

Da Vinci Academy 2011-12
Ms. Pighini – First Grade Curriculum

Overview

Most of the first grade curriculum uses a unit format that is theme/topic based. As much as possible, I integrate language arts, the arts, and some math into science and social studies themes. Being immersed in a topic allows students to think more deeply about what they are learning and to make meaningful connections at their own pace.

Themes/Units

We plan to cover the following units this year: Geography and Map Skills, Dinosaurs, Animals and Habitats, States of Matter, Weather, Climate and the Seasons, Ecology, Early Man, Ancient Egypt.

Dinosaur Unit Example

Digging for fossils and making fossils, graphing fossils, matching dinosaur skeletons, identifying herbivores and carnivores, comparing dinosaurs to animals of today, creating a theory of extinction, building a dinosaur and naming it using Latin and Greek root words.

By Subject

Reading: The children are exposed to a variety of literature including folktales, fairytales, poetry, fiction and nonfiction. The children participate in a variety of reading comprehension activities daily.

Spelling: *Words Their Way*, a word study approach that addresses word recognition, vocabulary and phonics, all as part of the spelling process

Grammar: Nouns, adjectives, capitalization, punctuation, contractions, synonyms, antonyms, homonyms

Writing Workshop: A self-paced writing program practiced daily

Math: Graphing, addition, subtraction, place value, multiplication, division, time, money, fractions, geometry, algebra concepts

Humane Education: A program designed with activities that promote the character essential qualities of empathy, kindness, and respect for all living beings and the environment

Assessment

The students are assessed both formally and informally throughout the school year. I use a spelling inventory, reading fluency and comprehension assessments, observation, and performance tasks to assess the students.

Helping Your Child Be Successful

- Please be sure your child gets plenty of sleep each night and eats breakfast each morning. A 6 or 7 year old should get approximately 10 hours of sleep each night.
- Read a minimum of 15 minutes each day with your child
- Check your child's take home folder daily and have your child explain what he/she learned that day
- Arrive to school on time
- Don't overload your child with academic activities outside of school. Encourage your child to have fun, explore, and get outside and run around!