



# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES



2024 - 2025

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# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2024–2025

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### RIS MISSION

Ruamrudee International School is a Catholic school that provides an interfaith, inclusive, and academically rigorous education for students to be balanced, successful, and compassionate individuals. RIS provides quality education and fosters character development in a multicultural, caring community.

### RIS VISION

Ruamrudee International School will be known globally as a hallmark of international education, nurturing intellectual development, moral character, and physical well-being, while fostering compassion through action and shaping the lives of tomorrow's leaders.

### RIS PRINCIPLES OF PHOENIX – SCHOOLWIDE LEARNER OUTCOMES



**HEAD**  
(KNOWLEDGE)

- Creative
- Critical thinkers
- Open-minded



**HANDS**  
(SKILLS)

- Effective communicators
- Collaborative
- Resourceful



**HEART**  
(VALUES)

- Embrace diversity
- Lead happy and healthy lives
- Help others

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - REPORTING SYSTEM

ES employs a Standards-Based Grading and Reporting System for KG - Grade 5 students, as follows:

Grade Level Expectations:
E - Exceeding Expectations
M - Meeting Expectations
P - Progressing Towards Expectations
B - Below Expectations

## ELEMENTARY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The ELA Department focuses on building literacy skills through reading, writing, speaking, and listening, to help elementary-age students to become clear and confident communicators, in their school life and beyond. They will use oral and written language to make sense of the world, problem-solve, and participate in decision-making. The foundation for these literacy skills is language and an understanding of how language works. RIS uses AERO: English Language Arts Framework (2015) standards, in the following areas: Reading Literature, Reading Informational Text, Reading Foundation Skills, Writing, Listening and Speaking, and Language Foundations.

#### **KINDERGARTEN**

In Kindergarten, students will begin their literacy journey through conversational activities, providing numerous opportunities for self-expression. This engaging environment supports the acquisition of grade-level language skills. Daily group interactions will enhance English conversational abilities. The curriculum includes an introduction to letter sounds, preparing students for sounding out, blending, and segmenting words. By the end of the course, students will achieve reading fluency and comprehension. They will learn to write stories with a beginning, middle, and end, supplemented by colored pictures, labels, and sequence words. Phonetic spelling is encouraged to develop foundational writing skills, enabling students to create narrative, procedural, opinion, and informational texts, building a strong foundation for future literacy studies.

#### **GRADE 1**

Grade 1 focuses on building critical literacy skills through an integrated approach to reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will begin reading simple books and short stories with guidance, learning to recognize high-frequency words, understand basic punctuation and grammar, and develop comprehension skills. The curriculum includes word study instruction to help decode and read unfamiliar words. Students will practice retelling stories, making predictions, and identifying main ideas and supporting details. Throughout the year, they will explore persuasive, informative, personal narrative, and realistic fiction writing, using the writing cycle of planning, drafting, editing, and publishing. The informative writing unit will conclude with students publishing a book via a digital platform.

#### **GRADE 2**

Grade 2 will continue with the development of key literacy skills through a comprehensive approach to reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will read a variety of texts, identifying main ideas, details, and story structures, while building vocabulary and comprehension. Writing instruction will cover crafting narratives, informative texts, and opinions, with an emphasis on clear sentence structure, proper grammar, and punctuation, as well as using technology for research and publishing. Word study and phonics instruction will improve decoding, spelling, and understanding of word patterns, enhancing reading fluency and accuracy. Speaking and listening activities will include collaborative discussions, presentations, and active listening exercises. Instructional strategies such as differentiated instruction, interactive read-alouds, small group work, and writer's workshops will support diverse learning needs.

### GRADE 3

This course invites third graders to explore a variety of reading and writing genres. Students will use non-fiction texts for learning and research, and study fiction elements including characters, setting, plot, problem, solution, theme, and author’s message, to infer character traits, motivations, and feelings. These elements will later be incorporated into their fiction writing. The curriculum includes a study of folktales from various cultures, culminating in the creation of fractured fairy tales. Students will also engage with their own opinions during a persuasive writing unit. Integrated into these reading and writing lessons will be writing conventions and strategies for breaking down longer words. Instruction will include whole group lessons, small group work, and one-on-one conferencing to support individual learning needs.

### GRADE 4

Grade 4 will focus on both fiction and nonfiction reading and writing. They will begin with realistic fiction stories, developing an understanding of problems/solutions, characters, and themes. The curriculum also covers nonfiction genres such as biographies and informational texts. Students will increase their reading stamina through book clubs and guided reading groups, and receive direct instruction in reading skills and strategies during mini-lessons. They will deepen their comprehension and fluency, and refine their writing skills by focusing on ideas, organization, and voice through various writing projects.

### GRADE 5

Grade 5 students will deepen their understanding of literature and enhance their writing proficiency in this course. Students will discuss and compare various genres in small reading groups, analyzing plot structures, character motivations, and literary devices. They will develop their writing by creating realistic and fantasy narratives, informative essays, and persuasive arguments. Writing skills will be refined through mini-lessons, teacher feedback, and collaborative discussions. The curriculum includes activities to enhance reading and writing vocabulary, preparing students for more advanced literacy tasks.



## MATHEMATICS

RIS elementary students progress through mathematics using the AERO Math Content and Practice standards. The AERO math standards for elementary school aim to provide a comprehensive framework for mathematics education, emphasizing conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and problem-solving skills. These standards guide the development of math curricula to ensure students acquire foundational mathematical knowledge and skills necessary for their academic and real-world success.

