

## **K-2 Curriculum and Standards**

Minimum standards for curriculum by the State of New Hampshire Department of Education require that each elementary school shall provide to all children in attendance a broad and well-balanced elementary school curriculum. In 2010, The State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards, committing to a thoughtful transition process for implementation to these standards. The information provided below is intended to give a broad overview of our K-2 curriculum. More detailed information can be found in the curriculum section of the SAU 16 website or at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

### **Literacy**

Our literacy program includes skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Beginning in kindergarten, children learn to develop skills in sound-symbol correspondence, phonology, sight word recognition, and vocabulary. When students have gained the necessary foundational skills, they work towards building reading fluency and comprehension through guided reading groups and direct instruction in reading strategies. Opportunities to engage in both oral and written response to text provide the students with strategies such as making predictions, identifying key elements of text, retelling, questioning, and summarizing. Graphic organizers are also explored as a way to organize non-fiction and fiction text for deeper understanding.

Students are instructed in written English language conventions including the formation of letters using the Zaner-Bloser handwriting method, the use of spaces between words, and rules for capitalization. Beginning in first grade students begin transitioning from inventive spelling to early instruction of both regular spelling patterns and high-frequency words. Students engage in a variety of writing activities using the Picturing Writing process and Image-Making process as they use art and the sharing of language with peers to help generate ideas and strengthen vocabulary. Our writing program has been developed to integrate many of our science themes as a way to engage in both fiction and nonfiction writing opportunities.

### **Mathematics**

Our math program includes the use of the Everyday Math program, along with a variety of supplemental learning tools and strategies to build a strong foundation in mathematics. The Common Core State Standards are organized into mathematical practices and content. The practices include problem solving, communication, representation, connections, conceptual understanding, and fluency (skill in carrying out procedures flexibly, accurately, efficiently and appropriately). The content standards are organized into domains with specific standards at each grade level.

In kindergarten, students focus on skills including naming, counting, and comparing numbers. They develop an understanding of addition and subtraction, as well as gain a foundation for place value through teen numbers. They learn to categorize, sort, describe and compare measurable attributes and shapes.

In first grade, students learn to apply the properties of operations and relationship of both addition and subtraction within 20, with the goal of attaining fact fluency through 10. They

learn to extend the counting sequence to at least 120, build place value skills with ones and tens, compare numbers within 100, measure length units, tell and write time to the nearest hour and half hour, represent and interpret data in charts and graphs, and reason with shapes and their attributes.

In second grade, students represent and solve problems with addition and subtraction within 1000, with the goal of attaining fact fluency through 20. They gain foundations for multiplication, understand place value through the hundreds place, measure using standard units, work with time to the nearest five minutes, work with money through word problems, generate and represent data, and expand on their recognition of shapes and attributes.

### Science

The focus of the elementary science program is on fostering interest, understanding, and exploration of the world around them. Children develop inquiry skills through the scientific method while gaining content knowledge through a thematic approach. Major themes for each grade level include:

Kindergarten: Plants and Animals, Space, Pond Life

First Grade: Weather, Life Cycles, Endangered Animals, Health and Nutrition

Second Grade: Geology, Woodland Animals, Trees, Seasons, Ocean Tidepools

### Social Studies

The social studies curriculum at the elementary level focuses on building a sense of community, diversity, geography, and citizenship. Major themes for each grade level include:

Kindergarten: Self and Family, Community Helpers, Traditions

First Grade: Families Around the World, Maps and Globes, National Holidays

Second Grade: Community, National Symbols, Celebrations Around the World

### Social and Emotional Learning- Open Circle

Main Street School uses the Open Circle Program to help students develop social and emotional skills while fostering a safe, caring, and cooperative school environment. Teachers use lessons within their classrooms during weekly Open Circle meetings around topics such as listening, self-calming strategies, speaking up, and problem solving. Each month, special lunches are organized to acknowledge students who have demonstrated the skills being practiced in their classrooms.

## Physical Education

The Main Street School physical education teachers, Katie Kearns and Greg Dussol, teach a comprehensive Physical Education curriculum. They teach team and recreational sport skills, cooperative learning and adventure activities, and nutrition and health concepts. The goal for all students at MSS is to foster a life-long love of moving and involvement in kinesthetic activities. Physical education supports our 5.2.1.0 wellness initiative by teaching concepts related to nutrition and fitness.

## Music

Our music teacher, Juliet Goyette, provides students with a comprehensive music program that engages them in singing, movements, and the use of percussion instruments. There are many skills students learn in music including learning about beat and rhythm. Music is an opportunity for students to develop their creative thinking and it can be an inspiration for writing, composing, or creating dances. It also gives students at each grade level the opportunity to perform in front of an audience.

## Library

We have an extensive collection of books and other media in our school library. Diane Taylor, our school librarian, and her two assistants, Deb McLarnon and Karen McQueen, help the children learn about the organizational pattern of the library so that they can access the materials that interest them. The students learn how to use the electronic catalog, and look forward to finding books that they can bring home to read. A primary goal of our library is to develop students love for reading.

## Art

In art the children learn how to represent their ideas through visual forms. They get to experiment with a variety of artistic tools and media. Students develop an aesthetic awareness by frequently viewing famous artwork. Student artwork is commonly displayed in the hallways at MSS and our May Open House provides a wonderful opportunity for parents to see the many impressive works of art the children create with our art teacher, Marnie Bird.

## Technology

Technology plays an important role supporting learning at Main Street School. All classrooms have one to two desktop computers and students are instructed in using technology resources in their school work. First and second grade classrooms have in-focus projectors and document cameras for whole class presentations. We also have a mobile lab of laptop computers that can be taken to classrooms around the building to support classroom curriculum. Ms. Tabet works with students and staff at both Main St. and Lincoln St. Schools. It is our hope that students will see and experience technology as truly integrated into our curriculum.