



**Parent Guide**

**Curriculum  
Scope and Sequence**

8380 Mohr Lane Fogelsville, PA 18051  
610.285.6267

# Main Lesson

## What is the Main Lesson?

In the grades' classrooms, the day begins with one long, uninterrupted lesson. During this period, one subject is focused upon for several weeks (generally 2-6 weeks). The Main Lesson times should run for around two hours, which allows the teacher to plan a wide variety of activities appealing to multiple intelligences and focused upon the subject of study. The Main Lesson subjects, such as history, language arts, science, and mathematics, are brought through the arts, are designed to meet the needs of each grade's specific developmental stage and are cross-curricular. The lesson begins with Circle, which includes many rhythmic, musical, speech and movement activities help increase the intake of oxygen and production of glucose for brain function. During the Circle, poems are recited which may be accompanied by movement, speech exercises are recited, songs are sung, folk dancing is practiced, games integrating language arts and arithmetic practice, and concentration games are played. As the grades progress, less time is spent in circle exercises and other elements such as discussion of current events are added. The Main Lesson and block teaching model allows for each subject to be studied holistically and intensively. The Waldorf curriculum has been likened to an ascending spiral: subjects are revisited several times, and each new exposure affords greater depth and new insights into the subject at hand. Some work in Main Lesson may be recorded by the student in the Main Lesson book.

## What is a Main Lesson book?

The Main Lesson book is utilized during the Main Lesson to record lessons, student learning, and performance based assessments. Main Lesson books are filled with the student's illustrations, writing, and arithmetic work. They are used as a learning tool and resource as well as documentation of the student's work. The books include compositions and illustrations that the student creates from the lesson, such as scientific discoveries, math concepts, stories, or detailed botanical drawings. Care and discipline develop through techniques of drawing, form drawing and writing. The creation of a main lesson book nurtures qualities of thoughtfulness, intention, perseverance, and creativity.

# Kindergarten

## Pedagogical Overview

At Circle of Seasons, our Kindergarten classrooms nurture a sense of wonder and curiosity in the young child, while encouraging reverence and joy for the goodness of life. The warmth and beauty of the classrooms provide an opportunity for children to play and learn in a home-like atmosphere. In the loving and creative atmosphere of the kindergarten, the children acquire the confidence and discipline they will need for the challenging academic work of grade school.

The kindergarten experience is rich in storytelling, puppetry, song, poetry, cooking, and artistic activities. Crafts, handwork, games, and regular outdoor play encourage the healthy growth of the child's body. Toys, art materials, and classroom aesthetics emphasize natural, simple materials, encouraging the child's imagination. Through play, each child learns a broad range of cognitive, social, and linguistic skills.



### Capacities Nurtured in Kindergarten

#### **Social and Emotional:**

- Manners
- Gratitude
- Respect
- Care of others
- Listening skills
- Self-control
- Self-care
- Wonder
- Good habits
- Rhythm
- Empathy
- Aesthetic appreciation
- Confidence
- Flexible thinking

#### **Physical:**

- Fine motor skills
- Gross motor skills
- Coordination

#### **Language:**

- Imagination
- Vocabulary
- Story structure
- Recitation

#### **Mathematics:**

- One-on-one correspondence
- Counting
- Sorting
- Planning
- Sequencing

#### **Science and Social Studies:**

- Observational skills
- Sensory stimulation
- Snack preparation
- Nature study
- Care of environment
- World culture and festivals
- Community studies

# Grade One

## Pedagogical Overview

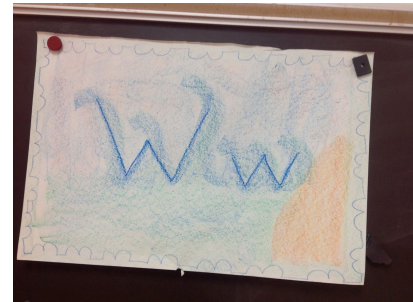
On the first day of school, the new first grader begins the day with their beloved Kindergarten teacher, who will send each child over the bridge to meet their new class teacher. Some children will skip and jump over the bridge, some may walk solemnly. They are taking their first step away from the play and imaginative imitation of Kindergarten to the organized experience of learning.

First grade can be thought of as striving to unite the class in a unified circle. The morning Circle is very important to the rhythm of the day and attempts to unite and invigorate the class to carry them through the day. The class teacher works to give the class form with a strong sense of community and oneness. For the first grader, the Main Lesson begins with 30 minutes or more of circle time, movement, speech exercises, poetry, song, mental math and other exercises prepare the child for the Main lesson work.

After Main Lesson the first grader takes part in outdoor play, lunch, specialty classes, and an extra afternoon lesson.

In first grade, drawing precedes writing and writing precedes reading. Through form drawing, the children experience the use and expression of the straight line and the curve out of which all letters are formed. Once this has been established, the actual forms of the letters are derived out of story-based, orally presented world imaginations; thus the children experience them as being part of the world, not as mere abstractions. The teaching method is from whole to part.

Learning the letters of the alphabet is done in a lively, pictorial way with the help of fairytales. The letter /S/ may be a fairy tale snake, sinuously slithering through the grass on some secret errand; the motion of the sound becomes dynamic; the image becomes living. The teacher shows in blackboard drawing how the letter is embedded in the picture, how perhaps the form of the letter W is hiding in the colorful drawing of the waves. The children draw the letter in the air with their hands, they make walk the form of the letter with their feet; their whole being participates in the writing experience. After experiencing the form in many ways, the children make their own pictures of waves, and then write the letter /W/, creating an illustrated book as each letter is presented. Phonics instruction and practice is woven throughout the day and each lesson.



