



Mountain Phoenix
community school

Curriculum Summary

A member of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education

The Governing Council revised and approved this on December 9, 2015.

Early Childhood Program

(The text that follows is adapted from the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education and revised to reflect the program at MPCS.)

The Preschool Program

Mountain Phoenix Community School, a member of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, offers a joyful, nurturing setting in our Early Childhood Program that inspires the imagination through creative play, storytelling, puppetry, music, movement, and art. This program is open to children who will be 3 or 4 years old by October 1st. Emphasis is placed on the healthy development of the physical body through practical activities that include handwork, crafts, baking, cooking, gardening, sweeping, digging, nature walks, and plenty of time outdoors. Responsibility for self and others is encouraged through attention to sharing, caring, and taking care of our Kindergarten classroom and play yard. The rich foundations of written language and literacy are established with an emphasis on the oral traditions of storytelling, puppetry, and song. The foundations of mathematics are nurtured through rhythmic movement, music and the practical activities of cooking, sewing, gardening, and carpentry. Attention to, and care of, the natural world and its beauty lay a healthy foundation for more precise scientific explorations in the later years.

MPCS recognizes that the young child learns primarily through imitation and example. Great care is taken to provide an environment that brings nurturing guidance and cooperation into the child's world of imagination and fantasy. The week is rhythmically structured to include storytelling and puppetry, creative work and play, singing and creative movement, games and finger plays, crafts, art activities, and fairy tales.

Since the young child's response to the environment is imitation with openness and trust, the teacher's goal is to become a worthy role model in gesture, mood and speech. The teacher strives to create an environment, both inside and out, that is beautiful, orderly and calm, yet also stimulating. Natural materials and open-ended toys are selected to nourish the senses and support the children in developing their imagination, creativity, focus, flexibility, and their motivation to engage with the world and others.

The curriculum is play-based and nature-oriented in keeping with the awakening capacities of the young child below the age of seven. The curriculum includes indoor and outdoor free-play periods in which the children imaginatively and creatively self-direct their play. The play times are interspersed with circle time (language arts, movement, and music), artistic activities (which vary daily and include painting, drawing, and beeswax modeling), snack time and story time.

The Blessing of Time in Early Childhood

In their first weeks of the Early Childhood program, children are introduced to the rhythms and routines of the day and week. With time, they learn to move through the transitions of the day with ease. They are introduced to a thoughtfully planned, rich array of activities. These, along with ample time for play, facilitate the development of age-appropriate physical, cognitive, emotional and social skills. During their second year within the Early Childhood program, the rhythms of the day and week already live deeply in the children. They are free to refine the qualities they began to develop in the first year. In their final year of Kindergarten, they are inspired by their new role as “veterans” to reach a higher level of mastery in all they do, demonstrate a greater degree of self-control, and provide assistance to others. By the end of this year, the children are well prepared to make the transition to first grade.

The following is an example of a preschool classroom’s daily rhythm:

- 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. – Drop off
- 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. – Free Play
- 9:00 a.m. – Art/handwork
- 9:30 a.m. – Clean Up
- 9:45 a.m. – Morning Circle
- 10:00 a.m. – Morning Snack
- 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Outside Play
- 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Story time/Puppet Shows/Plays
- 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. – Lunch
- 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. – Rest
- 2:00 to 2:15 p.m. – Wake Up, bathrooms
- 2:15 to 2:30 p.m. – Afternoon Snack
- 2:30 to 2:45 p.m. – Readyng for outside
- 2:45 to 3:15 p.m. – Outside Play
- 3:15 p.m. – Pick up

The Kindergarten Program

(The text that follows is adapted from the website of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education and revised to reflect the program at MPCS.)

An Overview of the Kindergarten at Mountain Phoenix Community School

The MPCS Kindergarten, a member of the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, is a play-based, half day or full day, one or two-year program for the child turning 5 or 6 years old during the year. In the Kindergarten, the teachers gently lead the child across the bridge from home to school, laying a strong, healthy foundation for the academic program that begins in First Grade.

In a homelike environment, the Kindergarten program is rich in singing, seasonal activities, painting, puppetry and storytelling. Waldorf teachers believe it is profoundly important that the child have time to develop body, imagination and will in a secure setting. Free play with simple natural toys draws out the imagination.

Because the Kindergarten child lives so deeply in the environment around him and imitates all he sees, the teacher strives to create an environment that mirrors back to the child the Good and the Beautiful. The teacher cultivates a reverence for nature and for caring relationships and good habits, laying a solid foundation for lifelong learning, personal development, fruitful relationships with others and engagement with the world.

The Kindergarten program is based upon the simple, yet profound concepts of imitation, repetition, and creative play. Due to its unique format, the MPCPS Public Waldorf Kindergarten is appropriate for a mixed-age group of children from early five year olds to the pre-First Grade six year olds. The Kindergarten child will gradually become accustomed to working within a group, listening to stories, interacting with the teacher, and following a daily routine, while at the same time being aided in his or her development as an individual through the encouragement of creative play, healthy movement indoors and out, practical life skills, and many artistic opportunities.

Here are some of the core activities of the Public Waldorf Kindergarten and the significance of each in relations to the student's ongoing development:

Circle Time

Early in the Kindergarten day, the class is brought together to recite verses, sing songs, and play developmental games with the teacher. These are often connected with the season, a particular fairy tale, or are just part of the general lore of childhood. The children develop gross and fine motor skills during circle time where the story, or seasonal theme, will be worked into an imaginative, movement-based story, poem or song. Here the children move together, listening, reciting, keeping sequences, learning body geography, integrating reflexes and developing spatial awareness.

Repeating and remembering verses and songs with movement establishes a strong multi-sensory foundation for the more intense memory work to come in the grades. In circle, teachers establish the foundations of an oral approach to teaching reading and literacy, and integrate those language-based activities with coordinated opportunities for healthy movement, spatial and body awareness, and social interaction.

Artistic Activities, Handwork, and Crafts

Wet-on-wet watercolor painting, beeswax modeling, crayon drawing, as well as forms of handwork such as finger knitting, braiding, sewing, and wood working, are done as a group activity, although each child is absorbed in his or her own work. *These activities encourage the child's natural sense of beauty, color, and form, as well as laying the groundwork for the artistic techniques that will be required for all the subjects to come in the Public Waldorf grades curriculum. They also aid significantly in the development of fine motor skills, sequencing, and spatial awareness. Confidence*

is increased as they master these skills. As their confidence and self-control develop, the children also participate in simple woodworking, beading, candle dipping, weaving and other crafts.

