



International Community School

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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA



**Elementary School
Curriculum Guide
2011/2012**

**5
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:

- Skim written text, such as newspaper articles or pages from a book, to get an overview of what is said or to find a specific item.
- Know the difference between information that is relevant (for example, information that supports an idea in the text) and information that is not relevant.
- Use what they already know about a subject to help them understand or develop opinions about information they read.
- Know and use the rules of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
- Know and use the different skills that good writers use, such as word choice, organization of ideas, and metaphors and other descriptive devices.
- Read aloud from different kinds of texts, such as books, plays, and poems, using tone of voice, pacing, and emphasis to express the ideas and moods of the texts.
- Make inferences and draw conclusions based on information from the text.
- Use language, grammar, and appropriate vocabulary to communicate ideas when speaking to different audiences.
- Use a variety of different organizational patterns (chronological order, cause/effect) when writing.

- Read to collect and interpret data, facts, and ideas from multiple sources; compare and contrast such information on a single topic.

Mathematics

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

The Grade 5 program emphasizes the following content:

Number and Numeration

Recognizing place value in numerals for whole numbers and decimals; expressing numbers in scientific notation; finding factors of numbers; comparing properties of prime and composite numbers; representing rates and ratios with fraction notation

Operations and Computation

Extending whole-number facts with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to fractions and decimals; evaluating symbolic expressions

Data and Chance

Collecting, organizing, and analyzing data using bar graphs, line graphs, circle graphs, and stem-and-leaf plots

Measurement and Reference Frames

Using linear, area, capacity, and personal reference measures; locating items with reference to an origin or zero point, for example, ordinal numbers, times of day, dates, and temperatures

Geometry

Investigating angles and rotations; calculating area and volume; drawing to scale; introducing relationships of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional figures; exploring new transformations that affect attributes of geometric shapes

Science

Science in Grade 5 explores the nature of scientific inquiry, controlling variables, levers and pulleys, solar energy, and puberty.

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

- Conduct investigations using two kinds of simple machines: levers and pulleys.
- Engage in scientific inquiry
- Identify and control variables and conduct controlled experiments using several multivariable systems
- Observe and compare the outcomes of experiments
- Identify relationships between independent and dependent variables, graph relationships and make predictions using the results of their experiments
- Study the relationship between the Sun, an object, and its shadow as they monitor the Sun's apparent movement over a day, week, month and year
- Design experiments to discover which variables affect the transfer of energy from the Sun to air, water and earth materials, and relate this to weather patterns over land and water.
- Examine the changes taking place in their bodies as they develop through puberty and learn the basics of human reproduction.

Social Studies

In Grade 5 social studies, students explore the basics of economics, the economics of coffee, and pre- and post-colonial 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:

- Understand beginning economics concepts and vocabulary.
- Identify the ways they as individuals take part in economics.
- Explain why international trade causes interdependence among countries.
- Apply their understanding of economics to create their own good or service to be sold in a school market.
- Study the economics of coffee in Ethiopia and see first hand, in the field, how the coffee supply chain works.
- Interpret maps of Africa: pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial.
- Compare and contrast Africa before and after colonialism using Nigeria and South Africa as case studies.
- Understand the system, roots of, and resistance to apartheid.

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.