When the children have mastered the sounds and can name and write them, they are ready for their first reading experience. The episodes of a story are illustrated by a series of pictures drawn on the blackboard by the teacher and in main lesson books by the children. The class composes short descriptive sentences to accompany each picture. The wording is then copied from the teacher's model. Through these activities the children learn word and sentence structure without conscious effort and have the joy of creating their own illustrated books for

reading material. Even children who have naturally learned to read by first grade find themselves thoroughly engaged, and experience a deepening of their comprehension and interest.

Exploration of numbers begins with solving riddles such as "What is one thing in the world that there can never be more than one of?" "Me!" So the characteristics of one, two, three, etc. are explored. Children take delight in counting, especially when the strong, rhythmic choral-speaking of the numbers is accompanied by stepping and clapping. Through these active experiences children learn recognition of numerals, qualities of numbers, number sense and flexibility, an understanding of the four processes (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division), the understanding of basic facts and initial steps towards their memorization.

Images from nature and practical situations provide the basis for active practice with the four processes. These stories serve as the introduction to the processes and as a place to find inspiration for story problems. With story problems the children are engaged in the imaginative activity of carrying out the process, at first with manipulatives and then in drawings. These story problems are connected with the rhythmical number work of the circle and the written numbers and symbols for the four processes.

Nature Study and Science take the form of an experience of hearing the world speak and discussing observations made in life and its adventures. The children learn the true facts of nature, but always in vivid, dramatic, story form. The children are told a series of detailed nature stories that embody science. These nature stories are illustrative pictures of the processes of plants, animals and the natural world. The elements of the natural world are also learned through songs, poems and games.

An integral part of the first grade experience are the arts of painting and music. Painting is a weekly activity. Painting with the liquid color brings much to the children. Through the work with this technique, a range of growing skills are developed that become the core of individual expression.

The teacher and children sing their way through the day. Singing songs together is an important part of daily routines and seasonal festivals. The playing of tone and pentatonic flutes is taken up in first grade and fosters the social aspect of making music together. The first grade presents a class play toward the end of the school year. The play is developed through the morning circle work and is often presented to parents in a circle format rather than a traditional staged play format.

Playtime and games the perfect setting for teaching social skills. Storytelling is also used by class teachers and guidance counselors to foster social and emotional skills. Social awareness, relationship skills, responsible decision-making, and self-management are integrated in all lessons in the building of classroom community.

# Grade One

## Language Arts:

Fairy tales from around the world  
Capital letters  
Beginning phonics instruction  
Alliterative verses and tongue twisters  
Word families  
Writing and reading simple sentences  
Speech work



## Mathematics:

Counting to 100  
Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division  
Roman and Arabic numerals  
Number riddles  
Patterns



## Nature Studies:

Seasonal stories, songs, and poems  
Nature walks

## Artistic Work:

Main lesson illustration  
Form Drawing  
Watercolor Painting and Drawing  
Beeswax modeling  
Dramatic productions



## Specialty Subjects:

Gardening  
Games and Movement  
Fiber Arts  
Music  
Spanish

## **Grade Two**

### **Pedagogical Overview**

By second grade, children have a depth of imagination, interest, and focus that is strongly attuned to learning. They become increasingly aware of their experiences and the values and perspectives of others. Their sense of community deepens as they extend notion of family to classmates and teachers. While in Grade One a mood of wholeness develops in the children, in Grade Two, this mood can become dualistic, with a reverential mood on the one hand and the temptation for mischief on the other. During this year, the children develop greater interest in the unique qualities of one another and become curious about individual differences. To meet this growing social awareness, teachers introduce stories where contrasting human qualities are portrayed. Wonder tales, legends and stories of good, kind, and strong people from around the world embody lofty striving and highlight noble human qualities, while animal fables and trickster tales satisfy the child's interest in mischief. While the morals of these tales are not explicitly stated, the students derive direction and form from the images they are given.

Through experiencing oral storytelling with rich language and vocabulary and writing, students work with daily practice on their developing language skills. This year a depended emphasis on language arts, form drawing and nature stories prepare the second graders for writing and reading. The children may begin to learn cursive writing by "joining up" the printed letters of last year. Grammar is introduced with liveliness and humor by acting out stories in which the children can experience the contrast between "doing" words, "naming" words, and "describing" words.

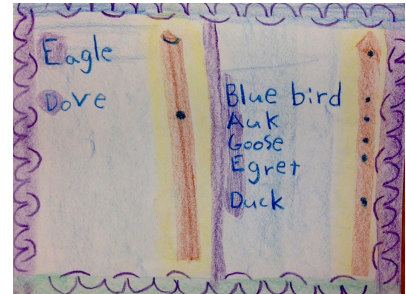
Reading builds on the first-grade curriculum beginning with reading from what is written. The children learn to read from their own handwriting and the teacher's. Sight words are practiced, and there is a special emphasis on the nature and quality of vowel sounds as well as other phonics study. Reading progresses initially from reading poems, verses, and songs that have been learned by rote. Words and short stories are introduced, allowing the children to begin decoding the English language. As the children work in their lesson books, there is a consistent reinforcement of the connection between the written and the spoken word. Second graders also often take part in reading groups.

