

Elementary
Gifted and
Talented Magnet
Course
Description
Guide

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The gifted and talented magnet school program is founded on the belief that all students possess gifts and talents that need to be identified, nurtured, and rewarded. It is the responsibility of educators and parents to identify these gifts and talents and to provide an educational program that develops them. Because the gifted and talented magnet school addresses the gifts and talents of all children, there are no performance measures, auditions, or tests that need to be passed before a child is accepted into the school. Some children may have gifts and talents in one or two areas, others, in a wider variety of areas. The gifted and talented magnet school is open to any child whose parents would like for him/her to participate in the program.

The philosophy of the gifted and talented magnet school is put into effect through the structure of the curriculum and through instructional techniques. The curriculum design advocates a “choice” model for students and parents. It provides them with options and alternatives for learning and is designed to accommodate varying types of gifts, talents, strengths, needs, and interests.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The gifted and talented magnet school curriculum is divided into two main components: **BASICS AND ELECTIVES**.

BASICS

All students receive instruction in four basic areas: language arts, math, social studies, and science. Instruction in the basics component is planned to accommodate each child's skill level.

The curriculum is delivered in the context of an eight-period day with each period consisting of approximately forty-five minutes. These periods are not distinguishable in kindergarten through second grades because basic courses are grouped together without interruption. Students in grades K-2 change periods only during the time each day set aside for electives. They are placed in self-contained classrooms with enrichment activities, art, music, physical education, and library experiences being an integral part of their basics.

ELECTIVES

Elective courses offer each student the opportunity to explore new areas of interest or to study a particular area in depth. Electives may also provide avenues to tailor a child's specific needs. In the elective portion of the curriculum, courses are offered in the following areas: language arts, social studies, math, science, technology, health, physical education, world language, visual arts, performing arts (instrumental and vocal music, dance, drama) and media.

Basics are offered five days each week while electives and AG selected courses are offered four days each week (Monday through Thursday). This scheduling provides more diverse experiences for students, while maintaining the integrity of the basic and elective instructional programs. Most field trips, cultural arts programs, and special school events are scheduled on Fridays in order to protect the Monday through Thursday elective program.

Electives provide an opportunity to explore and sample different subjects. Students are urged to consider building a well-balanced schedule. Over the course of one year, students are encouraged to select at least one language arts and one math elective. It is hoped that all students will select at least one course which will provide good physical exercise. Students in grades 3-5 must select at least one PE elective per year. PE and dance electives are available at all skill levels. (This is because we are required to have students meet with PE teacher once a week.)

Most of the elective courses are appropriate for any student willing to learn and be exposed to new situations. These courses are highly motivational and give students the opportunity to study selected subjects.

AIG SELECTED ELECTIVE COURSES

AIG selected electives are open to students with outstanding strengths in one or more areas. Nominations for these courses may be made in several ways. All identified academically gifted students may take AIG selected academic electives. Others may be nominated by parents or teachers and screened for admission.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

This Course Description Guide was prepared to give students and parent's information on the electives which may be offered this year. **The courses that will actually become a part of the master schedule for the fall and spring are dependent on sufficient enrollment, the availability of teaching staff, and individual school programs.** For more detailed information concerning the content of courses, parents and/or students may call for an appointment with the principal, assistant principal, or magnet coordinator.

Elective Course Descriptions

K-2

**LANGUAGE ARTS
GRADES K-2
MAGNET COURSES**

**A Poem in My Pocket
Author! Author!
Authors in the Making-Lego Narrative Builder
Beginning Literary Styles - AIG
Beginning Writing Experiences - AIG
Best of the Best K-2 - AIG
Blossoming with Books
Building Readers
Fairy Tales - AIG
Fairy Tales and Fables
I've Got Character!
Listen and Read Along
Odyssey of the Mind
Prize Winners
Puppet Play
Reading Ladders
Rhyme Time
Rooftop Readers
Sign Language K-2
Thinking Power - AIG**

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
LANGUAGE ARTS**

A POEM IN MY POCKET

This elective allows the student to develop language skills and an appreciation for poetry through a variety of poems. Students will explore different types of poetry, such as acrostic poems, list poems, free verse, haiku, rhyming poems, narrative poems, and limericks. Various poets will be featured. Students will develop poet craft, through the use of sound word choice, creative Imagery, and figurative language. Students will develop poetry portfolios and create their own poems at the conclusion of this elective.

AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

Within every child there are stories of value. In this course students will become young authors as they delight in writing, illustrating, and making their own books. Stories will be shared with other students.

AUTHORS IN THE MAKING – LEGO NARRATIVE BUILDER

LEGOS are EVERYTHING AWESOME! Explore the enormous collection of LEGO's through writing and be inspired! Imagine building fantastical storyboards to learn how to SHOW NOT TELL. Learn the writing process with a fun twist using LEGO Fairy Tales, LEGO Space and LEGO Communities expansion kits. Build-up the story elements, character, setting, action and problem-solution brick by brick.

BEGINNING LITERARY STYLES - AIG

The primary purpose of a literature program for young children is to encourage them to discover the value of and to provide abundant experiences with good literature. In this course students will be provided opportunities to read and hear quality literary works.

BEGINNING WRITING EXPERIENCES - AIG

In this introductory creative writing course, students develop writing skills by correlating vocabulary development, grammar, writing mechanics, and sentence composition. This course will progress from vocabulary to paragraph development.

BEST OF THE BEST K-2 - AIG

Students will be introduced to books by award-winning authors and illustrators. Among the Caldecott, Kate Greenaway, or ALA Notable Book winners they will find stories that delight and fascinate them. Their enjoyment will be shared with others through activities such as read-alongs and dramatizations.

BLOSSOMING WITH BOOKS

Do you love to read? This elective will expose students to a variety of authors, genres, and writing styles. When students are engaged in a meaningful book study, they realize that an author's words are interesting and powerful. In turn, they will recognize they too have the power to make their own words exciting and meaningful. Are you ready to blossom with books?

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
LANGUAGE ARTS**

BUILDING READERS

Ready...Set...Go...We're off on an exciting adventure! In this eighteen week course designed for pre-emergent readers, kindergarten students will explore basic curriculum concepts through social interaction and hands-on learning. Activities will include puppets, manipulatives, cooking, literature immersion, and projects with an emphasis on learning the alphabet and basic print concepts. Come along with us as we depart on this exciting adventure, and build your skills along the way! Teacher recommendation is required for this course.

FAIRY TALES - AIG

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with a variety of fairy tales. Discussion, role-play, reading, viewing, listening, research, and writing activities are used to explore this magical kingdom. Emphasis is placed on the origin and elements of fairy tales.

FAIRY TALES AND FABLES

This course will offer an in-depth look at a variety of fairy tales and fables. Students will participate in enriching activities that will enhance the stories as well as help students work towards an understanding of two of the oldest children's literary forms.

I'VE GOT CHARACTER!

This course will allow students opportunities to explore, in depth, through literature, the eight character traits: Responsibility, Respect, Courage, Kindness, Self-discipline, Integrity, Perseverance, and Good Judgment, and learn ways to apply them to their everyday living. The students will engage in activities that develop communication skills such as listening, reading, speaking, observing, illustration, writing, and brainstorming while developing their awareness of the eight character traits. The elective will culminate in the creation, development, and production of a Character Trait Newsletter to be distributed throughout the school

LISTEN AND READ ALONG

LISTEN AND READ ALONG provides the emergent reader with opportunities to develop good listening and reading skills through participation in language experiences. Students will be engaged in activities that develop all types of communication skills: listening, speaking, illustration, and writing. Emphasis will be placed on print meaning. Students will be introduced to different reading strategies to gain control of print, and develop an understanding that print conveys meaning. Selecting and appreciating literature from a variety of genres will also be a major focus of this course. Come listen and read along!

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND - ELEMENTARY

Can a team of students build a vehicle that will travel through and obstacle course and break balloon targets? Is there a way to create a performance that brings famous works of art to life? Students use cooperative planning, teamwork, creative problem solving, and the ability to transfer previous knowledge to new situations to present unique solutions to these types of problems.

PRIZE WINNERS

Let's celebrate the winners! Students will have an opportunity to listen and read award winning children's books that have been recognized for excellence. Caldecott winners as well as North

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Carolina Children's Book Award selections will be introduced. Children will develop listening and comprehension skills and explore various artistic mediums that the illustrators use to create books.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
LANGUAGE ARTS**

PUPPET PLAY

Are you a character? Do you like creating? This is the course for you! Puppet Play is a creative exploration into puppetry. Students will learn and create various types of puppets, such as hand, rod, string, shadow, and more. This course incorporates literacy skills, reading, writing, speaking and listening, to develop and personalize puppet characters for entertaining while developing life skills of critical thinking, communication, cooperation and creative expression.

READING LADDERS

This eighteen week course is especially designed for students in first grade who are struggling with literacy development. Small group size will allow children more individualized attention. The students will be involved in modeled, shared, guided, and independent reading activities on a daily basis. Students in this course should be recommended by their teachers.

RHYME TIME

Rhyme Time is a wonderful elective for a child who is at the pre-emergent or emergent level in reading. This elective introduces students to a variety of rhymes including nursery rhymes, traditional rhyming songs, and counting rhymes. The students will be engaged in rhyming word activities, phonemic explorations, creative expression through illustrations and writing, art activities, and dramatic role-play based on the rhyme presented. At the completion of the elective, the students will have a personal collection of rhymes and present their favorite rhymes in a Reader's Theater.

ROOFTOP READERS

This course is especially designed for students in second grade who would benefit from reading support. Students in this eighteen week elective will receive small group reading instruction designed to move them to the next level in reading. Every day students will participate in Shared Reading, Literacy Activities, Guided Reading, and Read Aloud. Students in this course should be recommended by their teachers.

SIGN LANGUAGE K-2

Students will be taught the concept of using sign language as an alternative form of communication. Finger spelling and signing of familiar words and terms will be emphasized. Students will use their hands and eyes to "speak" and "listen" to others.

THINKING POWER - AIG

Thought processes can be sharpened through directed practice. Students in this course will participate in activities to develop skills such as comparing, classifying, interpreting, and summarizing. Thinking Power is a language arts course designed to spark thinking in a variety of ways, encouraging problem solving and creativity. Planned activities incorporate the multiple intelligences observed in human thought processing. Students will participate in activities designed to address their areas of strength and to develop areas that need improvement.

**SOCIAL STUDIES
GRADES K-2
MAGNET COURSES**

Across the Oceans - AIG
Africa
Cabins to Castles
Dancing and Playing Around the World
Destiny Travel Agency
Egypt
Geographic Exploration - AIG
Hall of Fame
It's a Small World - AIG
Let's Celebrate
See the U.S.A.:
 Part I - The Southeast and Southwest
 Part II - The Pacific and Northeast
Treasure Island
What's in the News? - AIG

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
SOCIAL STUDIES**

ACROSS THE OCEANS - AIG

Do you know where China is? What about Spain? Want to learn how to speak other languages? Love to cook and try new foods from around the world? This elective will take you on a journey using atlases, computers, cooking and literature to teach you about some of the places in our world.

AFRICA

Students will look at life in Africa. They will gain an understanding about the land, the people, and their way of life. Students will be able to compare/contrast their way of life with an African child's. They will learn that they share their family life, parents' love, relationships, friendships with other children, and excitement of trips and games.

CABINS TO CASTLES

Students will study the different kinds of dwellings in our country and their changes throughout history.

DANCING AND PLAYING AROUND THE WORLD

Dancing and Playing Around the World is filled with a variety of games and dances that reflect our worldwide cultural diversity. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to explore different cultures through dance and movement activities as well as language and enrichment experiences. As the children explore dances and games from all over the world, they will develop geography skills, writing skills, knowledge of the different continents and countries, and an appreciation for the various cultures in our global community.

DESTINY TRAVEL AGENCY

This course will provide learners the opportunity to discover ten different cultures located around the world by "traveling" to Brazil, Mexico, England, India, New Zealand, Nigeria, Israel, Russia, and Japan. The learners will be receiving a passport that will enable them to travel to the different countries. They will also be receiving a suitcase in which to keep all of their "souvenirs." During each trip to a different country, the learners will be experiencing the following activities: recognizing different seasonal changes and times between their country and the country they are visiting, making clothes (paper dolls) to be worn during their trip, drawing simple maps of the homes and communities that are located in the country, cooking and tasting food, experiencing holidays that are celebrated in the country, exploring that country's different customs, playing games, listening and dancing to music, replicating art, familiarizing themselves with any famous people who live there, and responding to their visit through a postcard that will be sent "home" after each trip.

EGYPT

Students will have an opportunity to understand the influence of Egyptian culture on family behavior and activities, architecture, and clothing. They will gain an understanding of the universality and diversity of family needs and customs through an introduction to life in Egypt.

GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORATION - AIG

The key concepts of geography -- earth, direction, location, spatial arrangements, and maps -- will be introduced to students in this course. Students will be involved in projects, inside and outside of the classroom, which will develop a better understanding of global concepts.

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**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
SOCIAL STUDIES**

HALL OF FAME

Do YOU have what it takes to become “famous”? Learn what individuals from various backgrounds did to achieve fame! In this course you will learn about famous individuals from the past and the present and how they changed our lives.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD - AIG

In this course students will learn about the interdependence of people around the world. Cultures in our world and the similarities between people will be studied. Students will learn other systems for dealing with time, money, and measurement; explore various foreign languages; study heroes from other cultures; and recreate customs from various countries.

LET'S CELEBRATE

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to attend an Igbo Festival in Nigeria? Or eat sweets during the Candy Festival in Turkey? How would you like to participate in a Maypole Dance? Or march in a Bastille Day Parade? Well, join us on a trip around the world as we learn about many wonderful celebrations and festivals of different people, cultures, and countries. We will experience music, recipes, language and multi-sensory activities; as well as practice our geography skills while we study holidays around the world. Come celebrate with us as we learn to appreciate the many differences and, more importantly, the similarities between so many diverse and interesting cultures.

SEE THE U.S.A.

Part I - The Southeast and Southwest

Part II - The Pacific and Northeast

This integrated curriculum will allow students to participate in activities in various content areas as they learn about the U.S.A. Historical and famous landmarks will be explored as they tour the fifty states.

TREASURE ISLAND

This course will provide students with an opportunity to understand how to navigate their community and understand the world through the use of maps and globes. Students will learn to read maps and globes, draw maps, and create maps and globes. The objective of this course is for students to have a basic understanding and the necessary skills to read and use maps and globes.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS? - AIG

Examining current events that are relevant to students' lives will be the focus of this course. People, places, and items in the news will be discussed and explored. Students also will create their own news using home and school events. This course will help them build a concept of the importance of being informed citizens.

