. Students learn to correctly structure a sentence and to classify words as nouns, verbs and adjectives. They are encouraged to become independent readers and are involved in the Accelerated Reader program which tests their comprehension of books read at their individualized levels. In guided reading groups they are paired with their peers and a teacher to work on specific skills in vocabulary, decoding, oral reading and comprehension. McGraw Hill, Harcourt, and leveled readers are used as the framework for this program. Handwriting skills are continued to reinforce the correct formation of letters. The writing process is emphasized and the children begin to see the process of writing and the publishing of a story.</p>
Mathematics	<p>First graders use basic computational skills to solve problems in written form, with and without manipulatives, and also in a standardized test, multiple-choice form. Addition and subtraction span the year as the children use several strategies to solve and memorize the basic facts. Students are introduced to more complex skills such as regrouping when they are ready. Students learn to work with numbers and patterns, learn how to collect, sort and display data, learn how to identify place value, learn time and money concepts, learn basic measurement and geometric skills and learn about symmetry and fractions. All of these skills are addressed in problem solving formats to help the student think logically about the world and how math can be used outside the classroom. McGraw Hill, <i>Math Their Way</i>, and Harcourt texts are used.</p>
Science	<p>First graders are actively engaged in the scientific process and are encouraged to become scientists. Students use the scientific process of experimentation to explore the world around us and discover the wonders of our universe. Children are engaged in units that explore the oceans, ponds and deserts of our world. Students learn what plants, animals and characteristics make up each of these habitats and how that habitat is uniquely created. Students explore the worlds of sound and light, they learn to collect, record and analyze data.</p>
Social Studies	<p>First graders explore the world we live in and begin to explore where they fit in. They are introduced to our great nation, how we were formed and the symbols that stand for our country and its ideals today. Students build on the idea of community by addressing galaxies, universes, planets, continents, countries, states, cities, towns, neighborhoods, streets and homes. They enjoy many field trips to enhance the curriculum. Art, music, literature, history and geography are incorporated in a cross-curricular approach to understand how other cultures work and play across the continent and around the globe. Students study the countries on our continent and look at the past and present of Japan, Italy and the United States. They learn about American Heroes and how economies produce goods and services in order to thrive in the global market. They learn how the holidays are celebrated around the globe.</p>

Technology	First graders attend computer lab weekly for 45 minutes. Students build on their basic knowledge of operations and concepts of a computer system. They locate and use letters, numbers and special keys on the keyboard for beginning word processing. They learn to control the mouse to draw simple shapes (circle, square, rectangle and triangle) using <i>KidPix</i> , a multimedia productivity program. Students also learn how to save and retrieve documents.
Library	First graders visit the library weekly for 45 minutes. Students review the parts of a book taught in Kindergarten. They locate books using call numbers and the patron catalog. They review and expand their understanding of the difference between fiction and non-fiction. Students are introduced to various authors and styles of writing as well as the Dewey Decimal System.
Spanish	First graders continue their Spanish classes 3 times a week for 30 minutes. Vocabulary learned in previous years is "recycled," reinforced, and expanded. The focus continues on listening, speaking, and writing. Stories and videos in Spanish are used to develop an ear for listening for words they know. They begin learning to read in Spanish and learn to hear an English word and correctly select the written Spanish word that corresponds with it. Students begin forming simple sentences by doing word substitutions. The Specialist Teacher uses <i>Viva el Espanol</i> as well as <i>Rei America</i> texts.
Physical Education	The basics of throwing, catching, and kicking are further emphasized in first grade with the addition of using props to strike a ball or make it move. To improve cardiovascular endurance, students participate in a variety of vigorous running games and reinforce the correct form of the basic exercises such as sit-ups, push-ups, running, jogging, skipping, and jumping. Body coordination is further developed through games, fostering teamwork, spatial awareness, and self-management skills. Students complete a ½ mile run/walk as part of their fitness testing.
Health	First Graders attend Health class 45 minutes each week. Students learn how our health relates to our entire body function. They learn the five senses and are given instruction on caring for their eyes, ears and skins. The GloGerm is used to demonstrate germs and to study illnesses, and the lifecycle is discussed. They also explore the human body and its systems focusing on the muscular, skeletal and circulatory systems. Other topics explored include: relationships with family and friends, nutritious foods, poison and harmful substances, and good touch/bad touch.
Art	First graders expand on their knowledge of Western and non-Western artists. They learn how to mix colors and use the basic art elements in their own work. Students learn to describe their feelings in response to viewing artwork and learn to recognize and associate selected artists with their individual works.
Music	First grade students learn to play simple one-chord accompaniments on a recorder and/or glockenspiel. They continue to build on the musical foundation introduced at the earlier levels.