Form drawing in second grade incorporates exercises combining both straight and curved lines which allow the students to make the transition to lower case cursive letters. This discipline also includes symmetry exercises that emphasize left and right, and mirror images of above and below, further illustrating the duality that children experience at this age. Each of these forms has a distinct challenge that helps in the integration of the students in their development, and these challenging exercises develop the child's cognitive ability and flexible thinking.

In written work and rhythmic movement exercises, students practice multiplication, division,

subtraction, and addition. The children carry out more complicated operations with the four processes. Imaginative stories still form the basis of these problems. Through rhythmic counting accompanied by accented clapping and movement of the whole body, they learn to count by twos, threes, fours, and fives, etc., and begin learning the multiplication tables. Number patterns, families and the dynamic quality of numbers in number lines and circles are explored. Place value is also studied through imaginative story, practice and manipulatives. Science in the second grade is based primarily upon observation of nature. The students are encouraged to notice the change in the seasons, in the earth and plants and the weather. The second grader also studies the celebration of festivals from many different world cultures and how they relate to the changing of seasons.

The second graders use pentatonic flutes. After the basic technique is mastered, the songs played can be songs that are currently being sung in the daily morning circle.



Painting continues to be a weekly practice. Painting employs a wet-on-wet watercolor technique. This creates a medium for discovering the qualities of the primary colors. The nature of color is found experientially. The students are introduced to various techniques, compositions and themes based upon morning lesson work or color studies. Form is derived secondarily from the color work. This work is preparing them for the physics of light and color in sixth grade. All aspects of the curriculum and subject classes are imbued with art. There is an artistic element in all of the lesson books. This can include page borders, layout, illustrations and lettering. Although there is not a formal “drawing” class, art is an integral part of the overall teaching, and it allows the students to express the formal lessons in an artistic and creative manner.

Second grade may also present a play that is performed for the parents or for the school. The plays are learned orally by the whole class and generally are performed choral style.



## Grade Two

### Language Arts:

Fables, legends, and stories of saints heroes

Lower case letters

Alliterative verses, tongue twisters, seasonal songs

Introduction to punctuation, grammar, and phonics

Speech work

### Mathematics:

Reading, writing, and ordering numbers to 1000

Place value

Regrouping

Number patterns

Multiplication tables

Mental arithmetic

### Nature Studies:

Seasonal stories and songs

Recitation of poems about nature

Nature walks

### Artistic Work:

Form Drawing

Watercolor painting

Drawing

Beeswax modeling

Dramatic production

### Specialty Subjects:

Guidance

Games & Movement

Fiber Arts

Music

Spanish

Gardening



## **Grade Three**

### **Pedagogical Overview**

Grade Three is marked by the physiological, psychological, and cognitive changes taking place during the ninth year. The child's walk is firmer and more balanced, and the child's constitution is stronger. Growth begins to focus more on the limbs and metabolism, and there is an increase in the breadth of the child's trunk. At the same time, a significant step in self-awareness occurs during this year. The children are developing a strong sense of separation from their surroundings, perhaps for the first time. Feelings of being alone can contrast with a sense of wonder at seeing the world in a new way. These mixed feelings often lead to confusion and insecurity as questions of purpose and identity begin to emerge. There is a longing for increased independence and autonomy as the students moves into this new phase of childhood. They have a tendency to criticize and question authority as they seek to define themselves as individuals. Third graders are presented with the theme of "living on the earth." While Main Lesson block topics range from Farming and Gardening to Measurement, each block is fully integrated with mathematics, social studies, science, music, visual art, movement, and language arts.

The images from Hebrew myths and folktales, with their laws and social guidance, foster inner security during this unsettled period. Practical activities such as farming and house building help ground the children in the physical world. When the whole group works together on these activities, feelings of separateness can be transformed into feelings of responsibility for the whole. With their new interest in the practical, material world, the children can now apply the skills learned in the first two grades to a wide range of everyday situations like measuring, weighing, and cooking. Third graders explore the culture and dwellings of Native Americans as well as other native cultures from around the world. The children research and gain meaning about different cultures through story, literature, and experience.

The 'beginning' of all of our food sources is learned through the growth of food and food processing. Third graders plant and tend a garden, harvest and preserve, and cook. The class may grind wheat to make flour or process apples or wool. The children learn the perseverance needed to work the land, and they come away with a greater understanding of the food we eat and the materials we use. Third graders learn about various artisans and their crafts as well as other professions. Community members are welcomed into the classroom to share their craft and answer questions.

The students engage in daily recitations and speech work. They study creation stories as well as stories from cultures that developed numeric and measurement systems. Numerous poems and speech exercises are chosen by the teacher for the class to learn and recite. Through poetry, the children are exposed not only to quality literature, but also content related to science, social studies, and grammar. The children hear and read many stories relating to blocks and

based on their interest. Students are asked to read aloud, and are also encouraged to quietly read books of their choosing.

The third grade class continues to work with the four processes: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division as well as studying measurement systems in depth. They learn the origins of measurement systems and learn to make their own measurements tools. Measurement tools may then be used in a practical way through a building project.

The class continues to play games, folk dance, and make music together. They paint, learn new crayon drawing techniques, and continue to model with clay knit and crochet.