### KINDERGARTEN

In Kindergarten, students develop deep understandings of mathematical concepts, proficiency with key skills, and the ability to solve complex and word/story problems. The curriculum blends direct instruction, structured investigation, open exploration, and taps into the intelligence of all students by presenting material that is as linguistically, visually, and kinesthetically rich as it is mathematically powerful. Students engage in a combination of whole-group, small-group, and independent activities that are problem centered. The curriculum is tailored to provide developmentally appropriate ways for students to employ the mathematical practices as they engage with new mathematical content. Kindergarten students engage in three major kinds of activities: Problems & Investigations, Work Places, and Assessments.

### GRADE 1

In Grade 1, students build foundational understandings of numbers. They expand their counting skills to comprehend place value, counting up to 120 and understanding number sequencing. Using various strategies such as number lines, hundreds charts, and number racks, students solve addition and subtraction equations, compare and contrast numbers, and decode number story problems.

### GRADE 2

In Grade 2, students enhance their mathematical thinking and reasoning through age-appropriate problems and investigations in numbers, operations, algebraic thinking, measurement, data, and geometry. Teachers use manipulatives and visual models to help students understand concepts, represent and solve problems, and communicate their thinking. Students structure numbers, develop and apply place value understandings, and create efficient strategies for multi-digit computations.

### GRADE 3

In Grade 3, students develop math strategies to build fluency with addition and subtraction within 100. They solve one- and two-step story problems using strategies based on place value and properties of operations. Students are introduced to multiplication through various strategies such as skip counting, number lines, arrays, and ratio tables. The curriculum emphasizes rounding multi-digit numbers, estimating sums and differences, and exploring polygon attributes, including parallel lines, right angles, obtuse angles, and lines of symmetry. Students learn to calculate area and perimeter, and understand the concept of fractions, focusing on comparing and finding equivalent fractions.

### GRADE 4

In Grade 4, students focus intensively on developing fluency in multi-digit multiplication and understanding division to find multi-digit quotients. They learn about fraction equivalence,

addition and subtraction of fractions with like denominators, and multiplication of fractions by whole numbers. The curriculum also includes analyzing and classifying geometric figures based on their properties. Students model and solve problems, share strategies, play workplace games, and apply computational skills in various contexts.

## GRADE 5

In Grade 5, students solidify their mathematical understanding through fundamental concept review, pattern recognition, and fluency development. The course emphasizes applying mathematical concepts in practical scenarios through real-world problem-solving tasks, fostering a deep understanding of mathematical principles. Major skills include multiplication and division of whole numbers and decimals, fraction operations, graphing, and geometric classification. Students are encouraged to show their thinking and calculations in multiple ways.



## SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies in Elementary School focuses on providing elementary-age students with the foundational knowledge, intellectual processes, perspectives, and dispositions to be engaged and enlightened global citizens. Students will study social studies in intervals throughout the year. The curriculum is guided by the eight AERO Social Studies Standards, which serve as benchmarks for achieving this purpose. These standards include: Time, Continuity, & Change, Connections & Conflict, Geography, Culture, Society & Identity, Government, Production, Distribution, & Consumption, and Science, Technology, & Society.

### KINDERGARTEN

Social Studies in Kindergarten covers the concepts of Time, Continuity and Change, as well as Connections and Conflict. Students begin by reflecting on their own identities to understand who they are as individuals. Early in the year, they discuss the impact of their actions on others, learning about positive and negative effects. They then explore the concepts of past, present, and future by analyzing different times in their lives. Students demonstrate their understanding through drawings, dramatizations, and small group conferences.

### GRADE 1

Grade 1 Social Studies explores how people interact within various social structures such as families, schools, religious communities, and clubs. Students learn about communication, interaction, and relationships in diverse environments. They also investigate how people from different backgrounds interact with their environment, conducting family interviews to understand these interactions. The curriculum includes examining how communities differ in terms of food, homes, and transportation, and how cultures evolve over time.

### GRADE 2

In Grade 2, students delve into three units: Society and Identity, Geography, and Government. In the Society and Identity unit, students analyze roles and behaviors within social systems and create mind maps of their personal identities. The Geography unit involves identifying map components, distinguishing landforms, and explaining how geography affects culture. Students create island maps and describe their impact on residents and tourists. The Government unit covers rules and laws, rights and responsibilities, culminating in students designing their own island nations with corresponding governance systems.

### GRADE 3

In Grade 3 Social Studies, students explore various cultural elements including language, food, beliefs, values, and traditions, enhancing their cultural intelligence and appreciation of diversity. They study cause and effect relationships by examining historical events and learn about four government systems, including the roles of citizens and leaders. Key vocabulary such as citizen, laws, voting, elections, rights, leader, constitution, and jury are introduced.

### GRADE 4

In Grade 4 Social Studies, students utilize geography to understand global cultures and intellectual developments, exploring interactions among societies and social systems. They learn fundamental economic principles and how economics are influenced by geographic and human factors. Students demonstrate their knowledge through interactive activities that integrate literacy with social studies, using literature, games, and technology to engage with the material.

## GRADE 5

Grade 5 Social Studies is divided into two units. In "Exploring Through Time," students investigate human interactions with the physical environment, using geographic tools to interpret Earth's information. They examine the influence of technology on society, differentiating between science and technology, and assessing their impacts. In the second unit, students analyze global conflict and cooperation, understanding and comparing major political systems, and exploring conflict resolution strategies. This empowers them to address conflicts effectively in various contexts.

## SCIENCE

The Science Department is committed to providing students with a robust foundation in scientific knowledge, inquiry, and critical thinking. Our curriculum is designed to ignite curiosity and foster a lifelong love of science through hands-on exploration and discovery. By engaging with the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards), we ensure a comprehensive and progressive learning experience for our students.

