

COLUMBIA COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Elementary Curriculum

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

The elementary program addresses the development of students in five areas - intellectual development, social and emotional development, development of social responsibility, physical development, and artistic development.

Intellectual Development

Students are actively involved in learning - asking as well as answering questions; solving problems and experiencing through hands-on activities; reading and writing. Learning is viewed as a lifelong pursuit.

Social and Emotional Development

Students are offered opportunities in which to gain confidence as well as competence in both working alone and within groups. These opportunities arise through activities including individual assignments, class projects, plays, presentations, and curriculum fairs.

Development of Social Responsibility

Students are involved in activities which provide them the opportunities to understand the interdependence of social and ecological issues as well as to value and respect individual contributions. Activities include participation in recycling campaigns, outdoor classrooms, patriotic events.

Physical Development

Students are exposed to a wide variety of activities so that they may refine their interests and choose those that suit their personal abilities and needs. Creative exploration of ideas and feelings through movement and an understanding of the elements of space, shape, time, and force are both being emphasized.

Artistic Development

Through carefully selected activities, students develop perceptual awareness, begin to value art as an important realm of human experience, produce works of art, begin to know about art history and its relationship to other disciplines, and begin to make and justify judgments concerning aesthetic quality and merit of works of art.

These areas of development are interrelated with no one area more important than the other. A safe, disciplined learning environment, in which development can occur, is supported through the cooperative efforts of parents, students, educators, and the community.

Communication Skills (Language Arts - Reading, English, Spelling, Handwriting)

Success in academic and career areas is directly related to the student's ability to communicate effectively using both oral and written language. Language instruction reflects a strong program in the communication skills - listening, speaking, reading, writing, and viewing.

Mathematics

Mathematics instruction focuses on five goals: learning to value mathematics, becoming confident in mathematics, becoming a problem solver, learning to communicate mathematically, and learning to reason mathematically. The content addresses number sense and numeration; patterns and relationships; probability, statistics, making sense of data; and geometry and spatial sense. Emphasis is placed on measurement, computation, estimation, and the use of visual models as tools in addressing the content.

Science and Health

The goals of science and health education include developing curiosity, learning to think scientifically, using processes and skills. The content of the program focuses on the physical world, the living world, and science and technology.

Social Studies

Essential learnings in social studies include historical, geographic, government/civic and economic understandings. Course content, Kindergarten through Grade Five, focuses on Symbols of America (K), American Heroes (1), Georgia (2), Our Democratic Heritage (3), United States History To 1860 (4), and United States History Since 1860 (5).

Music

Music instruction provides opportunities for students to develop skills, knowledge, expression, and attitudes for personal enjoyment. Major emphasis is placed on understanding many types of music through guided listening or performance; studying music through singing, playing instruments, moving to music, or a combination of these; arranging or composing music for instruments and voices; and understanding and using music notation.

Physical Education

Physical education provides experiences and information for all students to develop positive, active, and healthy lifestyles. Activities are designed for maximum student participation, cooperation, success, challenge, and enjoyment. Instructional content is focused on physical fitness and movement skills.

Art

Art education fosters creativity and the development of an understanding of our cultural heritage. Opportunities are provided for students to discover and develop their abilities, to use sensory perceptions, to experiment with materials, and to become acquainted with art works of the past and present. Activities address the visual arts, drama, and dance.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Students are provided handbooks; these handbooks provide much information for parents and students. Information addresses most questions concerning school policies and procedures including attendance, grading, conduct, appropriate dress, medication, and other areas of importance.