Second Grade Curriculum

Language Arts	<p>The second grade curriculum is designed to develop expressive and receptive use of the English language and incorporates a balance of rich literature, grammar and spelling. Instruction reflects integration of writing, speaking, listening, handwriting, and vocabulary development. The reading program combines literature-based selections, and anthologies and combines direct reading instruction with grouping, which allows teachers to focus instruction on the <i>needs</i> of the individual students. The McGraw Hill series and leveled readers round out the instruction. Students complete a monthly home reading contract and enrichment activities to help foster their love for reading. The writing process is taught through all content areas, and children are expected to write, edit, illustrate and publish several stories during the school year. Children share their writings during Author's Chair. In addition to the rules-based spelling program, the children are held accountable for a core of high frequency words used in the text and in daily written work. Second graders practice manuscript the first semester and begin cursive the second semester. Correct letter formation is emphasized.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Second graders expand their mathematical knowledge in a positive and supportive environment. Students are encouraged to apply and adapt appropriate strategies as ways of developing general ideas and systematic approaches to solving problems. They use the language of mathematics to express mathematical ideas. Children are taught in small groups to insure they are instructed on their individual needs. They master the addition and subtraction facts to 20, expand on their knowledge of place value, patterns, measurement, time and money, and learn two- and three-digit addition and subtraction. Students are introduced to multiplication, fractions, problem-solving, data analysis, operations, graphing, and geometry.</p>
Science	<p>Science is introduced through exploration of the natural and physical world. Students are encouraged to solve problems and conduct simple experiments through observation, record keeping, making hypotheses, consideration of variables, and conclusions. They utilize a hands-on investigative approach designed to foster an attitude of curiosity and a desire to understand. Students learn about the Scientific Process, Sun, Moon and Stars, Matter, Energy and Motion, Plant Life and Life Cycles. Students also participate in the school Science Fair preparing a project on the topic of their choice.</p>
Social Studies	<p>Second graders focus on our home state of Georgia. The history of our state is discovered through historical figures, our native cultures and state's geography. Children are exposed to a variety of teacher created materials focusing on developing literate individuals with the knowledge, skill and civic values necessary to become active and reflect participants in the modern world. Our units of study include: Georgia, Creek and Cherokee Indian cultures, the basics of Government and Economy, the country of Brazil and the continent of Australia. Field trips to locations such as the Stone Mountain Pow Wow, National Museum of Patriotism, and the Kangaroo Conservancy round out the program.</p>

Technology	Second graders attend computer lab weekly for 45 minutes. Students expand on the computer skills learned in first grade. They begin formal keyboarding practice and use basic word processing techniques for classroom writing. Students use software to increase productivity and produce creative works. They utilize the on-line computer in the library to find books by author, title and subject. They begin basic research using technology to collect information from a variety of sources, including encyclopedias and the internet, and create a slide show using <i>KidPix</i> to make a presentation on a researched topic.
Library	For second graders, story reading, story telling, and browsing continue as regular features of the library program, and students visit the library weekly for 45 minutes. All the library skills previously taught are expanded and reinforced. The Dewey Decimal System is covered in more detail. The use of reference materials, dictionaries, atlases, and encyclopedias is introduced. Students are also instructed in the use of the online databases for gathering information and conducting the research process. They learn the difference between fact and opinion.
Spanish	Second graders attend Spanish 3 times a week for 30 minutes. The teacher expands on the previous knowledge learned by the students. Students do more written work and learn by using flashcards. Students begin reading simple plays and stories. They can match written Spanish words to written English words. The Specialist Teacher uses <i>Viva el Espanol</i> as well as <i>Rei America</i> texts.
Physical Education	Second graders are introduced to more advanced activities of coordinating rhythm and body movement. Students design and apply skills to perform simple sequences that focus on changes in direction, levels and pathways in a variety of games and activities. They complete a 1-mile run/walk as part of their fitness testing.
Health	Second Graders attend Health class 45 minutes each week. Topics discussed in first grade are reviewed and expanded. Students learn how their bodies grow and develop according to their overall health plan. The importance of physical activity is addressed, and students learn safety on the road and at home. Other topics explored include: food variety and nutritious snacks, poison and harmful substances, and good touch/bad touch.
Art	Second grade students learn to mix colors, tints, and different shade values, and use these basic art elements in their own work. A wide array of materials and techniques are used to model, construct and compose original artworks. Students expand their ability to recognize and associate selected artists with their individual works and learn to make statements about the functions of particular art works and the culture that produce them.
Music	Second graders begin pre-band instruction and are taught by the band teacher. Emphasis is placed on learning to read simple music and learn to play one and two-chord accompaniments on the glockenspiel.