**MATHEMATICS
GRADES K-2
MAGNET COURSES**

Algebra Alley
Apples and Oranges
Architecture Around Us
Beginning Investigations
Book into Math
Dimensions: Build It! - AIG
Geometry Journeys
Grin and Graph It – AIG
Group Solutions
Just Graph It!
Math Around Us - AIG
Math Manipulation
Math Masters
Measuring Madness
Number Detectives AIG (formerly Magical Math AIG)
Patterning - AIG
Piggy Bank, The
Plus and Minus
Solve It!
Time, Temperature, and Money

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
MATHEMATICS**

ALGEBRA ALLEY

This course will explore algebraic topics, which include patterns and pattern rules functions, variables, and coordinate graphs. Students will explore, build, and extend patterns, both numerical and geometric and represent these patterns on T-charts. This course lays the foundation for later, more formal algebraic experiences.

APPLES AND ORANGES

This course will focus on sorting and classifying items by similarities and differences: sizes, colors, and shapes.

ARCHITECTURE AROUND US

Architecture is all around us and is around the globe. Students will explore many forms of architecture and will discover how shapes are put together to create buildings. Students will learn about the history of architecture and how it fulfills the human need for shelter. Students will create drawings and design structures using blocks and other construction materials.

BEGINNING INVESTIGATIONS (Probability)

This course gives children a variety of experiences that involve them in thinking about some of the basic ideas of probability. Through a collection of hands-on games and experiments, students explore the likelihood of events, use data to make predictions about outcomes, and determine whether games are fair.

BOOK INTO MATH

This course will integrate literature and mathematics. Students will be introduced to numerous children's books, both old favorites as well as unfamiliar stories. They will participate in activities designed to explore mathematical concepts as well as to develop communication skills. Students will be encouraged to work together to read, speak, write and use a variety of strategies to solve mathematical problems which occur in literature.

DIMENSIONS: BUILD IT - AIG

Students will explore the measurement of shapes and solids as they use yarn, paperclips, blocks, marshmallows, popcorn, frameworks, polydrons and paper to create and measure the area, perimeter and volume 2D and 3D creations. Throughout the electives, students will work towards the final building project – A Geometric Zoo to be on display for all to enjoy.

GEOMETRY JOURNEYS

Children will partake in hands-on activities that explore geometric shapes and concepts. They will begin to explore the concepts of lines, shapes and make distinctions between 3-D and 2-D shapes. Children will also maintain a learning journal throughout this course.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
MATHEMATICS**

GRIN AND GRAPH IT - AIG

Activities in this course are designed to develop skills in coordinate geometry and graphing. Students will survey, organize, and analyze data to make line, bar, and picture graphs.

GROUP SOLUTIONS

This course will introduce, reinforce, and broaden students' understanding in numerical relationships, computation, geometry, discrete mathematics, functions, and logic. The cooperative logic activities help students become contributing members of a group of collective thinkers

JUST GRAPH IT!

Are you curious? Do you like learning information? If you answered yes, then *Just Graph It!* is just right for you. You will explore different ways information is collected and how this information can be shared so that others can learn too. You will learn how to read and make different types of graphs. You will also discover the world of probability, so come join us on a math adventure!

MATH AROUND US - AIG

Grab your math tools! Get ready for an action packed adventure finding math all around you. Students will explore a variety of math activities incorporating algebraic thinking, measurement, data collection, and geometry. Students will analyze, evaluate and create to solve challenging math problems. Get ready to solve!!

MATH MANIPULATION

This course will help students make sense of large numbers and develop an understanding of our place value system. Activities approach place value in a variety of ways - estimating, counting large numbers of objects, recognizing patterns, relating number system to place value, and exploring numbers in everyday contexts.

MATH MASTERS

MATH MASTERS will provide a balanced approach in reinforcing and enriching basic math skills. Students who excel in or have a keen interest in math will have numerous opportunities to sharpen their skills. This will be accomplished through activities that include estimation, graphing, measurement, prediction, and application of basic math skills.

MEASURING MADNESS

This elective will entice students to measure everything! Students will be allowed to explore the concepts of measurement through non-standard and standard units of measure. Students will use hands-on, group, and center based activities to extend and relate knowledge of length, capacity and weight measurement to real life situations.

**NUMBER DETECTIVES AIG
(formerly Magical Math AIG)**

Do you want to go on a number adventure? Come join us as we learn some math mysteries and creative ways to work with numbers! Learn mental math tricks while strengthening your addition, subtraction and multiplication skills. Learn about Ken Ken Puzzles, Magic Squares and develop your fluency with playing cards! Practice your number sense to solve problems and amaze your parents, friends and even your math teacher with the greatest magical math tricks alive!

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
MATHEMATICS**

PATTERNING - AIG

Students in this course will develop thinking skills while working with attribute blocks and tangram games and puzzles. They will solve problems involving classification and relationships between classes, groups, and sets.

PIGGY BANK, THE

This course will help students learn how our monetary system works by learning the names of coins, how much each is worth, and how to figure out the value of collections of coins.

PLUS AND MINUS

This course provides a sequential approach to reinforcement of addition and subtraction. A strong emphasis is placed on the use of manipulative materials when reviewing concepts. Many developmental activities are game-oriented to actively engage the learner. Memorization of math facts will be stressed.

SOLVE IT! K-2

We're off on a great math adventure! In this elective, children will develop their problem solving skills as they are required to think both logically and creatively. We will focus on solution strategies (pattern, deduction, relationships, Inference, and sequences), rather than on computational practice. Some of our problems will require careful thought and reasoning. Others will have solutions that will instantly occur to children in a sudden burst of insight. All of our work will increase their appreciation for and understanding of mathematical ways of thinking.

TIME, TEMPERATURE, AND MONEY

Students will be taught the concept of time using clocks and calendars. Prediction and arrangement of time events in logical sequence will be emphasized. Reading temperatures -- both Fahrenheit and Celsius -- will be included in this elective along with recognition of coin denominations and their values.

**SCIENCE
GRADES K-2
MAGNET COURSES**

African Safari
Animals, Animals
Animal Studies - AIG
Brilliant Bugs-Creepy Creatures
Buzz about Bees-Give Bees a Chance
Come Fly with Me - AIG
Computer Critters
Coral Reef Community
How Things Work
Invisible Force, The - AIG
It's for the Birds
Kitchen Chemistry
Learning Through Experimentation - AIG
Let's Go Lifecycling!
Mammals of the Sea
My Green Thumb
Night Creatures
Pets Galore
Protectors of the Earth (Nature and Ecology) - AIG
Scales and Skin
Seashells and Sea Life
Sense-ational Five, The
Weather Watching
We Do Robotics

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
SCIENCE**

AFRICAN SAFARI

Did you ever want to go on an African Safari? If so, this is the class for you. Come join us on an imaginary trip to the vast lands of Africa while we study wild animals that are native to these unique habitats. Do you ever see an animal at the zoo or in a book and wonder where that animal originally came from? Do you know the difference between Indian elephants and African elephants? Do you know where the Bongo or the Gorilla sleeps? How about what a Bushbaby eats? While exploring African animals, students will also investigate the importance of conservation and the role that zoos play. They will discover how zoo researchers, keepers, engineers, and veterinarians help in the fight to save these vanishing animals.

ANIMALS, ANIMALS

Students will study domesticated and wild animals through books, songs, films, and hands-on activities. The animal habitats of home, farm, zoo, and natural environments will be the focus in this course.

ANIMAL STUDIES – AIG

Students will explore animal classifications, habitats, life spans, body features, and defense mechanisms through creative activities. The animal kingdom's endangered species will also be identified.

BRILLIANT BUGS - CREEPY CREATURES

Students in this course will study various insects (such as butterflies, moths, cockroaches, crickets, ants, bees and beetles) as well as annelids (worms), arthropods (millipedes), isopods (pillbugs), gastropods (snails) and arachnids (spiders). Through hands-on experiences, students will become directly immersed in the study of entomology. They will learn the life cycle of these creatures, the correct anatomical features and various adaptations that help these creatures survive. Students will learn the function of these creatures within the environment and why they are an important part of ecosystems around the world.

BUZZ ABOUT BEES-GIVE BEES A CHANCE

Are you afraid of BEES--but willing to learn more about them? BEES are an important part of our environment! Learn more about honeyBEES and why we should respect them and not BEE so afraid of them. You will even get to create a plan to help save our local BEES from dying. Are you willing to "Give BEES a Chance?"

COME FLY WITH ME - AIG

Flight-it seems magical, but it's all a matter of science. In this course, students will use scientific inquiry to investigate principles of aeronautics. Exciting, hands-on experiments will allow students to soar into learning how flying machines work, and build a few themselves.

COMPUTER CRITTERS

Animals, animals, animals everywhere! Become an animal expert by exploring and researching the different animal groups such as mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, insects, and birds. Sharpen your computer skills and confidence while learning the fascinating facts and unique characteristics of each animal group. As an animal expert, you will complete computer art, math, science, and language arts activities using a variety of computer programs. Come join the animal adventure!

CORAL REEF COMMUNITY

This course will introduce primary students to the plants, animals and environment of the coral reef. Students will be involved in activities designed to help them identify, compare, and contrast the animals and plants of the coral reef with freshwater and land animals. Students will use classification and measuring skills while comparing and contrasting the characteristics and basic needs of the organisms present in the reef with those on land and in freshwater. A study of land and sea turtles and their life cycles is included to illustrate this concept. The learner will have the opportunity to ask a marine biologist questions about coral reefs online and explore web sites picturing coral reefs around the world.

HOW THINGS WORK

Students will explore the fascinating world of gadgets and tools in looking at how things work! Tools, machines, gears, and other gizmos will be used as students build their understanding of how simple machines and tools make our world an easier place in which to live.

INVISIBLE FORCE, THE – AIG

Students will learn about the layers of the atmosphere, the composition of air, properties of air and ways air pressure is used.

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS

This inquiry based science course will introduce primary students to birds and their characteristics, habits, life cycles and role in the environment. Students will be involved in hands on activities designed to help them identify bird characteristics compared with those of other creatures, identify and classify different types of birds, and build an understanding of a bird's life cycle and the roles birds play in their environment. Students will develop their own questions about birds and throughout the course of the elective discover the answers by participating in learning experiences such as experiments, journal keeping, reading, and first hand observation as well as creating a welcoming habitat for birds on their school grounds.

KITCHEN CHEMISTRY

In this course the students will learn, through many exciting experiments, about simple scientific phenomena, such as physical and chemical changes; states of matter--solids, liquids, and gases; and the cause and effect of heat. Students will also learn how ice cream and soap are made.

LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIMENTATION - AIG

Students need to be actively involved in learning science if they are to enhance their creative potential. In this course, students will participate in a variety of science experiments to learn scientific concepts, to make hypotheses, and to draw conclusions.

LET'S GO LIFECYCLING!

This course will examine the life cycles of plants and animals (amphibious, aquatic, insect, and mammal). Students will observe and study the different stages, how they are alike and different, and what is required to complete those lifecycles. The opportunity to grow plants and nurture life will be included.

MAMMALS OF THE SEA

This course will familiarize students with seals, sea lions, manatees, dolphins, sea otters, and of course, whales. Students will study the fascinating habits and habitats of these interesting creatures.

MY GREEN THUMB

Are you ready to use your green thumb to grow your own fruit, vegetable, or herb? In Green Thumb, we will learn the value of plants in our environment while growing our very own plant and recording

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our findings through various data collection methods.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
SCIENCE**

NIGHT CREATURES

The evening is quiet as the daytime animals are snuggling down for a good night's sleep. Soon the night is teeming with the sounds of nocturnal animals looking for their prey. In the *Night Creatures* elective students will learn about the many nocturnal animals and the variety of habitats in which they live. Students will explore the many adaptations that aid in the survival of these special animals and create and build ways to observe and attract these creatures to the world around them.

PETS GALORE

Spikey or fluffy, slimy or scaly, big or small, or covered in feathers! There are so many options for family pets, which would you choose? During this expedition, students will explore the various pets that people have. Not only will students learn about different types of pets, but also how to properly care for them. Students will be able to relate their own personal knowledge and experiences with pets to share throughout the course.

PROTECTORS OF THE EARTH (NATURE AND ECOLOGY) - AIG

Save the planet! In what ways do you help preserve nature and its surroundings? In this elective students will learn about the positive and negative interactions of living organisms and their environment. Students will increase their global awareness through an in depth study of the biomes, pollution, and recycling.

SCALES AND SKIN

T is for tadpole! S is for snake! Reptile or amphibian? Make no mistake! Come along on an animal adventure as we learn about reptiles and amphibians. We'll explore habitats, body coverings, movement, appearances, and other interesting facts about these animal groups. We'll study their life cycles and how they interact with other living things through research, literature-based projects, and hands-on activities. Hop! Crawl! Slither or slide! Don't miss out on this exciting elective about reptiles and amphibians.

SEASHELLS AND SEA LIFE

Students will be transported to one of the most fascinating ecosystems on our planet, the sea. At this special ecological juncture of both sand and sea, a rich multiplicity of life forms are surviving, thriving, and interacting with each other. The exciting topic of marine life will inspire curiosity, and lead to greater understanding of the needs and environmental adaptations of living organisms.

SENSE-ATIONAL FIVE, THE

Students will discover the importance of our five senses and how we use them. Through various experiments and hands-on activities students will discover how each sense organ functions. Students will be encouraged to examine and observe their world in new ways.

WEATHER WATCHING

Have you always wanted to know how meteorologists predict the weather? In this elective you will learn what makes up our daily and seasonal weather. You will also observe and learn how to measure different types of weather. Through engaging hands-on science and math experiments you will become an amateur meteorologist!

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
SCIENCE**

WE DO ROBOTICS

In this elective, students will program and control animal robots that they build themselves using specially created software and Lego building materials. They will begin by following step-by-step instructions in order to build and program a simple robotic model.

**WORLD LANGUAGE
GRADES K-2
MAGNET COURSES**

**Beginning Chinese
Intermediate Chinese
Continuing Chinese
Beginning French
Intermediate French
Continuing French
Beginning Spanish
Intermediate Spanish
Continuing Spanish**

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
WORLD LANGUAGE**

BEGINNING CHINESE

This course is the beginning course in the study of the Chinese language. It is designed for students with little or no experience in speaking Chinese.

INTERMEDIATE CHINESE

This elective continues the course of study begun in Beginning Chinese. Prerequisite: Beginning Chinese or approval of a Chinese teacher.

CONTINUING CHINESE

This is the most advanced of the three K-2 Chinese electives. Students continue and expand their studies of the Chinese language. Prerequisite: Intermediate Chinese or approval of a Chinese teacher.

BEGINNING FRENCH

This course is the beginning course in the study of the French language. It is designed for students with little or no experience in speaking French.

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH

This elective continues the course of study begun in Beginning French. Prerequisite: Beginning French or approval of a French teacher.

CONTINUING FRENCH

This is the most advanced of the three K-2 French electives. Students continue and expand their studies of the French language. Prerequisite: Intermediate French or approval of a French teacher.