## KINDERGARTEN

In Kindergarten Science, students embark on an exploration of three main units of study: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Animals, Plants, and Their Environment; Weather and Climate; and Forces and Interactions: Pushes and Pulls. Focusing on phenomena observable in everyday life, students engage in hands-on activities and playful exploration. Throughout the year, students develop essential scientific and engineering practices, including analyzing and interpreting data, as well as planning and carrying out investigations. They also explore cross-cutting concepts such as patterns, cause and effect, and system modeling, enriching their understanding of the world around them. Through hands-on exploration and playful discovery, young learners embark on their scientific journey, igniting curiosity and laying the groundwork for future inquiry.

## GRADE 1

In Grade 1 Science, students delve into three units of study: Structure, Function, and Informational Processing; Space Systems: Patterns and Cycles; and Waves: Light and Sound. With a focus on phenomena occurring in our local RIS community, students observe and investigate real-world occurrences. Throughout the year, students engage in essential scientific and engineering practices, such as constructing explanations, designing solutions, and planning and carrying out investigations. They also explore cross-cutting concepts including patterns, structure and function, and cause and effect, deepening their understanding of scientific phenomena. Continuing to build upon their foundational knowledge, students engage in hands-on exploration and guided discovery, nurturing their scientific curiosity and setting the stage for deeper learning in the years ahead.

## GRADE 2

In Grade 2 Science, students focus on three units of study: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems; Earth's Systems: Processes that Shape the Earth; and Structure and Properties of Matter. With a focus on phenomena that can occur here in Thailand, students observe and explore real-world occurrences. Through hands-on exploration, they develop a deeper appreciation for science and its relevance to their local environment. Throughout the year, students engage in essential scientific and engineering practices, including developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, constructing explanations, and

designing solutions. They also explore cross-cutting concepts such as cause and effect, structure and function, patterns, stability and change, and energy and matter, deepening their understanding of scientific phenomena. With increased exploration and collaborative inquiry, students expand their scientific skills and deepen their appreciation for the wonders of the natural world, fostering a richer understanding of scientific concepts.

### **GRADE 3**

In Grade 3 Science, students explore four units of study: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Environmental Impacts on Organisms; Inheritance and Variation of Traits: Life Cycles and Traits; Weather and Climate; and Forces and Interactions. With a focus on phenomena occurring globally in other parts of the world, students explore real-world occurrences and their impacts. Throughout the year, students engage in essential scientific and engineering practices, including analyzing and interpreting data and engaging in argument from evidence. They also delve into cross-cutting concepts such as cause and effect, scale, proportion and quantity, systems and system modeling, and patterns, enriching their understanding of scientific phenomena. Advancing to more sophisticated investigations and critical inquiry, students deepen their scientific understanding and develop the confidence to delve into complex scientific concepts with ease.

### **GRADE 4**

In Grade 4 Science, students dive into three main units of study: Structure, Function, and Informational Processing; Energy and Earth's System; and Waves. With a focus on phenomena occurring in Asia and their effects on our continent, students delve into real-world occurrences and their impacts on various environments. Throughout the year, students participate in Scientist Circles, collaborating and discussing findings to foster scientific inquiry and teamwork. They also engage and read informational texts, broadening their understanding of core ideas. Students engage in essential scientific and engineering practices, including developing models and construct explanations and designing solutions for real-world problems, honing their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Additionally, students explore cross-cutting concepts like cause and effect, patterns, systems and system models, and energy and matter, laying the foundation for scientific exploration. Diving into structured investigations and collaborative inquiry, students deepen their understanding of scientific principles, equipping them with the analytical thinking and problem-solving skills needed to tackle real-world challenges.

### **GRADE 5**

In Grade 5 Science, students investigate through four units of study; Sphere Systems and Synergy, Puzzling Patterns in the Sky, Matter Mysteries, and Biological Balancing Act. With a focus on phenomena occurring in different ecosystems on and beyond our Earth, students investigate real-world occurrences and the impacts seen in various environments. Throughout the year, students engage in essential scientific and engineering practices, including developing and using models, using mathematics and computational thinking, and constructing arguments from evidence. They also delve into cross-cutting concepts such as cause and effect, scale, proportion, and quantity, systems and systems modeling, patterns, and energy and matter, to enrich their understanding of scientific phenomena. Students will refine their scientific skills through hands-on experimentation, data analysis, and thoughtful discussions, preparing them for the academic rigors of middle school and beyond.

## THAI LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

In compliance with regulations set by the Thai Ministry of Education, the Elementary section offers Thai Language and Culture class to both Thai and non-Thai students as follows:

- Pre-K 3 and 4 study the Thai Language 2 periods per 4-day cycle, 25 minutes per period
- KG - Gr. 5 study the Thai Language 3 periods per 4-day cycle, 50 minutes per period
- Note: Native Thai students are required to learn Thai until Gr.12
- Non-native students are required to learn Thai until Gr. 8

### KINDERGARTEN

**Thai for Native Speakers:** This course is designed for Thai and non-native Thai. The course will focus on developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills of the Thai language. The course will integrate literacy and Thai culture through a variety of activities.

**Thai for Non-Native Speakers:** This course is designed for non-native Thai only. The course will focus on developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills of the Thai language. The course will integrate literacy and Thai culture through a variety of activities.

### GRADE 1

**Thai for Native Speakers:** This course is designed for native Thai speakers or non-native who can communicate fluently in Thai. The course will focus on developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of our Thai language. The course will integrate literacy, grammar, and Thai culture through a variety of activities.