## Grade Three

### Language Arts:

Hebrew stories, Native American stories, Creation stories

Cursive writing

Grammar

Spelling words

Reading groups

Speech work

### Mathematics:

Counting to 10,000

Regrouping in subtraction and addition

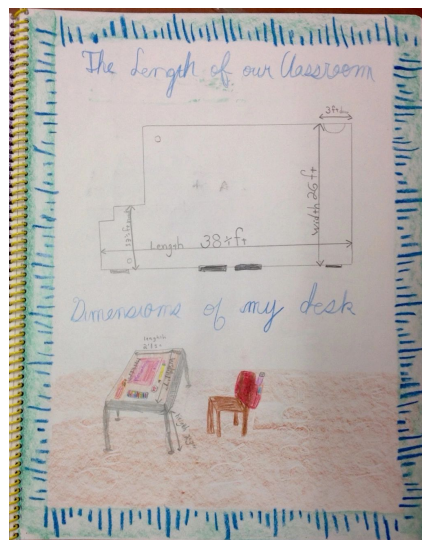
Long division

Measurement (distance and volume)

Money

Time

Multiplication tables



### Science/Social Studies:

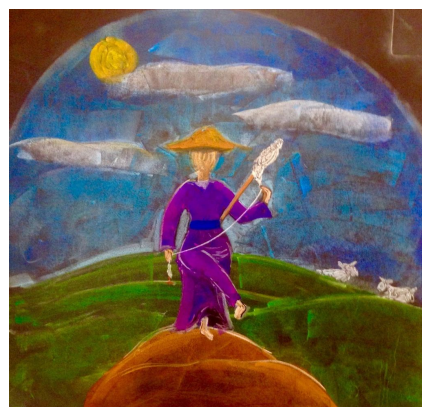
Farming

Gardening

Habitats and house building

Cooking

Fibers



### Artistic Work:

Form Drawing

Watercolor painting

Beeswax modeling

Drawing

Dramatic production



### Specialty Subjects:

Games & Movement

Fiber Arts

Music

Spanish

Gardening

Guidance

## **Grade Four**

### **Pedagogical Overview**

In Grade Four, the transition from early childhood is complete. The children emerge with greater awareness, expressed in new confidence and greater vigor. They want to experience the world from an individual standpoint, to find their particular place in the world. They develop a sense of where they are in relation to their environment, in both a social and geographical sense. Fourth grade students are eager to learn about the world close to home. Through imaginatively presented lessons, the teacher meets the growing interest of the children in concrete areas of knowledge and provides them with opportunities for more independence. At Circle of Seasons, fourth grade students study the Lehigh Valley and Pennsylvania's geography and history. Studying their town or city, region, and state helps the fourth grader form a sense of their relationship to their environment, in both a social and geographical sense. The class starts in their own classroom and carefully makes maps of their room, then of the school, then of their route to school, gradually branching out to their town, county, and state. The curriculum is augmented with stories of local places, the mountain ranges, and other geological characteristics. The crops, minerals, water resources, and development of industry in the region become alive through story.

During the fourth grade year, students are challenged to extend themselves in every aspect of their work. Their growing interest in concrete knowledge is met through natural science in a study of the animal kingdom in relation to the human being. The study of animals and humans is approached through drawing, modeling, painting, drama, and composition. The common theme is to gain insight into the human being and gain a love and responsibility for the animal kingdom. Science study remains imaginative, experiential, and artistic.

Norse mythology presents the children with images of diverse, strong-willed personalities all contributing to the social whole. Stories from Nordic culture give the children the strength to face these challenges. These stories contain miraculous feats juxtaposed with human qualities which speak to child's own emotional struggles and social confrontations.

Throughout this year, students are encouraged to take greater responsibility for their own learning. They complete several independent projects and give formal presentations to the class. Composition, grammar, and reading are integrated into each Main Lesson block.

Mathematical work is integrated each day and math practice periods are added to the weekly schedule. Mathematics Main Lesson blocks focus upon working with larger numbers through comparison, rounding, and the four processes: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Fractions are studied physically and pictorially and the four processes applied. Problem solving, riddles, mental math, story problems, and measurement are integrated throughout.

In form drawing, the children may accompany their work with Norse Mythology by drawing freehand the weaving designs, symbols and decorative motifs of the Norse people and Celts. Themes of symmetry and geometric work are focused upon. Fourth grade students work to draw these challenging Celtic Knots with skill and beauty as well as continuing Handwork, Spanish, Movement, Gardening, and Music. In fourth grade, students continue their recorder study but also begin to play string instruments requiring discipline and respect.

## Grade Four

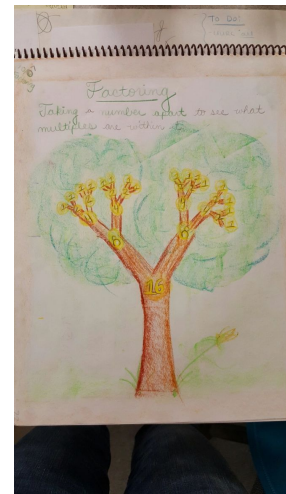
### Language Arts:

Norse Mythology  
Native American Legends  
Grammar, punctuation, and spelling  
Reading groups  
Poetry writing  
Book reports  
Letter writing  
Speech work  
Dictionary skills



### Mathematics:

Fractions  
Long division  
Double-digit multiplication  
Mastery of multiplication tables  
Word problems  
Mental arithmetic



### Social Studies:

Local Geography  
Georgia History (including biographies of famous individuals)  
Map-making  
Orienteering

### Science (Human and Animal Studies):

Comparative anatomy (head, torso, limbs)  
Habitat  
Food chain  
Basic organization of species groups  
Animal Research project



### Artistic Work:

Form Drawing  
Watercolor painting  
Modeling (beeswax or clay)  
Dramatic production

### Specialty Subjects:

Fiber Arts  
Games & Movement  
Music & Strings  
Spanish  
Gardening

## **Grade Five**

### **Pedagogical Overview**

The fifth grader's horizon has widened considerably. She has become steadier and more self-confident; she has an enhanced consciousness; she is more accustomed to being alone and to seeing the world in a new perspective. By the fifth grade, students are developmentally ready for more sophisticated work and greater academic rigor. The curriculum broadens to include the study of the ancient civilizations from India to Greece. Class teachers bring this work to life with story and details that deepen students' understanding while honing their research skills. Students also are given a truly unique opportunity to experience the culture of Ancient Greece by training for and participating in a pentathlon, an Olympic competition.