Third Grade Curriculum

Language Arts	<p>Many different components are taught in a variety of ways throughout the third grade language arts program. Students are immersed in the written word through quality texts and trade books. Basal readers are used as a starting point and incorporated with many novel studies that cross the curriculum and include different titles such as: <u>Little House in the Big Woods</u>, <u>The Chocolate Touch</u> and <u>Frindle</u>. Third graders integrate grammar skills such as punctuation, capitalization, and spelling while gaining expertise in the writing process. Students use the writing process - brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing - as they create and present monthly book reports; the writing process is also utilized in assignments and projects throughout the curriculum. Students read for and prepare monthly book talks. Traditional cursive writing is taught and reinforced throughout the year. Independent reading is required in the classroom and at home. Bi-weekly spelling and vocabulary tests are given based on the Wordly Wise curriculum, which includes word usage and dictation. Recognizing relationships among word groups is reinforced, and analogies are introduced. Students compare and contrast different types of genre, recognizing characteristics of each. Developing reference-usage skills is targeted at this grade level including: dictionary, encyclopedia, thesaurus, and internet web sites. Students participate in SRA, leveled readers, and use the McGraw Hill Reading Series.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Third graders extend their mathematical knowledge of the following concepts: place value and money, addition and subtraction of six-digit numbers, time, data, graphs, geometry (including lines, line segments, rays, angles), measurement (including metric), multiplication by one digit, division by one digit, fractions, and probability. Math skills are integrated into the entire curriculum, allowing students to identify real-life usage. The McGraw-Hill text provides the basis for instruction.</p>
Science	<p>Third graders continue to learn and use their knowledge of the scientific method and are required to keep science journals and participate in science lab groups. Units include: living things (including classifications of different organisms, cell structures, body systems), Habitats, the changing earth, Rocks and Soils, Fossils, how things move, Heat and scientific inventions. McGraw-Hill, Delta Science and FOSS kits are used as springboards for instruction.</p>
Social Studies	<p>Third graders reinforce geography concepts such as state identification, spatial placement of our nation/continent in the world, lines of latitude and longitude, and are introduced to many different communities around the world. Units include: Historical Understandings which have influenced our democracy including Greek architecture and thought, Famous Americans who expanded people's rights and freedoms in our democracy, Paul Revere and the Revolutionary War, Branches of Government, Respect for and Acceptance of Authority, Economic Understandings. Countries studied include: England and Greece. Students enjoy related field trips to places such as the Carter Center, the Stone Mountain Pow Wow, the Cobb County Youth Museum, and the National Museum of Patriotism. Students also immerse themselves in specific periods such as our Colonial Day in which students go through the day as a colonist.</p>

Technology	Third grade students attend computer lab weekly for 45 minutes. Students continue formal keyboarding practice with a goal of 10 words per minute. They develop basic word processing techniques for writing and revising documents and continue to use the <i>Storybook Weaver</i> software to write and illustrate stories. Students create multimedia presentations using the <i>HyperStudio</i> software to further develop basic computer skills. They continue to utilize the on-line computer to locate books and expand their research capabilities. Students create slide shows on a researched topic.
Library	Third graders visit the library weekly for 45 minutes. The focus in this grade is to be able to use reference books and library resources independently. Students use the <i>Storybook Weaver</i> software for writing and illustrating stories. They begin the year with reviewing how to find resources in the library and move to reviewing various reference materials. To conclude the year, they concentrate on the basic research process-spotlighting note taking.
Spanish	Third graders attend Spanish 3 times a week for 30 minutes. Vocabulary learned in previous years is reviewed, reinforced, and expanded upon. Focus continues on listening, speaking, and writing. Songs, games, cultural activities, contests, and flashcard drills are all used in teaching Spanish, along with stories and videos in Spanish to develop an ear for listening for words they know. Students learn verb conjugation and talk in more complete sentences. They can read short stories in Spanish and answer questions about the story in Spanish. The Specialist Teacher uses <i>Viva el Espanol</i> as well as <i>Rei America</i> texts.
Physical Education	Third graders demonstrate a better ability to correctly execute, in good form, exercises such as sit-ups, push-ups, running, jogging, skipping and jumping. Students participate in games, activities, and exercises that require a higher level of muscular endurance and group cooperation. They complete a 1-mile run/walk as part of their fitness testing.
Health	Third Graders attend Health class 45 minutes each week. Students learn to answer the questions: "Am I health wise?" and "What are life skills?" Students learn to bring our health habits to goals to achieve optimal health, and learn how body growth affects our hygiene measures. Muscles, bones, heart, lungs, and the digestive and nervous systems are explored. Students learn why we need food and learn how to shop for healthy food. HIV/AIDS is introduced. Students may participate in the school safety patrol starting in this grade. Other topics explored include dental health, socialization and emotions, solving conflict and managing stress, safety, fairness and good sportsmanship, first aid, and the dangers of recreational drugs including cocaine and marijuana.
Art	Through creating their own artwork, third graders expand their understanding of art elements (color, line shape, form, texture, pattern) and learn how to mix colors, tints, and different shade values. Division of space is discussed, and students are able to recognize symmetrical and asymmetrical balance in artworks. Students learn how technology has influenced the creation of art.

Music/ Pre-Band	Third grade students are given choral opportunities within the classroom. Each student chooses an instrument at this level and participates in the school band. The band meets two hours a week during the school day. Students are taught developmentally appropriate skills specific to their instrument of choice including: breath control, fingering, musical tone, tempo, and reading music. The concert band performs at school functions throughout the year.
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Fourth Grade Curriculum

