



International Community School

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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA



**Elementary School
Curriculum Guide
2011/2012**

**4
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 print-based and electronic literary texts silently on a daily basis.
- Set personal reading goals and reflect on changes in reading patterns.
- Recognize how authors use literary devices, such as similes and metaphors. A simile is the direct comparison of two different things using the words “like” or “as”; a metaphor is an indirect comparison or reference to how different things are alike.
- Evaluate content by identifying important and unimportant details, themes across works, and different perspectives (such as cultural, ethnic, and historical).
- Use organizational structures such as compare/contrast, cause/ effect, and chronological order for expository writing.
- Produce imaginative stories and personal narratives that show insight, logical progression, organization, and effective language.
- Produce a variety of original nonfiction writing, such as school reports.
- Recognize the perspectives of others, distinguishing among fact, opinion, and exaggeration.

- Ask clarifying questions, summarize, and explain a line of reasoning.
- Review their own writing to edit for grade-level spelling, punctuation, and consistency in verb tense.

Mathematics

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

The Grade 4 program emphasizes the following content.

Number and Numeration

Reading, writing, and using whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percents, and negative numbers; exploring scientific notation

Operations and Computation

Practicing addition and subtraction to proficiency; developing multiplication and division skills; exploring addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division methods; inventing individual procedures and algorithms; experimenting with calculator procedures

Data and Chance

Collecting, organizing, displaying, and interpreting numerical data

Measurement and Reference Frames

Exploring metric and U.S. customary measures; linear, area, volume, and weight; exploring geographical measures; using numbers in reference frames; number lines; coordinates; times and dates; latitude and longitude

Geometry

Developing an intuitive sense about 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional objects, their properties, uses, and relationships
Designing, exploring, and using geometric and number patterns;
reading, writing, and solving number sentences

Science

Science in Grade 4 explores electricity and magnetism, rocks and minerals, and the skeletal and muscular systems of the human body.

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

- Understand magnetism and how it works.
- Demonstrate how electricity works using a variety of circuits.
- Design and execute scientific research projects.
- Observe and identify properties of rocks and minerals.
- Recognize the types of rocks.
- Explore the uses of minerals and the importance of rocks.
- Utilize field tests to identify minerals.
- Describe the function of bones, joints and muscles in the human body.

Social Studies

In Grade 4 social studies, students explore the physical and cultural geography of Africa. 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 countries and capital cities in Africa on a map.
- Locate and know the major bodies of water that surround Africa and the major landforms within the continent.
- Describe the climates and environments that exist in Africa.
- Explain how the continent of Africa is changing physically.
- Explore the various resources found in Africa.
- Compare and contrast cultures in Africa.

Specials

Art

Elementary students engage in a wide variety of art making 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 3-5 focus on creative thinking skills, while also learning more advanced technical skills and connecting their artwork to interdisciplinary themes.

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. The program for students in grades 3-5 focuses on reinforcement of fundamental movement skills as well as the development of health and skill related physical fitness. Students are introduced to activities involving greater motor task complexity, individual and team games, gymnastics and rhythms.

Technology

The elementary computer program aligns with the National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NETS). Students in grades 3-5 learn advanced technology operations and focus on collaboration, research, critical thinking and problem solving. All 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.

French

The main objectives of the Elementary French program are to help each child attain an acceptable degree of proficiency in listening and speaking French in an informal and relaxed environment and to express themselves with increasing confidence, independence and creativity. A dynamic and lively program entitled "Alex et Zoé" is used in grades 3-5 to encourage every student to practice the language according to each level: Beginner Level 1, Beginner Level 2, Beginner Level 3. For students for whom French is their native language or who have some proficiency, an appropriate program can be designed for them.

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 grades 3-5 have many chances to perform in percussion ensembles, learn recorder and compose their own pieces using computer software technology.

Many opportunities to perform are available throughout the school year.