

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: ELEMENTARY GRADES (Gr. 1-5)

	FIRST GRADE	SECOND GRADE	THIRD GRADE	FOURTH GRADE	FIFTH GRADE
<b>HISTORY MYTHOLOGY &amp; GEOGRAPHY</b>	Traditional faerie and folk tales including stories from many different cultures capture the child's imagination.	Fables, legends and stories of saintly and heroic people from 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 Native American stories reveal powerful characters with distinct personalities. Map-making, local history, and local 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 strivings. Consideration of earth's physical features and natural resources through the study of North American geography
<b>LANGUAGE ARTS</b>	Writing and literacy introduced through stories, daily phonics work, vocabulary development, and poetry. Emphasis on writing 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, the editing process, and learning parts of speech deepen reading and writing skills.
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	Lessons on addition, subtraction, multiplication, division experienced through 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 and division facts through 12, and long division.	Study of fractions, mixed numbers, long division and multiplication, area, through written math work and map making.	Developing mathematical fluency through the mastery of fractions, both common and decimal, mixed numbers, long division and multiplication, area, and free hand geometry.
<b>SCIENCE</b>	Nature stories, observation, and formal studies of local flora and fauna set the stage for the study of science in later grades.	Observation and nature studies 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.
<b>MOVEMENT</b>	Gym classes focus on rhythm, imaginative movement, balance, and spatial awareness.	Social games and imaginative exercises develop spatial awareness, balance, coordination and concentration.	Social games and coordination exercises cultivate unity and team spirit. Chasing games help the child to think and to develop the capacity for perceiving and acting.	Outdoor education, games and exercises for dexterity and agility cultivate confidence and healthy competition.	Pentathlon: javelin, shot put, discus, wrestling, running and concentration exercises develop individual strengths and cultivate healthy competition while displaying beauty and harmony.
<b>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</b>	German is taught through recitation of verses, songs, games, and rhythmic exercises, developing children's innate ability to imitate and memorize.	Short stories continue to make the German language come alive through games, songs and short verses, and generate a positive attitude toward other cultures.	Songs, verses and stories focus on farm life. Students develop careful listening to different speech sounds and learn to feel more comfortable taking risks.	Verb verses, picture dictionaries, and games focus on life around the town and the language of asking questions.	Oral communication skills continue to develop through the writing and reading of short stories. Tongue twisters take pronunciation practice further.
<b>PRACTICAL &amp; VISUAL ART</b>	Exploration of space, form and color through painting, drawing and modeling. Learning to knit a flute case sharpens concentration, focus and understanding patterns.	Knitting a doll increases skill and 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. Create an egg in woodworking. Detailed botanical drawings, artistic maps, watercolor paintings, and sculpting in clay.
<b>MUSIC</b>	Singing and playing the pentatonic flute builds class community and celebrates the seasons through music.	Singing every day and playing two-part harmonies on the pentatonic flute build class community and focus.	Singing grows more complex with rounds and soprano recorders are added to music instruction.	Violin, viola or cello instruction fosters understanding of scale degrees, broken chords and arpeggios. Singing in harmony begins	Multi-grade singing and orchestra develops musical awareness and builds individual skills in a group setting.

We gratefully acknowledge Lake Champlain Waldorf School for inspiring this curriculum chart.