



**International Community School**

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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA



**Elementary School  
Curriculum Guide  
2011/2012**

**1  
GRADE**

## **Mission Statement**

The International Community School of Addis Ababa, accredited in the United States, develops the talents and intellects of a multicultural student body using learner-centered, holistic instructional methods, empowering each student to contribute in an evolving world.

## **Introduction**

Each guide offers an overview of your child's grade-level curriculum this year. They provide the content and major learning objectives in each subject area including Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Specials classes. Please keep in mind that this is an ever-evolving document to maintain and further develop excellent practices in education.

More detailed information about your child's learning will go home from your child's teacher over the course of the year. If you would like more information on the Elementary Program, please see the Elementary School Student/Parent Handbook.

# Language Arts

By the end of the school year, all students should be able to:

- Use their knowledge of root words, compound words, prefixes, suffixes, and plurals to decipher grade-level words.
- Read common word families (“sat,” “cat,” “mat,” etc.).
- Read grade-level texts with appropriate speed, accuracy, and expression.
- Study antonyms, synonyms, and homonyms, as well as categories of words (such as animals and place names) to learn new grade-level vocabulary.
- Write about what they have read in different ways: to describe the characters, setting, or events; to list a sequence of events in a story; to retell a story using words that they know; to identify a problem and solution in a simple story.
- Use punctuation marks, such as commas, question marks, and periods as clues to help express the meaning of sentences when reading. For example, know that a period means to stop and an exclamation point means to read with extra energy.
- Write or draw pictures to capture important understandings (share what they have learned about a topic, respond to an experience).

- Use comprehension strategies (such as predict/confirm, reread, self-correct, ask questions) to clarify the meaning of what they have read.
- Speak for different purposes, and vary language (formal or informal) according to the purpose of communication (to inform, to entertain, etc.).
- Identify and produce letter-sound correspondences, including consonants and short and long vowels, such as knowing the difference between the “a” in “mat” and the “a” in “mate.”
- Discuss stories and themes or topics in small or large group settings.

## **Mathematics**

In Everyday Mathematics, children develop a broad background by learning concepts and skills in all these six content strands. The Grade 1 program emphasizes the following content.

### **Number and Numeration**

Counting; reading and writing numbers; investigating place value of whole numbers; exploring fractions and money

### **Operations and Computation**

Learning addition and subtraction facts, fact families, and extended facts; beginning informal work with properties of numbers and problem solving

**Data and Chance**

Collecting, organizing, and displaying data using tables, charts, and graphs

**Measurement and Reference Frames**

Using tools to measure length, capacity (quarts, liters), and weight; using clocks, calendars, timelines, thermometers, and ordinal numbers such as fifth and tenth.

**Geometry**

Exploring 2-dimensional shapes (squares, triangles, rectangles) and 3- dimensional shapes (pyramids, cones, prisms)

**Patterns, Functions, and Algebra**

Exploring attributes, patterns, sequences, relations, and functions; finding missing numbers and rules in problems; studying properties of operations (addition and subtraction)

# Science

Students in Grade 1 science explore units on Air and Weather and New Plants.

By the end of the year, all students should be able to:

- Observe the force of air pressure pushing on objects and materials
- Observe and describe changes that occur in weather over time
- Compare monthly and seasonal weather conditions using bar graphs
- Experience some of the diversity of forms in the plant kingdom
- Observe and describe the changes that occur as plants grow and develop
- Provide for the needs of growing plants
- Organize and communicate observations through drawing and writing

## **Social Studies**

In Grade 1 social studies, students explore increasingly larger circles of community in *My School* and *Where Am I in My World?* Each grade level incorporates a study of Ethiopian culture into their social studies curriculum.

By the end of the year, all students should be able to:

- Identify examples of responsible citizenship in the school setting.
- Give examples of conflict, cooperation among individuals and groups.
- Identify roles and patterns of behavior that people demonstrate in group situations.
- Identify traditions and celebrations of various cultures (e.g., Meskel, Chinese New Year).
- Participate in activities such as dance, song, and games that represent various cultures.
- Describe the physical and human characteristics of places.
- Explain the spatial concepts of location, distance and direction, including: The location of school, home, city, country, and continent.

# **Specials**

## **Art**

Elementary students have visual arts classes twice a week, during which they engage in a wide variety of artmaking practices and techniques. Art history and cultural perspectives are incorporated into all projects so that students may gain an appreciation for art in many forms. Students in grades K-2 art classes have created artworks based on themes such as, "Many Things to See/Many Ways to Express, A Close Look at an Environment". They learn how artists plan and create while also examining ways to express individual styles.

## **Music**

Elementary music students are actively engaged in analyzing, listening to, creating and performing music. Students understand musical concepts such as melody, rhythm, harmony, and form by composing their own pieces on classroom instruments, learning a variety of notation systems and learning musical compositions from all over the world. Students in K-2 are actively engaged in musical games, movement and creative dramatics. Many opportunities to perform are available throughout the school year.

## **PE**

The Physical Education program provides each child an opportunity to experience student-centered instructional activities that enable him/her to acquire the skills and attitude necessary to enjoy an active and healthy life style. Students in grades K-2 focus on large muscle activities, development of health related physical fitness, fundamental movement skills and manipulative skills.

## **Technology**

The elementary computer program aligns with the National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NETS). Students in grades K-2 are introduced to basic technology operations and explore programs that help develop their fine motor skills. IT classes are integrated with other subjects areas which allows students to better understand how the use of technology can be applied in different situations, in and outside of the classroom.