**Thai for Non-Native Speakers:** The emphasis in this course is placed on the acquisition of basic language skill; listening, speaking and basic vocabulary. Students learn and follow simple commands and requests, give short statements and negative statements, and ask simple questions. They recognize and copy the Thai alphabet, read and copy simple words including nouns, pronouns, and verbs related to the unit of instructions. They also use polite gestures and ending particles. They understand and participate in Thai cultural activities.

### GRADE 2

**Thai for Native Speakers:** This course is designed for native Thai speakers or non-native who can communicate fluently in Thai. The course will focus on developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of Thai language. The course will integrate literacy, grammar, folktales, environment and Thai culture through a variety of activities.

**Thai for Non-Native Speakers:** The emphasis in this course is placed on the acquisition of basic language skills; listening, speaking and vocabulary development. Students learn to follow and respond to instructions. They ask Y/N questions, answer with phrases, short statements and negative statements. The students are encouraged to use the target language through a variety of language activities. For reading and writing, they learn to write letters of their own names, some Thai numbers and basic simple words. They also read and recognize common public signs. They learn parts of speech such as nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, simple classifiers, prepositions and conjunctions including and/but. They learn to recognize two different tones. They also use polite gestures and ending particles. They understand and participate in Thai cultural activities.

### GRADE 3

**Thai for Native Speakers:** This course is designed for native Thai speakers or non-native who can communicate fluently in Thai. The course will focus on developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of Thai language. The course will integrate literacy, grammar, Jakata tales, folktales, Thai manners, geography and Thai culture through a variety of activities.

**Thai for Non-Native Speakers:** The emphasis in this course is placed on the acquisition of basic language skills; listening, speaking and vocabulary development. Students learn to follow and respond to instructions. They ask yes or no questions, answer with phrases, short statements and negative statements. The students are encouraged to use the target language through a variety of language activities. For reading and writing, they learn to write letters of their own names, some Thai numbers and basic simple words. They also read and recognize common public signs. They learn parts of speech such as nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, simple classifiers, prepositions and conjunctions including and/but. They learn to recognize two different tones. They also use polite gestures and ending particles. They understand and participate in Thai cultural activities.

### GRADE 4

**Thai for Native Speakers:** This course is designed for native Thai speakers or non-native who can communicate fluently in Thai. The course will focus on developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of our Thai language. The course will integrate literacy, grammar, literature, poetry and Thai wisdom and culture through various activities.

**Thai for Non-Native Speakers:** While emphasis on basic language skills and vocabulary development is continued, the students' competency in the language is further developed. They make polite requests and ask for permissions, engage in short dialogues, using "wh" and "Yes or No" questions and responding with short and negative statements, and make an oral presentation. They orally describe people, places and objects with short phrases, expressing feelings and opinions. They read sight words and public signs and write simple words, short phrases, and Thai numbers. In addition, students learn the parts of speech such as nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, simple classifiers, prepositions and conjunctions including and/but/or/because. They learn to recognize two-three different tones. They understand and participate in Thai cultural activities.

### GRADE 5

**Thai for Native Speakers:** This course is designed for native Thai speakers or non-native who can communicate fluently in Thai. The course will focus on developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of the Thai language and integrate literacy, grammar, history and Thai culture through various activities in the academic year. Moreover, the course will allow students to apply all areas of Thai skills to communication, learning current events, dialogue play, debate, and persuasive writing.

**Thai for Non-Native Speakers:** While emphasis on basic language skills and vocabulary development is continued, the students' competency in the language is further developed. They make polite requests and ask for permissions, engage in short dialogues, using "what" and "Yes or No" questions and responding with short and negative statements, and make an oral presentation. They orally describe people, places and objects with short phrases, expressing feelings and opinions. They read sight words and public signs and write simple words, short phrases, and Thai numbers. In addition, students learn the parts of speech such as nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, simple classifiers, prepositions and conjunctions including and/but/or/because. They learn to recognize two-three different tones. They understand and participate in Thai cultural activities.

**5TH GRADE EXPLORATORY**

This year-long course gives Grade 5 students an introduction to four courses they will take in Middle School. Each course lasts for one quarter.

**MANDARIN**

In the exploratory Mandarin course, students have the opportunity to engage in a comprehensive exploration of the Chinese language and culture. Throughout the program, they develop critical skills such as mastering Pinyin phonetics, recognizing simplified Chinese characters, and enhancing their listening and speaking abilities. We engage students in immersive experiences with hands-on activities, interactive sentence patterns, and multimedia tools, all designed to reinforce learning in a dynamic and engaging way. They embark on a journey through Chinese culture, discovering its richness through songs, stories, and interactive games. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate proficiency in reading, listening, writing basic characters, and conducting simple conversations in Mandarin.

**SPANISH**

In exploratory Spanish, students start their first steps into the Spanish language. During this course the students learn different topics such as greetings and different ways to ask and answer how they are feeling, the Spanish alphabet, the numbers from 1 to 20 in Spanish and how to ask and answer their age and other people's age in the target language. During classes the students develop their knowledge doing different learning activities such as role plays, dialogues, fill in the blanks, writing and reading activities to develop the different skills needed to improve in the Spanish language. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate proficiency in reading, listening, writing, and conducting simple conversations in Spanish.

**CODING AND ROBOTICS**

In exploratory Coding and Robotics, students are introduced to the foundational concepts of computer science through basic coding and robotics lessons. Through fun and engaging activities, students learn the fundamentals of computer programming using a block-based programming language and develop essential logic and computational thinking skills. Later in the course, students have the opportunity to apply their coding skills by collaborating in teams to build and program a robot. In addition to coding skills, the course also emphasizes important skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, along with fostering persistence and perseverance as students complete coding challenges and create interactive projects that combine coding and robotics.