BEGINNING SPANISH

This course is the beginning course in the study of the Spanish language. It is designed for students with little or no experience in speaking Spanish.

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH

This elective continues the course of study begun in Beginning Spanish. Prerequisite: Beginning Spanish or approval of a Spanish teacher.

CONTINUING SPANISH

This is the most advanced of the three K-2 Spanish electives. Students continue and expand their studies of the Spanish language. Prerequisite: Intermediate Spanish or approval of a Spanish teacher.

**COMPUTER STUDIES
GRADES K-2
MAGNET COURSES**

**Archimedes Activities
Introduction to Computer Science
Technology Wizards**

**COMPUTER STUDIES
GRADES K-2
MAGNET COURSES**

ARCHIMEDES ACTIVITIES

Do you ever wonder how a computer works? Are you interested in learning how to create pictures/graphics on the computer? Curious about how the computer can help you do your schoolwork? Students will explore the world of technology integrated with basic math concepts and have fun learning how computers help people get work done!

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

Learn the basic concepts of Computer Science with drag and drop programming. Lessons blend game-like tutorials with unplugged classroom activities and short video clips. Students will learn repeat-loops, conditionals, and basic algorithms.

TECHNOLOGY WIZARDS (COMPUTER EXPRESS)

Calling all techies! This course is designed to introduce students to the parts of the computer and their functions. Students will learn Internet Safety as well as respect for the technology equipment. Students will become technology wizards by learning basic keyboarding skills, drawing and word processing programs, and presentation skills.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION
GRADES K-2
MAGNET COURSES**

**Beginning Gymnastics
Jump for Fun
Lifetime Sports
New Games I
PE Variety
Racquet Sports
Ready, Set, Move
Rhythms, Ropes, Hoops, and Chutes
Sports Arena**

**HEALTH
GRADES K-2
MAGNET COURSES**

**Familiar Feelings/Who Am I?
Friendship Special
Growing Strong
Human Machine, The**

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

BEGINNING GYMNASTICS

Learn all about the different events of gymnastics. Students will learn the basic skills used on the floor, balance beam, vault and bars. Students will work individually and in small groups developing their skills and will perform their skills at the end of the quarter.

JUMP FOR FUN

This course is designed for those interested in jumping rope. Students will develop their rhythm, coordination, balance and timing as they learn individual, partner and long rope (double-dutch) skills. Students will then use those skills and work together in small groups to build and create routines for presentation. This class will include activities for beginner and advanced jumpers.

LIFETIME SPORTS

This course is designed for the student who is interested in investigating and developing skills in a variety of lifetime sport activities. Students will learn the basic skills, rules and regulations, game play and strategies associated with sports that can be played at any age. Individual and dual sports to be covered in the course may include sports such as tennis, badminton, bowling, golf, and horseshoes.

NEW GAMES I

Students will participate in a wide variety of games which focus on the joy of play, cooperation, and trust, rather than simply striving to win. These games are based upon the philosophy, "Play hard, play fair, nobody hurt." Activity level will range from physically active to quiet group games. Good sportsmanship will be emphasized as well as practice in basic movement skills.

PE VARIETY

Do you want to have fun while learning about lots of different games and sports? Students will learn a variety of skills used in many different sports. Students will develop locomotor, non-locomotor and manipulative skills such as running, jumping, throwing and kicking through different games. In addition, students will develop positive social skills and safe practices through group activities.

RACQUET SPORTS

Learn to play tennis and badminton! Students will learn about serving, forehands, backhands, and volleys in tennis and badminton. Students will work individually, with partners, and in small groups to learn how to keep score and referee the games. To improve play, students will use USTA certified QuickStart tennis equipment as well as modified badminton equipment.

READY, SET, MOVE

This is a course for kindergartners designed to strengthen gross motor skills by using large muscle groups. The activities will include imitating body movements, identifying and using body parts, and manipulating their bodies in space.

RHYTHMS, ROPES, HOOPS, AND CHUTES

This course is designed to improve basic locomotor and manipulative skills in K-1 students while also improving total body coordination. Students will work with a variety of equipment to work on group cooperation with emphasis on sharing and teamwork. Rhythms and ropes will also be introduced to increase rhythm competency...

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
HEALTH**

SPORTS ARENA

For the young athlete who enjoys team sports, this course will emphasize basic skill development which is essential to succeeding in sports. The importance of physical fitness, good sportsmanship, and working as a team will be stressed as students participate in drills and pre-game situations.

FAMILIAR FEELINGS/ WHO AM I?

Building an awareness of feelings - one's own and others - broadens learning about personal relationships and communication skills. In this course, students will explore their feelings and be assisted in understanding effects on growth and development. Students will be given opportunities to examine their strengths and build on these strengths to develop positive self-awareness and self-concept.

FRIENDSHIP SPECIAL

This course will center around how to interact positively with peers. After completing this course students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the value and responsibility of friendships and personal interactions.

GROWING STRONG

Don't be a couch potato! Get off the couch and get fit....you're worth it! Learn positive ways to get and stay healthy. Activities will include fun ways to develop good health and safety habits. Take it one step at a time and learn the "inside" story, get moving, get strong, and eat well. Put it all together to build one healthy you!

HUMAN MACHINE, THE

What part of the human body if stretched out would measure 25 feet in length? Give up? The intestines! Learn more fascinating information about the fabulous and incredible human body machine in this elective. You will learn all about the amazing systems of the body and see how they work together to keep you growing strong.

**VISUAL ARTS
GRADES K-2
MAGNET COURSES**

**All Together
Animals in Art
Clay Sculpture
Feel of Things, The
Make It From Paper
Making Rainbows
Modern Art: Art on the Computer
Paper Sculpture
Printmaking
Puppetry
Shape of Things, The**

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
VISUAL ARTS**

ALL TOGETHER

Students will explore a variety of art media to build their skills of drawing, painting, cutting and pasting, and sculpting.

ANIMALS IN ART

Students interested in animals will have the opportunity to research, draw, paint, model, and cut to portray prehistoric, real, and imaginary animals.

CLAY SCULPTURE

Using a variety of techniques, students will learn the clay process and discover the possibilities of the uses of natural clay.

FEEL OF THINGS, THE

Using a variety of art media, students will develop skills in creating visual and tactile textures.

MAKE IT FROM PAPER

This course revolves around paper as a single medium for making art. Students will explore, develop and use cut paper techniques to create original visual images. Experiences with two-dimensional and three-dimensional compositions will provide students with an in-depth awareness of paper's potential.

MAKING RAINBOWS

Students will learn to mix secondary colors using primary colors, and mix tints and shades for use in paintings. Tempera, watercolors, and finger paints will be used.

MODERN ART: ART ON THE COMPUTER

This course is designed as an introductory course for our young students to learn how to create art using the computer. In an effort to integrate art and technology, students will complete traditional art lessons in a very 21st century way! The course will address curriculum goals in writing, math, science and social studies while simultaneously addressing fine art standards. (Recommended for first and second graders.)

PAPER SCULPTURE

Simple construction with paper and lightweight cardboard will be developed as a result of learning the skills of folding, curling, slotting, multiple cutting and cutting on the line.

PRINTMAKING

Students will learn to use a variety of materials from gadgets to cardboard to explore making monoprints and multiple images. They will learn the fundamentals of repetition, pattern, and original motifs. They will use printmaking as a vehicle for making artistic creations as well as craft items.

PUPPETRY

Students will make simple hand puppets using a variety of materials and will learn simple performance techniques.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
VISUAL ARTS**

SHAPE OF THINGS, THE

This advanced course is for students who have developed their cutting skills and wish to explore complex cutting techniques in a two and three dimensional manner.

**PERFORMING ARTS
GRADES K-2
MAGNET COURSES**

Music

Chorus K-2
Experiences with Music and Movement
Making the Classics Connect
Meet and Make Musical Instruments
Music We Can Play and Sing
“Orff”-Estra
Rhythm Band
Story Time for Young Listeners
There's Magic in Music

Drama

Creative Drama
Introduction to the Stage
Mime
Theater Games

Dance

Creative Movement
Dance the Story
Exploring Ballet
Exploring Dance Styles
Folk Dance
Intro to Creative Dance
Let's Move I
Let's Move II
Storybook Dance
1,2,3,4, Tap, Tap, Tap
Yoga for Kids

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
MUSIC**

CHORUS, K-2

Students will learn to produce a good singing tone with their voices. Students will be exposed to a variety of pieces from different styles and periods. These prepared pieces may be performed for school programs and functions.

EXPERIENCES WITH MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Through this study students will learn how movement can correlate with other areas. Movement will be introduced through poetry, rhythms, recorded music, and stories. Students will create original movements to accompany these various areas.

MAKING THE CLASSICS CONNECT

Roll over Beethoven! This is a course designed to make learning about classical music fun and exciting. Students will create, listen, illustrate, move, conduct works by, and read about the masters of classical music.

MEET AND MAKE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

This course is an introduction to the four families of instruments: strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Students will meet these instruments through stories, songs, films, and performances. Percussion instruments will be played. Students will learn to read and perform percussion scores.

MUSIC WE CAN PLAY AND SING

Through a sequential, vocal/instrumental approach, children will be introduced to music reading skills. Emphasis will be on both rhythmic and melodic notation.

"ORFF"-ESTRA

This course is based on Carl Orff's unique approach to music. Students will be exposed to a variety of activities (singing, chanting rhymes, dancing, keeping a beat, and playing instruments) that will enhance their natural way of learning music. Special instruments will be used to insure successful music experiences. "Orff"-estra introduces students to a lifetime of pleasure in music.

RHYTHM BAND

Students will learn to play various rhythm instruments correctly. They will experience a variety of activities using the fundamentals of rhythm. Students will learn to read simple percussion scores.

STORY TIME FOR YOUNG LISTENERS

Listening is essential and basic to all musical experiences. Through a variety of integrated arts activities, students will hear and study famous classical compositions, their stories/origins, and their composers.

THERE'S MAGIC IN MUSIC

Students will discover the magic of music through singing while discovering the joy of listening to recordings and making creative responses to action songs and dances.

ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
DRAMA

CREATIVE DRAMA

This course will give students the opportunity to learn about acting and the stage. They will explore their own experiences through acting, improvisation, and short plays. Students will expand their senses in developing characters and situations. It is suggested that they take this course before selecting INTRODUCTION TO THE STAGE.

INTRODUCTION TO THE STAGE

In this introductory drama course students will learn about various aspects of the theater. Students will discover the role of the actor, director, and stage technician, and will become familiar with makeup, costumes, sets, and props. They may also produce a short play.

MIME

This course will involve students in the art of dramatics through mime. Students will learn pantomime techniques, enact popular and original stories, and participate in student performances.

THEATER GAMES

Through hands-on activities students will participate in improvisational theater activities to build concentration, stage presence, communication skills, self-confidence, and cooperative skills.

ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
DANCE

CREATIVE MOVEMENT

This course is designed to build on the creative skills that were introduced in LET'S MOVE and to explore the basic elements of movement composition.

DANCE THE STORY

Choreography and performance will be the focus of this elective. Students will connect the elements of dance: space, time and energy, from inspirations in world literature and nonfiction articles. Performance opportunities include: Downtown Raleigh's SparkCon, A Parent-Student "Teach In" and informal sharings with other elective classes. A service learning project will be developed based on the themes explored this quarter.

EXPLORING BALLET

This course will introduce students to the basic skills and terminology of ballet. Students will learn the history of ballet as well as the format of a typical ballet class. The students will develop strength, flexibility and the knowledge of proper body alignment.

EXPLORING DANCE STYLES

In this introductory course to the basic movement principles that pertain to all dance styles, students will begin to develop strength, coordination, and flexibility.

FOLK DANCE

Students will become familiar with the basic steps, rhythmic patterns, and dance tunes of many countries.

INTRO TO CREATIVE DANCE

This course will introduce the basic concepts of movement: Space, Time, Force, and Body by engaging students in fun dance activities and games. Students will use music, instruments, ribbon, streamers and balloons to enhance their learning. The course will explore the difference between locomotor and non-locomotor movement. This course will focus on developing creativity, increasing kinesthetic awareness, and integrating basics with dance.

LET'S MOVE I

In this course students will be given the opportunity to explore the basic elements of movement: time, space, energy, and shape. The focus will be on developing the natural creative skills of each individual, and heightening kinesthetic and spatial awareness.

LET'S MOVE II

Students will continue their creative exploration of movement. Teacher-directed experiences, as well as partner and group discoveries, will be introduced.

ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
DANCE

STORYBOOK DANCE

How would famous storybook characters tell their tale if they could only communicate through dance? Many stories such as *The Little Red Hen*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, and the Egyptian folk-tale of *The Golden Flower* can be used for students to explore and communicate meaning through movement. Each dance will develop through the reading and discussion of the story and finally the performance of the story. The students will be actively involved in deciding the movement choreography as well as making props, costumes, and scenery for their performance of the story dances.

1, 2, 3, 4, TAP, TAP, TAP

Did you know that anyone can tap dance? If you like to make noise and can count to four, you can learn too! In this elective, students will learn how to recognize and demonstrate basic tap dancing technique. At the same time, this course will reinforce primary math skills such as patterning, spatial and number sense.

YOGA FOR KIDS

Students in this course will practice asana (postures) to build strong, flexible bodies and pranayama (breath control) to calm the mind, as well as, play games and sing songs that enable students to deepen this practice. They will learn many words in the ancient language of Sanskrit and how yoga evolved. Opportunities for service in the local community will also be emphasized (Karma Kids).

**CONTEMPORARY ARTS
GRADES K-2
MAGNET COURSES**

**Beginning Chess I
Chess II
Do It Yourself Workshop
Fine for Me
What's Cooking? / Taste Teasers**

**MEDIA
GRADES K-2
MAGNET COURSES**

**Media Magic
Photography: Take a Look
Storybook Friends**

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
CONTEMPORARY ARTS**

CHESS I

Students will study the history and fundamentals of chess. Time will be provided for them to develop skills in chess.

CHESS II

This course is designed for students who are knowledgeable of the fundamentals of chess and wish to improve and/or increase their skills and learn how to make notations.

DO IT YOURSELF WORKSHOP

This “hands on” elective will allow students to use basic tools appropriately and safely to explore woodworking. Students will design, calculate, problem solve, and complete a variety of projects.

FINE FOR ME

Ready, Set, Cut, Trace, Build, Create and Write. Join in for a fun way to develop fine motor control, eye-hand coordination and handwriting skills.

WHAT'S COOKING? / TASTE TEASERS

This course will introduce students to basic kitchen tools and equipment and their proper uses. Students will participate in activities designed to encourage experimentation with basic food preparation. Good eating habits will be emphasized while students have fun tasting and learning the nutritional value of a variety of foods.

ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES K-2
MEDIA

MEDIA MAGIC

The student will design, produce, and/or select a variety of media formats to present information, such as a computer “slide show” accompanied by a soundtrack. Appropriate operational skills will be included as a part of the project.