Language Arts	<p>In fourth grade, a thematic approach is used to teach across the curriculum. Novels, such as <u>Bridge to Terabithia</u> and <u>Frindle</u> are chosen as class reading to combine curriculum themes and bring integration to all subjects. Students compare students are grouped according to their specific needs. and contrast different types of genre, recognizing characteristics of each. Junior Great Books is often implemented at this level, as well as McGraw Hill texts and leveled readers. Students are instructed in the areas of comprehension, speaking, and writing. Many different forms of authentic assessment are incorporated into each day including cooperative learning, literature circles, self-selected reading, and projects such as dioramas, puppet making and presentations. Students are expected to write 5 paragraph persuasive, narrative and expository papers. They also use the writing process to develop, revise and evaluate their writing. Students are taught to use grammar in their journals and other writing. Bi-weekly spelling tests are given based on the Wordly Wise curriculum.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Some of the areas explored in fourth grade include addition and subtraction of decimals, multiplication and division of whole numbers, area, perimeter, place value, and use of appropriate units to determine weight and length. Instruction and assessment include the use of manipulatives and appropriate technology. Students are grouped according to their specific needs. Topics are represented in multiple ways including concrete/pictorial, verbal/written, numeric/data-based, graphical, and symbolic. Concepts are introduced and used in the context of real world phenomena. Many strategies are taught to aid in both mental and written tasks.</p>
Science	<p>Fourth graders learn to perform experiments and record observations through inquiry based learning. They are exposed to actual scientists through our many on and off campus field trips and guest speakers. Students learn about the scientific method as topics ranging from magnetism and compasses, sound and its properties, the characteristics of light, ecosystems, pollution, recycling, weather and climate, and the solar system, Stars and Star Patterns are introduced. Students tend a class garden and have numerous class pets.</p>
Social Studies	<p>Fourth graders are taught the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. They are introduced to many historical people and places as important dates in history are taught. Students learn about early explorers, Georgia as an original colony, the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, the Industrial Revolution, Native Americans and the Functions of Government. Their learning is enriched through reports, music, movies, original source materials, and both class and individual projects. Numerous visits to historically significant places such as Kennesaw Battlefield, The Atlanta History Center, and The Southern Locomotive Museum round out the curriculum.</p>

Technology	Fourth graders expand on their growing body of computer literacy and attend computer lab weekly for 45 minutes. Students continue keyboarding practice with a goal of reaching 15 words per minute. They are introduced to the <i>FLIP-IT</i> approach to problem-solving, which teaches students to focus on their topic, locate the appropriate resources, investigate and implement the information they find, and produce the results of their findings. Students learn the <i>Big6</i> approach, which integrates informative search and use skills along with technology in a systematic process to find, use, apply and evaluate information for specific needs and tasks. Both approaches are heavily integrated with the Library curriculum. Students use <i>HyperStudio</i> to create a multimedia presentation using simple animations and special effects.
Library	Fourth graders continue to review and refine their library skills during their weekly 45-minute visits. Students are introduced to the Big6 approach, which integrates information search and use of skills along with technology in a systematic process to find, use, apply and evaluate information for specific needs and tasks. This approach is heavily integrated with the Technology curriculum.
Spanish	Fourth graders attend Spanish 3 times a week for 30 minutes. Students begin using the <i>McGraw-Hill/Wright Group Middle School Spanish Viva el Espanol! Viva!</i> textbook to expand their knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structures. Focus continues on listening, speaking, and writing. Students gain practice in reading, and spelling takes on a more important role in the curriculum.
Physical Education	Fourth grade students demonstrate responsible personal and social behavior in physical activity settings while following activity-specific rules, procedures and etiquette. They independently engage in physical exercises appropriate for targeting specific parts of the body. Students complete a 1-mile run/walk as part of their fitness testing. They also foster a love for physical fitness through team sports.
Health	Fourth Graders attend Health class 45 minutes each week. Students learn their overall health philosophy and address "How is what I do now going to affect my overall health now and in years to come?" They learn taking risks can be positive or negative. They learn to set goals, realize their strengths and weaknesses and learn how self-esteem and self-concept affect their health. Independent health habits are reviewed, and cells and growth are introduced. Other topics explored include: relationship building, resolving conflict, stress management, heredity and family traits, and fire safety, injury and violence prevention.
Art	Fourth graders learn to create art with different subjects and themes and are exposed to a variety of Western and non-Western artists. Students learn to emphasize specific elements of art and principles of design, and select material and techniques appropriate to creating artwork based on their own ideas and self-direction. Students explore how technology has influenced the creation of art in more detail.
Band/Chorus	Fourth graders may choose to participate in the McGinnis Woods Band or Chorus. They are taught age appropriate skills to enhance their musical abilities. The concert band and chorus perform at school functions throughout the year.

Fifth Grade Curriculum

Language Arts	<p>Fifth graders are given many opportunities to further their love of reading and understanding of our world through quality literature. They read novels such as: <u>The Chronicles of Narnia</u>, <u>Sounder</u>, and <u>My Side of the Mountain</u>. The students are exposed to many genres and authors through our McGraw Hill Basal Series as well as trade books, Junior Great Books, songs, poetry, and plays. Students are taught to use reading strategies to aid in comprehension. Students are actively involved in many projects and real life experiences that encourage communication. They are taught to write reports and essays using graphic organizers, thesauruses, and dictionaries. They are given many opportunities to write for a variety of purposes including creative writing, writing narrative, persuasive, and expository pieces, responses to literature and correspondence. Students are encouraged to use the writing process in a writer's workshop setting that includes: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. They learn to research and write reports, class plays, and speeches. Specific elements of grammar are taught and reinforced. Bi-weekly spelling tests are given which include dictation and/or word usage.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Fifth graders are taught to understand math concepts and computation through real life experiences. Fifth grade students further develop their understanding of multiplication and division of whole numbers and decimal fractions. They begin to investigate algebraic mathematical expressions and expand their understanding of geometric figures. They are given opportunities for hands on exploration. Topics are represented in multiple ways including concrete/pictorial, verbal/written, numeric/data-based, graphical, and symbolic. Concepts are introduced and used in the context of real world phenomena.</p>
Science	<p>Students in fifth grade are taught to make observations and use the scientific method. They keep a science journal and are encouraged to keep records and make observations. A variety of resource materials are used to enhance learning, including technology, reference materials, videos, and tables and charts. Students cover topics including atomic structure, matter, movement and force, animal classification, inheritance of traits, cells and microorganisms, landforms of Georgia and geology, constructive and destructive forces through inquiry based learning. They are introduced to the periodic table of elements. Learning opportunities outside of the classroom are offered to extend student learning and guest speakers play an important role in the learning environment. Trips to the Georgia Aquarium and Elachee Nature Center round out the curriculum.</p>
Social Studies	<p>Fifth graders are exposed to many exciting concepts that expand their worldview. Topics such as civics, economics, geography, careers, and history are brought to life through research, music, group and individual projects, field trips and guest speakers. Fifth graders learn about the Civil War and Reconstruction period, westward expansion, Native Americans, presidents of the 20th century, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, The Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement and how United States culture is reflected through art, music and literature during the 20th century. Students enjoy field trips to Stone Mountain, Bulloch Hall and historically significant places in the area. Learning is assessed in many ways including journals, projects, presentations, plays, and re-enactments.</p>