**HEALTH**

In exploratory Health, students work through four main topics: nutrition, body image, hygiene, and problem solving. In the nutrition section, students focus on creating and maintaining balance in their diets, and the surprising amount of sugar found in common foods and drinks. In the body image section, students recognize the unrealistic body images often portrayed in the media. In the hygiene section, students understand the need for proper hygiene habits as it relates to the prevention of illness. In the final problem-solving unit, students understand how to consider perspective as it can be the cause of interpersonal problems and they learn and practice healthy problem-solving strategies. This unit culminates with students choosing a topic and designing a lesson plan to deliver to younger students in the community.

**MUSIC**

Our Music Program is designed for students KG - Grade 5 and is based on the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS).

**KINDERGARTEN**

In Kindergarten music class, students will engage in rich musical experiences where they will explore singing, instruments, music games, and movement activities. Through this play-based approach, students will develop an appreciation for music while exploring songs and musical games from diverse cultures and backgrounds, expanding their understanding of musical traditions and purposes. They will learn to recognize and identify musical contrasts such as loud and quiet (*forte* and *piano*), fast and slow, and high and low. Students will have the opportunity to express their own musical interests by experimenting with improvisation using their own voice, xylophones, metallophones, and a variety of unpitched percussion instruments. Alongside their exploration of music, students will practice performance and ensemble skills such as tempo awareness, responsive listening, interpersonal communication, and musical independence, fostering collaboration and confidence in their musical abilities.

**GRADE 1**

In Grade 1 music, students will continue to engage with music in a playful way and exploratory way. Students will develop a broader knowledge of music from different languages and cultures as they learn to sing and play instruments with more independence. They will practice basic music literacy skills as they begin to read rhythmic and melodic notation. Students will have the opportunity to express their own musical interests as they expand upon their improvisation skills and use their literacy skills to compose their own basic melodies. Students will learn basic techniques on a variety of instruments, such as xylophones, drums and other unpitched percussion instruments. Alongside their exploration of music, students will continue to practice performance and ensemble skills such as tempo awareness, responsive listening, interpersonal communication, and musical independence, fostering collaboration and confidence in their musical abilities.

**GRADE 2**

In Grade 2 music class, students will continue to develop their music literacy skills and aural listening skills. Students will begin their study of the treble clef and reading notes on a staff, as well as developing proficiency with reading more complex rhythms. Students will build on their improvisation and composition skills as they put their new literacy skills to use. Using their new musical literacy skills, students will learn to play more complex melodies and accompaniments on xylophones, as well as learn about adding embellishments to ensemble pieces. Through the ensemble pieces, as well as their own compositions, students will delve into the study of musical forms and instrumental timbres. Alongside their exploration of music, students will continue to practice performance and ensemble skills such as tempo awareness, responsive listening, interpersonal communication, and musical independence, fostering collaboration and confidence in their musical abilities.

**GRADE 3**

In Grade 3 music class, students will focus on developing their music literacy skills as they study the recorder. They will dive deeper into music symbols and notation, focus on musical fluency, and develop coordination and awareness that will prepare them for more complex instruments. Students will learn to practice age appropriate solo and ensemble skills as they continue to sing, play and respond to music from various cultures. Students will also focus on

independent harmony singing through rounds and canons, preparing them for harmony and harmonic structures in later grades. They will also learn about the different instruments of the orchestra, identifying the different instrument families and their unique timbres.

## GRADE 4

In Grade 4 music class, students will continue to engage with music in a playful and exploratory way while focusing on developing their understanding of music theory and music from around the world. While practicing more complex rhythms and melodic patterns, students will also begin their study of chord building and harmonic structures in music. They will develop a more in-depth knowledge and awareness of harmony through 2-part choral music and polyphonic instrumental music. Understanding the history and cultural influences of music from around the world will become more central to their learning process as they begin to understand the many different purposes and the power of music throughout history.

## GRADE 5

In Grade 5 music class, students will put into practice all the elements of music they have learned throughout elementary school. Students will learn and practice good vocal technique as they sing more complex choral pieces. They will practice improvisation and composition of basic instrumental ensemble parts, as they delve deeper into chord building and harmonic structures. Students will focus on an exploration of jazz music, including its history, emphasis on improvisation, and the jazz standards and artists that have most influenced this genre. Students will learn about basic chord and strumming skills during an ukulele unit. They will have the opportunity to connect their learning to their own interests of music as they learn to connect to music in a more personal way.



**THEATRE AND DANCE**

Our Theatre and Dance Program is designed for students KG - Grade 5 and is based on the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS).

**KINDERGARTEN**

In Kindergarten, the focus is on exploration and play. Students will engage in imaginative play, taking on various roles and dramatic scenarios to express their ideas and emotions. Through guided movement activities, they will develop basic motor skills, spatial awareness, and a sense of rhythm. Storytelling will be integrated into the program, allowing students to create and share simple narratives through both acting and dance. Collaborative group activities will foster cooperation and teamwork. By introducing basic concepts such as character, setting, and creative movement, students will build a solid foundation for their understanding of theatre and dance.

**GRADE 1**

In Grade 1, students will engage in imaginative play and creative movement to explore the world of theatre and dance. Through a variety of engaging activities, they will develop foundational skills in storytelling, character exploration, and expression through movement. Key skills to be practiced include understanding spatial awareness, body control, and collaboration with classmates. Students will engage in a variety of activities, spanning from basic improvisation exercises to expressing narratives through dance and crafting brief performances inspired by familiar stories or themes. As they participate in these activities, students will naturally build confidence in expressing themselves, laying a strong foundation for future exploration in theatre and dance.