In math, the fifth graders practice long division and work with fractions. They work with decimals and the relationship between decimals and fractions. All four operations with decimals are introduced as well as percentages. Free hand geometry evolves out of form drawing. The students experience the forms of nature as they draw geometric shapes and patterns. The relationships between expansion and contraction within points, lines, and shapes are examined. The circle is divided into its 360 degrees, and students draw and examine triangles, hexagons and circles. Tools such as compasses may be introduced. Concepts such as area are also studied. Throughout the year there are regular practice lessons and assignments to continue to strengthen mathematical lessons from earlier years—including measurement, averages, means, ranges and estimation skills.

History is taught in a way that engages the students' feelings. It requires inner mobility to enter sympathetically into the ancient civilizations that are so different from our own. Students study the progression of human consciousness through five ancient cultures. Areas of study include Ancient India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt and Greece. During the year, the story curriculum moves from content based on the mythic heritage of each of these great cultures to the historical stories of Greece. Every means is used to give the children a vivid impression of these four ancient cultures. They read translations of poetry, study hieroglyphic symbols of the Egyptians, and sample arts and crafts of the various ancient peoples trying their hands at similar creations. In the spring, the students participate in the Greek Pentathlon. The ideals of truth and beauty permeate the games. History and Geography also extend to cover all of North America. The study of North America is a continuation of the local geography and history completed in fourth grade when the children geographically studied Pennsylvania. Native American cultures can be used as a way to organize the study of the geographic world of North America. The study continues the gradual reaching out from home and familiar ground. Although the focus of the block is on geographical features of the continent, some cultural geography is also included. Regional music, literature, history and art are brought into the classroom to give the children a specific sense of the individual place. Every consideration of the Earth's physical features is linked with a study of the way human life has been lived in the region, natural resources, the



industry, and produce.

The fifth-grade reading curriculum is really a process of deepening and developing their already existing reading skills. Throughout the year the children are slowly called on to use their reading skills to support their learning in other areas such as ancient cultures or science. The way that each teacher works with the reading curriculum is an individual decision based on his or her knowledge of the class but may include oral reading, group reading, reading quizzes, and book reports.

Writing continues to develop during fifth grade with more focus on formal writing such as report writing. Teachers work individually to develop more knowledge of, and attention to, grammatical standards, spelling, writing flow and imaginative depiction.

The fifth grader studies botany in depth. Students study the major plant types as an integral part of their natural surroundings, noting climate and geographical influences. The unfolding process of plant life is also examined. After discovering some of the secrets of the plant life found in her own environment, the child's attention is drawn to vegetation in other parts of the world.

Regular choral singing is practiced fifth grade along with the C-recorder flute. The difficulty of the singing pieces also increases with a focus on harmony and part-singing. Speech work continues to develop as does the complexity and challenge of the morning movement work. String lessons continue and some children begin participating in string ensembles within the school day. Knitting continues and Manual Arts class is begun with carving. Foreign languages and Games and Movement also continue. Painting supports the various academic areas taken up throughout the year. Drawing includes new and more challenging techniques. Clay work also becomes more in depth during the fifth-grade year.

The fifth-grade class play is often a play in which children take on truly independent parts for the first time, being independently responsible for their lines and role. The topic of the play is usually centered on the story curriculum for the year.

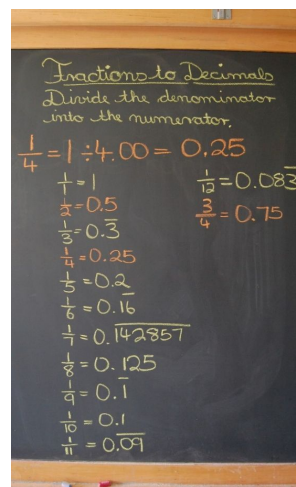
## Grade Five

### Language Arts:

Ancient mythology and legends from India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Greece  
Grammar, punctuation, and spelling  
Original compositions based on curriculum  
Research projects  
Letter writing  
Book reports  
Speech work

### Mathematics:

Fractions and decimals  
Basic geometric measurement  
Triple-digit multiplication  
Long division with double-digit divisors  
Word problems and mental arithmetic



### Social Studies:

North American geography ( U.S. states and capitals, bodies of water, land formations, climates, and vegetation)  
Biographies of historical figures such as Pythagoras or Alexander the Great  
Mapmaking

### Science (Botany):

Flowering plants: monocotyledons and dicotyledons  
Lower orders of plants  
Coniferous and deciduous trees  
Stages of plant life  
Relationship between insects and flowering plants



### Artistic Work:

Freehand geometric drawing  
Watercolor painting  
Clay modeling  
Drawings inspired by Greek and Egyptian forms  
Dramatic production

### Specialty Subjects:

Fiber Arts  
Games & Movement  
Music & Strings  
Spanish  
Manual Arts  
Gardening

