



CORE DISCOVERY CURRICULUM ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

Bridges	<i>Wherever you're coming from and wherever you're at...we invite you to begin your journey with us in our Bridges class. This class is usually for five and six-year-olds but is not age-limited. Here, students will receive a playful, interactive introduction to key, early reading skills as well as a hands-on start to mathematical thinking. There's also lots of fun – songs, games, physical activity, art and stories.</i>
LRS Foundations 1 and 2	<i>For any learner, of any age who needs to strengthen their ability to form connections between letters and their sounds and to work on those two-vowel combinations (vowel teams). The presentation is multisensory with plenty of concept review and learning games. We position the students for success with a logical, step-by-step progression of skills.</i>
Logic of English A	<i>Logic of English is an Orton Gillingham-based curriculum which is dedicated to explaining the English language in a straightforward, kid-friendly way. This works for all learners - great readers, struggling readers and dyslexic readers. To this solid foundation, we add our own guided explorations of words using the technique of Structured Word Inquiry where kids act as "word detectives". Where they start or how fast they go is not important. It only matters if the students learn. Level A jumpstarts kids with commonly encountered words and is geared to those with beginning reading skills.</i>
Logic of English B	<i>Logic of English B is similar to Level A but with more depth and richness. It can be used as a follow-on to Level A or as a starting point depending on a student's starting fund of knowledge.</i>
Logic of English C	<i>Logic of English C can be a first introduction to the Logic of English for students with solid fundamental reading and spelling skills or it can be used after completing Levels A and/or B. This level includes many Latin and Greek roots and helps develop vocabulary skills that enable students to discover the meaning in texts.</i>
Singapore Math Levels 1-6	<i>The Singapore math method is focused on mastery, which is achieved through intentional sequencing of concepts. Some of the key features of the approach include the CPA (Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract) progression, number bonds, bar modeling, and mental math. Instead of pushing through rote memorization, students learn to think mathematically and rely on the depth of knowledge gained in previous lessons.</i>



Enrichment classes - Elementary Program

Enrichment classes rotate every semester allowing students to chart their unique learning path.

Exploring Our Environment	<i>The world around us is an endless source of wonder and curiosity. And children are natural scientists. Through a combination of guided inquiry and hands-on experimentation, our learners will answer some of their own questions and learn to ask more. Why does the wind blow? What animals are out and about this season? How does human activity affect the ecosystem? What causes an eclipse? "Field work" is definitely involved, weather permitting.</i>
Piano Gang! Beginning Group Piano	<i>For students with absolutely no previous piano experience and no note reading skill! Practice at home is helpful but not absolutely essential if you lack access to a keyboard. Book purchase \$8. Learn the basics of note reading and play with both hands by the end of the class. Learning together is fun! Private lessons are also available at the school for more experienced students for a separate fee or, if numbers allow, an "experienced gang" may be formed.</i>
An Introduction to American Sign Language	<i>Sign language and children are a natural fit. Learners will discover how to make their words come alive with gestures and gain a window into the world of ASL speakers.. Sign language is also a great way to reinforce alphabetic skills and expand vocabulary in a multisensory and enjoyable way.</i>
Music	<i>With a focus on creative expression and a hands-on, student-centered approach, this music program is for every person who wants to start making music right away!</i>
Artist in Residence	<i>Visual artists will come to visit our school to share their work and point of view. Then our learners will get a chance to try by doing. Classes will be scheduled depending on current student interest and can include - painting, drawing, sketching, sculpture, calligraphy, mosaic, jewelry-making, fiber arts (spinning, knitting, crochet, macramé), ceramics, wood-carving, metalwork, creative re-use and many others! Some of these electives may require additional materials fees.</i>



Interactive History	There is no better way to understand history than <i>stepping into it</i>. Our history classes aim to put students <i>into the story</i> so that they can truly understand what happened and when. Historical topics and time periods rotate from year to year.
Writing Well	All kids can improve their writing. This elective helps <i>both the struggling and the gifted writer bloom</i>. Using graphic organizers, concrete strategies, silly sentences and lots of patience, we <i>accept each writer where they are and encourage self-expression</i>. Technology to assist writing is demonstrated and its use is encouraged when appropriate. Note that our emphasis is NOT on spelling in this class but on the <i>use of rich language, creativity and appropriate grammar</i>.
Odyssey of the Mind	Odyssey is a national program focused on <i>independent problem solving skills</i>. When there is interest, the microSchool will field a team for the <i>annual competition</i>. But even when we don't compete, there is much to be learned by practicing these sorts of team-building challenges where <i>kids are in charge</i>!
NOTES ON ELECTIVES	Electives are offered when instructors are available and when there is sufficient student interest to support a class. Electives may be offered as "mini" electives during the Extended Day from 11:00 to 11:30, during the Core Curriculum for 60 minutes or after school from 3 PM to 3:30 PM. In addition to the courses listed above, we are always thinking up great new ideas for classes. If you have a request for an elective or if you have a special gift to share with the school, we would love to hear from you. Thanks!