PHOTOGRAPHY: TAKE A LOOK

Students will be introduced to photography as a means of communication. Their visual perception will be enhanced through exciting class projects. Students will create photograms, practice basic camera skills, and learn how to take pictures.

STORYBOOK FRIENDS

This course will introduce many types of characters in favorite storybooks. It will focus on the importance of characters and their character traits. Students will learn about fairy/ folk-tale, animal, and real-life characters. Students will communicate their understanding of these characters in a variety of literature extension activities such as puppets, character sketches, illustrations, published books, and dramatizations.

Elective Course Descriptions

3-5

**LANGUAGE ARTS
GRADES 3-5
MAGNET COURSES**

Awesome Artistic Authors
Best of the Best 3-5 - AIG
Blue Ribbon Books
Bookmaker's Workshop
Cinderella Around the World
Classy Readers
Critical Thinking Through Literature
Curious Creatures
Fantastic Literature - AIG
FBI Investigations
I Love a Mystery - AIG
It's Comical! - AIG
Journalism
Junior Great Books
Laugh Out Loud
Literary Critics
Literary Styles: Poetry - AIG
Literary Styles: Short Stories - AIG
Media Masters: The Truth About Advertising AIG
Mystical Mythology: Mortal or Monster?
Narnia - AIG
Odyssey of the Mind - AIG
Out of This World
Pattern Detectors & Decoders
Pen Pals
Play Writing
Public Speaking and Debate - AIG
Puppet Theatre
Reader's Theater
Reading the World: Believe It or Not
Reading and Writing Poetry
Sensational Sagas
Sign Language 3-5
Soar to Success: Grade 3
Soar to Success: Grade 4
Soar to Success: Grade 5
Speaking Out
Sports Fever
Storytelling 3-5
Talk About It Book Club
Writing Explorers (Creative Composition)- AIG
Writing Rev-Up

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
LANGUAGE ARTS**

AWESOME ARTISTIC AUTHORS

Students will have the opportunity to make, illustrate, and write their own books. The books will highlight art skills and concepts, famous artists from around the world, and cultural diversity as well as commonalities. While integrating the two disciplines of visual art and language arts, instruction will enable students to create a variety of exciting publications of their own.

BEST OF THE BEST 3-5 - AIG

Have you ever read a book written in rap? Followed an escape from an occupied county during war time? Take an adventure with a medieval prince? Learn a lesson about leadership based on a story over a hundred years old? During this elective students will discover and experience reading in a new way. Students will explore Newbery Award winning books and decide what sets these books apart from all the other books. In this course students will look closely at the criteria used to distinguish these books as the best of the best. Students will actively read and experience a variety of Newbery books from the past and present using thinking routines, analytical and critical skills in conjunction with literary elements (story elements, figurative language, point of view, and universal themes) and the arts. As they explore, discuss and debate the books through rigorous, project based active learning experiences (virtual field trips, drama, art, movement, music and poetry) students will discover what truly makes a book “The Best of the Best.”

BLUE RIBBON BOOKS

There is no better way to motivate students to read than to supply them with great literature that is enjoyed by kids everywhere. This course will allow students to explore many types of prize-winning literature. This elective will provide an opportunity for students to choose their own reading material and communicate their experiences with the other members of the class.

BOOKMAKERS WORKSHOP

Calling all student authors! Get your creative juices flowing! Learn from authors before you about the history of bookmaking as well as the art of bookmaking from start to finish. Then you, as an author yourself, will have the opportunity to make a variety of books, experience different ways that books are published and create a showcase of published pieces.

CINDERELLA AROUND THE WORLD

Pack your bags. Grab your passport. We are on a literature world tour to find Cinderella. Is she Appalachian, Creole, Chinese, Egyptian, or Jewish? Who helps her with magic? Is it a fairy godmother, fish, turkey, or dove? You will meet many different multicultural “Cinderellas” in this elective. Did you know there are over 1,500 versions of the Cinderella story dating back to the first century? Today there are 350 variants of the Cinderella tale. In this elective you will visit the seven continents and read a “Cinderella” story from many different countries while completing many activities and projects during the world tour.

CLASSY READERS

This high interest course is designed for students who have a strong desire to read, but need practice in applying reading skills. The course will emphasize reading as a fact-finding process incorporating thinking skills. Students will be exposed to an abundance of literature including the classics, fables, fairy tales, tall tales, poetry, and drama.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
LANGUAGE ARTS**

CRITICAL THINKING THROUGH LITERATURE

This course will teach students about the different levels of thinking and the different intelligences of all people. Students will investigate Bloom's Taxonomy and Howard Gardner's seven different preferences for learning before a literature study begins. In the literary study of the novels from different genres, students will complete activities in each of the different learning styles on each level of thinking as noted in Bloom's Taxonomy. Students will have the opportunity to engage in traditional learning activities such as vocabulary studies, comprehension quizzes, and unit texts while also exploring their own critical and creative thinking with projects and assignments involving music, logic, spatial awareness, body movements, and interpersonal relationships.

CURIOUS CREATURES

This course will help students develop their reading and writing skills through the study of Curious Creatures. Various types of literature and several types of writing will be explored throughout the course. Science and social studies content will be incorporated through activities that focus on life science, science process skills, and the themes of geography. Students will use research skills developed throughout the course to prepare an animal report as a conclusion to their course work.

FANTASTIC LITERATURE – AIG

Would you like to travel to new worlds or meet interesting characters with “out-of-the-ordinary” talents? Step into Fantastic Literature. In this course, students will evaluate the elements of fantasy as a genre. Students will explore the best of literature through reading and invigorating group discussions. Their study may include THE HOBBIT, THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH, A WRINKLE IN TIME, and CHRONICLES OF PRYDAIN. Join us! (Outside reading will be required.)

FBI INVESTIGATIONS

Calling all students! Have you ever wondered about how the FBI works? Grab your credentials and flip notebooks and become an FBI agent for our school. In this elective you will learn how to take fingerprints and use them to figure out who robbed the safe. Chromatology will be used to figure out the type of pen used in a ransom note as we investigate, “The Case of the Missing Cold Remedy.” You will then put all of these skills together and work with a team of agents to solve the mystery of the “Missing Statue.”

I LOVE A MYSTERY - AIG

Using the format of the mystery story, students will read and view classic mystery stories. These will include Sherlock Holmes, Nancy Drew, Agatha Christie, and Edgar Allen Poe. The story elements of character, setting, and plot will be examined and used in writing original stories. Deductive reasoning skills will be stressed.

IT'S COMICAL! - AIG

Students will explore the different types of humor used in comic strips. They will learn to analyze techniques used by a cartoonist and examine the development of characters, dialogue, plot, and theme. After an in-depth study of Charles Schultz's PEANUTS, young cartoonists will create comic strips of their own.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
LANGUAGE ARTS**

JOURNALISM

Come and explore the parts of a newspaper from headlines to comics. Learn to write various types of news articles from stories to editorials. Enjoy an opportunity to create and publish a school newspaper.

JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS

Students will read and discuss such challenging stories as *The Happy Prince*, *Aesop's Fables*, Rudyard Kipling's *Just-So Stories* and *The Red Balloon*. Creative activities will follow each interpretive discussion.

LAUGH OUT LOUD

Students will explore the different types of humor used in comic strips. They will learn to analyze techniques used by a cartoonist and examine the development of characters, dialogue, plot, and theme. Student will create comic strips of their own.

LITERARY CRITICS

Many good books have been published in the last few decades. Is it award-winning literature? Young readers are the best judges of good children's literature and, therefore, become the reading experts in this course. Students read, analyze story elements and author's style, and evaluate selected award-winning literature to discover what qualities make books great literature. How do the experts judge literature? What makes it great literature? In discussion groups, readers answer these questions, determine criteria by which to judge literature, create rubrics to evaluate literature, and use rubrics to rate the books of award-winning authors that have not won any major awards. This literature study course culminates with the students creating book projects that best demonstrate the great qualities of literature identified in the newly rated books. Projects will be displayed in the Media Center and rubric evaluations forwarded to the authors.

LITERARY STYLES: POETRY - AIG

Appreciation grows with exposure to poetry. This course is designed for gifted students or high-ability learners with high verbal skills, and for students who display a keen interest in poetry and an inclination towards creative writing. Students will write a variety of poetry forms, rhythmical patterning, incorporating similes, and metaphors. Culminating activities include conducting poetry readings for younger children, publishing a class anthology of students, poems with illustrations, and/or making a multimedia presentation to be shared with parents.

LITERARY STYLES: SHORT STORIES - AIG

Young authors write because they have something to say. They use their imaginations and build upon their experiences to create a story that has never been read before. This elective offers students the foundations and guidance to conceive, compose, and publish a short story. The course is designed for gifted students or high ability learners and for students who display a keen interest and aptitude in creative writing. The publishing of a class anthology of short stories will give these young authors a sense of pride and authorship.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
LANGUAGE ARTS**

MEDA MASTERS: THE TRUTH ABOUT ADVERTISING - AIG

Can you believe everything you see in those commercials? We live in a sea of advertising. It's everywhere we look. Students in this elective will have a chance to learn about persuasive techniques and judge the validity of products and services in an effort to become independent, well-informed consumers.

MYSTICAL MYTHOLOGY: MORTAL OR MONSTER?

Mythology is designed to introduce students to the world of mythology. Through research and investigation, students will become familiar with Greek gods and goddesses and how they have made an impact in our lives today.

NARNIA - AIG

The first of seven enchanting books, *THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE*, will be the basis for this course. The author, plot, setting, and major themes will be explored. This elective will combine both reading and creative writing experiences.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND - AIG

The heart of learning is a constant search for simple ways to solve problems. Hunches or leaps of insight, often called "aha," enable a person to see a clear and direct answer that has eluded others. This course will help to break down barriers to problem solving so that these creative leaps of the mind can occur. Students will prepare for O.M. competition which includes team-building and problem-solving strategies.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Fasten your seat belts and prepare to blast off into the world of science fiction. Learn about life on other planets, underground cities, and explore how the impossible is possible through a variety of language arts activities.

PATTERN DETECTORS & DECODERS

Spelling and reading big words is a great accomplishment for young learners. This active, hands-on elective will involve students in analyzing words and manipulating words. Through these hands-on activities, students learn to recognize and spell many big words. A beginning exploration of Latin and Greek roots and affixes will help students understand the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary as well. As a result, students will become better writers and readers.

PEN PALS

Students will participate in a variety of letter-writing experiences such as ordering materials, writing invitations, and corresponding with a pen pal. Emphasis will be on developing legibility and a personalized style in cursive handwriting.

PLAY WRITING

Imagination! That is what this course will require from young writers! Students will learn to organize their thoughts into writing. Are you the next Neil Simon? Samuel Beckett?? Sign up and find out! As they create their own plays, they will develop characters from fantasy, present day, historical, or futuristic settings.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
LANGUAGE ARTS**

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATE - AIG

In the first part of this course students will explore the production and reception of oral communication in three major types of public speaking: informative, persuasive, and entertaining. Emphasis will be on writing, delivering, and critiquing informal and formal speeches. The second portion of the course will be devoted to teaching students the elements of formal debate. Students will then use acquired skills to debate issues in class.

PUPPET THEATRE

Through the wonderful world of puppets theatre, students will expand their oral and written communication skills, explore theatrical elements, and develop artistic strategies while creating puppetry productions. Students will enhance their social skills by working in a cooperative and supportive environment.

READER'S THEATER

This course will teach oral interpretation of literature. Students will analyze literature as to the author's purpose, point of view, and setting. The analyzed work will then be read to an audience. Techniques of formal critical analysis will be developed. A world of words and images will be opened. This course stretches the imagination and develops intuitive dimensions by making new connections between words and feelings.

READING THE WORLD: BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

Our world can be a "tricky place to read". There are hidden messages surrounding us held within literature, television commercials, advertisements and so much more. It is essential that students have the reading skills to be critical thinkers and problem solvers in order to make responsible choices and come to logical conclusions. Reading the World: Believe it or Not? is a hands-on course that does just that! Students will have the opportunity to interact with engaging online activities, literature, classroom games and projects to teach the art of persuasion. Get ready to crack the code for "Reading Our World"!

READING AND WRITING POETRY

This course will address the reading and writing of poetry. Students in the intermediate grades will review basic reading skills such as syllabication, rhyming, and parts of speech while learning new vocabulary associated with the essential elements of poetry. Different styles and types of poetry will be presented and studied along with poems from a variety of authors. A study of these authors along with journal reflections will be essential in developing each student's own personal style. Students will be encouraged to create their own original poems in each of the styles presented and publish their poems in a presentation of their planning and design.

SENSATIONAL SAGAS

Enter the world of fabulous folktales! Students will strengthen both their receptive and expressive literacy skills as they begin to understand and appreciate the three unique types of folktales. Fairy Tales, Fables, and Myths will be shared, created, compared and contrasted in this literacy rich elective. Students will be engaged in and enjoy the art of the written and spoken "story".

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
LANGUAGE ARTS**

SIGN LANGUAGE 3-5

How do deaf people communicate? What is it like to be deaf? How can I show respect for those who are deaf? Sign language is one of the world's most universal languages. The Sign Language 2 course will provide both expressive and receptive practice in signing the alphabet, words, phrases, and songs. It will also help students to understand the culture of the deaf population and how to counteract the stereotypes of the deaf. Students will explore poems and stories from different deaf and non-deaf perspectives and will have the opportunity to create a research presentation! (There is no pre-requisite experience required for this course.)

SOAR TO SUCCESS: GRADE 3

The primary goal of this eighteen week elective is to raise third students' reading ability to grade level or above and to help them learn and apply reading strategies (predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing) across the curriculum. Teacher recommendation is required to take this course.

SOAR TO SUCCESS: GRADE 4

The primary goal of this eighteen week elective is to raise fourth students' reading ability to grade level or above and to help them learn and apply reading strategies (predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing) across the curriculum. Teacher recommendation is required to take this course.

SOAR TO SUCCESS: GRADE 5

The primary goal of this eighteen week elective is to raise fifth students' reading ability to grade level or above and to help them learn and apply reading strategies (predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing) across the curriculum. Teacher recommendation is required to take this course.

SPEAKING OUT

SPEAKING OUT introduces the skills and techniques necessary for speaking effectively to others. Practical everyday speaking skills such as requesting information, handling emergencies, making introductions, and taking messages will be addressed. Students will practice organizing, writing, and delivering speeches as classroom speaking and listening skills are developed.

SPORTS FEVER

So it's 1,2,3 strikes you're out at the old ball game! Touchdown! Score! Goal! Are you a sports fan? If so, this is the course for you. In this course, you will read a variety of literature that focuses on sports and athletes. Students will explore the role of sports in the United States and around the world, and how the sports we watch and play shape our identity, culture, and society.

