

COUNTRYSIDE DAY SCHOOL

CURRICULUM

Grades 1 - 3

The curriculum at Countryside requires a brief explanation in order to understand the fluidity and freedom of student learning in the context of clearly defined and well-established required content for each student.

The structure of Countryside Day School elementary classrooms allows for each student to be taught at a pace designed specifically for him or her. This great benefit is made possible because the teaching ratio is always quite low. Direct instruction is generally given in small groups of two to eight students maximizing each student's engagement. In addition, individualized support is available to students throughout the day at both the student's request and the teacher's direction.

This methodology is advantageous for learners of all levels. Those that acquire new knowledge quickly can move at a faster pace. Those that may take more practice in order to master a skill are afforded the time to do this.

One of the greatest benefits of this approach is that it eliminates the disadvantages of leveled classes. Students are not permanently selected for any particular track because elementary students have not yet reached

an academic maturity that supports this kind of decision. Students that do not demonstrate the proficiency to move at an accelerated pace at one point in the year, may be perfectly poised to do so later. Students who were struggling with writing one year, may overcome this challenge the following.

But at Countryside these common and natural shifts in the students' learning is effortlessly accommodated because class changes are not necessary. Students simply work at a faster or slower pace as necessary and as their interest in particular subjects dictate.

This list is not meant to be comprehensive. Many students will work far beyond the content listed here. To see additional work that some students will explore while in grades 1 - 3, see curriculum for grades 4 - 6.

LANGUAGE ARTS

HISTORY

- Story of the history of written language
 - Investigation of other alphabets (Chinese, Egyptian, etc.)

READING

- Demonstrates ability to read fluently and with comprehension materials in the following subjects: history, grammar, geometry, math, geography, biology, and botany, as well as various genres of fiction
- Expands knowledge and use of precise vocabulary in these areas: history, grammar, geometry, math, geography, biology, and botany
- Can summarize fiction and not-fiction selections
- Understands use of dialogue, theme, plot, conflict, resolution
- Reads orally with fluency

LITERATURE STUDY

- Exposure to literature read aloud
- Reads novels fluently with comprehension
- Understands difference between fiction and non-fiction
- Reads and identifies various genres of literature: novel, short story, fable, myth, poetry
- Understands and uses literary vocabulary: character, setting, theme, plot, conflict, resolution
- Recognizes use of literary devices: rhyming, similes, personification, imagery

WORD STUDY

- Understands definition of and can identify:
 - Prefixes
 - Suffixes
 - Root words
 - Compound Words

REFERENCE SKILLS

- Understands Dewey Decimal System and call numbers
- Uses computer catalogue
- Uses encyclopedias for research
- Uses books for research
 - Can locate and use table of contents, index, bold headings
- Dictionary
 - Alphabetizing
 - Finding words with the use of guidewords
- Thesaurus
 - Understands purpose of thesaurus
 - Begins using it to improve writing
- Internet
 - Begins to use internet for research for expository writing

STUDY OF GRAMMAR

- Capitalization
 - Beginning of sentences
 - Proper nouns
 - Days
 - Months
 - Titles of books and essays
- Proper use of end marks in sentences

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Comma usage
 - Date
 - Letter Writing
 - Address
 - In a series
 - Compound sentences
- Contractions
Understands use of and punctuation
- Possessives
Understands use of and punctuation
- Understands function of, can identify in reading and give examples of:
 - Noun
 - Article
 - Adjective
 - Verb
 - Adverb
 - Preposition, etc.
- Further Study of Grammar
Understands the terms and can give examples:
 - Singular/Plural Nouns (explores ways to form plural nouns)
 - Masculine/Feminine Nouns
 - Common/Proper Nouns
 - Positive, comparative, and superlative adjectives
- Verb Tenses
 - Can identify personal pronouns and use for conjugations
 - Recognizes, conjugates, and can write in present tense
 - Recognizes, conjugates, and can write in past tense
 - Recognizes, conjugates, and can write in future tense
 - Recognizes, can give examples of regular and irregular verbs
- Diagramming Sentences
Can write and deconstruct sentences and identify the parts:
 - Subject
 - Predicate