Free Play

Free play is a self-directed activity. A child's self-directed play develops imagination, creativity, large and fine motor development, problem solving, social skills and verbal skills. Younger children participate in all of these activities as their stage of maturity allows. Some teacher guidance may be necessary in the early stages of "figuring out" how to play, share, take turns and other socializing skills. Cooperation becomes an honored skill. A wide variety of adaptable materials and spaces are available for the child's free play choices. Students can choose to play both individually and in freely-formed and fluid play groups. In addition, during both indoor and outdoor free play times, adult-led small group activities are available including jump rope, gardening and a wide variety of crafts. The opportunity for free play plays a key and essential role in the curriculum as the child's nature changes from dreamy to focused and engaged over the span of their time in the Kindergarten, bringing them a sense of security, confidence and enthusiasm.

The ability to play creatively and use one's imagination in these early years becomes, over the course of grades one through eight, the ability to think creatively, imaginatively, actively, and effectively with increasing skill and conceptual precision, i.e.: solving complex problems in mathematics or drawing inferences accurately from scientific observations, or working together to solve a practical problem. Also, the extended focus on the task or play opportunity at hand, and the ability to create and follow an activity through to completion, are extremely important in later schooling and throughout life.

Practical Work

The children are involved in many aspects of the practical work involved in the smooth running of the Kindergarten. They set the table for snack, arrange the chairs in a circle on the rug for story time and move them back safely to the table for snack. They participate in food preparation and all take turns with the work of table cleaning, sweeping and dish washing. Outside, they may help tend to plants and clean up play spaces.

When it is time to set up or clean, a child's observational powers and visual memory are developed. Organizational skills, sorting, staying on task and socially accomplishing a goal with others are all achieved. The younger child imitates the teacher and older children, developing habits of responsibility and a genuine feeling of self worth. The older child is given more individualized and challenging tasks. They are able to follow multiple step directions and see a complex job through from start to finish without an adult overseeing their work. They model willingness and flexibility and helping others for younger children.

Outdoor Play and Time in Nature

Similar to indoor creative play, the group is taken outdoors often to experience the natural world in all of its variety and its different seasons. This is a foundational piece to science and an ecological education. *A child who has the experience of the yearly seasons can enter very deeply and comfortably into the later studies of plants and animals, the weather, geology, astronomy, and other*

natural sciences. The children develop a connection to the earth and the seasons as they observe all of the changes outside in nature and the weather. They may help to prepare soil to plant seeds and guide the younger children in caring for the plants. They learn to know which plants are ready to harvest for dyeing, eating or other activities. They develop reverence for the earth and the plants while tending them and noting the recurring life cycle of nature as a whole and its inhabitants. This is an imaginative foundation for botany and ecology--providing images of natural processes, humanity's role in supporting them, and their blessings over time. *Also, the opportunity for healthy movement offered in the outdoor setting is crucial to the healthy development of the young child.*

Music

Music is woven throughout the day and is often used for transitioning from one activity to the next. In addition to singing, the teacher and children often use simple instruments, such as chimes, harps, and wooden flutes. *Music lays the experiential foundation for the in-depth music curriculum that follows in the grades and for future studies in the arts, mathematics, and the sciences (number, rhythm, pitch, the study of sound and the qualities of materials).*

Mathematics

The daily Kindergarten routine introduces skills in mathematics in manifold ways, including counting and sorting, measuring, one to one correspondences in table setting etc., ordering from smallest to larger, finger plays, counting the children in the class, using number verses, sequential repetitive songs, jump rope verses, clapping games etc. The younger children are eager to participate in all of these activities as they imitate the involvement and skills of the older children.

Snack Time

Children help with all aspects of this shared mealtime, from preparing the food (*including natural whole grains, fresh vegetables and fruits, soups and homemade bread*), and ironing napkins, to cleaning the dishes and tables. Baking and cooking activities, like kneading dough, and stirring the cake batter, serve to integrate reflexes and hand-eye coordination in the younger child. The children are asked to sit and wait with quiet, good manners while everyone is served. This is essential for impulse control, social skills, self-care skills, and fine motor control. They learn community building skills and to care for others.

Story Time

The children are gathered together daily to hear the teacher tell a special story. The imaginative, vocabulary-rich story may be a fairy or folk tale from around the world, a nature tale, or a puppet show. Stories are repeated and worked with over an extended period of time so that the children may learn them well, and later act them out. Older children often assist in story time by playing the characters in the story or puppet show. The story will be acted out with feeling and the words will become even more alive in an appropriately modulated, expressive shared context. These scenarios often become the basis for creative play at other times in the Kindergarten day.

The children learn to listen, remember and understand language in the rich context of story. These skills are fundamental to reading comprehension. Self-expression is enhanced through a rich contextualized understanding of new vocabulary.

Celebrations and Festivals

In addition to the daily activities described above, there is an ongoing celebration of the seasons. The mood of the season permeates all that we do in the Kindergarten. Annual celebrations and festivals become highlights of the year, for the Kindergarten and entire school community.

The Public Waldorf Kindergarten and Academic Learning

Directed academic instruction and activities are not emphasized in a Public Waldorf Kindergarten; the emphasis lies on the foundation skills and experiences described above.

One key goal of the kindergarten program is to lay a strong foundation for the formal academic curriculum of the grades. Many preliminary academic skills are practiced daily. This material is not presented through formal academic lessons, but rather is embedded in the activities and rhythms of each day. The kindergarten program also allows children to fully develop their creativity, imagination, and self-confidence in preparation for the higher levels of cognitive thinking developed in the later grades.

For example, music, games and finger play develop rhythm and counting skills. The hands-on activities of gardening, cooking, nature walks, seasonal activities, etc., introduce science, math and geography skills, and concepts and vocabulary developed through classroom activities and stories. Multicultural stories give the child an introduction to social studies.

Social development and cooperative learning are also emphasized in kindergarten. In particular, acquiring the skills of concentration, courtesy, social habits, classroom habits and spatial awareness are important goals providing a strong foundation for future learning and for life.

Each day follows a regular and reassuring pattern and rhythm. Within the rhythm of each week, the children engage in these activities following a regular pattern: painting, baking, sewing, drawing, and beeswax modeling. Story, song, seasonal activities and celebrations carry us through the cycle of the natural year.

