

# **Chippewa Valley Schools Elementary Course Descriptions**



## **Kindergarten**

### **ELA**

The kindergarten language arts curriculum is designed to excite children about literacy. Each day literacy activities are used to develop listening, speaking, reading, writing, and viewing skills.

Kindergarten children learn that print carries meaning and represents language. They engage in pre-reading activities that include learning letter names and sounds and recognizing common words. Children are introduced to beginning comprehension strategies. Writing experiences are also an important part of the kindergarten language arts curriculum.

### **Math**

Kindergarten children develop mathematical skills through "hands-on" activities and games. They become familiar with numbers 1-100 by counting by 1s, 2s, and 5s. The concepts of graphing, telling time, number patterns, fractions, and money are introduced. Children compare a variety of objects using their length, weight and volume; estimate measures; and use measurement tools. Number stories provide a way for young children to read and write numbers. Games are used as a concrete way of introducing a variety of topics.

### **Science**

Students learn important science concepts and develop the ability to think critically by actively constructing ideas through their own inquiries, investigations, and analyses. Students are actively engaged in the process of science as they explore the natural world.

### **Social Studies**

The kindergarten social studies curriculum is designed to encourage students to gain a better understanding of themselves and the world around them. Using the context of "myself and others," students learn about geography, history, civics, government, and economics.

### **Art**

In kindergarten, students will develop an awareness of two- and three-dimensional forms, manipulate art tools, be exposed to famous works of art, and learn to use a wide array of art materials. Throughout the year, student art may be displayed in individual school buildings and throughout the community.

### **Music**

Students learn to make and respond to music through age-appropriate songs, dances, and activities. Basic instruction includes: Exploring their singing voices and other sounds; keeping a steady beat utilizing physical movement, dances, games, and rhythm instruments; learning a variety of traditional songs; and creating cultural awareness through songs, instruments, and ethnic dances.

### **Physical Education**

During physical education, students are given opportunities to develop Gross Motor skills and coordination. A variety of objects used in physical education will assist students' development of eye, hand, and foot coordination. Students will be assessed on some locomotor skills, movements and actions.

## **First Grade**

### **ELA**

The first-grade language arts curriculum incorporates students' prior knowledge and personal experiences to expand their concept about printed language. Children are given opportunities to participate in classroom discussions, read a variety of literary genres, express ideas creatively and engage in writing daily. Reading develops as children learn to decode orthographically regular, one-syllable words and nonsense words (e.g., *sit, zot*), using print-sound mappings to sound out unknown words. They begin to recognize common, irregularly spelled words by sight (*have, said, where, two*). First grade students monitor their own reading and self-correct when an incorrectly identified word does not fit with cues provided by the letters in the word or the context surrounding the word. Comprehension increases through listening and reading activities. Children are encouraged to express their ideas in written form, utilizing the beginning steps of the writing process. Beginning mechanics of writing and language usage are introduced within the context of daily writing activities.

### **Math**

First graders use math practices such as solving problems with effort and perseverance, communicating math ideas with appropriate vocabulary and strategies, and actively participating in math discussions and lessons. They use two and three-digit numbers for counting forward and backward, identifying larger and smaller numbers, and writing numbers from dictation. Games and activities involving number facts provide addition and subtraction practice. They expand on the skills taught in kindergarten by measuring in both inches and centimeters, telling time, and answering questions about data. Children partition circles and rectangles into equal shares and describe the shares using halves, fourths, and quarters.

### **Science**

Students learn important science concepts and develop the ability to think critically by actively constructing ideas through their own inquiries, investigations, and analyses. Students are actively engaged in the process of science as they explore the natural world.

### **Social Studies**

In first grade students delve deeper into the four pillars of social studies: geography, economics, history, civics and government. Using the lens of families and schools, they explore how life has changed from past to present, develop spatial skills and uncover the characteristics of citizenship.

### **Art**

First grade art students identify and use a variety of textures, shapes and secondary colors to communicate ideas related to their personal environment and world. They learn to display artwork using simple techniques, and experiment with materials and processes while creating artwork based on personal routines, activities or environments.

### **Music**

The music program at the first-grade level is designed to expose children to the enjoyment of making and performing music while developing basic musical concepts and skills. The curriculum is organized to include many opportunities for singing, listening, playing instruments, creating, and moving to music. Emphasis is on the total involvement of students as music specialists focus on age-appropriate, hands-on musical experiences and activities.

### **Physical Education**

During physical education classes students are given opportunities to develop Gross Motor skills and coordination. A variety of objects used in physical education will assist students' development of eye, hand, and foot coordination. Students will be assessed on some locomotor skills, movements and actions. Students will also develop positive characteristics and attitudes conducive to physical fitness through exercise and activities.