**GRADE 2**

In Grade 2, students will explore the exciting world of character development and expression. Through diverse engaging activities such as immersive role-playing games, expressive pantomime exercises, and character-driven dance routines, students will learn to bring authenticity and depth into their characters. Emphasis will be placed on cultivating key skills like empathy, creative expression, and effective communication as students collaborate to craft captivating performances. By embodying various characters and collaborating with peers, students will continue to grow and explore theatre and dance.

**GRADE 3**

In Grade 3, students embark on an adventure through the worlds of storytelling and movement, where they cultivate their creativity, expressiveness, and imaginative skills. Through interactive lessons and engaging activities, students explore the essentials of dramatic storytelling and character development in theatre, while also discovering the fundamentals of movement, choreography, and diverse dance styles. Students have the opportunity to showcase their skills and creative talents by engaging in collaborative projects and performances, setting the stage for further discovery and development within the scope of theatre and dance.

**GRADE 4**

In Grade 4, students will explore and discover the rich diversity of cultural expressions worldwide. They learn various performance styles, including traditional folk dances, indigenous storytelling, and classical theatre forms, while developing performance

techniques, storytelling skills, movement dynamics, and choreography. Engaging in activities inspired by diverse traditions, students foster an appreciation for the varied nature of theatre and dance across different cultures. Key skills practiced include cultural awareness, research abilities, creative adaptation, and performance artistry. Students gain a deeper understanding of how theatre and dance contribute to preserving and celebrating cultural heritage, honing their performance skills and artistic sensibilities in the process.

## GRADE 5

In Grade 5, students will go on a journey of creative exploration and artistic refinement as they deepen their understanding of theatre and dance. They will have the opportunity to expand their storytelling abilities, character development techniques, and performance skills through a series of immersive activities and projects. The focus will be on honing their improvisational skills, refining their choreography, and mastering the art of stagecraft. Collaborative projects will continue to foster teamwork and cooperation, allowing students to work together to create compelling and original performances. Students will showcase their growth and proficiency as confident and skilled artists, ready to embrace further challenges and opportunities in theatre and dance.



**ART**

Our Art Program is designed for students KG - Grade 5 and is based off of the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS).

**KINDERGARTEN**

Our Kindergarten art program is designed to inspire creativity, encourage artistic expression, and develop a strong foundation of skills in our young learners. Through a balanced blend of structured activities and open-ended exploration, students embark on a journey of discovery and self-expression. Kindergarten students acquire a deeper understanding of the core elements, line, shape, color and texture, and are encouraged to use these elements independently when expressing ideas. We introduce students to influential artists showcasing the profound impact of art. Through nurturing and engaging experiences, we cultivate a lifelong passion for art and prepare students for continuous artistic growth and discovery.

**GRADE 1**

In our Grade 1 art program, students embark on an enriching journey of creativity and self-expression while honing their understanding of the core elements in art. Drawing inspiration from influential artists, students engage in projects that encourage independent exploration, resulting in unique and individual outcomes. Through two-dimensional projects students develop their observational skills and understanding of color, line, and shape, while three-dimensional projects provide opportunities for tactile exploration and spatial reasoning. Encouraged to take ownership of their artistic journey, students have the freedom to experiment with different techniques and materials, leading to a wide range of personal expressions. This emphasis on independence cultivates confidence and encourages students to embrace their individuality as budding artists.

**GRADE 2**

In our Grade 2 art program, students begin the year with a series of workshops aimed at building on existing skills, while introducing them to new media and techniques. These workshops provide a foundation for further artistic exploration throughout the year, building confidence and creativity. Projects inspired by artists such as Hundertwasser, who's colorful style invites students to experiment with organic shapes, vibrant hues, and intricate patterns in both 2D and 3D. Students engage in an expressive portrait project, where colors, textures, lines and shapes come together to express emotions and feelings, creativity and communication through visual storytelling. By embracing this playful approach to art, Grade 2 students unleash their creativity and celebrate individuality, while nurturing a love for self-expression through art.

**GRADE 3**

In our Grade 3 art program, students embark on a dynamic journey of artistic exploration, spanning a rich array of mediums and cultural influences. Through hands-on projects, students create ceramic natural forms, exploring texture and shape in three-dimensional sculpture. They delve into cultural exploration with a mandala art project, discovering the symbolism and symmetry of various traditions. Inspired by Pavel Piskarev's Neurographic art, students are encouraged to experiment with line, color, value, pattern, and composition. Additionally, students are introduced to installation art, where they collaborate to create immersive, site-specific works. This diverse program drives creativity, cultural understanding, and technical skills, while empowering students to express themselves boldly and imaginatively.

## GRADE 4

In our Grade 4 art program, students dive into an exciting exploration of creativity, integrating core elements across various disciplines. Inspired by European Gothic architecture, students craft ceramic gargoyles, honing their sculpting skills while exploring historical and cultural contexts. Mixed media sculptures encourage experimentation with texture, form, and composition, fostering individual expression and artistic inquiry. Collaborative mural projects promote teamwork and communication, as students collaborate to transform shared spaces with vibrant visual narratives. Central to the Grade 4 program is the cultivation of personal expression, independence, and inquiry, empowering students to unleash their creativity and curiosity through immersive artistic experiences.

## GRADE 5

In our Grade 5 art program, students refine their technical abilities and master the artistic process of creating, presenting, responding and connecting. Inspired by Expressionism, students delve into contour portrait drawing, capturing emotion and personality through bold colors and expressive lines. Through textured sculptures, students explore form and texture, bringing their creations to life with tactile elements. Engaging in a pop-up book project, students craft imaginative narratives targeted to a young audience, merging storytelling with visual art. Additionally, through our wacky hat projects, students research, develop ideas, and utilize all technical skills to produce personal and expressive outcomes, celebrating individuality and creativity. Our Grade 5 art program focuses on equipping students with the necessary skills and confidence for their creative journeys as they transition into middle and high school.

