

## **Literacy:**

### ***PreK-3- Grade 2***

Students at these grades levels are building a strong foundation for literacy learning by cultivating a love and enjoyment of both stories and non-fiction texts. Students interact with text in multiple ways including read-alouds, project-based learning, songs, morning meeting and games. Students are engaged in literacy through talk (oral language), reading, writing, and listening to stories. Teachers introduce letters and sounds through games and play in the Pre K years and weave these experiences with rich opportunities for oral language and writing. Throughout the early grades teachers model reading and thinking strategies and invite students to think and talk about texts through dialogue about favorite experiences, texts, and characters. In Kindergarten through Grade 2 students are formally instructed in reading through a balanced "diet" of read-alouds, shared reading and independent reading experiences. With respect to writing, students engage in daily drawing and writing in journals and through project-based learning. Students are supported at all levels in literacy through group work and one-one-one teacher conferencing. In addition, parents are frequently welcomed as partners within the classroom to share favorite stories.

### ***Grades 3-5***

Students in these grades are continuing to develop their love of literacy while cultivating their own reading preferences, opinions, and voice in writing. Students continue to explore both fiction and non-fiction through integrated studies in social studies and science. Through these integrated units, students develop vocabulary alongside an understanding of diverse genres. Students explore a variety of texts both through whole-group discussion as well as through individual selection of books and texts. Teachers model and encourage discussions about texts. In Writer's Workshop students are encouraged to try out different voices and genres, while developing their own preferences. Students are also taught the conventions of writing.

### ***Grades 6-8***

The program at the school extends students' strong reading and writing abilities to think about the world at large. Students are immersed in the study of classic chapter books, while also exploring more contemporary books which broach current social issues. Students are asked to explore issues and themes in texts alongside a variety of perspectives. In addition, students are asked to write longer pieces in a variety of styles in order to develop strong writing skills. Students continue to cultivate their love of reading and writing by selecting their own individual books, while also reading in the company of peers through book clubs. Discussion and debate about themes in books is considered a critical way in which students develop deep understanding of text.