Foundational Learning through the Public Waldorf Kindergarten Curriculum

The curriculum establishes solid foundations for work in the Grades in the following areas—as natural parts of the Kindergarten student’s activities:

- **Math:** The qualities of numbers; sorting and ordering; rhythm counting with movement and song; measuring in baking and cooking; woodworking
- **Language Arts:** fairy tales from around the world; singing; poetry recitation; with emphasis on the oral tradition
- **Science:** Cooking; baking; nature stories; nature walks; observations; gardening
- **History & Social Studies:** Multicultural stories; festivals; foods
- **Handwork:** Finger crocheting; sewing; cutting; pasting; drawing; seasonal crafts; woodworking (fine motor skills, foundation for concentration, speech and thinking)

- **World Language:** Introduction to Spanish, through songs and rhymes
- **Visual & Performing Arts:** Drawing; painting; beeswax modeling; drama; singing; puppetry
- **Movement/Physical Education/Games:** Circle games, finger games, jumping rope, climbing, outdoor imaginative play

Grade 1 Curriculum Summary

(The text that follows is adapted from the Alliance for Public Waldorf, with revisions that reflect the MPCPS curriculum)

First Grade is a bridge between kindergarten and the grades. The child is now ready to begin to work imaginatively in new, more focused and explicit ways with the mind. The first grade curriculum is designed to meet the children at their particular developmental level. First graders learn and live through imagination, feeling, and movement. Therefore, first grade academics foster and utilize these elements to support strong academics, cultivate a love of learning, and foster curiosity for the world around us.

An important task for the teacher is to create a rhythm for the child's school life as a foundation for the learning process. Towards this end the teacher designs a rhythm not only through the seasons and holidays, but also within each day and within each lesson of the day.

The year begins with the discovery that within all forms lie two basic elements: the straight and curved lines. The child finds these shapes in her/his own body, in the classroom and in the world beyond. The straight and curved lines are practiced through walking, drawing in the air and on a neighbor's back and, finally, on paper. These form drawings train motor skills, awaken the child's powers of observation, and provide a foundation for the introduction of the alphabet.

Fairy tales and stories from around the world form the basis of the First Grade **language arts** curriculum. The students begin their exploration of the alphabet through vivid stories and images. Through practice visualizing and reviewing stories, students build strong comprehension skills even before formal reading has emerged.

Through the stories the child is introduced to each letter of the alphabet. In this way the child experiences the development of language in a very concrete yet imaginative way. Images arise from these stories, such as a mountain that takes the form of the letter M. The class composes short descriptive sentences to accompany each picture. The wording is then copied from the teacher's model. Through these activities the child learns word and sentence structure without conscious effort, and has the joy of creating her/his own illustrated books for reading material. By associating abstract symbols with concrete images, students can better master the sound-to-symbol relationship. Through collaborative story writing, pictorial representations combining letters and story, exploration of word families and word patterns, and other literary explorations, students develop the skills and motivation to begin their journey as readers and writers.

In a similar imaginative way, within the **mathematics** curriculum the child first experiences the qualities of numbers before learning the four processes. What is the experience of "oneness"? "Wholeness"? What is there only one of in the world? (Me! You!). Stones, acorns and other natural and familiar objects are used to introduce counting. They develop number sense experientially through movement and hand-on activities in many forms, including stepping and clapping and the rhythmic, choral speaking of numbers. Only after considerable practical experience in adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing are the written symbols for all four basic mathematical processes introduced. This approach leads to a deeper understanding of math concepts by engaging students creatively and imaginatively in their learning.

In **Social Studies**, the children learn to understand the rule-making processes in their classroom, school, and community. They learn how to be supportive, positive members of their community.

Science through nature study. Through weekly time in nature, students develop fundamental scientific skills of observation, exploration, curiosity, and reverence for the natural world.

Learning a **World Language**, such as Spanish, is ideally suited to the imitative disposition of the young child, as s/he learns through hearing and speaking the language. These classes use language immersion, song, and movement to explore language in an exciting, expressive, and natural way.

The Arts. Through frequent music, art, and handwork lessons and extensive integration of music and the visual arts throughout the curriculum, artistic development is emphasized as a key element of the student's imaginative interaction with the world and their personal growth.

The first grade enters the world of **Music** through the pentatonic scale. In this scale all notes have a harmonious sound in any order they are played. The playing of the pentatonic flute develops finger coordination, concentration, and breath control. Songs are based on seasonal themes typically.

Painting in the first grade is intended to give the child an experience of working with color rather than attempting to create formed "pictures." The child's feelings for form are encouraged through beeswax modeling and crayon illustrations. In drawing, the child imitates the teacher's work, drawing whole shapes rather than filling in outlines.

Knitting is a fundamental first grade activity, as there exists a close relationship between finger movement, speech, and thinking. Projects include a kitty, flute case, and scarf.

Games and movement through circle and singing activities, jump rope, ball games, beanbags, rods, and the balance beam are an integral part of the curriculum as the child develops his/her motor integration and their confidence and joy in movement. There is a close connection between bodily movement, spatial integration, and brain development. Therefore, through daily Circle Time and regular Movement classes, students use music and movement to develop their bodies and minds.

Grade 1 Curriculum Components

- **Math:** Qualities of numbers; introduction of the four operations in arithmetic
- **Language Arts:** Pictorial and phonetic introduction to letters; writing; fairy tales from around the world; poetry recitation
- **Science:** Nature stories; nature walks in all seasons
- **Social Studies:** Multicultural stories, class community building
- **Handwork:** Knitting (fine motor skills, concentration, sense of form)
- **World Language:** Introduction to Spanish through songs, stories and rhymes, imitation and gesture
- **Visual & Performing Arts:** Form drawing, painting, beeswax modeling, crayon illustrations, drama, singing, pentatonic flute
- **Movement/Physical Education/Games:** Eurythmy, circle games, imaginative and cooperative games; movement combined with music and singing; throwing and catching, rhythmic stepping, balancing, jump rope.

Grade 2 Curriculum Summary

In second grade children, an awareness of opposites begins to unfold. If a circle of children with everyone facing the center is the metaphorical picture of togetherness in a healthy first grade, the image of the second grade is the circle with children becoming increasingly aware of what goes on around them.