STORYTELLING 3-5

The primary purpose of this course is to develop lifelong enrichment and personal enjoyment in storytelling. Students will participate in an art form as old as language itself. They will be taught the skills to become storytellers through practicing the techniques and strategies used by professional storytellers. Folk tales, hero stories, epics, legends, and original stories will be shared through storytelling sessions. Students will focus on the elements of a story while reading, viewing, and listening to various types of tales. They will be encouraged to retell these stories in their own words using various prompts such as flannel boards, puppets, pictures, and the like using appropriate voice

control and expression. Students will remain actively involved as they apply skills in reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking to create and present their own stories.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
LANGUAGE ARTS**

TALK ABOUT IT! BOOK CLUB

Join the club!

During this elective, students will have the opportunity to select from and read a variety of novels. This book club allows opportunities to read novels and participate in small group seminars/discussions. Follow-up extension projects will be generated through the use of computers, songs, advertisements, literature circles, Paideia seminars, and other book enrichment choices. Students will present their book projects creatively and participate in the development of a collection of book reviews for the school library.

WRITNG EXPLORERS (CREATIVE COMPOSITION)-AIG

Forms of writing are all around us. Students will navigate through writing using their creative ideas to make the words on the page come alive! Put your thinking caps on and join us on this journey. In this course emphasis will be placed on descriptive wording, figurative language, creative techniques, and collaboration. Students will be expected to participate in a daily journal and will incorporate the writing process through each writing piece.

WRITING REV-UP

Grab your pencils, stir your imagination, and shuffle the papers for this elective. Students will be using the writing process as they become writers of letters, advertisements, descriptions, and short narratives.

**SOCIAL STUDIES
GRADES 3-5
MAGNET COURSES**

Archaeology AIG
Around the World in 30 Days - AIG
Character on Trial
Cradles of Civilization
Creative Problem Solving - AIG
Crystal Ball, The - AIG
Cultural Kaleidoscope
From Caveman to the Great Wall - AIG
Great Inventors: Discoveries Through the Decades
Holidays Around the World
If You Had Been There
Lessons in Leadership
Let Your Voice Be Heard
Liberty! The American Revolution
Life in the Colonies
Mysteries of Egypt
Native Americans: Algonquin to Zuni
People Who Made America
Perspectives of African American History and Culture
Soaring Skyscrapers
Tar Heel Junior Historians
Think About It! Philosophy & Logic - AIG
U.S. Geography
We the People - AIG
What's My Line?
Wild Wild West, The
World of Wonders

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
SOCIAL STUDIES**

ARCHAEOLOGY: DIGGING UP THE PAST - AIG

Archaeology is the study of past cultures and a popular subject with elementary students. This elective is designed for gifted students or high-achieving learners because of its complexity of content, its interplay between science and humanities, and its abstract ideas which require critical thinking and creativity. Critical thinking skills are emphasized as students engage in experiential learning, scientific inquiry, productive thinking, experimentation, and the simulation of an archaeological dig. Students are introduced to the skills needed for an independent research project and are given a choice of topic, in keeping with each student's particular interests and learning styles. Children will learn to appreciate the science of archaeology and realize that we all are "stewards of the past."

AROUND THE WORLD IN 30 DAYS - AIG

Geography and map skills will be practiced as we travel the globe. Research skills will be used to learn about the countries of the world. Booklets or computer databases will be used to compile basic facts about the countries studied.

CHARACTER ON TRIAL

Character on Trial offers children the opportunity to make global connections between character and the law by considering a myriad of multicultural fairy tales from multiple perspectives and, ultimately, bringing a familiar villain to trial. As students learn about the evolution of our own legal system and its unique place in world history, they will develop note-taking and letter-writing skills, use inductive and deductive reasoning to evaluate the merits of an argument, hypothesize the causes and effects of various actions, question the reliability of witnesses, and prioritize a host of issues.

CRADLES OF CIVILIZATION

Students will spend 8 weeks discovering the history and culture behind 4 of the major civilizations that have been influential in shaping our world today. Students will study, cook, create crafts, role play, read and write literature while taking an in-depth look at Greece, China, Egypt, and Rome.

CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING - AIG

Students will look at problems and decisions they face daily and imaginary scenarios. They will learn a six-step method for solving problems (CPS). Creative Problem Solving will be applied in the class.

CRYSTAL BALL, THE - AIG

In this course of study, students will be introduced to the concept of prediction, the ability to forecast future events. To make an accurate prediction one must make close observations, find relevant information, discover possible patterns, recognize trends, and infer what might happen under similar conditions in the future. Those who are good at this skill seek to use past and present information to forecast future events.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
SOCIAL STUDIES**

CULTURAL KALEIDOSCOPE

Cultural Kaleidoscope recognizes that cultures are dynamic and fluid. This study of cultures helps students to recognize that people share more commonalities than differences. In this social studies elective, students develop the knowledge needed to make informed decisions as citizens of a culturally diverse world. Students use various opportunities that integrate technology, language arts, and visual arts across several disciplines. Students gain knowledge of multiple cultural perspectives and identify examples of cultural diversity in the school and community. This course will provide opportunities for students to mentally formulate ideas and abstractions, utilize their artistic creativity, and integrate different core subjects.

FROM CAVEMAN TO THE GREAT WALL - AIG

This course will develop thought processes of students through a study of history. Students will experience various learning activities about prehistoric man and early civilizations

GREAT INVENTORS –DISCOVERIES THROUGH THE DECADES

Studying great inventors like Ben Franklin, Thomas Edison, and Granville T. Woods will provide students with role models to design inventions of their own. Patents, advertising, marketing, corporations, and stockholders will be investigated.

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Throughout the world there are many different holidays celebrated in various ways. In this course students will study the purpose of holidays and types of celebrations, including the different customs, costumes, games, foods, and traditions. By studying holidays students gain a better understanding of other people in the world. Special emphasis will be placed on activities to develop positive attitudes towards other cultures.

IF YOU HAD BEEN THERE

Do you know where your individual freedoms and rights originated? This course will focus on the fundamental documents and principles upon which our freedom depends. Students will study such documents as the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the Emancipation Proclamation. Students will participate in hands-on activities that will allow students to feel like authentic colonists that lived during the time period. Activities include a timeline, journal, stories, letter writing, creating a commercial, brochure, news article and rap song. As they study these documents, students will have a thorough understanding of the efforts that founding Americans stressed to build the foundation of democracy of the America we live in today.

LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

Students will study leadership techniques and the characteristics of persons that are, or have been, influential leaders in our country. Students will be asked to assume school leadership roles and practice techniques acquired through this course.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

Students will explore the issues of involved citizenship and studying the operation of school, municipal, and state government. Responsibilities of citizens and officials will be emphasized.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
SOCIAL STUDIES**

LIBERTY! THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

This elective describes the conflicting views held by American colonists and the British government. Students will learn about the problems that arose for England and the colonies. Students will learn how the colonists finally declared their independence, fought to make independence a reality, and formed a new nation.

LIFE IN THE COLONIES

This elective will explore Colonial Life in America, with an emphasis on New England and Virginia. The students will develop an in-depth understanding of the lifestyle of Colonial families through books, stories, craft activities, games, and projects. They will keep a journal of their journey through the Colonial Period. They will have an opportunity to select an item of interest, research it, and create a presentation to share with the class. As a culminating activity, the students will use their knowledge to create a Colonial Fair to share with other students and family members.

MYSTERIES OF EGYPT

Sail down the Nile and explore the dynasties of Ancient Egypt. Students will investigate a mummy's tomb, pyramids, hieroglyphics, King Tut and much more. Through this historical study, the mysteries of Egypt will unfold.

NATIVE AMERICANS: ALGONQUIN TO ZUNI

This course will emphasize the culture, contributions, and heritage of North Carolina Indians, past and present.

PEOPLE WHO MADE AMERICA

This course will focus on the lives of people who helped influence and form the America we live in today. Men and women of different cultures and viewpoints from earliest times to the present will be studied.

PERSPECTIVES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE (formerly AFRICAN AMERICANS IN US HISTORY)

Long before Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, Harriet Tubman, and other famous African American names were etched into American history, thousands of little-known individuals helped to overcome the challenges of injustices and make significant contributions to our society. For example, did you know there were over 9,000 African American cowboys that settled the American West? Or, that the first modern day technology inventions were patented by African Americans? There are so many interesting facts to learn about the challenges and contributions for African Americans to American society. In this elective, students will learn and discuss the experiences of African Americans in the U.S..

SOARING SKYSCRAPERS

Students will study the largest cities in the United States. They will review locations, populations, contributions, and points of interest.

TAR HEEL JUNIOR HISTORIANS

An exciting approach to North Carolina history, this club investigates the history and preserves the heritage of our great state. The club is sponsored through the NC Museum of History, includes many student projects, and may include statewide competitions.

*Gifted and Talented Elementary
Updated 12/21*

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
SOCIAL STUDIES**

THINK ABOUT IT! PHILOSOPHY AND LOGIC - AIG

Join Harry Stottlemeir, a fictional fifth grade philosopher, who ponders such questions as why the statement “all cucumbers are vegetables” is true, but “all vegetables are cucumbers” is false. If you would like to debate issues, share concerns, be inquisitive, or improve your reasoning skills, this course is for you.

US GEOGRAPHY

The United States is a vast country with a diverse geography, history, and people. Students will use the five themes of geography (Location – absolute and relative, Description of Place – physical and cultural, Human-Environment Interactions, Movement, and Regions) as a lens through which they can view and develop a more complete understanding of the United States. Students will learn about landforms, climate, history, and culture of the different regions. Students will engage in a range of hands-on activities that will include building sod and adobe houses, creating a newspaper article about African-American cowboys, recording their relative location with compasses, and making a mathematical representation of an 1,800 square mile buffalo herd.

WE THE PEOPLE – AIG

Students will build an understanding of how our government works at various levels. Students will explore the three levels of government, analyze the U.S. Constitution and explore laws, courts, juries, verdicts, and sentences. Students will understand that laws must be followed, that they are responsible for obeying the laws of our government and how to be a productive, responsible citizen.

WHAT’S MY LINE?

This course will study how families earn their money. Jobs in homes, schools, neighborhoods, and communities will be explored and the resources and services needed.

WILD WILD WEST, THE

Cowboys, outlaws, wagon trains...what was the Wild West all about? In this course students will discover the reasons settlers traveled to the west and various trails available to them. They will learn what life was like on the trail and how life was different once they settled in the new frontier.

WORLDS OF WONDER

In this unit, students will explore the spectacular, mysterious and wonderful world around them. Students will become “global geniuses”, gaining deeper knowledge of geography of North Carolina, the United States, North American, and the Earth. The students will be involved in activities where they use their creativity to understand the world, such as building 3-dimensional models, making maps, producing multimedia travel guides, and using food to create landforms. The students will utilize computers and available media technologies to learn about the Earth’s geography.

**MATHEMATICS
GRADES 3-5
MAGNET COURSES**

Aha! Insight Problem Solving
Algebra Allies
Architecture - AIG
Calculator Math
Freaky Fractions
Further Investigations
Further with Numbers - AIG
Geometric Design - AIG
Geometric Genius
Get to the Point: Decimals
Global Math
Jammin' Geometry
Let's Make a Million - AIG
Logic and Problem Solving - AIG
Maharajas' Tasks: Investigating Division
Math in Motion
Measuring Up
Mind Benders
Moolah Mania
Multiplication and Division
Nine Out of Ten
Sampling Statistics
Supreme Strategies
Topology (Introduction) - AIG

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
MATHEMATICS**

AHA! INSIGHT PROBLEM SOLVING

At the heart of learning is a constant search for simpler and simpler ways to solve problems. Hunches or leaps of insight often enable a person to see a clear and direct answer that has eluded others. This unit will help to break down barriers to problem solving so these creative leaps of mind can occur. This unit presents problems in six categories: combinatorial, geometric, number, logic, procedural and verbal. Students will develop guidelines for problem approaches that encourage "aha" reactions.

ALGEBRA ALLIES

This elective is designed to introduce the third, fourth, and fifth grade students to algebra and develop their foundation in algebraic thinking, reasoning, and recording. Fictional professors introduce the students to various algebraic functions using a "Fabulous Function Machine", a "Morph Machine", and special scale. Students will have the opportunity to practice computational and mental math skills, use T-tables and variables, express and solve algebraic equations, investigate area and perimeter through the lens of algebra, and identify the commutative properties of addition and multiplication. Students will use Math Journals to reflect, record, and explain what they are learning. As a culminating activity, students will use their acquired knowledge to design their own bedroom floor plan and/or create a "Balancing Mobile" that balances algebraic equations.

ARCHITECTURE - AIG

Students will learn how to relate many subject areas to the environment of home, school, and neighborhood through the study of architecture. They will learn the significance of the built environment and its impact on society. This course is designed for high-achieving students who have a fascination with buildings and bridges. Critical thinking skills are emphasized and students will be given opportunities to make decisions on how we might enrich and protect our architectural environment.

CALCULATOR MATH

A pocket calculator can save time in solving math problems. Find out how this instrument can use its memory to help you find answers quickly.

FREAKY FRACTIONS

This course provides reinforcement and enrichment with fractions for fourth and fifth graders. Students will become aware of the variety of ways in which fractions are commonly used, develop a repertoire of visual models for fractions, and apply these models flexibly and appropriately as they solve problems with fractions. All activities are designed to help students see the connections between fraction concepts and real-life experience.

FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS

This course focuses on the processes of data analysis – collecting, organizing, representing, and interpreting data. Through collecting and analyzing real data, students develop and use ideas and tools from key areas of mathematics - counting, measuring, sorting and classification, estimation, graphing, computation in context, measurement, and statistics. Students are also introduced to appropriate uses of computers and calculators for data analysis.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
MATHEMATICS**

FURTHER WITH NUMBERS -AIG

This course provides both horizontal and vertical enrichment for the student who loves math and likes challenges! Students will look carefully at other number systems, other bases, and strange and wonderful math patterns and theorems; solve simple algebraic equations; build a city of polyhedron shapes; and "taste" probability

GEOMETRIC DESIGN - AIG

Have you ever been to an amusement park? Have you ever successfully traced a line through a maze? Do you know what characteristics a shape must have to be called a polygon? In this class, you will study the history of geometry and use the concepts of line, angle, and shape, to solve design challenges. You will see where these geometric elements exist in the world around you as you work to fully develop an understanding of vocabulary and principles of geometry. You will be working creatively both alone and with classmates on specific tasks that provide opportunities to read, write, speak, and listen to others speak about thoughts and ideas as we build deeper understanding of geometry concepts. Come join us on an a-maze-ing journey!

GEOMETRIC GENIUS

Students will focus on relationships among geometric figures, specifically three-dimensional polyhedra made from two dimensional polygons. The goal of this course is to give students concrete experiences with the properties of geometric figures and the opportunity to develop geometric insights and spatial reasoning. Students will compute and construct to build a colony of the future!

