



International Community School

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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA



**Elementary School
Curriculum Guide
2011/2012**

**2
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:

- Read unfamiliar informational texts (such as instructions) to collect and interpret data, facts, and ideas.
- Compare and contrast similarities and differences among characters and events across stories.
- With assistance, compare information on one topic from more than one text.
- Write interpretive essays and responsive essays that identify title, author, and illustrator. For example, describe story elements or express a personal response to literature.
- Create imaginative stories and personal narratives using the writing process (for example, organizing, drafting, revising, and editing), such as imagining life in space or telling about the day they got a new pet.
- Speak with expression, volume, pace, and facial or body gestures appropriate to the purpose of the communication, topic, and audience.
- Blend sounds using knowledge of letter-sound correspondences in order to make sense of unfamiliar, grade-level words with more than one syllable.
- Decode using knowledge of known words and word families to read new words.

- Use spelling resources, such as dictionaries, word walls, and/or computer software to spell words correctly.
- Write sentences in logical order and use paragraphs to organize topics.
- Use capitalization, punctuation, and spelling rules to produce final written products.

Mathematics

In Everyday Mathematics, children develop a broad background by learning concepts and skills in all these six content strands.

The Grade 2 program emphasizes the following content.

Number and Numeration

Counting; estimating; representing and comparing numbers; reading and writing numbers

Operations and Computation

Exploring the meaning of addition and subtraction; developing and using concrete strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems

Data and Chance

Collecting and organizing data; creating and analyzing tally charts, tables, and bar graphs; exploring basic probability concepts

Measurement and Reference Frames

Using nonstandard tools to estimate and compare weight and length; identifying pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollar bills; exploring temperature and thermometers; using calendars and other tools to track or measure time

Geometry

Exploring 2- and 3- dimensional shapes and line symmetry

Patterns, Functions, and Algebra

Exploring visual, rhythmic, and movement patterns; using rules to sort by attributes, make patterns, and play games; learning about the +, -, and = symbols

Science

In Grade 2 science, students participate in hands-on inquiry and look at units on **Balance and Motion** and **Life Cycles**.

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

- Observe and compare rolling systems with different-size wheels.
- Discover different ways to produce rotational motion.
- Investigate materials constructively during free exploration and in a guided discovery mode.
- Solve problems through trial and error.
- Explore concepts of balance, counterweight, and stability.
- Explain the life cycle of the butterfly, the frog, and the spider.
- Understand the vocabulary associated with life cycles.

Social Studies

Students in Grade 2 Social Studies have an extended **Spotlight** unit in which they explore their home cultures. Students also extend their mapping skills and participate in an **Environmental Project**.

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

- Describe how areas of a community have changed over time.
- Use appropriate resources and geographic tools to generate and interpret information about the earth.
- Describe ways that the earth's physical and human features have changed over time.
- Understand that people and cultures change over time.
- Explain how geography influences how people live.
- Understand how people depend on their physical environment.
- Identify how the lack of a resource can be problematic
- Observe the effects that humans have on their environment.

Specials

Art

Elementary students 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.