In **Language Arts**, the fairy tales of first grade gradually give way to stories of sages and saints from many cultures--people who strive to overcome inner and outer obstacles, who aspire to and accomplish the loftiest deeds. In contrast, the polarities within us are well depicted for second graders through animal fables. The second graders explore the landscape of personality traits: the good and the bad, the beautiful and the ugly. Traditional fables hold a rich source of wisdom about human nature and the world. There, human traits are exaggerated in the brave lion, the timorous mouse, the pokey turtle, the clever fox, and so on. The children can see themselves and their classmates through the antics of the animal kingdom and learn valuable lessons about life.

Nature stories from home surroundings, multi-cultural folk tales, and riddles are also included in the language arts. As in first grade, poetry continues to play an important role in the class, both orally recited and in writing. All-class recitation, tongue twisters and other speech exercises, and work on plays written in verse, lead to choral recitation by smaller groups. Students participate in individual retelling of stories told in class as well as the recounting of personal experiences. Students strive for clear speech at appropriate volume levels.

During the second grade much attention is given to the development of writing skills. The children's first reading experience comes through reading what they themselves have written in their main lesson books. This may be a short verse that helps them review a letter sound, or perhaps a simple retelling of one of the fables they have heard. In this way the children experience the way written language actually developed over the course of human history.

Lower case printing and cursive handwriting are presented in second grade if they have not already been introduced in first grade. The teacher leads the class in guided writing whenever possible, according to the children's growing ability to sound out and recognize words. Children also copy passages from the board and express their own thoughts and recollections in writing, all the while paying attention to well-formed and spaced script.

From the stories, songs, and verses studied during the year, introductory spelling and grammar lessons and games are imaginatively presented. In addition, the children participate in daily phonics work and expand their sight recognition of high-frequency words.

Mathematics. The imaginative, personifying quality that still lives strongly in the 7/8 year old is used to fully develop inspiring pictures of the operations involved in the four processes in arithmetic, using strong visual and narrative elements. The students are taught to differentiate between the processes and know when to use each one as well as to be able to work simple problems of each type in their heads and on paper.

The concepts and mechanics of written addition and subtraction are introduced through the use of manipulatives, imaginative pictures, and carrying and regrouping activities. In their written work in mathematics, orderliness is developed. The neat columnar writing of problems is stressed. Previous work is reviewed and practiced. The ability to write dictated and read written numbers 1-100 is firmly established before the students move on to place value. Counting by various multiples (skip counting) is mastered before moving on to written multiplication and division. In second grade, rhythmic counting is transformed into the times tables (2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 10s). Word problems will continue as students write simple algorithms. Students solve written, oral story, and mental math problems using math concepts.

Rhythmic and patterning work increase in sophistication, emphasizing the aesthetic and dynamic quality of the number line through arranging number families in various ways. Students are encouraged to consciously see order and beauty in number patterns. Visualizations of the counting patterns are introduced—employing string boards, grouping geometric forms in space, etc. Movement exercises can be built around number work, from group exercises to simple computation games, and can include moving in geometric forms.

All basic academic skills continue to develop at a rapid pace. Laying the ground for future **Science** blocks, the students continue their experiential exploration of the world of nature through observation and stories.

As with the first grade, the entire curriculum is integrated to present the world as a whole, not as disjointed and disconnected pieces. In **the Arts**, all students continue watercolor painting and their exploration of the moods of the colors, beeswax modeling and crayon drawing, as well as form drawing with vertical and horizontal midline mirror forms given for each child. **The Handwork curriculum** works on knitting leading to the creation of stuffed animals, washcloths, and gnomes. String games, hand-clapping games, and counting knitted rows also support this work. **World language** lessons in Spanish continue to take inspiration from main lesson blocks

of study. Students begin to speak individually and conversationally through games and activities that are filled with new descriptive language. Puppet shows and/or dramatizations of stories from rich folk tales also continue.

Musical instruction continues as in first grade and includes singing as well as pentatonic recorder. **Eurythmy** movement describes stories and forms, with a strong emphasis on inner listening and inner visualization of images and forms. The movement now includes, but is not limited to, geometrical forms, Curves of Cassini, expansion/contraction with music and stories of animals. **Games and movement classes** focus on imaginative games encouraging teamwork, cooperation, problem solving, and individual successes, with opportunities to improve coordination and balance through obstacle courses and gymnastic activities. A **class play** tied to the curriculum is shared with class families.

Grade 2 Curriculum Components

- **Math:** Continue with four operations of arithmetic; story problems; skip counting by 2, 3, 4, 5... through 12; beginning multiplication tables
- **Language Arts:** Elements of grammar (naming, describing words); beginning cursive; animal fables and legends of sages and saints from around the world; decoding and sight word recognition; building fluency through regular practice (oral and silent reading); comprehension through story recall
- **Science:** Nature studies and walks through the seasons
- **Social Studies:** Multicultural stories; lives of sages and saints
- **Handwork:** Knitting patterns of knit and purl (pattern recognition and perpetuation, concentration, fine motor skill development)
- **World Language:** Learning of Spanish continues through songs, plays, poetry, games, and simple conversations
- **Visual & Performing Arts:** Form drawing, painting, beeswax modeling, drawing, singing, pentatonic flute, drama
- **Movement/Physical Education/Games:** Eurythmy; circle games; imaginative and cooperative games; fine and gross motor activities; activities with props (balls, hoops, etc.) and exploration of the dynamics of objects, jumping rope

Grade 3 Curriculum Summary

As the children in the third grade enter their ninth year, they start to see the world differently. No longer are they content to be a part of life without doubts and questions. A nine-year old can feel him/herself growing up and separating from his/her parents, and becoming part of the outer world. The child becomes more independent, and begins to question all that was previously taken for granted. This can be a time of loneliness and insecurity for a child as well as a time of new self-confidence. The third grade curriculum is designed to meet the child's new interests and concerns at this age.

The curriculum provides the student with the opportunity to learn about three essential, practical requirements for all of humankind—how we work with nature to provide ourselves with food, clothing, and shelter.

Farming and gardening lessons instruct the child in the importance of the natural systems that support our lives, in the use of farming tools and farming and gardening processes, and how food has been grown over the centuries. These lessons give the child an opportunity for direct involvement in growing his/her own food and begin to establish a foundation for their appreciation of our partnership with nature and an interest in fostering, protecting and preserving the world around them.