GET TO THE POINT: DECIMALS

This engaging investigation of decimals gives students opportunities to explore those tricky little "mathematical points". The focus of the investigation is to help students make connections between the mathematical concepts represented by deconstruct, compute, mal points and real-life experience.

GLOBAL MATH

Students will explore the origins of numeric systems and the people who developed these systems. Students will learn that not all number systems were created equally, but in their own ways were effective for the timeframe in which they were used. Students will be given an opportunity to compare and contrast various numeric systems as well as to determine the need for standardization of measurement.

JAMMIN' GEOMETRY

Students will explore and learn about two and three dimensional shapes as they participate in, among other things, an engaging project called "Polyhedrville".

LET'S MAKE A MILLION - AIG

Bill Gates, look out! Students will learn about the Stock Market and follow their "money" on the stock exchange. Students will also learn the operations of a company as they write a constitution, elect board members, sell stock in their company, and make and sell a product.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
MATHEMATICS**

LOGIC AND PROBLEM SOLVING - AIG

Thinking and reasoning skills will be developed in this course. Students will discover techniques for solving problems through appropriate activities which will include logic puzzles, deductive thinking exercises, and flow charting.

MAHARAJAS' TASKS: INVESTIGATING DIVISION

Students will participate in an exciting variety of division experiences to ensure that they learn the purposes and the process of dividing. Students will divide in all kinds of contexts and learn to process division in a way that makes sense to them.

MATH IN MOTION

This course will introduce students to the mathematics of dance. Each class will begin with a warm up that incorporates technique with the concepts taught throughout the quarter. Most concepts will then be explored using creative problem solving, and will have both written and movement components. Students will also generate their own choreography using math concepts and design their own rubric for assessment.

MEASURING UP

This course will provide students with practice using both the standard and metric systems of measurement. Students will explore both systems of measurement through engaging, hands-on activities that are based on NCTM standards. Time, capacity, length, mass, and temperature will be investigated allowing students to make real-world connections to the uses and applications of measurement skills and concepts.

MIND BENDERS

Math is all around us – at times right in front of our noses, and at other times mysteriously disguised. In this course students will explore the pattern, puzzles, mysteries, relationships, and fun of mathematics.

MOOLAH MANIA

This course is an introduction to economics for elementary students. It teaches the value of money in our society and simulates businesses so that students can really understand economics in the real world. For poorly motivated students, the power of money can spark interest in learning.

MULTIPLICATION AND DIVISION

This course will provide students with practice using multiplication and division facts through the use of drill and practice, games, and applications.

NINE OUT OF TEN

Have you ever wondered what it meant when the weather man said there is an 80 percent chance of rain? When you flip a coin, what is the chance that it will turn up heads? If the phone rings, most likely there will be someone on the other end. Learn all about probability when you take “Nine out of Ten.”

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
MATHEMATICS**

SAMPLING STATISTICS

Be a real statistician solving real world problems. Students will collect, represent and interpret real data about topics that matter to them. Their investigations will follow a process similar to adult statisticians which generally includes considering the problem, collecting and recording data, describing the data and developing hypotheses and theories based on the data.

SUPREME STRATEGIES

Students will devise creative strategies and techniques for solving these real-life mathematical problems. They will understand and solve word problems.

TOPOLOGY (INTRODUCTION) - AIG

Students will explore which properties of figures (lines, surfaces, and solids) do not change even after stretching, shrinking, and distorting. This will be accomplished by using balloons, beads, elastic, mazes, Mobius Loops, soap films, and clay. There will be ample time for group discussions and individual creations.

**SCIENCE
GRADES 3-5
MAGNET COURSES**

Adventures in Space
Aeronautics - AIG
Aquatic World
Birds
Blooming Botany!
Coastal Ecology
Cosmic Education
Ecology - AIG
Energy - AIG
Engineering the Environment
Entomology for Everyone (Insect Study)
Garden Design: Botanist Designers
Geology - AIG
Introduction to Engineering
Inventions (Design Engineering) - AIG
Let's Experiment
Magnificent Mammals - AIG
Mammals Are Amazing
My Wonderful Body Machine
Nature News
Physics in Action - AIG
Project Starwalk (Astronomy)
Project Wild
Reptiles, Amphibians, Fishes
Robotics
Rocks and Minerals: Treasures from the Earth
Science Olympiad
Scientific Reasoning - AIG
Simple Machines
The Rainforest
The Secret Life of Water (Water, Oh Precious Water)
Tree-mendous
Volts, Ohms, and Watts
Wave Rave
Weather Watchers
What Makes It Tick?
What's the Matter? (Kitchen Chemistry)
Zoology - AIG

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
SCIENCE**

ADVENTURES IN SPACE

In this course, students will study the solar system, the history of our space program, and methods of flight/space transportation.

AERONAUTICS - AIG

This is an exciting course that will explore man's infinite fascination with flight. The journey will begin with a study of the properties of matter (solids, liquids, and gases). Students will investigate the layers and composition of the earth's atmosphere and how air pressure affects the way different types of aircraft fly. Experiments with Newton's Laws of Motion and the Bernoulli Principle will help students better understand the historical journey of unmanned and manned flights, from hot air balloons to rockets. Students will even construct models and launch a few flights of their own!

AQUATIC WORLD

Approximately 70% of our earth is water. In order for us to live in harmony on and with the earth, we need to understand our relationship with water and appreciate our dependence on it. Students will study aquatic ecosystems with an emphasis on freshwater systems. This course will combine content reading with hands-on activities so that the study about water "comes alive."

BIRDS

This course offers a close look at the characteristics and adaptations of this fascinating group of vertebrates. Birds of prey, songbirds, marine, and freshwater fowl will be studied. Students will conduct research projects, construct bird feeders from recycled materials, and keep a record of birds observed during this course.

BLOOMING BOTANY

In this course students will dig in the dirt, play with plants, sample seeds, look at leaves and explore ecosystems. Join us as we learn all about plants and how they interact with their surrounding environment.

COASTAL ECOLOGY

Students in this course will study the North Carolina coastal region including its islands, sea life, ecosystems, and weather patterns. Students will learn the importance of the coast to become better environmental consumers and protectors.

COSMIC EDUCATION

This course is based on Montessori's 5 Great Lessons that is the foundation for all elementary level Montessori education. The word cosmic comes from the Greek "kosmos" which means order. The purpose of this course is to give a glimpse of the universe, to give an awareness of the whole world and to inspire imagination. This is especially important for students living in the 21st century with challenges in global communication, a rapidly changing economy and expanding environmental concerns. Students will have the opportunity to communicate, collaborate, and use creativity and practice critical thinking.

ECOLOGY - AIG

The balance of nature will be explored as students investigate water, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen cycles. They will study photosynthesis, food chains and webs, and numerous predator-prey relationships. Man's misuse of natural resources will be examined. Students will become aware of the functions of the Environmental Protection Agency and address environmental concerns in their own community.

*Gifted and Talented Elementary
Updated 12/21*

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
SCIENCE**

ENERGY – AIG

This course will provide an in-depth study of our primary energy sources, both renewable and nonrenewable. Students will contact power companies, oil companies and environmental agencies to investigate availability, cost, and pollution problems associated with each energy source. Conservation of all energy sources will be stressed.

ENGINEERING THE ENVIRONMENT

Ever noticed a shiny film floating on top of creek water? Have you ever bought something made completely out of recycled materials? In this class you will explore many different types of engineering. You will then focus more deeply on *environmental engineering*. While in this class, you will be challenged to work in groups to learn the “Engineering Design Process” and explore ways to clean up an environmental disaster in a river...an oil spill! Understanding how humans impact the environment is part of what will be studied through use of technology on local, national, and global levels. Come join us as we see just how cool engineering really is!!!

ENTOMOLOGY FOR EVERYONE (INSECT STUDY)

In this nine week course, students will actively observe and identify seven groups of insects culminating with individual research and presentations on an insect or arachnid of choice. Entomology for Everyone was written as a sequel to Brilliant Bugs. This course involves daily journaling, analytical observations of various groups of insects, student collaboration, collection and display of data from observations, creation of models (web boards), data displays, nonfiction literacy exposure through the use of read alouds, field guides and student approved websites for research.

GARDEN DESIGN: BOTANIST DESIGNERS

Join us for an AMAZING adventure into the world of plants! Together we will explore how people, animals and plants connect historically, individually and in communities. Learners will explore the idea of gardens and design innovative garden spaces that draw fellow citizens into the environment as well as study the essentials of plant life and explore the different processes of growing plants.

GEOLOGY - AIG

Rocks, Minerals, Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Crystals! In Geology, students will dig in and learn about the Earth, its movement throughout history, the rumblings within and the varieties of rocks, minerals, and crystals, which are created underneath the Earth’s surface. This elective is full of hands-on projects to keep the students on their toes and motivated to learn. Come join the fun!

INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING

Students will be introduced to 12 different types of engineering. They will be presented with scenarios that require them to become each type of engineer and solve a problem with their team. They will make predictions, test materials, investigate solutions, and make presentations with their team using the data and observations they complete. 21st Century Skills will be utilized as they explore each type of engineering field and develop a deeper understanding of what it means to be an engineer.

INVENTIONS – AIG

Inventions are all around you! Enjoy building various inventions, designing your own ideas, combining inventions to create new ideas, and researching famous inventors. In addition, you will

become an inventor yourself and have a chance to submit your own invention to our Thomas Edison Inventions Fair.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
SCIENCE**

LET'S EXPERIMENT

Did you ever wonder how Sir Isaac Newton discovered the three laws of motion or how the Wright Brothers figured out how to fly? For sure, they made incorrect predictions along the way, but they learned from their mistakes. They made new predictions and designed experiments to see if they were correct. In this class, you will make your own predictions about science questions. You will view demonstrations and conduct experiments to test your predictions. Exploration of science concepts of motion, matter, and energy will be your focus while practicing the steps of the scientific process. Sometimes, you will work alone, while other times you will work with classmates. You will write about what you see and do in a science journal, just like other scientists do. So, come along, and **LET'S EXPERIMENT!**

MAGNIFICENT MAMMALS - AIG

This course will provide students with a general introduction to mammals. They will discuss the characteristics that distinguish mammals from other animals, learn how mammals grow and survive, and look at the ways that man (the most dominant mammal) has influenced the lives of other mammals.

MAMMALS ARE AMAZING

Would you like to become a natural-born mammalogist through your study of mammals? Did you know that there are between 5,400 and 5,500 mammal species alive today? In fact, the biggest living mammal is the blue whale. The blue whale can grow upto 98ft. in length and weigh upwards of 397,000 lbs! Did you know that elephants have the largest brain of all mammals? In this elective, students will explore various mammal species and how they adapt after human interaction.

MY WONDERFUL BODY MACHINE

Ever wonder what makes up YOU? Through experiments and research you will learn what you are made of and how each system in your body works. You will also learn how the many systems of the body work together to allow you to run, jump, breath, and feel. Join us on a journey to explore our human body systems.

NATURE NEWS

Read all about it! Students who enjoy learning about plants and insects, and are concerned about the environment are encouraged to join in this elective and help spread the word to others. They will use reading, research, data collection, and writing skills to produce and distribute an environmental newspaper.

PHYSICS IN ACTION - AIG

The study of physics helps us understand the world around us. Physicists seek answers to questions about everything in the world around them. How long will the sun continue to heat our earth? How can we make a tennis ball bounce longer? How can we make a better mobile phone? Digging in to explore ideas about motion, heat, electricity, light, waves and sound is the work of a physicist. Learning about the history of physics and some of the great contributors to the field may inspire students to conduct their own investigations or to seek opportunities to learn more about physics in the future. In this course, students will have opportunities for inquiry, experimentation and design.

*Gifted and Talented Elementary
Updated 12/21*

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
SCIENCE**

PROJECT STARWALK (ASTRONOMY)

This course deals with the branch of science that studies planets, stars, galaxies, and their effect on the environment. Let's take a look at the nighttime sky and identify some of the major constellations! Seasonal changes in the nighttime sky will be studied. Students will explore the solar system and discover how to tell time and find their way by using the sun and the stars. Myths and legends behind the names of the constellations will also be examined.

PROJECT WILD

This course is based on the premise that young people have a vital interest in learning about the earth as a home for people and wildlife. PROJECT WILD is designed to acquaint students with environmental issues which affect people, wildlife, and their shared home. It addresses the need for human beings to become responsible members of the ecosystem.

REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS, FISHES

This is a fascinating study of reptiles, amphibians, and fishes for the budding scientist. While working with live specimens, students will become acquainted with some of our most beneficial cohabitants.

ROBOTICS

In this elective students will program and control actual robots that they build themselves using specially created software and Lego building materials. They will begin by following step-by-step instructions in order to build and program a simple robotic model. Eventually, the students will be able to imagine an original robot, program its functions, and finally "bring it to life."

ROCKS AND MINERALS: TREASURES FROM THE EARTH

This elective combines a scientific study of rocks and minerals with information on how these substances are used to stimulate the economy. Hands-on explorations, collaboration with geological experts, and an authentic opportunity to create, market, and sell a mineral-based product, gives students a greater understanding of rocks and minerals, their uses in our communities, and economics.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Science Olympiad is an opportunity for students to expand their knowledge in the areas of science and technology. Students are involved in the investigative process of science by doing hands-on and inquiry-based activities. Olympiad events involve teamwork, group planning and cooperation based on "real-world" science. Parental involvement and occasional after-school practice will be expected. Students will compete against other elementary schools in April.

SCIENTIFIC REASONING - AIG

The tentative nature of facts in a rapidly changing contemporary society makes it necessary for students to understand science as an investigative process. In this course students will observe, classify, predict, measure, hypothesize, solve problems, record data, and formulate conclusions through a variety of scientific experiments.

SIMPLE MACHINES

Boys and girls will learn about machines the old fashioned way: BY BUILDING THEM! Using kits, students will explore the world of simple machines. They will demonstrate a real understanding for what makes things work by constructing machines with moving parts.

ELECTIVE COURSES GRADES 3-5 SCIENCE

THE RAINFOREST

Do you know the difference between a jungle and a rainforest? Can you name more than one type of rainforest? In this course learners will be studying about the different types of rainforests and where they are located. They will research a variety of animals that call the rain forest home and determine which layer of the rainforest they live in. By the end of the course, learners should have an appreciation of the many products that originate in the rainforest and the importance of protecting its existence.

THE SECRET LIFE OF WATER (FORMERLY WATER, OH PRECIOUS WATER)

The water we drink today has been around in one form or another since before dinosaurs roamed the earth, continually recycled through the atmosphere and back to our homes. Each year competition for a clean, copious supply of water intensifies. In this course, students will investigate special characteristics of water and learn how water is both a renewable and limited resource on our planet. Students will examine both drinking and wastewater infrastructure and develop a deeper understanding of how human interactions affect our water supply. Throughout the course, students will make personal connections and learn to practice environmental stewardship through conservation and sustainable practices.