Technology	Fifth grade students attend computer lab weekly for 45 minutes. They continue formal keyboarding practice with a goal of 15 words per minute. Students develop basic word processing techniques for writing and revising documents and use <i>HyperStudio</i> to create multimedia presentations to further develop basic computer skills. Students refine their use of the <i>FLIP-IT</i> and <i>Big6</i> approaches taught in 4 th Grade. They are introduced to <i>Microsoft Office</i> and learn how to use word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation software as tools for learning and presenting projects. Students produce a research project.
Library	By fifth grade, students are comfortable with how to use the library and computers and look forward to their weekly 45-minute visits. They concentrate their studies on more elaborate research skills. They learn more about note-taking and designing a research process that fits their learning style. Technology is integrated into this process.
Spanish	Vocabulary concentration in fifth grade is more focused on learning verbs and how to conjugate them in the present tense, and students continue to use the <i>McGraw-Hill/Wright Group Middle School Spanish</i> textbook. Students begin to write mini stories and can look at a picture and describe the various things that are happening in that picture. They are more involved in conversations with each other – asking each other questions and responding appropriately. Students learn appropriate gestures and body language used in Spanish speaking countries. They continue to study other Spanish speaking countries, making comparisons with their own culture, and are introduced to foreign currency exchange.
Physical Education	Fifth graders demonstrate competencies in more advanced specialized skills, including sports, rhythm, and educational gymnastics. Students participate in complex rhythmic and aerobic activities. They complete a 1-mile run/walk as part of their fitness testing.
Health	Fifth Graders attend Health class 45 minutes each week. Students expand on the life skills taught in 4th grade. They learn about the skeletal, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, excretory and nervous systems, and a body model is utilized to enhance learning. Students learn to make healthy choices for personal health and learn to read labels and compare nutritional information. They learn about medicine labels, safe storage of medicines, and the effects of alcohol, tobacco and drugs on their health and the use of advertising to market these substances. Other topics include community health workers, pollution, public health law, communicable and non-communicable diseases, puberty education, and injury and violence prevention. Students complete a research project on an assigned topic. <i>Macmillan/McGraw Hill Totally Awesome Health</i> texts are used.
Art	Fifth grade students learn to plan, organize and create art with different subjects and themes through their expanding knowledge of Western and non-Western artists. Utilizing a wide array of materials and techniques, students create a separate work of art that imitates nature (Realism), is concerned with design and composition (Structuralism/Formalism), and expresses a feeling or emotion (Emotionalism/Expressionism). Based on evidence and clues observed in artworks, they learn to critique artworks by description, analysis of design, interpretation of meaning, and judgment.

Band/Chorus	Fifth grade students are able to participate in either Band or Chorus. They learn to conduct meters in twos and fours. Students learn about instruments and participate in weekly band classes. The band and chorus perform at school functions throughout the year.
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Middle Grades Teaching Philosophy

The middle grades curriculum at McGinnis Woods builds upon the foundational knowledge and skills taught throughout the elementary grades. We believe it is especially important to provide a solid program designed to be both supportive and creative. We provide a challenging, standards-based course of study that is comprehensive, integrated and relevant. Our curriculum is aligned with both National and Georgia's Performance Standards and emphasizes the natural connections among the standards. We believe that the middle grades are a vital link in the education of youth. Adolescent students are in a unique period of rapid and profound personal changes, more than at any other period in their lives. This wide range of physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development brings opportunities and challenges to the middle grades. Our teachers understand the changes that are occurring and recognize that students learn and develop best when they are treated with respect, involved in their learning, engaged with challenging content that has meaning and connections for them, and receive assurances that they are capable, worthy people. They employ a variety of instructional techniques and processes that reflect best practices (e.g. differentiated instruction, cooperative learning, etc.) to capitalize on the unique characteristics and individual needs of young adolescents. Our educational program ensures that our middle grade students are prepared and ready to make a successful transition to high school, both academically and personally.

