

About Our Curriculum...

Reading: The Macmillan/McGraw-Hill reading series is used. Your child will read through a total of five hard-cover texts this year. Each book has workbook pages that teach reading skills covered in each story. The workbook pages are completed whole group, small group, and independently. They are usually graded and sent home on Friday. Reading homework is given during the week to give your child practice reading at home. On Friday, the hard-cover text is sent home for practice over that week's story. **PLEASE DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD READ AHEAD!!** It is very difficult to teach predicting skills when they are already familiar with the story. After each book is completed, a skills assessment test will be given. You will receive a copy of your child's test as well as a score sheet showing your child's progress.

Spelling: The Macmillan/McGraw-Hill spelling program is used. Each week there is a lesson that corresponds with the words introduced in that week's reading lesson. We generally do one page each day, with the final test on Friday. The pages will be sent home as a packet on Friday so you can see what skills were covered that week in class. Tests each week will cover new spelling words, challenge vocabulary words, and two words to be reviewed from the week prior.

Writing Workshop: Many writing skills are taught at this level, using the CRAFT PLUS and Six Traits writing programs. The six areas that we focus on throughout the year are: *Ideas, Sentence Fluency, Organization, Word Choice, Voice, and Conventions*. Scoring rubrics are sent home with your child's writing to show you what specific target skill or trait was worked on for that particular piece of writing.

Handwriting: The basic manuscript letter formations are reinforced through daily practice.

Social Studies: The students learn about their community, and their world through the use of "Weekly Reader" newspapers and the new MAISA curriculum. Units include: "How Do We Get Along With Others? - Rules/Constitution", "What Is A Family?", "How Do We Learn About the Past?", "How Do We Get What We Need or Want/Junior Achievement", "How Do We Learn About Place? - weather/maps/addresses.

Science: The Battle Creek Science Program is used. Many hands-on experiences are incorporated, and an inquiry approach is used. Our four main topics of study are: *Sorting by Properties, Animal Life, Weather, and The Sun Warms the Earth*.

Math: Everyday Mathematics is used. This program is very meaningful to children, and offers a realistic approach to problem solving in everyday situations, other applications, and frequent and distributed practice of basic skills. (see other sheet)