The provision of **clothing** is addressed in the textiles unit, usually beginning with the shearing of a sheep and culminating in a woven or knitted garment from that sheep's wool. The child is involved in every practical aspect of the making of the garment.

Many types of **shelter** are presented, modeled and discussed with the students, and some shelters are constructed by the children with the teacher's guidance. Lessons on building a modern house teaches the critical importance of cooperation amongst architects, contractors, and construction workers as they meet the wide variety of human needs for shelter.

Mathematics. In third grade, the child begins to develop a basic awareness for practical applications of mathematics. Measurement of all types is covered: length, weight, and volume; money, and time. All of these measurement systems are put to use in practical activities by the children themselves. In the study of time, money, and measurement, the historical background of the methods, tools, and practices is taught imaginatively before modern methods are explained.

Mathematics and movement go hand in hand. Rhythm is an integral part of the approach to arithmetic and is a significant aid to memorization. For example, the times tables are practiced while jumping rope, tossing bean bags, or bouncing a ball. This increases the child's ability to memorize and retain the information.

Language Arts. The importance of words and the beauty of speech underlie the entire language arts curriculum. Through the daily telling of stories, the teacher creates in the child the capacity for

inward picturing, setting the stage for conceptual thought. Reading, writing, the fundamentals of grammar, spelling, listening and speaking and penmanship are developed in an artistic manner which speaks to, empowers and inspires the whole child.

Stories from the Hebrew Bible serve as a metaphor for the children's inner experience at this age. From the wonder stimulated by the creation story to the challenges faced as Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden, the third grade children see that they, too, must one day leave the parental nest and make their own way in the world. This need for the child of this age to experience providing for the basic necessities of life is met in the curriculum through the hands-on study of farming, gardening, food preparation, house-building, and making clothes.

An emphasis on the dramatic presentation of stories culminates in the production of the class play, which echoes a familiar theme from the year's curriculum.

Music is an important focus in the curriculum. The third-grade child is ready to experience the complexity and structure of the full diatonic scale. After two years playing the pentatonic flute, the third grade child learns how to play a soprano recorder. This instrument will be used throughout the grades. The children are ready to assert their new independence by learning to sing separate parts in rounds, introducing them to harmony among individual parts and an awareness of rhythmic unity in variety. In **Music**, the third grade signals the introduction of another instrument, the violin or cello, in addition to the recorder.

In Handwork, the third grade child graduates from knitting to crochet, completing three or four useful articles for her/himself. Painting and modeling beeswax are weekly activities that sharpen the child's powers of observation and expression.

In the third grade the changing nine year-old is given an opportunity to make new relationships: with nature through farming and gardening; with others through a class building project; and with themselves through drama, music, and art.

Grade 3 Curriculum Components

- **Math:** Higher multiplication tables; division; weight, measure, money and time; review of all four processes; multiplication; problem solving; place value to 10,000s; estimating; mental math; word problems
- **Language Arts:** Elements of grammar (nouns, verbs, adjectives); continuing cursive; punctuation; spelling; compositions; stories from ancient history; decoding and sight word recognition; building fluency through regular practice (oral and silent reading); comprehension through story recall
- **Science:** Garden and nature studies
- **History & Social Studies:** Study of practical life (farming, housing, clothing); stories from ancient history
- **Handwork:** Crocheting (mathematical patterns, working in the round)

- **World Language:** Continuing foreign language study of Spanish with oral dialogue, dramatization, songs, games and simple written work
- **Visual & Performing Arts:** Form drawing, painting, beeswax modeling, drawing, singing, drama, introduction to the recorder, violin or cello
- **Movement/Physical Education/Games:** Eurythmy, balance, running and chasing games, song and movement

Grade 4 Curriculum Summary

Fourth graders are passing through the midst of the nine-year change. They still wish to revere, but, for them, that reverence must be justified. The children begin to form their own personality in response to their experience of the world, consciously choosing those qualities that will go into their characters.

The fourth grade curriculum addresses a child in possession of greater certainty and confidence. At this grade level, the child is more assured of his/her own place in the world and is able to assert more individual needs and wants. The curriculum correspondingly evolves away from the unified approach of early childhood into the teaching of more specific subjects. The Main Lesson blocks are more varied in the fourth grade than they have been in the earlier grades, reflecting both the children's individuation as well as the intellectual breadth of which they are beginning to be capable.

The focus of the fourth grade **Language Arts** curriculum is the myths and legends of the Norse people. These stories speak strongly to the children at this time. The gods of Asgard are portrayed as individuals with distinct, powerful personalities who encounter significant consequences for both their good and bad behavior. The vivid images evoked in these stories provide ample inspiration for the expanded creative and expository writing skills required of the child at this grade. The strong alliterations of their verses strengthen the fourth grade child's clarity and dexterity of speech, and reinforce his/her developing confidence.

In the realm of **Mathematics**, the fourth grade child begins the year with a firm foundation in working with whole numbers using the four processes. This year marks the appropriate time to introduce fractions, as the practice of breaking apart the whole into its constituent parts mirrors the child's own internal experience of the fracturing of his/her world. Concepts are first introduced through the manipulation of everyday objects, providing the child with an initial concrete experience of fractions before proceeding to their more abstract representations. The children learn to add, subtract, multiply, reduce and expand fractions, and to change improper fractions into mixed numbers.

History and Geography become formal main lesson subjects in the fourth grade. The child's growing ability to regard with objectivity her/his environment is developed through the study of local geography. The child learns how to find the four points of the compass by observing sun

and stars. They study and make maps of the classroom, the school, the neighborhood, the city, and state (with the curriculum adapted to the local geography and history of the area around their school). The goal of the **Geography** curriculum is to engender an understanding of the interrelatedness of human activity and the local physical conditions of the earth.

The fourth grade **History** curriculum examines the historical development and diversity of human society locally and throughout the state. The biographies of men and women who played a part in creating our local culture reiterate one of the predominant themes of fourth grade, which is the importance of human deeds. (In Colorado, the child develops a sense for the world of the indigenous people of the area, the explorers, the discovery of gold, and the first settlers).