Curriculum for Sixth Grade

Language Arts	The Language Arts program for sixth grade builds on the strong foundation established at the elementary level. We continue to use a variety of means to enrich the students understanding and use of genres and literary texts and to foster a love of reading. Both trade books and a basal series are used in addition to novels and SRA. Students focus on various themes representing many cultures and human experiences, including fiction, nonfiction, historical fiction, and biographical writings. The McGraw Hill series is utilized as a springboard as the students continue to read across the curriculum. Holt Readers, Junior Great Books, literary circles and other reading sources continue to be used to enrich the student's reading. Students are given the opportunity to participate in the writing and performing of plays, making speeches and presentations, exploring, writing, and presenting poetry. They receive specific instruction in writing grammar, vocabulary, and spelling. The importance of proper grammar and accepted writing practices is emphasized. Students participate in many authentic writing experiences, including the writing of descriptive, narrative, and expository pieces, outlining and summarizing, writers' workshop, research papers, school newspaper and correspondences.
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Mathematics	Sixth grade students are immersed in real world mathematics, as application of the skills learned at earlier levels are synthesized and applied across the curriculum. By the end of sixth grade the students will understand the four arithmetic operations as they relate to positive rational numbers; convert between and compute with different forms of rational numbers; understand the concept of ratio and solve problems using proportional reasoning; understand and use line and rotational symmetry; determine the surface area and volume of solid figures: use variables to represent unknown quantities, algebraic expressions and equations; utilize data to make predictions; and determine the probability of a given event. They are given opportunities for hands on exploration. Topics are represented in multiple ways including concrete/pictorial, verbal/written, numeric/data-based, graphical, and symbolic. Concepts are introduced and used in the context of real world phenomena.
Science	In sixth grade the students study Earth Science. They continue to explore the world around them through use of the scientific method and scientific thought. Students are encouraged to learn by exploring, observing, and asking questions through inquiry based learning and will use many science tools to perform experiments. Students keep a science portfolio which promotes organization and communication between student and instructor. Each student participates in the school science fair and enjoys guest lectures, technology, and lab experiences. Glencoe Science approach is the basis of our program and will be supplemented by a variety of other curriculum approaches, all designed to meet the <i>National Science Education Standards</i> . Some topics that are examined in Earth Science are meteorology, Oceanography, Earth Materials, Earth and Space, Human Impact on the Earth and energy sources.
Social Studies	Students continue to learn about our past and present to prepare them to lead us into the future. Sixth grade students begin the study of major world regions. Historical development is the central strand, combined with geographic, civic and economic understanding. Latin America, Canada, Europe, Australia and Oceania will be explored this year. Students participate in field trips that enrich the learning environment, and guest speakers and primary sources are incorporated in the program. Maps, almanacs, and appropriate technology are used to round out the program. Glencoe texts are used.
Technology	Students in sixth grade concentrate their work on productivity with computers. They use <i>Microsoft Office</i> to create documents, spreadsheets, graphs, and presentations. Students will learn about using webbing software to plan and organize their thoughts before beginning projects. Students complete a technology project incorporating all of their computer skills into a sales campaign for a product that they design.
Library	Sixth graders use their previous knowledge of literature studies to create their own writings. Some of the literature studies include poetry, biographies, realistic fiction and myths/fantasies. Students research various topics that are integrated into their classroom work. They focus on paraphrasing, summarizing, and not plagiarizing. In addition, they work on finding accurate, credible sources of information on the web.

Spanish	Students continue to learn conversational Spanish taught by a specialist twice each week. The <i>McGraw-Hill/Wright Group Middle School Spanish</i> textbook is utilized to expand their knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structures.
Physical Education	Sixth graders participate in Physical Education two times a week with the school specialist. Students participate in the six components of physical fitness: body composition, cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, and stress management. They also learn about movement concepts and movement competencies. Students will complete a one mile run as part of their fitness training. Teamwork and positive self-concepts and control are emphasized. Students are able to participate in and plan activities that incorporate the six components of health related physical fitness.
Health	Sixth graders expand their learning about disease prevention, growth and development, mental health, nutrition, personal health and safety. A registered nurse teaches the Health course. The Macmillan/McGraw-Hill text <i>Totally Awesome Health</i> provides continuity with earlier learning experiences.
Art	Sixth graders continue to learn art and art history weekly with an art specialist. The program emphasizes art history as well as the principles of design. Students are exposed to many art techniques and create many two and three-dimensional pieces.
Band/Chorus	Sixth graders continue to participate in either Band or Chorus class weekly and are taught by a specialist. Students are taught music and music theory. They listen to scores, analyze music according to specific musical elements, describe musical genres, and experience symphonies and musical theatre. Music appreciation integrates many elements of study and knowledge of music. Students will be able to demonstrate appropriate understanding of form in selected musical repertoire. They will take part in an all school musical. The concert band and chorus perform at school functions throughout the year.
Counseling & Character Education	The school counselor works with all students, school staff, administrators, parents, and the community as a function of the guidance program. The school counselor has weekly classes with the students and sees students as needed on an individual basis. The counselor also works with all new students to ensure a smooth transition to our school. The guidance and counseling program promotes school success through a focus on academic achievement, prevention and intervention activities, social/emotional, character, career development and advocacy. Guidance is an integral part of the education process. It is a comprehensive and developmental program of services to assist all students in developing positive self-concepts, effective relationships with others, problem-solving skills necessary to function effectively in society, and an understanding of current and potential educational and career alternatives available to them. The school counselor also teaches the character education program. Topics explored include perseverance, courage, loyalty, self-control, and school pride. Character Education will continue to be emphasized for sixth grade. Some topics that are explored are perseverance, courage, loyalty, self-control, and school pride.