WRITING

- Paragraph Writing
 - Maintains focus
 - Uses topic sentences
 - Uses details
 - Uses concluding sentences
- Forms of Writing – One Paragraph
 - Personal Narrative
 - Expository Writing with notetaking
 - Letter writing (friendly)
 - Poetry
- Forms of Writing – Multi Paragraph
 - Personal Narrative
 - Friendly Letter

MATH

STORY OF THE HISTORY OF NUMBERS

- Study of different systems of numeration (particularly Roman numerals)

DECIMAL SYSTEM

- Writes and reads whole numbers in millions
- Writes large numbers in words
- Orders whole numbers from least to greatest and opposite
- Understands place value of Units, Tens, Hundreds, Thousands, up to Millions
- Can apply greater than, less than, and equal symbols to whole numbers
- Recognizes number patterns

MEMORIZATION

- Recalls addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts
- Skips counts by two, fives, and tens

WHOLE NUMBERS

- Addition
 - Understands concept
 - Can add numbers in the millions with regrouping
- Subtraction
 - Understands concept
 - Can subtract numbers in the millions with regrouping
- Multiplication
 - Understands concept
 - Can multiply numbers in the millions by single digit multiplier
 - Can multiply numbers in the millions by double-digit multiplier
- Division
 - Understands concept
 - Can divide numbers in the millions by single digit divisor
 - Can divide numbers in the millions by double-digit divisor

COMMUTATIVE LAW

- Understands concept
- Makes use of law to facilitate addition, subtraction, multiplication, and fact memorization

DIVISIBILITY

- By 2
- By 5
- By 25

MULTIPLES AND FACTORS

- Understands concepts
- Can find and identify multiples and factors of given numbers
- Begins to find least common multiples
- Begins to find greatest common factors
- Knows prime factors

MONEY

- Makes Change
- Word Problems

FRACTIONS

- Understands fractions as parts of a whole
- Reads and writes fractions
- Knows terms numerator and denominator
- Uses greater than, less than, and equal to signs
- Adds and subtracts fractions with like denominators
- Multiplies and divides fractions by whole numbers
- Uses LCM to determine common denominators
- Adds and subtracts fractions with different denominators

MATH

DECIMAL FRACTIONS

- Understands decimals as part of a whole
- Understands relationship to standard fractions
- Writes and reads decimal fractions
- Adds and subtracts numbers with decimal fractions

SQUARING AND CUBING

- Understands concept and notation of squares
- Understands concept and notation of cubes

SQUARE ROOT

- Understands concept and notation
- Can find square root of numbers up to 100

NEGATIVE NUMBERS (INTEGERS)

- Understands concept
- Can add integers 1-9 abstractly

SIMPLE WORD PROBLEMS

- Reads, understands, and makes decisions about what process to use for solution
- With currency
- With time

MONEY

- Can identify, name, and give value of all coins
- Can add coins and paper currency
- Can make change with numbers up to ten dollars
- Can solve word problems involving money

MEASUREMENT

- Linear
 - Introduction of metric and standard systems
 - Knowledge of centimeter, and meter
 - Knowledge of inch, foot, yard
- Liquid volume
 - Introduction to metric and standard systems
 - Knowledge of liter, milliliter
 - Knowledge of teaspoon, tablespoon, ounce, cup, pint, quart, gallon
- Temperature
 - Can measure temperature with thermometer in standard and metric systems
- Weight
 - Can measure using standard and metric systems
 - Knows units: ounces, pounds, grams, kilograms

TIME TELLING

- Tells time to the minute
- Recognizes common time vocabulary (half past, quarter past, etc.)

GRAPHING

- Gathers data using tallies
- Constructs bar graph with data

GEOMETRY

GEOMETRY

- Equivalence, congruence, and similarity
 - Understands concepts
 - Identifies and constructs shapes exemplifying each
 - Recognizes and writes symbols

NOMENCLATURE

- Names common shapes and figures: square, rectangle, parallelogram, triangle, trapezoid, polygon, cube, sphere, rectangular prism, cone, cylinder, pyramid
- Names and recognizes common parts of plane figures (side, perimeter, area, base, height, angle, vertex)

TRIANGLES

- Classification by sides
- Classification by angles

ANGLES

- Names parts of an angle
- Identifies types of angles (acute, obtuse, etc.)
- Measures using protractor