TREE-MENDOUS

Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of trees and forests in their lives. They will study conservation strategies and the necessity for ecological balances in nature. Through such activities as adopting a tree and "eating leaves," students will enjoy this science elective.

VOLTS, OHMS, AND WATTS

Volts, Ohms, and Watts provides a look at how magnetism and electricity is produced, allows opportunities for experimentation with circuitry, and encourages construction of several simple electrical devices. Students will also create their own compass and electromagnet through hands-on experiments.

WAVE RAVE

Have you ever wondered how we hear and see? How does a sound moves from the source to the person hearing that sound? How we see the amazing colors all around us? Come join us on an incredible adventure in discovering sound, light and color. The learner will love the hands-on activities that are a large part of this elective. Can't wait to "see" you there

WEATHER WATCHERS

Beginning meteorologists will be assisted in understanding the elements which make up weather. Students will perform experiments and build their own weather instruments.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK?

Students will be taking apart and analyzing a varied assortment of items, such as a watch or a clock. They will be taught how parts are interdependent and how the parts of a simple item can be correctly assembled.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
SCIENCE**

WHAT'S THE MATTER? (KITCHEN CHEMISTRY)

Do you know what kind of matter a banana is made of? In this class, you will explore the properties of matter using normal, everyday ingredients you can find around the kitchen. You will think like a scientist as you work together with your peers to compare the basic properties of solids, liquids, and gases. You will keep a journal of your investigations and record your observations of what happens to matter when heat is added or the temperature of a substance is lowered. Using tools like measuring cups, graduated cylinders, and scales will help you become more accurate with ingredient amounts for your recipes you prepare. You will make connections between the science of physics and your everyday life “cooking up” some new understanding.

ZOOLOGY – AIG

Zoology deals with animal life, growth, classification, and behavior. Wildlife conservation and careers in working with animals will be studied.

**WORLD LANGUAGE
GRADES 3-5
MAGNET COURSES**

**Chinese 3-5 Beginning
Chinese 3-5 Intermediate
Chinese 3-5 Continuing
French 3-5 Beginning
French 3-5 Intermediate
French 3-5 Continuing
Spanish 3-5 Beginning
Spanish 3-5 Intermediate
Spanish 3-5 Continuing**

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
WORLD LANGUAGE**

CHINESE 3-5 BEGINNING

This year-long course provides a speaking proficiency approach to learning Chinese. Students will learn to communicate in Chinese on a level appropriate for their age and interests. Songs, games, and dances will be included as learning activities.

CHINESE 3-5 INTERMEDIATE

Students will learn to communicate in Chinese on a level appropriate for their age and interests. Songs, games, and dances will be included as learning activities.

CHINESE 3-5 CONTINUING

This year-long course is designed for students who have successfully completed 3-5 BEGINNING Chinese or a content-enhanced Chinese elective. Listening, comprehension, and speaking skills will be further developed. This course is not recommended for students who had a lapse of one or more years of study in the language.

FRENCH 3-5 BEGINNING

This year-long course provides a speaking proficiency approach to learning French. Students will learn to communicate in French on a level appropriate for their age and interests. Songs, games, and dances will be included as learning activities.

FRENCH 3-5 INTERMEDIATE

Students will learn to communicate in French on a level appropriate for their age and interests. Songs, games, and dances will be included as learning activities.

FRENCH 3-5 CONTINUING

This year-long course is designed for students who have successfully completed 3-5 BEGINNING FRENCH or a content-enhanced French elective. Listening, comprehension, and speaking skills will be further developed. This course is not recommended for students who had a lapse of one or more years of study in the language.

SPANISH 3-5 BEGINNING

This year-long course provides a speaking proficiency approach to learning Spanish. Students will learn to communicate in Spanish on a level appropriate for their age and interests. Songs, games, and dances will be included as learning activities.

SPANISH 3-5 INTERMEDIATE

Students will learn to communicate in Spanish on a level appropriate for their age and interests. Songs, games, and dances will be included as learning activities.

SPANISH 3-5 CONTINUING

This year-long course is designed for students who have successfully completed 3-5 BEGINNING SPANISH. Listening, comprehension, and speaking skills will be further developed. This course is not recommended for students who have had a lapse of one or more years of study in the language.

**COMPUTER STUDIES
GRADES 3-5
MAGNET COURSES**

**Art of Animation Magic, The
Computer Coding
Computer Webmasters
Computer Writing
Search and Research**

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
COMPUTER STUDIES**

ART OF ANIMATION, THE

And you thought PowerPoint was for those boring slide shows that business people used. Think again! PowerPoint can be used as a powerful animation tool. In this course, students will combine writing skills, artistic skills and technology skills to use PowerPoint and their own original artwork to animate a story they write. Students can go wherever their imaginations take them...all the way to the moon and back!

COMPUTER CODING

Computer science demystified. Anybody can learn the basics of computer programming. Students will use a blend of online software from code.org and cs-first.com. This material stresses the use of logic and critical thinking by performing fun activities and culminates in students creating their own computer games.

COMPUTER WEBMASTERS

Students will learn how to write and create their own personal web page. Students will use the computer to write stories, poems, imaginative narratives and personal narratives on a variety of topics for their web page projects. The web pages will be posted to the school's web site once peers and the instructor review them. Dialogue will be created during the review process to make sure that high quality web pages will be posted to the Internet. Students will learn how to insert photos, graphics and drawings into their web pages.

COMPUTER WRITING

Students will become familiar with keyboarding and a word processing program. Through the skills acquired in this course they will be able to use the computer as a writing tool. They will use the computer to write stories, letters, compositions, and poetry.

SEARCH AND RESEARCH

The database concept is an integral part of our information-based society. By interacting with various prepared databases, students will see how massive quantities of information can be stored on computer disks and be quickly accessed. Higher-order thinking skills will be developed as students manipulate and evaluate their own databases.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION
GRADES 3-5
MAGNET COURSES**

**Cup Stacking
International Games
Juggling
Jump for Fun
Lifetime Sports
New Games II
Racquet Sports
Rhythms, Ropes, Hoops & Chutes
Shaping Up
Team Sports
Track**

**HEALTH
GRADES 3-5
MAGNET COURSES**

**Decision Making
Group Troop/Peer Power
Lungs are for Life
Mastering Me
Stress Management
Succeeding in Middle School
Understanding Differences**

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

CUP STACKING

Learn about the sport of Speed Stacking! Using multiple formations, styles, activities, and partner skills, students will improve their hand-eye coordination and ambidexterity by stacking cups. Students will learn formations such as the 3-6-3, 6-6, and the cycle while working independently or in small groups. Students will put all of their skills together to create and perform a routine at the end of the quarter.

INTERNATIONAL GAMES

This elective will introduce a variety of games played in different countries around the world. Students will research the rules and strategies from sports such as Cricket and Australian Rules Football.

JUGGLING

Students will explore several different ways to juggle. Some of the equipment that will be used include scarves, balls, Devil Sticks, Diabolo, and spinning plates.

JUMP FOR FUN

This course is designed for those interested in jumping rope. Students will develop their rhythm, coordination, balance and timing as they learn individual, partner and long rope (double-dutch) skills. Students will then use those skills and work together in small groups to build and create routines for presentation. This class will include activities for beginner and advanced jumpers.

LIFETIME SPORTS

This course is designed for the student who is interested in investigating and developing skills in a variety of lifetime sport activities. Students will learn the basic skills, rules and regulations, game play and strategies associated with sports that can be played at any age. Individual and dual sports to be covered in this course may include sports such as tennis, badminton, bowling, golf, and horseshoes.

NEW GAMES II

Students will participate in a wide variety of games suitable for this age level. Based on the philosophy, "Play Hard, Play Fair, Nobody Hurt," these games will promote the development of leadership ability in a cooperative group setting. Stamina and agility will be developed, as well as social interaction skills.

RACQUET SPORTS

Learn about multiple sports that involve a racquet or a paddle such as badminton, tennis, ping pong and pickleball. Students will research these sports and practice their skills through lead up drills and games to prepare them for the specific sports. Students will work with small groups to learn how to keep score and referee the games.

RHYTHMS, ROPES, HOOPS & CHUTES

Through a variety of activities in rhythmic and rope jumping, students will improve in total body coordination.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

SHAPING UP

Who's in control of having a healthy body? Aerobic exercises and nutritional education will enhance the awareness of what food and exercise can do for the body. Emphasis will be on weight control and acceptance of responsibility for one's self.

3-5 TRACK AND FIELD

Learn the basic rules, principles, and techniques involved in track and field. Areas to be covered include running, jumping, relays and throwing. Students will be involved in a training program that will help them learn and develop the basic skills and techniques needed to perform a variety of track and field events. This class culminates with the students competing at the Magnet Track Meet held in the spring.

TEAM SPORTS

This course is designed for the student who is interested in investigating and developing skills in a variety of team sports. Emphasis will be placed on skills, drills, rules, care of equipment, lead-up activities, and game situations. Good sportsmanship and team cooperation will be stressed. Team sports to be covered in this course will include kickball, soccer, and basketball.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
HEALTH**

DECISION MAKING

How do you solve problems? Possible solutions to a variety of problems will be reached in this course through readings, role-plays, interviews, and discussions.

GROUP TROOP/PEER POWER

This course develops an awareness of others' feelings and explores how to function effectively, comfortably, and cooperatively as a member of a group. There is a focus on positive interactions with peers and after completing the course, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the value and responsibility of friendships and personal interactions.

LUNGS ARE FOR LIFE

This course is designed to help students gain an understanding of the delicate function of the lungs, their importance to life, and ways we can help protect them. They will be guided to develop an appreciation of their bodies and a realization of their responsibility in maintaining them in a healthy condition to prolong life. They will be lead to understand what contributes to lung health, as well as what harms it.

MASTERING ME

This course focuses on the effective and cognitive development of students learning to master the skills and attitudes necessary to cope in contemporary society. These competencies include developing a healthy self-concept, communicating ideas, and accepting responsibility for oneself. Critical thinking skills that help ensure successful academic pursuits are addressed.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

This course will focus on everyday solutions to handling stress at school, at home, and in peer relationships. It is designed to make the student aware that stress is not necessarily bad, but needs to be dealt with in a positive manner. Techniques for solving day-to-day pressures that may be experienced by the students will be taught.

SUCCEEDING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Establishing friends, developing study habits, preparing for tests, and making wise decisions are topics covered in this elective for fifth graders. Through role-play, readings, discussions, and journal writing, students will become familiar with middle school scenarios. This course will help them make a smooth transition from elementary to middle school.

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCES

This course will develop students' awareness and understanding of the everyday problems faced by people with disabilities. A study of the causes of impairments will be combined with activities that stress communication techniques. As a class, students will become involved in community and school projects in this area.

**VISUAL ARTS
GRADES 3-5
MAGNET COURSES**

Art in Nature
Astounding Artists
Calligraphy: Italic Manuscript
Calligraphy: Italic Cursive
Can You Believe Your Eyes?
Crafts
Creative Computer Art
Creative Stitchery/Weaving
Drawing and Painting
Drawing the Line
Hand Puppetry
Images in Stone
Paper, Scissors, and Glue
Pottery
Printmaking
Public Art: Art in the Community
Rod Puppetry
Sculpture
Still Moving
The World of Art
You Gotta Have Art (Basic Art)

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
VISUAL ARTS**

ART IN NATURE

Depicting plant and animal life through a variety of media will be the emphasis of this course. The study of animal and plant life will accompany each project.

ASTOUNDING ARTISTS

Through a study of astounding artists' lives and works, students will create their own "masterpieces" using a variety of art media and methods. Observing works of art by Vincent Van Gogh, Henri Matisse, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Georges Seurat will enable students to see and understand each artist's unique style.

CALLIGRAPHY: ITALIC CURSIVE

Prerequisite: Calligraphy: Italic Manuscript In this advanced course students will learn to write cursive italic letters. Using calligraphy students will create books, greeting cards, posters, and correspondence to develop their proficiency.

CALLIGRAPHY: ITALIC MANUSCRIPT

In this beginning course students will explore four styles of writing italic manuscript. While developing these skills, students will expand their knowledge of other subject areas.

CAN YOU BELIEVE YOUR EYES?

The students will work toward an understanding of how the eyes and brain are involved in optical illusions. The students will create their own optical illusions using a wide variety of art media. The students will develop an appreciation of optical illusions as works of art.

CRAFTS

This course will include ceramics, sculpture, weaving or other crafts. Students will discover how these crafts relate to their North Carolina heritage and to other cultures.

CREATIVE COMPUTER ART

This elective will introduce students to the creation of art on the computer. Students will use their imagination and creativity to create artwork that is abstract, realistic, and fun! The use of the art elements, art software, computer and related hardware will help students develop skills to create different projects. Projects will include using photos from the digital camera, making wacky portraits, and using the computer paint brush to produce paintings like those of Van Gogh or Matisse.

CREATIVE STITCHERY/WEAVING

Students will learn many different stitches for designing with yarn and burlap. Basic weaving techniques will be explored.

DRAWING AND PAINTING

Exercises in drawing techniques will be experienced with an emphasis on the human figure, still life, and objects from nature. In painting, color theory will be emphasized. Students will incorporate their drawings into paintings.

DRAWING THE LINE

Students will have the opportunity to draw a wide variety of subjects from life and imagination. Line techniques, perspective, proportion, and visual texture will be taught.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
VISUAL ARTS**

HAND PUPPETRY

Students will study the history of hand puppets and make them using a variety of art materials. Methods of staging will be explored.

IMAGES IN STONE

Students will be taught the basic techniques of working with clay and complete the ceramic process from greenware to glazing. They will learn how to make a pinch pot, a small solid clay sculpture, slab constructions, a coil built pot, and a “broomstick” pot. Each piece will be the students’ original creation.

PAPER, SCISSORS, AND GLUE

Students will explore, develop, and use cut paper techniques to create original visual images. Experiences with two and three dimensional projects will provide students with an in-depth awareness of the paper’s potential.

POTTERY

Explore and create with clay, one of the oldest art media known to man. Using slab-building, pinch pots, coil building, and sculpting techniques, students will create original pieces.

PRINTMAKING

Students will explore a variety of printmaking forms and techniques.

PUBLIC ART: ART IN THE COMMUNITY

Public Art: Art in the Community advocates the idea of “art for the masses”. Utilizing the visual arts, this course also incorporates a social studies aspect. First, students will define community and the parts of a community. To complete this task, students will research a specific community – an African tribe, the Pilgrims, the United States, their own elementary school. Students will then look at how a community incorporates art – from museums to homes to rocks to train station walls – into their world. Students will also identify how public art is different from the traditional art of a museum; and how they are alike. From murals to sculptures to installations, students will learn the various types of Public Art. They will discover why certain artists choose to create public art – for emotional, spiritual, political, or cognitive reasons. These students will develop an understanding of the process of creating a public art work. Ultimately, each student will practice this process of creating a public art work on a small scale. After this experience, the whole group will create their own public art for a community (school, neighborhood) – one commissioned piece and one artist-motivated piece. Through these experiences, each student will have the opportunity to explore the elements of art, the principles of design and various art media. And on a larger scale, each student/public artist will develop a greater sense of community and its importance in their lives.