The transformation from imagination to objectivity and detailed observation is manifest again in the study of nature that forms the **Human and Animal** main lesson block (**Zoology**). Animal study is introduced, growing out of a descriptive study of the human being and our place in nature. The child develops an understanding and appreciation of the animal kingdom as it reflects the environment to which each species has adapted. Through detailed study of the forms and habitats of animals, the children begin to get a feeling for the fascinating assortment of skills and qualities that the animals possess. At the same time, the children begin to see the unique and responsible position they hold as human beings upon the earth. This detailed study offers opportunities for the child to develop his/her comparative, conceptual, and observational skills, and it provides additional material for artistic, dramatic, and language arts activities.

In **Music**, the fourth grade continues with the violin or cello, in addition to continuing the recorder. In both **Music** and **Drama**, students are now ready to take individual parts in ongoing group performances. **World language** instruction in Spanish continues, as the child begins to write down poems, stories, and dialogues acquired orally in the earlier grades. **Handwork** focuses on cross-stitch and embroidery.

Grade 4 Curriculum Components

- **Math:** Review four processes; advanced multiplication; long division; place value to millions, averaging; perimeter and area; factoring; estimating; rounding; word problems; mental math; introduction to fractions
- **Language Arts:** Elements of grammar; parts of speech; continuing cursive; punctuation; writing well structured paragraphs; book reports; expository writing, creative writing, narratives; class play; building fluency through regular reading practice; sight word recognition, high frequency words; prefixes & suffixes; spelling and vocabulary development; Norse mythology
- **Science:** Zoology; continuation of nature studies
- **History & Social Studies:** State and local history
- **Geography:** State and local geography and map making
- **Handwork:** Cross-stitch, mirror image/symmetry
- **World Language:** Continuing Spanish instruction with writing/recording orally-learned material, basic grammatical principles, tongue twisters
- **Visual & Performing Arts:** Form drawing, painting, drawing, singing, drama, recorder, violin or cello, introduction to reading and writing music
- **Movement/Physical Education/Games:** Eurythmy, field games, balance, games involving trickery and strategy; games exploring movement of animals

Grade 5 Curriculum Summary

The fifth grader has grown more accustomed to being an individual; yet, like the third grader, s/he is about to leave another phase of childhood behind and cross the threshold into adolescence. The fifth graders often achieve a temporary balance in their development, exhibiting their potential for all that they are to become in their later lives. The curriculum not only continues to build on and integrate established foundations, but introduces new elements to prepare the child for the next step forward.

In the **Language Arts** curriculum, the fifth grade child journeys back to the dawn of western civilization in ancient India, Persia, Egypt and Greece. The teacher gives the children a sense of each cultural epoch so that they may begin to understand how human consciousness has evolved through time. Through the study of mythology, music, art and primary textual sources, the student experiences how these cultures viewed the world. In his/her written work, the student retells the epics of the Ramayana the Mahabharata, Gilgamesh, the Iliad and the Odyssey. S/he recites quotations from ancient texts, and in his/her dramatic work takes on the characters from the epics

they have studied.

Ancient history in the fifth grade starts with the "childhood" of civilized humanity in ancient India, Persia, the great cultures of Mesopotamia (the Chaldeans, the Assyrians, and the Babylonians) and Egypt. The class then moves on to ancient Greece and the birth of modern civilization: the foundations of philosophy, science, history, drama and art were laid while Athens and Sparta fought for independence against the mighty Persian empire. The fifth grade year ends with the story of Alexander the Great, who conquered the ancient peoples previously studied, unifying, for a short time, this variety of cultures—a forecast of the study of the Roman Empire in Grade 6.

The study of **Geography** serves to complement the study of ancient cultures. While history leads the children deeper into themselves, geography takes them to the farthest reaches of the earth. The historical study of the ancient cultures includes an overview of the lands where these civilizations emerged. The teacher strives to give the children a sense for the great contrasts between different geographical regions, and geography awakens in the child a feeling of relatedness with fellow human beings living in all other parts of the world.

In addition, the geography of the North American continent is studied. The student develops an understanding for the major mountain ranges and river systems, and how these landforms influence the rest of the continent. The teacher strives to give the child a sense for the contrasts between the different regions of North America in terms of topography, vegetation, animal life and human use of the land from ancient times to the present.

In **Mathematics**, fractions and decimals are the chief concern in the fifth grade. The student learns to move freely between these two numbering systems, and the use of percentage may be introduced. The deep mathematical wisdom of ancient Egypt, as embodied in the Great Pyramid of Giza, offers a concrete introduction to geometry. The relationship between radius, diameter, circumference and area of a circle is explored.

The **Science** curriculum for the fifth grade focuses on the plant kingdom. Beside the discovery of the physical characteristics of the earth, studied in geography at this grade, the fifth grader studies the plant life that grows upon its surface. The students learn that the world of plants is made up of many different families, from the simple mushroom to the rose to the mighty oak tree; the scope of the lessons then expands to an investigation of how climate and geography affect plant growth. The children learn that there is order and structure in all that surround them in the natural world.

Grade 5 Curriculum Components

- **Math:** Decimals; fractions; metric system; introduction to geometry
- **Language Arts:** Elements of grammar; spelling; punctuation; structure of paragraphs, compositions; Ancient Indian, Persian, Mesopotamian, Egyptian and Greek myths
- **Science:** Botany; introduction to inductive method
- **History & Social Studies:** Ancient civilizations through Greek times

- **Geography:** American geography as related to vegetation, agriculture, culture and economics
- **Handwork:** Knitting socks or mittens using four needles
- **Woodworking:** Convex Surfaces which includes a project such as a carved egg
- **World Language:** Continuing instruction in Spanish with further bookwork and grammar, cultural appreciation, poetry, beginning reading. Geography and cultural focus is Mexico – Aztecs, Incas, Mayans.
- **Visual & Performing Arts:** Painting; clay modeling; drawing, drama, singing; recorder; chorus, instrumental ensemble
- **Movement/Physical Education/Games:** Eurythmy, games exploring strength and strategy; games with multiple props; games with team goal, Pentathlon (Greek games)

Grade 6 Curriculum Summary

The children entering the twelfth year in the sixth grade begins to experience an important change in their physical bodies. In earlier years, their movements were naturally graceful (generally speaking), but now a certain clumsiness often appears, as if the children don't know quite what to do with their bodies. On the inner level the child is entering strongly into a conscious awareness of the skeletal system. The child is more aware of gravity and weight; growth in the skeletal and muscular systems challenge the student's capacities for balance and coordination, They are seeking a conscious recovery of order and control over themselves.

