

## **VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS**

*The Visual and Performing Arts program engages students in experiences which teach them how to enjoy and value the arts. Students are encouraged to express themselves through their own activities.*

### **YOUR CHILD WILL:**

- Develop musical skills by participation in singing, listening to music, and creative movement
- Explore the elements of art (line, form, shape, color, texture, value) through a variety of mediums
- Express feelings and ideas through art experiences
- Appreciate art through exposure to illustrations in books, pictures, paintings, and other art works

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

*The Physical Education program meets the student's need to develop physically, mentally, emotionally and socially by providing planned physical activity and the learning of skills that enable students to participate in activities throughout life. The physical education program for primary children is based upon learning the fundamentals of movement and building a foundation for physical fitness.*

### **YOUR CHILD WILL:**

- Participate in a program which includes basic motor skills, physical fitness, balancing, ball handling skills, games
- Develop cooperation and positive social behaviors
- Develop a positive attitude toward the value of physical activity and cardiovascular system development
- Use playground equipment properly and safely

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

*The Social Studies program develops individual and social intelligence. It prepares students for responsible citizenship, comprehending global interrelationships and understanding the vital connections among past, present and future.*

### **YOUR CHILD WILL:**

- Examine the lives of people from long ago and the recent past who have made a difference in others' lives and impacted our nation's history
- Understand the basic economic concepts of human wants and needs, scarcity and choice, producers and consumers
- Use the legend, scale and key of maps and globes to determine the location of and information about places

## **SCIENCE**

*The Science program encourages students to experience, explore, ask questions and draw conclusions.*

### **YOUR CHILD WILL:**

- Use all five senses when observing
- Describe changes and observe similarities and differences
- Ask meaningful questions and conduct careful investigations
- Participate in units which include:
  - ❖ “The Life Cycle of Butterflies” – observe the painted lady butterfly from caterpillar to adult
  - ❖ “Balancing and Weighing” – learn how balance is affected by amount of weight, position of weight and position of the fulcrum
  - ❖ “Pebbles, Sand, and Silt” – study the properties of these earth materials and how we use them

## **READING/LANGUAGE ARTS**

*The Language Arts program encourages the integration of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking with the learning of language skills in meaningful context. Emphasis is on providing instruction and promoting a love of reading for all students at all levels of ability.*

### **YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN TO:**

#### **READING:**

- Use decoding and word recognition skills to build reading fluency
- Expand vocabulary using synonyms, antonyms, root words, compound words, prefixes, and suffixes
- Read and discuss a variety of literary genres
- Apply comprehension strategies to understand grade level text
- Analyze text for purpose, details, cause and effect

#### **WRITING:**

- Write clear, coherent sentences and paragraphs with grade-appropriate spelling, grammar and mechanics
- Write narratives, letters and poems using the writing process
- Use the *6 Traits* in writing (voice, word choice, ideas, organization, sentence fluency, conventions)

#### **SPEAKING AND LISTENING:**

- Ask questions to clarify the meaning of text
- Organize and deliver a brief oral presentation
- Report on a topic with facts and details using multiple sources of information

# **Menlo Park City School District**



## **CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS**

# **GRADE 2**

Dear Parents,

We believe that an effective partnership between home and school promotes a lifelong love of learning and positively affects academic achievement and personal success. This brochure is designed to help us work together to ensure that success for your child. It includes information about the characteristics which are common to students at this grade level, an overview of the concepts and skills presented in each subject area, and suggestions for ways that parents can help and support students at home. We are committed to providing the best possible education for your child. We look forward to continuing a rewarding and productive partnership with you during your child's years in our school district.

Kenneth Ranella  
Superintendent

Jo Sauer Mitchell  
Assistant Superintendent

### **THE SECOND GRADE CHILD**

*Children are growing and maturing continuously. Every child has his/her own pattern of growth, but some characteristics are common to children of second grade age. Teachers and parents who know these characteristics have a better understanding of the child and can provide better guidance.*

### **THE SECOND GRADE CHILD WILL PROBABLY BE:**

- Two or three inches taller than last year
- Sturdy and healthy
- Still for only a short while
- A problem eater
- Losing baby teeth
- Showing desire for freedom and independence from adults
- Aggressive sometimes and sympathetic at other times
- Emotional – fearful of imaginary and improbable dangers (doctors, lightning, dark)
- A boaster
- Sensitive to ridicule, failure, and loss of prestige
- Playing with boys and girls as equals
- Interested in almost everything of the present time and of the immediate environment
- A good listener
- Good at eye-hand coordination
- Liking secrets with friends
- A fan of riddles and simple jokes

### **THE SECOND GRADE CHILD WILL PROBABLY HAVE:**

- A strong liking for anything that runs on wheels
- Increased interest in team and group activities
- Much enjoyment from dramatic play
- A developing competitive spirit
- Lengthening periods of calmness

### **THE SECOND GRADE CHILD NEEDS:**

- To have frequent periods of rest and relaxation
- Adult approval
- To be liked by friends
- Good food at regular intervals
- Continued hands-on experiences

### **PARENTS CAN HELP BY:**

- Giving your child the feeling that you are “standing by”
- Giving your child a part in some aspects of planning family functions
- Providing encouragement, a regular study time, and a quiet place with no distractions for homework
- Being supportive and positive when working with your child
- Choosing limits that fit your child's age and establishing consequences and rewards
- Reading to your child and having your child read to you daily
- Giving 2 or 3 simple directions to follow
- Providing materials for and encouraging the writing of simple notes, lists, diaries, and journals
- Giving your child the opportunity to earn and manage small amounts of money
- Discussing appropriate current events
- Going on family outings to zoos, museums, or places of cultural or historical interest and discussing the places after the visit
- Taking nature walks and developing observation skills
- Planting a flower or vegetable; watching and discussing the different stages of its growth
- Talking to your child about what you see. (Don't take for granted that they see and understand.)
- Taking your child to short, appropriate live performances of plays and concerts
- Singing together (in the car is a great place)
- Checking out books, records, and tapes at the public library

- Allowing some “creative messes”
- Encouraging creativity in thoughts and play
- Encouraging a variety of regular physical activities
- Encouraging your child to use play equipment
- Setting up running, jumping, skipping courses
- Playing catch with a soft ball. (This is still hard to do.)

### **MATHEMATICS**

*The Mathematics program helps students enjoy and use mathematics in their everyday lives. The power of mathematical thinking is not reserved for an academic elite.*

### **YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN TO:**

- Understand the relationship between numbers, quantities, and place value in whole numbers up to 1000
- Estimate, calculate, and solve problems involving addition and subtraction of two- and three- digit numbers
- Recall addition and subtraction facts to 20
- Multiply by 2's, 5's, and 10's
- Model and solve problems by representing, adding, and subtracting amounts of money
- Recognize, name, and compare fractions from 1/12 to 1/2
- Identify odd and even numbers
- Tell time to 5 minutes intervals
- Explore geometric relationships of similarity, congruency, symmetry
- Collect numerical data and record, organize, display, and interpret the data on graphs, charts and tables
- Solve problems and justify reasoning
- Note connections between one problem and another

(rev. 9/04)