ROD PUPPETRY

Students will have experiences in rod puppetry. Puppet making, script writing, stage designing, and performing will be included in this elective. Shadow puppets will also be investigated.

SCULPTURE

Students will explore art’s three dimensional form using paper, found objects, boxes, clay, and other media.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
VISUAL ARTS**

STILL MOVING

Students will learn different methods of creating implied movement. Through a variety of media, they will create people, animals, objects, and optical illusions.

THE WORLD OF ART

Where did it all begin? This course will investigate the history of art from earliest known recordings to the present.

YOU GOTTA HAVE ART

This basic art survey course will include drawing, painting, cutting and pasting, modeling, and constructing.

**PERFORMING ARTS
GRADES 3-5
MAGNET COURSES**

MUSIC

Bells and Their Music
Chorus 3-5
From Sea to Shining Sea
Keyboard by Sight and Sound I
Keyboard by Sight and Sound II
Keyboard by Sight and Sound III
Music Through a Variety of Sound Sources
On Stage with Music
“Orff” Key
Pathway to the Band I
Pathway to the Band II
Pathway to the Orchestra I
Pathway to the Orchestra II
Reading Music with Hand Signals
Recorder I
Recorder II
Sounds of the World

DRAMA

Acting
Behind the Scenes
Creative Dramatics
Mime
Spotlight on Musical Theater
Theater Production
Wacky Makeup and Crazy Costumes

DANCE

Creative Dance
Dance Ensemble
Dance Forms
Dance Through the Decades
Get to the Point-Ballet
International Folk Dance
Introduction to Ballet
Introduction to Creative Dance
Introduction to Modern Dance
Modern Dance
Science of Dance
Storybook Dance
Tap, Introduction
Tap I / Clogging I

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
MUSIC**

BELLS AND THEIR MUSIC

The ringing of bells is a centuries-old tradition enjoyed by "ringers" and listeners alike. The Tone Chime Handbells used in this course are designed to be played easily by musicians of all ages. Bells provide successful musical experiences for beginning as well as experienced musicians.

CHORUS 3-5

Students will learn to sing with comfort, accuracy, and a good tone. They will develop blend and ensemble skills and the ability to sing two-part harmony. Music studied will include a variety of styles and periods. Performance will be an expected part of this course.

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

This course explores the music of great American composers throughout history. Students will be involved with the music and familiar with the lives of composers who expressed their heritage through music.

KEYBOARD BY SIGHT AND SOUND I

In this course, the student will learn to play a keyboard instrument. Designed for students with no previous keyboard experience, the basic fundamentals of music and playing technique will be presented.

KEYBOARD BY SIGHT AND SOUND II

This course will be a continuation of KEYBOARD BY SIGHT AND SOUND I. More in-depth study of piano literature and correct playing technique will be emphasized. Solo and ensemble performance opportunities will be included.

KEYBOARD BY SIGHT AND SOUND III

This final level of keyboard training will continue the skills and literature study begun in KEYBOARD BY SIGHT AND SOUND I and II. Emphasis will be placed on small group and individual instruction permitting students to progress at their own pace. This elective can be taken more than once.

MUSIC THROUGH A VARIETY OF SOUND SOURCES

Students will become acquainted with traditional instruments of the string, brass, woodwind, and percussion families. They will search for new sound sources using such things as cans, rocks, sticks, tape recorders, and electronic synthesizers.

ON STAGE WITH MUSIC

This course will provide the training which students will need in preparation for school theatrical productions.

"ORFF" KEY

This course provides "fun" while making music. Carl Orff developed an entire method of teaching music using this basic idea. Rhythmic and instrumental activities are combined with a variety of speaking, singing, and movement experiences to create a complete musical experience.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
MUSIC**

PATHWAY TO THE BAND I (YEAR-LONG)

Learn to play a musical instrument heard in a band. (Instruction should be scheduled for one instrument per class.)

1. Woodwinds - flute, clarinet, alto saxophone
2. Brass - trumpet, trombone
3. Percussion - bells (with mallets) and drums

PATHWAY TO THE BAND II (YEAR-LONG)

This course will include instruction on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments begun in PATHWAY TO THE BAND I. Emphasis will be on individual and group instruction. Solo and ensemble performances will be a vital part of this course.

PATHWAY TO THE ORCHESTRA I (YEAR-LONG)

Learn to play the violin, viola, or cello in this course.

PATHWAY TO THE ORCHESTRA II (YEAR-LONG)

This course will be a continuation of PATHWAY TO THE ORCHESTRA I. Emphasis will be placed on both individual and group instruction. Solo and ensemble performances will be encouraged.

READING MUSIC WITH HAND SIGNALS

The approach to music-reading in this course is based on the system of hand signals and rhythmic chants developed by Zoltan Kodaly. Students will learn the Kodaly system of rhythm duration symbols, the movable "doh" system, and a series of hand signals that aid in the development of tonal relationships. Authentic European and American folk music will be used in this course.

RECORDER I

Interested in playing a band instrument? The recorder is a great wind instrument for beginners. The fingerings are similar to many traditional band instruments like the clarinet and saxophone. In this class students will learn proper breath control and embouchure (the way to hold your mouth) as well as learn to read music beginning with the notes B, A, and G, and adding high C and D, and low D and E. Repertoire will include folk songs and simplified versions of works by famous composers such as Handel and Beethoven. Performance opportunities may be offered.

RECORDER II

This class is for students who want to continue their study of the recorder. Students will review fingerings learned in Recorder 1 and add high E and low C. Students will gain proficiency in sight reading and learn to play in recorder ensembles. Performance opportunities may be offered. Recorder 1 is a prerequisite in order to enroll in this class.

SOUNDS OF THE WORLD

Students will explore the cultures of the world through music and musical instruments. An appreciation for a variety of musical styles will be fostered through exposure to music from all over the world and the creation of some unique and interesting musical instruments.

ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADE 3-5
DRAMA

ACTING

In this course, students will participate in role-playing, scripted study, improvisation, and characterization. Teacher-guided study in voice, body movement, and concentration techniques will develop the actor's tools.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Students will explore a variety of technical aspects of the theater: makeup, costumes, sound, properties, scenery, and stage crafts.

CREATIVE DRAMATICS

Through use of the senses, voice, and body, students will learn to expand their own creativity. This course builds a good self-image and confidence for further study in theater.

MIME

In this course students will contribute original ideas in the development of mime skits and the study of nonverbal communication. Students will study simple story development involving beginning, middle, and end, as well as demonstrate sensory awareness in the use of pantomime. They will participate in the rehearsal and presentation of mime skits for selected audiences.

SPOTLIGHT ON MUSICAL THEATRE

Students will learn about musical theatre from its beginning in America through modern Broadway musicals from the creative and production teams to performance. Activities will include building basic skills in acting, singing, and dancing.

THEATER PRODUCTION

This is a course in which students will be expected to participate in the production of a play. Music, art, and drama come together in the creation of the play which will be performed for a live audience.

WACKY MAKEUP AND CRAZY COSTUMES

This course is an introduction to the basic skills of making costumes and creating "makeup" for theater. Students will learn how creativity can take them beyond the boundaries of a makeup kit and sewing machine. Through the use of paper, glue, scraps, and everyday household items, students will create theatrical characters.

ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
DANCE

CREATIVE DANCE

Students will be offered an intensive study in the creative process of dance. This course will increase individual facility from movement improvisation to basic choreography.

DANCE ENSEMBLE

This course is designed for students who want to continue their dance training. Focus is on dance technique and its relationship to choreography. A highlight will be a performance experience. DANCE ENSEMBLE is open to students who have completed at least two semesters of dance at the 3-5 level, or by permission of the teacher.

DANCE FORMS

This introductory course in dance will provide each student with the opportunity to explore a wide variety of dance forms. These forms will include creative rhythms, dance improvisations, clogging, ballet, and tap. Folk, ethnic, social, square, and modern dance will also be taught. A historical perspective of dance and its relationships within our society will be examined.

DANCE THROUGH THE DECADES

Students will explore major American events through the social dances of the decade.

GET TO THE POINT-BALLET

This course is designed for students with a basic knowledge of ballet. As a continuation of INTRODUCTION TO BALLET, students will be given the opportunity to increase their knowledge of basic skills, terminology, choreography, and history.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE

Students will become familiar with the basic steps, rhythmic patterns, and dance tunes of many countries.

INTRODUCTION TO BALLET

This course will introduce students to the basic skills and terminology of ballet. Students will develop strength, flexibility, self-discipline, and awareness of proper body placement. The historical values of classical and contemporary ballet styles will be introduced.

INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE DANCE

Students will begin to discover their own creative potential and expand their movement vocabulary. A total experience is the goal for the student, rather than a particular style. Through the introduction of improvisational dance, students will become more aware of themselves as “movers” as well as decision-makers.

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN DANCE

This course will introduce students to the foundations of modern dance technique. They will develop a personal sense of the discipline of modern dance. The historical impact of modern dance as an art form will also be examined. Students will develop strength, flexibility, and proper body alignment.

ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
DANCE

MODERN DANCE

This course will offer a more intensive study in modern dance through technique, terminology, and choreography. Students will gain increased strength, range of motion, and coordination while exploring creative expression and individual style.

SCIENCE OF MOVEMENT

Did you ever think about what your bones and muscles are doing when you dance or play sports? In this elective we will be movement scientists! We will explore how the ways our muscles, bones, and joints make our bodies move in different ways. We will learn how to keep the body safe when dancing, exercising, and playing sports. This is a great elective to learn about science through movement!

STORYBOOK DANCE

How would famous storybook characters tell their tale if they could only communicate through dance? Most classical ballets were created from famous Fairy Tales and stories such as Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, and The Nutcracker. This class will explore some of these and make connections between the written word and communication of movement. We will be using *The Twelve Dancing Princesses*, *The Nightingale*, *Aladdin*, *Peter and the Wolf*, and *The Tale of the Firebird* as possibilities for our classroom “mini-ballets” to demonstrate and explore communicating meaning through movement. Each story chosen will develop through the reading and discussion of the story, followed by the development of movement for the story, and finally the in-classroom performance of the story. The students will be actively involved in deciding the movement choreography as well as making props, costumes, and scenery for their performance of the story dances.

TAP, INTRODUCTION

This course is designed to give an introduction to the technique of tap dancing. The focus will be on rhythmic perception, balance, and coordination. A brief history of tap dance will also be introduced.

TAP I/ CLOGGING I

This course is an introduction to tap with a concentration on rhythms and the perception of different rhythms. Coordination and balance will also be a focus. This course will also extend the basic knowledge of tap by adding beginning clogging instruction featuring a systematic presentation of six basic steps and routines geared to these steps.

**CONTEMPORARY ARTS
GRADES 3-5
MAGNET COURSES**

**Beginning Chess
Intermediate Chess
Cut and Sew
From Cookbook to Culture/Creative Cuisine
Woodwright's Shop**

**MEDIA
GRADES 3-5
MAGNET COURSES**

**Photography and Video Production
Scholastic Pursuit
School News Today
Shutter Bug
Story Spinning Radio Show
Super Sleuth
Telling a Story with Video**

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
CONTEMPORARY ARTS**

BEGINNING CHESS

Students will study the fundamentals of chess, and time will be provided for them to develop beginning skills in the game.

INTERMEDIATE CHESS

This course is designed for students who are knowledgeable about the fundamentals of chess and wish to improve/increase their skills. In addition to sharpening playing skills, students will study the history of chess, learn about chess champions, and learn how to make notations.

CUT AND SEW

CUT AND SEW is a course for beginners. Students will learn the basic steps in cutting out patterns, attaching snaps and buttons, hemming, and stitching. Take-home projects will be completed.

FROM COOKBOOK TO CULTURE/CREATIVE CUISINE

The United States is considered the "Melting Pot" because so many different cultures have settled here. Through food preparation, students will discover what various ethnic cultures have contributed to our diet, table manners, eating habits and social customs.

WOODWRIGHT'S SHOP

Students will learn safe and proper use of hand and power tools under the supervision of an instructor. They will plan, design, and produce a product. Characteristics of a variety of woods will be studied.

**ELECTIVE COURSES
GRADES 3-5
MEDIA**

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO PRODUCTION

Students will learn the history of photography and basic photographic techniques to create pictures and videos.

SCHOLASTIC PURSUIT

SCHOLASTIC PURSUIT reinforces the knowledge students have acquired throughout the elementary grades. Emphasis is placed on research, questioning, and listening skills. Students gather information to compete among themselves in mini academic contests. A team is finally chosen from this class to compete in a system-wide academic tournament.

SCHOOL NEWS TODAY

The primary purpose of this elective is to produce a “*your school* News Today” program to present important school information and events. Students who participate in this elective will study concepts of presentation: speaking, diction, personality, celebrity, marketing, branding and advertising. Research, writing, editing and reporting as well as incorporating new technologies to produce each program, are prime focus areas. Sight, Sound, and Action I elective is a prerequisite.

SHUTTER BUG

Say Cheese! Do you enjoy taking pictures? Would you like to use the images you took and crop, adjust, and color them? Learn how film and digital cameras work and how you can develop film or upload images to a computer for manipulation and printing. Also explore how photography can lead to a career or hobby in sports, modeling, and art!

STORY SPINNING RADIO SHOW

Students will create their own 15-minute radio show with original stories, characters, music and sound effects. They will learn how to use digital sound editing equipment and produce a broadcast quality CD utilizing accessible computer technology.

SUPER SLEUTH

What is the capital of Japan? What breed of dog has a black tongue? Who won the Newberry Award in 1978? Do you have a question that needs an answer? Chances are you can find it in the library – IF you know how! In this course, students will learn to use a variety of resources in both print and electronic formats to locate information. Hands-on activities and in-class projects will help students become familiar with the almanac, atlas, encyclopedia, thesaurus, and other resources. Students will also learn skills for searching “Athena” (the online media catalog) and for searching and evaluating various Internet sources.

TELLING A STORY WITH VIDEO

Telling a Story with Video incorporates the unique technologies of digital video and I-Movie as well as word processing to assist students in developing a short movie. They will review the elements of a short story and study main ideas, characters, and story development through viewing simple video stories. In the class, students brainstorm, outline, write, and edit a story of their own creation. Students will then develop a storyboard of appropriate scenes that best tells their story through video. Students will learn to use a digital video camera and tape simple scenes created from their storyboards. Their characters, scenes and props are of their own creation. They can draw from things at home, school or from computer-generated images to serve their creativity. They will link their scenes together to create a movie. Other components include reviewing simple video, taped stories and watching the “Making of Jurassic Park”, which shows the transition of the film industry to digital animation.

*Gifted and Talented Elementary
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