# Grade Six

## Pedagogical Overview

*The harmonious balanced Greek period of childhood is ending and a willful, muscular Roman period is beginning. At this time, there is a false dawn of intellectual consciousness as the child's feeling perception passes over to the world of ideas. This is not the same as the critical, independent thinking and judging that will come after the age of fourteen: it is instead a feeling approach to thinking.*  
*Lois Cusick, "The Waldorf Parenting Handbook"*

It is not until the child reaches his twelfth year that he can fully grasp causality, that he can truly understand cause and effect. Before this time thought is purely the child's imagination, pictorial rather than a conceptual nature, but the six grader now has the ability to form abstract concepts. This thinking that has ripened from a healthy imagination is a "warm and mobile thinking." This ability opens up a new way to approach the material of the curriculum. The curriculum and experiences in the sixth grade year transition the students into Middle School. Many of the core subjects, such as Math and Language Arts, take greater strides in both breadth and the skills necessary to work with them. A sixth grader studies History from Rome to the Middle Ages, and all the stories and details those vivid cultural epochs contain. From Economics, Geography, Geometry, and Mineralogy to the phenomenological science of Physics, the students are often invigorated by the challenges of this new level of thinking. Class teachers will begin to 'trade blocks' meaning specific blocks may be taught by different class teachers.

The sixth grade curriculum sees a transition in outlook from a compliant, energetic class which is ready to tackle anything put before them, to one deepens their questioning of the world, especially authority. They seek to question whether the class and school system of rules is truly fair and just. They are particularly keen on discovering how their own behavior affects those around them. The curriculum expressly addresses these themes through main lesson blocks such as the rise and fall of democracy in Rome (justice and authority), physics, light and shadow drawing, and business math (cause and effect), as well as geology, geometry, astronomy, and essay writing (structure and order).

In Geology, the sixth graders not only sharpen their observations of the world at their feet but also study how the movement of the earth changes the landscape and its inhabitants, and how our actions in the present will shape the world in the future. In Geometry, the students learn what happens when the straight edge is not exactly straight or the consequences when the compass point has moved a fractional amount.

Historical study of the sixth grade year is Rome and the Medieval Ages. A sixth grader is often interested in establishing structure and order, and in finding lawful relationships; the study of Rome is the perfect background to explore these themes. The mood of the Middle Ages, with the focus on cloistered monks and chivalry, satisfies the sixth grader's quest for beauty,

contemplation, and uprightness. The children study European Geography as a complement to the History lessons. They look for lawfulness in the heavens through a study of Astronomy, and then delve deeply into the structure and make-up of the earth as they study Mineralogy. In Physics, the sixth graders study acoustics, heat, and optics; the dynamics of light, dark, and color are further explored through painting and charcoal drawing. Language Arts focuses on the rules and laws of grammar, while Math focuses on business math and percentages, thus rounding out the sixth grade curriculum.

## Grade Six

### Language Arts:

Tales of Chivalry  
Arthurian legend and Celtic myth  
Poetry, ballads, and scenes from medieval history  
Compositions and short-story writing  
Dictation and debate  
Sentence, paragraph and essay structures  
Conditional mood  
Book reports/ projects



### Mathematics:

Business math: percentage, money, mathematical sentences, interest, profit and loss, ratio, proportion, exchange, estimation, averages  
Pre-Algebra  
Metric system  
Biographies of mathematicians

### Social Studies:

The rise and fall of the Roman Empire: Topics may include, The Seven Kings, Virgil's Aeneid, and historical figures including Hannibal, Julius Caesar, Marc Antony, Caesar Augustus, and Jesus  
Medieval society: the cloister, the castle, and the city  
Monasticism and the rise of the church  
Feudalism and the Crusades  
Additional biographies may include \*Mohammed and Islam, Charlemagne, and William the Conqueror  
History is explored through architecture, art, literature, speech, and government  
South American Geography, including, wind and water currents, meridians and parallels of latitude, land formations, climates, vegetation, and bodies of water  
Mapmaking

## Grade Six

### Science:

Physics: sound, light, heat, magnetism, static electricity

### Geology:

minerals and crystals, gems, metals, earthquakes, volcanoes

Astronomy

### Artistic Work:

Geometric drawing

Watercolor painting: landscapes and color contrasts

Clay modeling and Roman-style relief

### Specialty Subjects:

Gardening

Art

Games & Movement

Fiber Arts

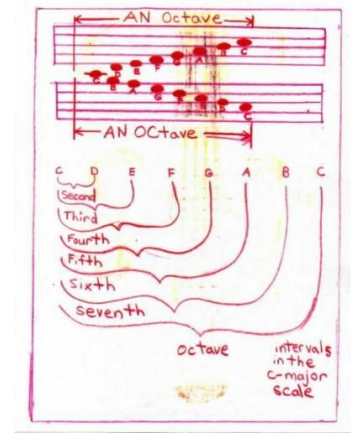
Choir

Spanish

Orchestra/Recorder/Flute

Manual Arts

Guidance



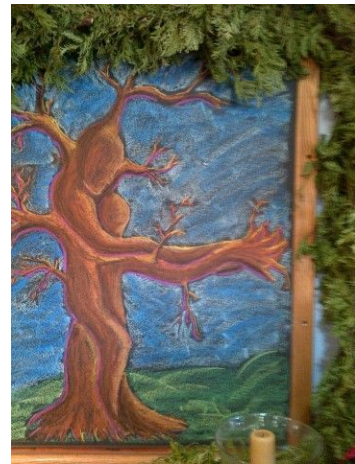
# Grade Seven

## Pedagogical Overview

As students move into adolescence, they need increased opportunity to feel the strength of their own initiative. The grade seven curriculum serves to ground the students, to inspire them to venture out toward the unknown, and to offer an introduction to their quest in life. Through their own engagement and striving in the world, students are able to develop strong feelings of sympathy and antipathy in relation to their surroundings. These feelings help shape their own perceptions and allow them to stand on their own with increased confidence.

