

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS: GRADES 1–8

	FIRST GRADE	SECOND GRADE	THIRD GRADE	FOURTH GRADE	FIFTH GRADE	SIXTH GRADE	SEVENTH GRADE	EIGHTH GRADE
HISTORY, MYTHOLOGY, & GEOGRAPHY	Traditional fairy tales and folk tales including stories from Russia, Hawaii, Europe, China, Africa, and Japan capture the child's imagination.	Heroic tales from people around the world encourage a sense of responsibility and ethics.	Hebrew stories emphasize sense of individuality and strong relationship to the group. Hands-on study of farming, shelter-building , trades, and clothing in various cultures.	Norse myths and legends and Native American quest stories reveal powerful characters with distinct personalities. Map-making, orienteering, local history, and geography develop an understanding of the interrelatedness of human activity and the physical earth.	Histories and religions of Ancient Cultures including India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt and Greece encourage an examination of personal deeds and strivings. Consideration of earth's physical features and natural resources though the study of North American geography.	The rise and fall of the Roman Empire and the study of Medieval history including ancient Britain, knighthood, the life of Mohammad, the rise of Islam and the Crusades.	Study of the Renaissance, Reformation and the Age of Exploration with a focus on individualism, humanism and scientific learning. Biographies of great figures and their search for truth. World Geography .	The end of the Renaissance through the 20 th Century with an emphasis on the emergence of the ideals of human freedom that lead to the American, French and Russian Revolutions . World Geography focusing on topography, climatology, vegetation, animal life and human culture.
LANGUAGE ARTS	Writing and literacy introduced through images found in stories, daily phonics work, vocabulary development, and poetry . Emphasis on writing beautifully with correct posture, pencil grip and letter formation.	Oral storytelling and independent reading and writing develop familiarity and comfort with early skills. Journaling, spelling, punctuation, cursive and "just right" reading books.	Regular reading practice, grammar, comprehension strategies, spelling skills, cursive writing and independent composition emphasize creative, flexible thinking .	Development of skillful and fluid reading and writing strategies using historical fiction, creative writing, the editing process, report writing, and parts of speech.	Creative writing , biographies, fiction, report writing, and learning parts of speech deepen reading and writing skills.	Strengthening reading and writing through novels, biographies, note-taking skills, oral presentations, small group work. English introduced as a subject class with a focus on the structure of a story , sensory details, plot and characterization.	Report writing, group presentations , poetry, essays, biographies, and reading fiction and non-fiction support strong writing and reading fluency.	Personal, year-long research projects to cultivate a life-long passion for learning. Journaling, comprehension strategies, creative writing, composition skills.
MATHEMATICS	Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division experienced through lessons involving drawing, stories, mental math, patterns, and rhythms .	Strengthening understanding of four operations through math games, mental math , multiplication patterns, and written work.	Practical application of mathematics including linear measurement , weight, volume, and time. Multiplication tables and long division.	Study of fractions , mixed numbers, multiplication, area, and long division through written math work and map making.	Developing mathematical fluency through the mastery of fractions, mixed numbers, multiplication, area, and long division.	Geometry , complex decimal and fraction processes, word problems, percentages, and formulas with an emphasis on effort, determination and organizational skills .	Algebra and plane geometry , business math, metric system, graphing, perimeter, area, roots and powers, and formulas.	Algebra studies , solving linear expressions and equations, functions, Pythagorean Theorem, graphing.
SCIENCE	Nature stories and observations and weekly farm work set the stage for the study of science in later grades.	Daily observations and weekly trips to the farm lay the foundations for the study of science in later grades.	The cycle of food from planting and harvesting through cooking and eating together. Appreciation of the work of the farmer in nurturing, cultivating, and protecting nature .	Understanding and appreciating the animal kingdom and the human being through comparative, conceptual, and observational skills.	In-depth study of botany and insects develops appreciation for the beauty of transformation .	Mineralogy and geology of mountains emphasize the Adirondacks and the Green Mountains. Astronomy and the physics of sound, light, heat and magnetism cultivate the powers of observation that lead to the development of critical thinking .	Chemistry and the phenomena of combustion, the water cycle and the nature of acids and bases. Physics and the laws of refraction, heat, reflection and electricity. Human physiology : the digestive, respiratory, and circulatory systems and health and nutrition.	Human Anatomy : the muscular and skeletal systems, the eye and the ear. Physics : force and motion. Biography of Sir Isaac Newton to understand qualities of a scientist and appreciation for experimentation.