Science. With this increased awareness of the physical body, this is the appropriate time to introduce the study of the physical body of the earth and its mechanical laws. **Mineralogy** and **Geology** form a major unit of study in the sixth grade, focusing on comparative studies of major geographic and geologic formations, and on the identification and classification of mineral components of rocks.

Physics is also introduced this year. During the course of study, the child learns to understand and appreciate the phenomena of sound, light, heat, electricity, and magnetism, while developing his/her observational and explanatory skills. . It is at this stage that concepts based on the laws of mechanics are introduced. The introduction of the physical sciences at this age is also a response to the intellectual development of the sixth grade child, which is characterized by greater powers of discernment and judgment and a new capacity to grasp cause and effect.

The study of **Astronomy** is introduced this year, concentrating on those bodies of the solar system that are directly observable by the naked eye. The effects of the Sun and the Moon on the cyclical phenomena we experience on Earth are explored through observation and simple experimentation. The five "visible" planets are studied, and the major constellations of the Northern Hemisphere are identified. The telling of the myths behind the names of the constellations provides rich material for the creative writing exercises in sixth grade.

Mathematics. These abilities are further developed in the **mathematics** curriculum, which focuses on the introduction of practical business operations that govern the flow of money and

commodities. This, of course, requires the ability to manipulate all arithmetic operations with facility. Elementary algebraic manipulations will also be gradually introduced over the course of the year, so that the child will better assimilate the systematic introduction of Algebra when it is presented intensively in the seventh grade.

Geometry instruction in sixth grade introduces the use of the modern compass and straight edge to construct the circle and polygons resulting from its division. Basic proofs will be derived inductively through the construction of geometric forms; the child will learn to copy and bisect angles as well as construct parallel and perpendicular lines; and the concept of pi will be developed pictorially and arithmetically. Whereas geometric shapes have in the prior grades been drawn freehand as artistic exercises, the sixth grader learns the mathematical properties of these forms and strives to construct them with great accuracy using ruler and compass.

The **History** curriculum that governs much of the sixth grade **Language Arts** work takes as its theme Rome and medieval Christian Europe, and Moslem North Africa. The study of the Roman epoch begins with the mythical account of the travels of Aeneas and his founding of the city; it examines the evolution of Roman government, laws and rights through its successive rulers, the wars it waged, and its great achievements in technology and the arts; and it charts the events leading to its decline and the concomitant rise of Christianity and Islam.

The Roman epoch epitomizes in an historical sense what the children are experiencing in their bodies. Of all the ancient peoples the Romans most strongly dominated the physical world. Their cities, roads, aqueducts, the Roman army, and their conquest of the Western world - all these accomplishments match a feeling of ego-confidence and a consciousness of personal power that the sixth grader has: I can do anything! Yet equally important for the children is the example of how the excesses of the Roman period led to the eradication of other cultures, the fall of the Roman Empire, and the Middle Ages. Study of the Middle Ages brings students in touch with the rise of Feudalism. A sense of order and justice is embraced, mirroring the progression of the children developmentally. Students are introduced to the concepts of chivalry, Arthurian Legend, and the search for the Holy Grail.

The world enlarges for the sixth grade child in the study of **Geography**. Following the consideration of basic physical configurations as part of the Geology unit, the study of specific geographic regions extends to Europe. The emphasis is on the interrelationship between the environment and traditional human cultures and ways of living. Students may be asked to engage in independent research on a country in Europe resulting in a project/presentation to the class.

English Language Arts. The law-abiding, rule-bound culture of Rome offers an instructive backdrop for the sixth grade child in developing his/her English language skills. The Latin roots of common words and expressions are explored. Conventions of composition and research are elaborated upon this year, and the fundamentals of scientific writing are introduced to coincide with the science main lesson units. Formal grammar rules are also dealt with in greater detail. The beauty and order of calligraphy makes it another appropriate skill to be introduced in the sixth grade.

Grade 6 Curriculum Components

- **Math:** Introduction to Algebra; ratios; proportions; geometric formula and drawing with instruments; continuation of fractions, percentages, decimals
- **Language Arts:** Dictation; composition; spelling; Latin and Greek roots, etymology; biographies; mythological literature; drama
- **Science:** Mineralogy; introduction to physics: acoustics, electricity, magnetism, optics, heat; geocentric astronomy
- **History & Social Studies:** Roman and Medieval history; projects and reports
- **Geography:** European geography
- **Handwork:** Knitting socks using four needles
- **Woodworking:** Concavity and Construction which may include a project such as a spoon
- **World Language:** Continuing Spanish study with grammar work, historical and cultural studies, poetry, music, plays. Focus on geography and history of Spain.
- **Visual & Performing Arts:** Calligraphy; painting; clay modeling; mosaics; drawing, drama; chorus; recorder; instrumental ensemble
- **Movement/Physical Education/Games:** Introduction to competitive games; more formal movement skills; complex strategy; calisthenics

Grade 7 Curriculum Summary

The seventh grade can be a tremendously challenging and rewarding year for the children. The seventh grader stands on the brink of puberty. Not only are great physical changes taking place, but a major shift in cognitive development is also under way. The children are enthusiastic to express themselves and to assert their independence more strongly. Self-awareness and social relationships become a primary focus.

Historically, a similar period of change took place in Western civilization around the end of the fifteenth century. The study of the Renaissance, Reformation, and the Age of Exploration reflects what the children are experiencing within themselves. The children learn biographies of great figures who went against the traditional, prevailing views of their day in their own search for truth, freedom, and self-expression. Through studying the lives of Galileo, Martin Luther, Christopher Columbus, Elizabeth I, and others, the children find reassurance that in their struggle to become themselves they also can contribute to the world.

The Renaissance, which in Europe spans the years from approximately 1400 to 1700, was the beginning of a whole new way of looking at the world. The transition from medieval to early modern thinking that this period exemplifies represents a change in consciousness from viewing the world as a symbolic representation of the spiritual world--to the empirical testing of the world through sense experiences. Exact measurement and factual accuracy and new conceptualizations of how the world works became central to thought and culture. Individualism found its expression in artistic and intellectual achievements. The European continent was overtaken by great

intellectual and political upheavals, as the old world gave way to a striving to discover a new world both around and within themselves

In the **Language Arts**, the child will continue to develop and strengthen listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills while studying biographical stories and written documents from the Age of Exploration, the Italian Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution. Expository and creative writing skills will be further expanded.