Curriculum for Seventh Grade

Language Arts	<p>The Language Arts program for seventh grade builds on the strong foundation established at the elementary level and sixth grade year. We continue to use a variety of means to enrich the students understanding and use of genres and literary texts and to foster a love of reading. Both trade books and a basal series are used. Students focus on various themes representing many cultures and human experiences, including fiction, nonfiction, historical fiction, and biographical writings. Holt Readers, Junior Great Books, literary circles and other reading sources continue to be used to enrich the student's reading. Students are given the opportunity to participate in the writing, composition, and performing of plays, making speeches and presentations, exploring and presenting poetry. They continue to receive specific instruction in writing grammar including the usage of parts of speech, using modifiers, prepositional phrases, capitalization and punctuation. Direct writing instruction includes vocabulary, root words, suffixes and analogies. The importance of proper grammar and accepted writing practices are emphasized. Students participate in many authentic writing experiences, including the writing of descriptive, narrative, and expository pieces, outlining and summarizing, research papers, and correspondences.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Seventh grade students are immersed in real world mathematics, with a balanced mathematics program that encompasses all ten standards, including significant amounts of algebra and geometry. By the end of seventh grade, students will understand and use rational numbers, including signed numbers; solve linear equations in one variable; sketch and construct plane figures; demonstrate understanding of transformations; use and apply properties of similarity; examine properties of geometric shapes in space; describe and sketch solid figures including their cross-sections; represent and describe relationships between variables in tables, graphs, and formulas; analyze the characteristics of linear relationships; and represent and analyze data using graphical displays, measures of central tendency, and measures of variation. Instruction includes the appropriate use of manipulatives and technology. Topics are represented in multiple ways including concrete/pictorial, verbal/written, numeric/data-based, graphical, and symbolic. Concepts are introduced and used in the context of real world phenomena.</p>
Science	<p>Seventh Graders study Life Science. In this course of study the students will continue to use an investigative approach, focusing on the scientific method and scientific thought. Students will be encouraged to learn through inquiry based learning and cooperative groups. Critical thinking, reading, and study skills are emphasized. Students keep a science portfolio which promotes organization and communication between student and instructor. Students use many science tools to perform experiments in lab. Each student participates in the school science fair and enjoys guest lectures, technology, and lab experiences. The Glencoe Science Curriculum is the basis of our program and is supplemented by a variety of other curriculum approaches, all designed to meet the National Science Education Standards. Some topics that will be examined are life sciences and basic biological processes.</p>

Social Studies	Students will continue to learn about our past and present to prepare them to lead us into the future. Seventh grade students conclude the study of major world regions. Historical development is the central strand, combined with geographic, civic and economic understanding. Africa and Asia will be explored this year. Students participate in field trips that enrich the learning environment, and guest speakers and primary sources are incorporated in the program. Maps, almanacs, and appropriate technology are used to round out the program.
Technology	Students in seventh grade concentrate their work on productivity with computers. They use Microsoft Office to create documents, spreadsheets, graphs, and presentations. Students learn about using webbing software to plan and organize their thoughts before beginning projects. Students complete a technology project incorporating all of their computer skills into a sales campaign for a product that they design.
Library	Seventh graders work on researching various topics that are integrated with their classroom work. They focus on paraphrasing, summarizing, and not plagiarizing. In addition, they work on finding accurate, credible sources of information on the web.
Spanish	Students continue to learn conversational Spanish taught by a specialist twice each week. The <i>McGraw-Hill/Wright Group Middle School Spanish</i> textbook is utilized to expand their knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structures. Conversational Spanish is emphasized.
Physical Education	Seventh graders participate in Physical Education twice a week with the school specialist. Students learn about physical fitness, movement concepts and movement competencies. Teamwork and positive self-concepts and control are emphasized.
Health	Seventh graders expand their learning about disease prevention, growth and development, mental health, nutrition, personal health and safety. A registered nurse continues to teach the Health course. The McGraw-Hill text, <i>Totally Awesome Health</i> provides continuity with earlier learning experiences.
Art	Seventh graders continue to learn art and art history weekly with an art specialist. The program emphasizes art history as well as the principles of design. Students are exposed to many art techniques and create many two and three-dimensional pieces. Students also have opportunities to visit local museums to expand their artistic world view.
Music/Band	Seventh graders continue to attend Band or Chorus class weekly and will be taught by a specialist. Students are exposed to music theory and instrument specialization. They listen to scores, analyze music according to specific musical elements, describe musical genres, and experience symphonies and musical theatre. Music appreciation integrates many elements of study and knowledge of music. Students are able to demonstrate appropriate understanding of form in selected musical repertoire. They take part in all school concert band and chorus performances, as well as a musical.