## **2nd Grade**

### **ELA**

The second-grade language arts curriculum incorporates students' prior knowledge and personal experiences to expand their concept about printed language. Children are given opportunities to participate in classroom discussions, read a variety of literary genres, express ideas creatively and engage in writing daily. Reading develops as children identify an increasing number of words by sight and use letter-sound knowledge to sound out unknown words. Second grade students learn to accurately decode multisyllable words that sound like they are spelled ("orthographically regular") such as capital or Kalamazoo. They can also sound out orthographically regular nonsense words.

### **Math**

Second graders focus on thinking and communicating mathematically. The children have real-life math experiences in order to practice problem solving and build a true understanding of the mathematical concepts they need. Hands-on activities and math games are used to review and learn extended addition and subtraction facts. Students spend time sharing the strategies they used to solve mental math problems. They learn that there are a variety of ways to get the same answer. Students become familiar with arrays, which serve as the foundation for multiplication and division fact families.

### **Science**

Students learn important science concepts and develop the ability to think critically by actively constructing ideas through their own inquiries, investigations, and analyses. Students are actively engaged in the process of science as they explore the natural world.

### **Social Studies**

Second grade social studies will have students looking beyond their immediate surroundings to develop a more sophisticated understanding of time, space, government, and economics through the context of their local community. Students will gain an understanding of how citizens live and work together, create timelines of their community's past, and investigate their environment to begin to understand the human impact.

### **Art**

In second grade the elements and principles of art are reviewed, utilized, and expanded upon as students develop their knowledge of vocabulary, art production, appreciation, and critical judgment. Through a variety of activities and artistic media, students learn to compare and contrast different art styles, differentiate between cultural art forms, and distinguish between historical periods.

### **Music**

The music program at the second-grade level is designed to expose children to the enjoyment of making and performing music while developing basic musical concepts and skills. The curriculum is organized to include many opportunities for singing, listening, playing instruments, creating, and moving to music. Emphasis is on the total involvement of students as music specialists focus on age-appropriate, hands-on musical experiences and activities.

### **Physical Education**

Students continue to work with their Gross Motor skills, spatial awareness, and coordination. They will explore the principles of eye, hand, and foot coordination through a variety of activities. Students continue to develop traditional team sports-based skills through culminating activities and game play. They will be assessed in certain skills throughout the year. Students will develop positive characteristics and attitudes, a sense of fair play, teamwork concepts, and cooperation with others.

## **3rd Grade**

### **ELA**

In grade three, students will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in a variety of articles, books, and other texts. In their writing, students will pay more attention to organizing information, developing ideas, and supporting these ideas with facts, details, and reasons. Additionally, students will be reading a wide range of stories and describe how a story teaches a lesson, and how characters' actions contributed to events in the story. They will read texts about history, social studies, or science and answer questions referring to information from illustrations such as maps or pictures as well as the words in a text to support their answers.

### **Math**

Third graders focus on fact families in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They continue developing strategies for multi-digit addition and subtraction problems. Learning multiplication facts through the 10s is a goal this year. Other third-grade skills include understanding large numbers in addition to working with small numbers using equivalent fractions and decimals (to the thousandths). They continue the study of geometry, negative numbers, calculator skills, telling time, and geometry.

### **Science**

Students learn important science concepts and develop the ability to think critically by actively constructing ideas through their own inquiries, investigations, and analyses. Students are actively engaged in the process of science as they explore the natural world.

### **Social Studies**

Third grade social studies is entirely focused on our great state of Michigan! Students will learn about people and past events that have shaped our state. They will explore the various types of geography around the state and investigate different areas. Additionally, students will explore how Michiganders support themselves in the production, consumption and distribution of goods and services and our ties to both national and global economies. The purposes, structure, and functions of state government are introduced.

### **Art**

Third grade art students use mixed media to communicate sensory experiences in an artwork. They demonstrate control and safe use of a variety of art tools, use real and implied textures to communicate sensory experiences, and select, present and evaluate personal artwork using established criteria.

### **Music**

In third grade, students continue to build upon their musical knowledge-base as more complex songs, musical notation, and vocabulary are presented by the music specialist. Students actively demonstrate their awareness of the elements of music through their successful use of dynamics, tone color, melody, and harmony in the songs they sing and, in the accompaniments, and compositions they create.

### **Physical Education**

Students continue to work with their Gross Motor skills, spatial awareness, and coordination. They will explore the principles of eye, hand, and foot coordination through a variety of activities. Students continue to develop traditional team sports-based skills through culminating activities and game play. They will be assessed in certain skills throughout the year. Students will develop positive characteristics and attitudes, a sense of fair play, teamwork concepts, and cooperation with others.