MOVEMENT	Gym focuses on rhythm, imaginative movement , and spatial awareness.	Social games and imaginative exercises develop spatial awareness and concentration.	Social games and coordination exercises cultivate unity and team spirit.	Outdoor education, games and exercises for dexterity and agility cultivate confidence and healthy competition.	Preparation for Pentathlon: javelin, shot put, discus, wrestling, running and complicated concentration exercises develop individual strengths and cultivate healthy competition . Skiing or snowboarding.	Exploration of the balance between teamwork and individuality with a focus on courage and discipline . Juggling, tumbling, and movements to complicated geometric forms in Circus Arts. Skiing or snowboarding.	Daily morning movement, team games and group activities promote a diverse and healthy social dynamic . Outdoor Education, Circus Arts and Skiing or snowboarding.	Daily morning movement, team games and group activities promote dexterity, balance, control and a healthy upper grade community . Outdoor Education, Circus Arts and Skiing or snowboarding.
WORLD LANGUAGES	Introduction to Spanish emphasizes culture and develops memory and vocabulary skills.	Stories, games, poems, and songs to make the Spanish language come alive .	Songs and stories focusing on village life and trades , introduction of short plays.	Seasonal poems and songs, picture/ word dictionaries, games, and simple Spanish texts develop fluency and correct pronunciation .	Oral communication skills with songs, poems, short texts, journals, and recitation.	Short texts, introduction of parts of speech, songs, dances, and Hispanic geography promote reading, speaking, and cultural understanding .	Conversations, deeper grammar study , and writing exercises further the well-roundedness of language skills.	Written and conversational Spanish in preparation for a high school exchange.
HANDWORK & ART	Exploration of space, form and color through painting, drawing and modeling. Knitting sharpens concentration , focus and understanding patterns.	Crocheting a potlholder and a flute case develops hand-eye coordination . Clay modeling and drawing of characters from stories. Watercolor painting to deepen understanding of color.	Crocheting hats as part of the study of clothing in various cultures. Painting, drawing and modeling sharpen powers of observation and expression.	Cross-stitch pincushions require concentration, counting and spatial awareness . Map-making, painting, drawing and modeling boost powers of observation.	Dying wool and knitting a pair of socks foster concentration skills and appreciation of functional art. Introduction to woodwork: creating a finely polished butter board and butter knife out of rough-sawn piece of cherry. Detailed botanical drawings, artistic maps, watercolor paintings, and sculpting in clay.	Problem-solving skills , craftsmanship and artistry emphasized through hand-sewing an African animal, carving a wooden spoon, sculpting, and creating detailed geometric drawings and watercolor paintings.	Copper-smithing skills including mastering the proper uses of tools and discovery of the properties of soft metals. Carving a sculpted bowl to reveal the visual and tactile qualities of wood. Formal analysis of art: the perspective and symbolism of Leonardo and Michelangelo. Perspective drawing . Watercolor landscapes.	Developing precision and perseverance through machine sewing a long-sleeve shirt with a collar, forming clay into coil pots and sculpted animals, painting in watercolors, and crafting a three-legged stool in woodworking.
MUSIC	Singing builds class community and celebrates the seasons through song. Playing the pentatonic flute.	Singing everyday and playing two-part harmonies on the pentatonic flute build class community and focus.	Violin, viola or cello instruction fosters understanding of scale degrees, broken chords and arpeggios.	Participation in a string orchestra fosters rhythm, intonation and community building .	Multi-grade chorus and orchestra develops musical awareness and builds individual skills in a group setting.	Choral instruction strengthens group responsibility . Focus on complicated bowings, hand positions, fingerings in Orchestra.	Development of choral techniques including how to sustain pitches and affect dynamics though breath support, annunciation, and pronunciation. Upper Grades Orchestra.	Strengthening choral techniques with the Upper Grades chorus. Developing proper rehearsal techniques and ability to perform challenging musical pieces in Orchestra.
FIELD TRIPS & COMMUNITY EVENTS	Weekly farm days to care for animals . Lunches with 8 th Grade Buddies.	Weekly farm days to care for animals and the land .	Weekly farm chores. A culminating, one-week overnight farm trip .	Visit to the Vermont Statehouse . Community service activities. Trips to the theater.	Pentathlon . Community service activities. Trips to the theater and Insectarium. Singing at the Spring Benefit.	Geology field trips. Visit to Planetarium. Launching a class-based business . Singing at the Spring Benefit. Medieval Games .	Upper Grades camping trip . Quebec City. Guest speakers. Community service activities. Spring Benefit orchestra performance.	Upper Grades Camping Trip. Eighth Grade Project. Managing Pizza Days for the Grade School. Spring Benefit orchestra performance. First Grade Buddies. Eighth Grade Class Trip .