## VALUES

The Values program in the Elementary School (ES) is guided by the "Foundation for Catholic Values," which outlines five fundamental pillars for living responsibly. These pillars include the Dignity of the Human Person (Human Dignity), Call to Family and Community (Family and Community), Preferential Option for the Poor (Ending Poverty), Solidarity (Loving our Neighbors), and Stewardship of Creation (Taking Care of the Earth).

Through a combination of discussions, classroom projects, and Service Learning activities, students engage deeply with course content, fostering critical thinking and cooperative learning. The Values department prides itself on its emphasis on experiential learning, particularly its role in raising awareness of social and economic disparities. As such, Service Learning is an integral component of the curriculum.

Respectful of individual uniqueness and diversity, the Values program aims to facilitate experiential learning and the development of personal values systems.

## GRADE 1 VALUES

In Grade 1 Values, students begin with the unit on "Human Dignity," where they learn to differentiate between right and wrong. The "Family and Community" unit emphasizes the importance of honesty and integrity in family and community life. In "Ending Poverty," students explore social responsibility and inclusiveness as essential components of community care. The "Loving Our Neighbors" unit focuses on kindness to oneself and others, and how supporting a charity can help children in need. The final unit, "Taking Care of the

Earth," teaches the importance of recycling and how compassion for the environment can prevent harm.

## GRADE 2 VALUES

The Grade 2 Values curriculum covers essential social and ethical concepts through five key units. In "Human Dignity," students develop note-taking and listening skills, understand kindness, and appreciate the importance of recognizing similarities and differences. The "Family and Community" unit emphasizes family values, honesty versus dishonesty, and the role of respect and integrity. In "Ending Poverty," students learn to organize events and persuade others to assist those in need, promoting inclusiveness and social responsibility. "Loving Our Neighbors" encourages kindness towards oneself and the environment, and supports educational charities. Lastly, "Taking Care of the Earth" focuses on cooperation and collaboration, as students create a recycled mural and learn ways to protect the planet.

## GRADE 3 VALUES

The Grade 3 Values curriculum builds on previous learning, incorporating new ways to serve the community. In "Human Dignity," students explore concepts such as respect and care for people and things around them. The "Family and Community" unit examines different types of families and communities. "Ending Poverty" deepens students' understanding of assisting those in need. The "Loving Our Neighbors" unit promotes self-awareness and the courage to effect change in their communities. Finally, "Taking Care of the Earth" involves a project centered on the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle campaign.

## GRADE 4 VALUES

In Grade 4 Values, the "Human Dignity" unit explores wishes, basic needs, and human rights. The "Family and Community" unit focuses on the school community and the principles of integrity, kindness, and honesty. During "Ending Poverty," students continue finding ways to assist those in need. The "Loving Our Neighbors" unit encourages appreciation and recognition of hard work within the school community. The final unit, "Taking Care of the Earth," involves a project based on the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle campaign.

## GRADE 5 VALUES

For Grade 5 Values, the "Human Dignity" unit addresses stereotypes, prejudices, and identity. The "Family and Community" unit explores how respect and integrity can strengthen a community. During "Ending Poverty," students organize food bags for those in need. The "Loving Our Neighbors" unit focuses on educational charities and integrating kindness into school interactions. The final unit, "Taking Care of the Earth," continues work on the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle campaign, with an emphasis on sustainability at home and school.



## RELIGION

The Religion program is designed for Catholic students—and any other students who choose to enroll—to have the opportunity to pursue the goals of a Christian education on a regular basis. The ES curriculum is structured with Christ-Centered lessons that help students personalize and incorporate scriptural principles into their everyday lives. The students learn not only to be respectful of other people’s worldviews, but also to stand firm on the foundations of their own faith. Alongside the aforementioned classes, a specific Catechism Program is offered for Grade 3 students planning to receive the sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion at the end of the school year.

### GRADE 1 RELIGION

In Grade 1 Religion, students begin their spiritual journey by learning basic prayers and exploring Bible stories from both the Old and New Testaments. They are introduced to various Bible characters to help them grow in faith and understanding of God. Students are encouraged to retell these stories in their own words, fostering a personal connection with the teachings.

### GRADE 2 RELIGION

Grade 2 Religion focuses on deepening students' understanding of God through Bible stories centered on the life and mission of Jesus. Students learn about the parables and miracles of Jesus, complemented by songs, prayers, and short video clips that reinforce the stories and their meanings. Activities help students reflect on how they can apply the moral lessons of these stories in real-life situations.

### GRADE 3 RELIGION

In Grade 3 Religion, students expand their knowledge of God as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The curriculum emphasizes the importance of following Jesus by making good choices and decisions. Lessons prepare students for the sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion, with continued learning of prayers in preparation for these significant milestones.

### GRADE 4 RELIGION

Grade 4 Religion introduces students to the basic truths of the Catholic faith, summarized in the Apostle’s Creed. Students learn to use the Bible as a timeless resource for valuable life lessons and faith-building. They are taught how to find, read, and value Bible verses, helping them appreciate that faith is both a divine gift and a personal response.

### GRADE 5 RELIGION

In Grade 5 Religion, students explore the Seven Sacraments in-depth, using biblical references to understand the significance of each sacrament in their faith journey. The course emphasizes the Bible as a timeless resource for moral guidance and spiritual growth, aiding students in becoming well-rounded individuals.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Our Physical Education program for KG-Grade 5 students is based on the SHAPE America Curriculum Standards.

**KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 2**

Our Physical Education program for KG-Grade 2 follows the Meaningful PE Approach, emphasizing fun, challenge, personal relevance, and social interactions in every lesson. We focus on character development and skill acquisition through lessons tailored to our diverse learners. Students are encouraged to take charge of their learning journey, fostering a sense of ownership and engagement. The curriculum is structured into five units: Individual Pursuits (swimming), Invasion Games, Net Games, and Striking and Fielding. Students will develop essential motor skills by demonstrating various locomotor skills with an understanding of space, effort, and relationships, jumping and landing safely, transferring weight across multiple body parts, and balancing on different body parts. They will learn and apply basic movement and fitness concepts, recognizing personal space and movement in general space, identifying simple strategies in activities like chasing and fleeing, and demonstrating knowledge of locomotor, non-locomotor, and manipulative skills. The program also focuses on developing social skills necessary for positive interactions, where students recognize the feelings of others, encourage peers, use communication skills to share space and equipment, and respond appropriately to directions and feedback. Additionally, students will identify the benefits of physical activity, recognize activities that allow for self-expression and social interaction, listing ways movement positively affects personal health, and recognizing individual challenges and preferences in physical activities.

**GRADE 3 - GRADE 5**

Our Physical Education program for Grades 3-5 follows the Meaningful PE Approach, emphasizing fun, challenge, personal relevance, and social interactions in every lesson. We focus on character development and skill acquisition through lessons tailored to our diverse learners. Students are encouraged to take charge of their learning journey, fostering a sense of ownership and engagement. The curriculum is structured into five units: Individual Pursuits (swimming), Invasion Games, Net Games, and Striking and Fielding. Students will develop essential motor skills by combining varied locomotor skills in different practice tasks, transferring weight from feet to hands and back in various settings, rolling with the body, and combining movements like jumping, landing, rolling, and balancing. They will learn and apply advanced movement and fitness concepts, applying movement strategies for safe and efficient performance, demonstrating knowledge of offensive and defensive strategies in games, and solving problems in various games and activities. The program also focuses on developing social skills necessary for positive interactions, where students describe others' perspectives during activities, use communication skills to negotiate roles and responsibilities, demonstrate respectful and safe behaviors in group activities, and solve problems independently, with partners, and in small groups. Additionally, students will identify the benefits of physical activity, explain how activities meet personal needs for self-expression and social interaction, describe how movement positively affects personal health, recognize and explain the rationale behind their choices in physical activities, and identify group challenges through movement.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

Early Childhood begins at age of 2 and continues to age of 4, where students will then transition into Elementary School at age of 5.

### PRE-KINDERGARTEN 2

In our Reggio-inspired, developmentally appropriate Pre-Kindergarten classrooms for 2-year-olds, students will engage in exploratory activities designed to stimulate their curiosity and creativity. They will have opportunities to explore various materials, textures, and sensory experiences, promoting their cognitive development and fine motor skills. Through play experiences, the students will develop social skills such as sharing, taking turns, and cooperating with others. Teachers will create a nurturing environment where students feel supported and encouraged to express themselves through art, music, and movement. Learning experiences will be tailored to the individual interests and developmental needs of each child, fostering a love for learning and a sense of autonomy. Overall, students will thrive in an environment that values their unique abilities and encourages them to explore and discover the world around them at their own pace.

### PRE-KINDERGARTEN 3

In our Reggio-inspired, developmentally appropriate Pre-Kindergarten classrooms for 3-year-olds, students will engage in hands-on, experiential learning activities that ignite their curiosity and foster their creativity. They will have opportunities to explore a wide range of materials, from art supplies to natural objects, allowing them to express themselves and develop their fine motor skills. Through collaborative projects and group discussions, they will learn to communicate their ideas and emotions, building their language and social skills. Teachers will act as facilitators, guiding students through their inquiries and providing support as they make discoveries and connections. Learning experiences will be child-led, with teachers observing and adapting to students' interests and developmental levels. Overall, students will thrive in an environment that values their unique perspectives and encourages them to explore, question, and discover the world around them.

### PRE-KINDERGARTEN 4

In our Reggio-inspired, developmentally appropriate Pre-Kindergarten classrooms for 4-year-olds, students will engage in a variety of enriching hands-on experiences- carefully crafted to support their holistic development and foster exploration and collaboration. Students will have opportunities to delve into various subjects and units that pique their curiosity, guiding their own learning through inquiry-based projects and investigations. Through meaningful interactions with peers and teachers, students will further develop their social and emotional skills, learning to communicate effectively, resolve conflicts, and work cooperatively in group settings. Our classrooms are meticulously designed to spark creativity and reflection, with materials and resources thoughtfully chosen to inspire research and discovery. Teachers will serve as facilitators, providing guidance and support while allowing students to take ownership of their learning journey. Additionally, teachers will equip students with tools to foster lifelong learning and achieve future academic success. Overall, students will thrive in an environment that honors their individual interests, cultivates a passion for learning, and empowers them to become active, engaged participants in their own education.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIALIST CLASSES

The specialist classes in Pre-Kindergarten include Art, Music, Values, Drama, and Thai and are designed to nurture each child's creativity, curiosity, and sense of wonder. In Art, children

explore a wide range of activities and media, such as finger painting, playdough sculpting, collage making, collaborative murals, and sensory boxes. In Music, they engage with various instruments, explore vocal expression through singing, and engage with music through movement and dance. Theatre and Dance activities support physical development, coordination, and self-expression through focused dance and creative movement. The program is designed to support the overarching learning themes explored in the homeroom, and values each child's unique expression and evolves based on their interests and discoveries, creating a joyful, engaging, and respectful learning environment.