LINES

- Types of lines (straight, curved, parallel, converging, diverging, intersecting, horizontal, vertical, oblique, perpendicular)

AREA

- Rectangle
 - Understands concept
 - Can find area using unit squares
 - Knows formula ($A=bh$)
- Parallelogram
 - Understands concept
 - Can find area using unit squares
 - Knows formula ($A=bh$)

TECHNOLOGY

WORD PROCESSING SKILLS

- Development of keyboarding skills and use of mouse
- Basic font usage and formatting
- Use of tabs; center, left and right justify formats
- Types some written work
- Begins use of tool bars and palettes

USE OF INTERNET

- How to use search engine
- How to determine appropriate material for research
- How to monitor time used for research on computer

SCIENCE

STORY OF CREATION OF EARTH

- Simplistic Explanation of the Creation of the Earth told in narrative form

SUN AND THE EARTH

- Understands rotation of earth causes night and day
- Understands and uses terms AM & PM
- Perpendicular and Oblique Rays of Sun caused by spherical shape of earth
- Seasons
 - Order and characteristics of season
 - Tilt of the Axis Causes Seasons
 - Lengthening and shortening of day and night
- Investigation of Solar System
- Location of equator and poles
- Initial exploration of longitude and latitude

THREE STATES OF MATTER

- Identifies and gives examples of each
- Qualities of each state

ECOLOGY

- Food chain
- Pollution
- Decomposition
- Natural resources and conservation
- Recycling
- Ecosystem: definition of biotic factors and abiotic factors

BIOLOGY

- Evolution of Life
- Five Classes of Vertebrates
- Needs of the Plant
- Parts and Functions of the Plant

SOCIAL STUDIES

HISTORY

- Story of the coming of the human beings and distinguishing characteristics

FUNDAMENTAL NEEDS OF MAN

- Identification of
- Study of diversity in ways met
- Study of life of early man

AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

- Study of River Civilization (Egypt, Mesopotamia, Yellow River, Indus Valley)
 - General geographic location, and major river
 - Study of how fundamental needs of each were met
 - Understanding of how agriculture changed life of human beings

TIMELINES

- BC/AD (CE/BCE)
- Creation of one's own life

ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER

- Recites orally
- Writes, spells, and punctuates correctly

AGE OF EXPLORATION

- Knowledge of discovery of America and colonization by England

TIME TELLING

- Tells time to the minute
- Recognizes common time vocabulary (half past, quarter past etc.)
-

DAYS OF THE WEEK

- Knows order
- Spells correctly

MONTHS OF THE YEAR

- Knows order

CIVICS

- Fundamental concepts of democracy: power with people, election of officials, freedom of speech
- Recite and understands Pledge of Allegiance
- Sings National Anthem
- Understands purpose of major holidays
- Understands that there are three levels of government
- Knows leader of each (president, governor, mayor)
- Knows government is located in capitol city

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

- Location of natural resources (USA and global)
- Production of goods and locations (USA and global)
- Interdependencies of human beings (how one product is made from beginning to arrival in store)

MAP SKILLS

- Knows directions north, south, east, west
- Names of countries, cities, and capitols
- Use of key and symbols
- Identification of streets and street names
- Understands use of grid and coordinates for location

CURRENT EVENTS

- Knows parts of newspaper
- Knowledge and discussion of major current events local, national, international

GEOGRAPHY

INVESTIGATION OF ARCTIC, TROPIC AND TEMPERATE ZONES

- Climate
- Flora and Fauna
- Diversity of how human beings meet their needs

MEMORIZATION

- Seven continents
- Oceans
- States of USA
- Countries of North America
- Major countries/territories of all other continents

LAND AND WATER FORMS

- Knowledge of names, definitions and examples

MUSIC

STEADY BEAT

- Can move body in various ways to steady beat
- Can find steady beat in music

METER

- Can determine if music is duple or triple

FORM

- Can identify form of music from listening and from written music

MELODY

- Discriminates and names notes as high or low
- Begins notation of melody on single and multiple lined cards (simplified version leading to treble staff)

MUSIC APPRECIATION

- Exploration of major composers past and present

SINGING

- Can memorize songs
- Sings on pitch
- Comfortable singing for an audience in chorus