Curriculum for Eighth Grade

Language Arts	<p>The Language Arts program for eighth grade will build on the strong foundation established through the elementary and middle grades. We will continue to use a variety of means to enrich the students understanding and use of genres and literary texts and to foster a love of reading. Both trade books and a basal series will be used. Students will focus on various themes representing many cultures and human experiences, including fiction, nonfiction, historical fiction, and biographical writings. Holt Readers, Junior Great Books, literary circles and other reading sources will continue to be used to enrich the student's reading. Students will learn to analyze and evaluate the structural elements of plot development and the body of an author's works. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in the writing, composition, and performing of plays, making speeches and presentations, exploring and presenting poetry. They will continue to receive specific instruction in writing grammar including the usage of parts of speech, using modifiers, prepositional phrases, capitalization and punctuation. Direct writing instruction will include vocabulary, root words, suffixes and analogies. The importance of proper grammar and accepted writing practices will be emphasized. Students will participate in many authentic writing experiences, including the writing of descriptive, narrative, and expository pieces, outlining and summarizing, research papers, and correspondences. Students will be expected to read across the curriculum in order to develop academic and personal interests across subject areas.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Eighth grade students will be immersed in real world mathematics, as application of the skills learned at earlier levels are synthesized and applied across the curriculum. The program will utilize several math textbooks and materials to meet the range of abilities and understanding of mathematical concepts. The eighth grade mathematics program will include instruction in various numerical representations, including square roots, exponents and scientific notation; geometric concepts, symbolic algebra to represent situations and solve problems; solving linear equations and interpreting linear functions; the use and understanding of set theory; probability and statistical data. Students will use appropriate manipulatives and technology. Topics will be represented in multiple ways including concrete/pictorial, verbal/written, numeric/data-based, graphical, and symbolic. Concepts will be introduced and used in the context of real world phenomena.</p>
Science	<p>The students will continue to explore the world around them through use of an investigative approach, focusing on the scientific method and scientific thought. Students will be encouraged to learn by exploring, observing, and asking questions both individually and in cooperative groups. Critical thinking, reading, and study skills will be emphasized. Students will use many science tools to perform experiments. Each student will participate in the school science fair and enjoy guest lectures, technology, and lab experiences. The Glencoe Science Curriculum will be the basis of our program and will be supplemented by a variety of other curriculum approaches, all designed to meet the National Science Education Standards. Physical Science will be taught. Some of the major concepts taught will be: Nature of matter, Atomic Theory, Law of Conservation of Matter, Wave Properties, and Electrical Forces.</p>

Social Studies	Students will continue to learn about our past and present to prepare them to lead us into the future. The study of Georgia geography, history, government, and economics will be covered. U.S. historical events are included as appropriate to ensure students understand Georgia's role in the history of the United States. Students will enjoy field trips that enrich the learning environment, and guest speakers will be incorporated in the program. Maps, almanacs, and appropriate technology will be used to round out the program.
Technology	Students in eighth grade concentrate their work on productivity with computers. They will use Microsoft Office to create documents, spreadsheets, graphs, and presentations. Students will learn about using webbing software to plan and organize their thoughts before beginning projects. Students will complete a technology project incorporating all of their computer skills into a sales campaign for a product that they design.
Library	Eighth graders will work on researching various topics that are integrated with their classroom work. They will focus on paraphrasing, summarizing, and not plagiarizing. In addition, they will work on finding accurate, credible sources of information on the web.
Spanish	Students will continue to learn conversational Spanish taught by a specialist three times each week. The Glencoe/McGraw-Hill Middle School Spanish <i>¿Como te va?</i> textbook will be utilized to expand their knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structures.
Physical Education	Eighth graders will participate in Physical Education three times a week with the school specialist. Students will learn about physical fitness, movement concepts and movement competencies. Teamwork and positive self-concepts and control will be emphasized.
Health	Eighth graders will expand their learning about disease prevention, growth and development, mental health, nutrition, personal health and safety. A registered nurse will continue to teach the Health course. The McGraw-Hill text will provide continuity with earlier learning experiences.
Art	Eighth graders will continue to learn art and art history weekly with an art specialist. The program will emphasize art history as well as the principles of design. Students will be exposed to many art techniques and create many two and three-dimensional pieces. Students will also have opportunities to visit local museums to expand their artistic world view.
Band/Chorus	Eighth graders continue to participate in either Band or Chorus class weekly and are taught by a specialist. Students are taught music and music theory. They listen to scores, analyze music according to specific musical elements, describe musical genres, and experience symphonies and musical theatre. Music appreciation integrates many elements of study and knowledge of music. Students will be able to demonstrate appropriate understanding of form in selected musical repertoire. They will take part in an all school musical. The concert band and chorus perform at school functions throughout the year.

Counseling & Character Education	<p>The school counselor works with all students, school staff, administrators, parents, and the community as a function of the guidance program. The school counselor has weekly classes with the students and sees students as needed on an individual basis. The counselor also works with all new students to ensure a smooth transition to our school. The guidance and counseling program promotes school success through a focus on academic achievement, prevention and intervention activities, social/emotional, character, career development and advocacy. Guidance is an integral part of the education process. It is a comprehensive and developmental program of services to assist all students in developing positive self-concepts, effective relationships with others, problem-solving skills necessary to function effectively in society, and an understanding of current and potential educational and career alternatives available to them. The school counselor also teaches the character education program based on the Core Essentials program.</p>
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