The basic concepts of **algebra and plane geometry** are the predominant subjects of the **Mathematics** curriculum in the seventh grade. The general application and transformation of formulae and equations in practical life situations form a central part of mathematical study. Conscious work with geometric proofs continues, building up through triangles and parallelograms to deductive proofs of the Pythagorean theorem using shear, reflection, and rotation.

In the **Sciences**, work continues with **physics**. In **mechanics**, simple machines are introduced: the lever, inclined plane, wedge, wheel and axle, pulley and screw. The concepts of effort and resistance are presented, and in their calculation the child is reinforced in his/her understanding of ratio. Work in **optics, heat, electricity, and magnetism** is extended, with an emphasis on the practical application of these phenomena.

The detailed observation of nature now leads the students back to a study of the human being. The seventh grade curriculum includes **physiology** units on, among others, the circulatory, respiratory, digestive, and reproductive systems. At this age the children are particularly able to look at issues of health and nutrition in an objective way. The class considers those factors that foster health or illness in the human being, including an exploration of how various substances can promote one or the other condition.

Work with **chemistry** also begins in the seventh grade, with students examining the phenomena of combustion, the water cycle, and the nature of acids and bases. They discover through observation the properties of various substances and the ways in which they interrelate. Accurately executed descriptions and drawings are an integral part of this unit. In **physics** the children study the laws of refraction, reflection, heat, and electricity.

In the **Arts**, perspective drawing on the study of both history and mathematics. The child learns how the Renaissance artists used the principles of geometry to develop the laws of perspective, and practices the application of these laws in original drawings. **Music** instruction is continued at a more advanced level with recorder, choral singing, and/or instrumental ensemble.

Grade 7 Curriculum Components

- **Math:** Algebra; mathematical thinking/theory; geometry proofs
- **Language Arts:** Creative writing; grammatical mechanics; critical thinking through study of literature and informational texts

- **Science:** Physics: mechanics, physics projects; physiology: circulatory, respiratory and nervous systems; introduction to chemistry
- **History & Social Studies:** End of Middle Ages; Age of Exploration; the Renaissance; projects and oral reports
- **Geography:** Geography of South America
- **Handwork:** Hand sewing, embroidery
- **Woodworking:** Initiation and Precision: May include a project such as a bowl
- **World Language:** Continuing world language with reading and writing, grammatical study and language structure, and historical and cultural study. Focus is on Latin America.
- **Visual & Performing Arts:** Continuing music and drama; visual arts may include art history; calligraphy; clay modeling; perspective drawing; principles of drawing (negative space, texture, etc.); painting; soapstone carving
- **Movement/Physical Education/Games:** team games and team building, trust building games, complex strategy

Grade 8 Curriculum Summary

Like Janus, the Roman god of doorways, the eighth grader is looking in two directions simultaneously. On the one hand, the eighth grade is the culmination of the student's experience. It is a time of reflection, of summing up, and all the bittersweet feelings associated with an ending. At the same time, the eighth grader's gaze is turned towards the future and a new beginning. He or she fears, yet yearns for, the immense changes anticipated there. The eighth grade curriculum must address both of these impulses. The focus of the former is concentrated in the daily practice classes, where review and consolidation of practical skills and capacities are emphasized. In addition, the children's capacity for logical thinking and independent judgment fully awakens at this time. The authority of the class teacher gives way to the individual student's search for truth.

In the **Language Arts** there is an increasing emphasis on nuances of style and grammar in the student's expository and creative writing. Students read and study modern literature and works from across the curriculum, and produce a class play.

The **Mathematics** curriculum concentrates on the application of arithmetic operations in practical and scientific situations, Algebra studies continue, and the students are introduced to the binary system, which made possible the development of computers. They learn the principles of solid geometry, and actually construct the five platonic solids.

The forward-looking impulse is best addressed in the main lesson, and in particular, the history curriculum. Whereas the seventh grade took as its theme the intellectual and aesthetic flowering of the Renaissance, the eighth grade is fully present in modern times. Its aim is to bring the accumulated image of world civilization up to the present day. Nothing characterizes the modern period better than the great revolutions—the industrial, political, and scientific revolutions that pulled down the old monarchical orders, and, in turn, gave rise to the struggles for individual

freedoms and human rights. All these have had far-reaching cultural consequences, and it is important that the students consciously realize and appreciate this as they themselves are carried into the turmoil of adolescence.

The **Science** curriculum in the eighth grade encompasses physics, chemistry and anatomy. The teacher demonstrates how the discovery and application of scientific principles contributed directly to the development of our modern technological society. In physics, the study of acoustics, optics, heat and electro-magnetism is extended through hydraulics and aeromechanics. The organic chemistry block covers sugars, starches, proteins, and fats-- focusing on those processes by which organic substances are formed (e.g., photosynthesis) and transformed (as in digestion). Health, hygiene and nutrition are also addressed.

Choral singing may expand in the eighth grade to three and four-part harmonies to take advantage of the range of voices found in the adolescent class. The recorder program may also expand to take on more challenging work.

At the end of eighth grade, the students have successfully achieved the balance and intellectual curiosity necessary to step out into the greater world offered by high school--where the creative and developmentally-appropriate grade school curriculum is met and transformed into an intellectually-stimulating, college preparatory education.

Grade 8 Curriculum Components

- **Mathematics:** Continue Algebra; geometry; practical, technological, and scientific applications of mathematics
- **Language Arts:** Composition: essays, research reports, short stories, poetry
- **Literature:** short stories, poetry, Shakespearean drama
- **Science:** Physics; organic chemistry; human anatomy (muscles, bones, ears, eyes)
- **History & Social Studies:** The Age of Revolutions; American History; The Twentieth Century; Liberation Movements throughout the World; research reports
- **Geography:** Asian Geography
- **Handwork:** Embroidery and machine sewing
- **Woodworking:** Developing authority and mastery of skills: may include projects such as creating a sphere and wood block printing
- **World Language:** Continuing world language instruction with review and consolidation of all past work, re-telling stories, acting out dramas and plays, music and poetry, modern culture. Focus is on all Spanish-speaking countries including the USA, also biographies of famous Latinos/as.
- **Visual & Performing Arts:** Drawing, clay modeling, painting, portraiture, chorus, recorder, instrumental ensemble, Shakespearean drama
- **Movement/Physical Education/Games:** team games and team building, trust building games, complex strategy