Through the exploration of an unknown world, the seventh grade curriculum challenges the thought process of the young adolescent, leading them to discovery, understanding, and discernment. They learn, as the explorers did, that going one's own way means leaving behind the security and stability of familiar territory.

Throughout this year, students are encouraged to look at issues of historical or social relevance from contrasting angles, and perhaps even weigh one against the other. They may also begin a formal study of creative writing and poetry during their "Wish, Wonder, and Surprise" block. During this year, students may become more interested in developing their own unique writing styles. This is an excellent time to begin to explore the realm of metaphor and poetic expression.



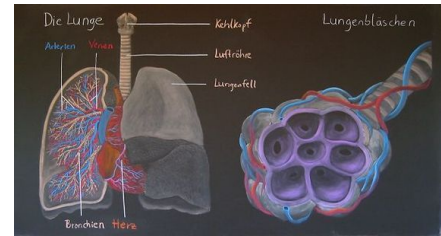
Seventh grade texts are chosen which widen the students' horizons with regard to other peoples and cultures. Stories from history focus on the Age of Discovery and the Renaissance. As in previous years, students will be expected to continue independent reading throughout the year. They will be asked to select a variety of fiction and non-fiction selections from a reading list provided by their teacher.

Students will continue to review and strengthen their understanding of language qualities and usage. In addition to building vocabulary and expanding their awareness of style, students will be asked to consider the ways in which language can be abused and misused. Cliché, jargon, euphemism, and slang words may be discussed. Additional topics may also include: conditional phrasing, metaphor, simile, and analogy. In addition, skills such as taking notes and studying for tests will be introduced and reviewed.

The general application and transformation of formulas and equations in practical life situations form a central part of the seventh grade math curriculum. As students are beginning to encounter the practical laws of cause and effect, they can start working strongly with estimation and distribution. Extensive mental arithmetic is used to challenge the students throughout this

year. Continued mastery of the four processes using whole numbers, fractions, and decimals is emphasized through ongoing review and practical application.

Work continues in business math, through budget, percentage, and discount problems. Ratio and simple proportion problems continue, as do problems with simple formulas. During this time when thinking skills are active, word problems are worked with extensively. Appropriate discriminatory strategies and skills in analyzing word problems are further developed. During this year, students begin a more formal study of algebraic thinking. Facilities with simple equations and work with prime and square numbers is furthered. Powers and roots are also introduced. Work with geometric proofs continues, building up through triangles and parallelograms to deductive proofs of the Pythagorean theorem. Familiarity and precision are developed with all basic geometric constructions.



The class begins with the study of the basic laws of perspective drawing, which were first formulated at the dawn of the Renaissance. As they slowly master the technicalities of vanishing points, converging lines, interpolation and extrapolation the students will gain the ability to create the illusion of three-dimensional space on a two-dimensional sheet of paper.

Physics investigation build upon the more simple physics phenomena experienced in sixth grade. The class now investigates electricity and magnetism, mechanics, acoustics, and optics. The approach is phenomenological, but the student are led to learn some of the fundamental laws of physics such as the mathematical ratios of musical intervals, magnification and refraction, the electrical circuit, and the mechanical advantage of simple machines.



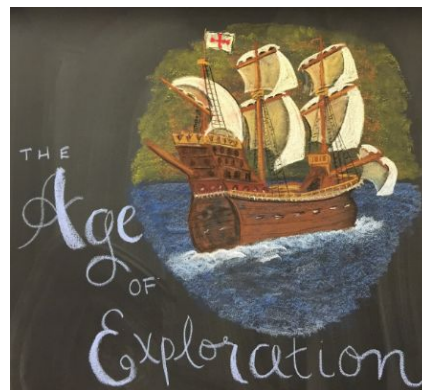
## Grade Seven

### Language Arts:

Historical novels and biographies  
Tales of adventure and discovery  
Stories about tribal life  
Ballads, legends, and folktales  
Dictation and debate  
Sentence structure, clauses, and phrases  
Creative writing  
Contrasting moods of “wish”, “wonder”, and “surprise”  
Note taking and summarizing  
Longer essays and comparisons

### Mathematics:

Introduction to Algebra: Equations and Integers  
Graphing  
Exponents and roots  
Estimation and situation problems  
Basic geometric theorems  
Area, perimeter, and volume  
Fibonacci sequence



### Social Studies:

Late Middle Ages: rise of cities, nationhood, rivalry between church and state  
Renaissance to 1700: rise of the merchant class  
The Age of Discovery and Exploration from 1400  
Biographies may include: Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard the Lion-Hearted, Francis of Assisi, Dante, Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, Marco Polo, Vasco de Gama, Columbus, Magellan, Cortez, Sir Walter Raleigh, Galileo, Tycho Brahe, Kepler, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Lorenzo de Medici, Shakespeare, and Elizabeth I  
Geography and resources of Africa and Europe  
Research project comparing landscapes, resources, and cultures within Europe

### Science:

Inorganic chemistry: combustion, oxidation, formation of gases, metals and nonmetals, chemical transformation, acids, bases, salts  
Human physiology: the nine systems, nutrition, hygiene, and first aid  
Physics: static electricity, direct and indirect current, circuits, generators, electric fields, mechanics (lever, gear, pulley, inclined plane, wedge, and screw)

