



International Community School

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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA



**Elementary School
Curriculum Guide
2011/2012**



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:

- Engage in pre-reading and reading activities to make predictions about what might happen next, retell a story in sequence, and make connections between the events in a story and the events in their own lives.
- Track print by pointing to written words when reading texts aloud by themselves or listening to others.
- Create a story with a beginning, middle, and end using pictures and some words.
- Know the difference between real stories (nonfiction text, such as "all about" books) and imaginary stories (fictional text, such as fairy tales).
- Identify and use spoken words that rhyme, recognize the same sounds in different words, and know that letters have individual sounds.
- Read automatically a small set of high-frequency sight words (for example, "a," "the," "my," "is," "are").
- Write, using letters and drawings, to label and communicate for different purposes (such as to tell stories, communicate feelings, and provide information).
- Use the basic conventions of reading English: left-to-right; top- to-bottom; know the difference between letters and words; know the difference between print and pictures.
- Talk for a variety of purposes: explain and discuss new information; ask questions; express ideas, thoughts, and

feelings; and engage in imaginative dialogues and social interaction.

- Learn and use new words in context.

Mathematics

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

Students in Kindergarten science focus on learning to observe the world around them. Students explore units on **Wood and Paper** and **Fabric**.

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

- Develop a curiosity and interest in the physical world around them.
- Communicate observations.
- Observe and compare the outcomes of experiments.
- Conduct simple investigations with wood, paper, and water.
- Determine the usefulness of different kinds of wood and paper.
- Observe and describe the properties of different fabrics.
- Compare different fabrics to discover how they are alike and how they are different.

Social Studies

In Kindergarten social studies, students explore the concept of self in **All About Me** and look at family roles and relationships in **Me and My Family**. 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 basic concepts of diversity, tolerance, fairness, and respect for others.
- Retell events or stories with accuracy and appropriate sequencing.
- Explain that a responsibility means something you must or should do.
- Develop simple timelines.
- Recognize change and continuity in their lives.
- Describe their family history through two generations.
- Identify the basic goods and services a family needs for everyday life.

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.

Specials

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.