## **4th Grade**

### **ELA**

In grade four, students will continue to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will read more challenging literature, articles, and other sources of information and continue to grow their vocabulary. They will also be expected to clearly explain in detail what they have read by referring to details or information from the text. In writing, students will organize their ideas and develop topics with reasons, facts, details, and other information. Activities in these areas will include identifying the theme or main idea of a story, play, or poem; comparing stories from different cultures; explaining how an author uses facts, details, and evidence to support their points; and reading and understanding information presented in charts, graphs, timelines, and other illustrations.

### **Math**

Fourth graders explore geometry concepts and apply shape properties to create geometric figures. They use several different techniques to find the perimeter and area of assorted shapes. Children in fourth grade apply their knowledge of math facts to fact extensions, such as  $4 \times 8 = 32$  so  $40 \times 80 = 3200$  and develop strategies for multi-digit multiplication problems. They use their knowledge of estimation, place value, and the relationship between multiplication and division to develop a division strategy.

### **Science**

Students learn important science concepts and develop the ability to think critically by actively constructing ideas through their own inquiries, investigations, and analyses. Students are actively engaged in the process of science as they explore the natural world.

### **Social Studies**

4<sup>th</sup> grade students learn many foundational social studies concepts that will be built upon more in later grades. Students will engage in inquiries to investigate Michigan's post-statehood history. They study the physical geography of the United States, as well as several cultural regions in our nation. Much focus is placed on the United States government and economy, while also examining our ties to other places in the world.

### **Art**

In fourth grade, students employ the artistic elements and principles as their creativity, knowledge-base, interest, and enthusiasm for art are nurtured by an elementary visual art specialist. Based on the study of various cultures, historical periods, and famous works of art, the sequential curriculum focuses on challenging the students' problem-solving abilities.

### **Music**

Students continue to build upon their past information base as they refine their understanding of musical elements and concepts. Musical literacy is stressed as students learn to read and sing standard musical notation, to analyze, move to, and to create more complex songs.

### **Physical Education**

Students continue to work with their Gross Motor skills, spatial awareness, and coordination. They will explore the principles of eye, hand, and foot coordination through a variety of activities. Students continue to develop traditional team sports-based skills through culminating activities and game play. They will be assessed in certain skills throughout the year. Students will develop positive characteristics and attitudes, a sense of fair play, teamwork concepts, and cooperation with others.

## **5th Grade**

### **ELA**

In grade five, students will continue to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will read more challenging literature, articles, and other sources of information and continue to grow their vocabulary. They will also be expected to clearly explain in detail what they have read by referring to details or information from the text. In writing, students will organize their ideas and develop topics with reasons, facts, details, and other information. Activities in these areas will include identifying the theme or main idea of a story, play, or poem; comparing stories from different cultures; explaining how an author uses facts, details, and evidence to support their points; and reading and understanding information presented in charts, graphs, timelines, and other illustrations.

### **Math**

In fifth grade, students continue to investigate naming numbers in a variety of ways, including factors, exponents, fractions, decimals. They continue to practice with the division algorithm and apply their strategies for whole-number computation to decimals. Fractions are used in measurement, equivalent forms, ratios, and addition and subtraction situations. Decimal and percent concepts are extended to equivalent forms, number lines, grids, probability, and circle graphs. Fifth graders use manipulatives to explore negative numbers and simple algebraic expressions and problems. They link their measurement and algebra skills by using formulas to find perimeters, areas, and volumes of shapes and solids. They continue their study of geometry, working with angles, 2-D and 3-D figures, and corresponding math tools.

### **Science**

Students learn important science concepts and develop the ability to think critically by actively constructing ideas through their own inquiries, investigations, and analyses. Students are actively engaged in the process of science as they explore the natural world.

### **Social Studies**

5<sup>th</sup> grade concentrates on the early history of the United States. Studies begin with the indigenous people before the arrival of European explorers and conclude with the adoption of the Bill of Rights. Students will learn to use primary and secondary sources to explore significant events that shaped our nation in chronological order. Throughout the year there is an overarching theme of what it means to be a responsible citizen.

### **Art**

The visual art curriculum culminates at the fifth-grade level as students demonstrate their prior knowledge of the elements and principles of art; vocabulary; and cultural, historic, and aesthetic awareness through a variety of meaningful, artistic experiences. Fifth graders have the opportunity to respond visually, verbally, analytically, and creatively through the skillful handling of a wide variety of art media.

### **Music**

Students continue to build upon their past information-base as they refine their understanding of musical elements and concepts. Musical literacy is stressed as students learn to read and sing standard musical notation, to analyze, move to, and to create more complex songs.

### **Physical Education**

Students continue to work with their Gross Motor skills, spatial awareness, and coordination. They will explore the principles of eye, hand, and foot coordination through a variety of activities. Students continue to develop traditional team sports-based skills through culminating activities and game play. They will be assessed in certain skills throughout the year. Students will develop positive characteristics and attitudes, a sense of fair play, teamwork concepts, and cooperation with others.