## Grade Seven

### **Artistic Work:**

Geometric drawing

Painting: copying a Renaissance “master,” wet and dry techniques

Perspective drawing

Modeling the human hand and foot in clay

### **Specialty Subjects:**

Gardening

Art

Games & Movement

Fiber Arts

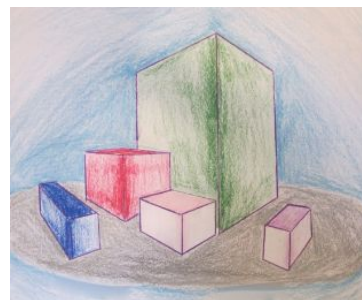
Choir

Spanish

Orchestra/Recorder/Flute

Manual Arts

Guidance



# **Grade Eight**

## **Pedagogical Overview**

A Waldorf eighth grade class experiences a gradual but significant shift from the presentation of a subject solely from the teacher to the class, to the mutual consideration of a subject by teacher and class together. A sense of community develops in which speaking becomes more thoughtful and listening more attentive. With the awakening capacity for logical thinking and free, independent judgment, the eighth grader now wants to be in the world more than ever before. They want to do, to discover, to know, and to find relevance in their studies by finding connections with the outside world.

Throughout this year, the students continue to expand their sense of place in the world. They plunge into the Age of Revolution, and embark on a study of noteworthy individuals who have found the courage to follow their passions in revolt against the status quo. In addition to their continued inquiry into scientific phenomena and experimentation, students study the lives and struggles of scientists and inventors who first discovered chemical and electrical laws. These studies ground students in the human aspect of scientific thought, while providing a picture of the profound effects of modern technology upon society and culture.

In science, seventh graders are introduced to the basic processes in inorganic chemistry. Beginning with various manifestations of combustion including the phenomenon of oxidation, the lessons and demonstrations then move into the salt forming process (acid and bases) and finally the qualities of solutions, solvents, and catalysts. Much of the material is given practical application such as studying the effects of acid rain, investigating the nitrogen cycle, or in understanding the chemical processes in quicklime and mortar. Nutrition and the physiological processes associated with the substances that enter our body are studied. Topics of obesity, bulimia and anorexia as well as the effects of taking smoke into one's lungs are discussed. The circulatory system, respiratory system and digestive system are studied in relationship to the substances we ingest.

The eighth grade year marks the students' final year at Circle of Seasons, and culminates in the completion of their grade school experience. Given the huge step these students are about to take in the world, the curriculum is designed to inspire passion and highlight the incredible potential of the human mind and soul. It is our hope that our students will graduate with compelling questions that will continue to fuel their love of learning for years to come.

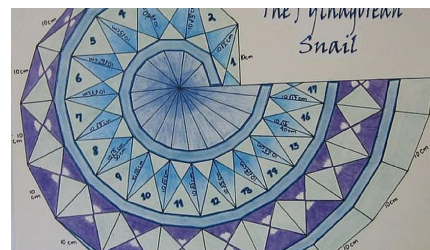
## Grade Eight

### Language Arts:

Texts from influential writers, such as Shakespeare and Edgar Allen Poe  
Epic and dramatic poetry: sonnets, haiku, ballads  
Folklore and poems from around the world  
Novels may include the Scarlet Pimpernel, The Master Puppeteer, and Uncle Tom's Cabin  
Review of grammar and syntax, including subordinate and independent clauses  
Newspaper articles and editorials  
Skits and play writing  
Emphasis on note taking and journaling  
Weekly oral news reporting

### Mathematics:

Geometry: polygons, angles, area and volume, Pythagorean Theorem, polyhedra,  
Algebra: order of operations, operations with radicals, operations with polynomials, exponents, linear and quadratic equations, factoring  
Statistics: Mean, median, mode, quartiles, interquartile range, mean absolute deviation, and basic probability  
Graphing coordinate points, lines  
Number bases, and set concepts  
Computers, basic coding in Linux and Python  
Problem solving techniques



### Social Studies:

1700 to the present  
Contrasting the Reformation with the Age of Enlightenment  
The French and American Revolutions  
Industrial Revolution: rise of the factory; city life and child labor; early attempts at social reform  
American History: Colonization, The Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution  
World economy, free trade, war and peace  
Biographies may include Napoleon, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, George Washington, Lafayette, Benjamin Franklin, Bismarck, Mahatma Gandhi, Joseph Stalin, Robespierre, Karl Marx, John Wilkes Booth, and Martin Luther King Jr.  
Geography of Asia, Australia, and Antarctica  
World Geography, including tides, map reading, and weather  
Consideration of how maps influence our perceptions of the world  
Studies may also include the philosophies of Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, and Shintoism

**Science:**

Organic Chemistry: proteins, fats, sugars, and starches; nitrogen cycle; plant structure and chemical processes

Physiology: bones and muscles, nervous system, reproductive system, body chemistry and addiction

Physics: sound, heat, optics, current electricity, hydraulics, aerodynamics, meteorology, climatology

**Artistic Work:**

3-dimensional geometry

Black and white drawing with charcoal

Bamboo, ink brush, and landscape painting

Calligraphy

Modeling the human head and bones in clay

**Specialty Subjects:**

Gardening

Art

Games & Movement

Fiber Arts

Choir

Spanish

Orchestra/Recorder/Flute

Manual Arts

Guidance

