

## STAGE III — TYPICAL DAY

### *For children ages 7 – 9*

Stage III focuses on preparing children to become increasingly independent. This is supported by all aspects of the Stage III curriculum, from the homeroom to the special classes. The homeroom focuses on learning how to be a part of a community while also teaching core subjects. Students spend most of their morning time in the homeroom working on language arts, math and social studies.

In the afternoon, children attend special classes for both required and elective offerings. Science, physical education, computer and French or Spanish are required. For electives, they can choose from a variety of art, music, library, computer, physical education and dance classes. Students are encouraged to explore new possibilities to further develop individual passions.

Times and activities are general and may vary by the day or individual homeroom.

8:10 – 8:30am	Classrooms open
8:30 – 8:45am	Homeroom Meeting
8:45 – 11:05am	Homeroom Academics
11:05am – 12:05pm	Lunch & Recess
12:05 - 12:35pm	Homeroom Academics
12:35 – 1:25pm	Special Classes or Homeroom
1:30 – 2:15pm	Special Classes or Homeroom
2:20 – 3:00pm	Special Classes or Homeroom
3:00 – 3:20pm	End-of-Day Meeting
3:20pm	Dismissal

## CURRICULUM

### WITH HOMEROOM TEACHERS

<b><i>Language Arts</i></b>	The language arts program is designed to help children grow in comfort and confidence as readers, writers, speakers and listeners. Students are placed with other like readers in book clubs and literature groups where they become increasingly proficient in decoding words and thinking deeply about what they read. Whole-class read alouds and independent reading opportunities further lend to the development of literacy skills. Students also enter the writer's world where they develop confidence and competence in composition. They explore both fiction and non-fiction, including stories, poetry, letters and journaling.
<b><i>Math</i></b>	Stage III children begin to see mathematics as a system of patterns and connections as they apply math to everyday life. They use a variety of strategies and learn to take risks in their thinking as they work through problems. Mathematical concepts include place value, geometry, number sense, decimals, fractions, problem solving, measurement and computation. The core program is based on the Singapore Math Program.
<b><i>Social Studies</i></b>	The social studies curriculum assists children in understanding themselves as individuals and members of a global community. The program is focused on supporting children as they make connections, understandings and increase their knowledge base about their world. Students construct their own projects either individually or cooperatively with facilitation from their teachers. They make the decisions on the process of discovery, determine how and what the final product will be. These projects stem from the exploration of geography, habitats, cultural diversity and understandings of civilizations.
<b><i>Developing Community</i></b>	Stage III homerooms are central to establishing a strong, nurturing community. It is through these experiences that children develop an understanding of the responsibilities and their important role as an integral member of our community. We work towards an understanding of self, self within one's homeroom, Stage and school community. Relationship development, resilience and perseverance are significant aspects of encouraging individual and community-wide understandings. Leadership opportunities abound as children lead Morning Meetings, create Stage meetings and have a voice in community plans.

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WITH SPECIAL TEACHERS

<i>Art</i>	Class Art integrates Stage III themes while combining a variety of media and techniques. Classes are designed to encourage the student's use of art as a form of self-expression and to help see art as an essential part of life, society and the world. Art electives allow children to pursue their passions and abilities in a personalized setting.
<i>Computer</i>	First-year Stage III students work on general keyboarding proficiency, learn a word processing program and are introduced to an art presentation program. They are also in the beginning stages of learning the programming language of Logo. Second-year students learn about Internet safety and how to look for information online and also learn about ways to use and organize information by creating graphs. They receive an introduction to digital imaging. Stage III students have required classes and also have their choice of several electives throughout the year.
<i>Dance</i>	Children in Stage III love to move and learn through engagement of the whole self. Becoming versatile in the language of dance allows them to use this natural facility as a means of communication and self-expression. Elective offerings sometimes include Dance Exploration, Cultural Dance and Yoga.
<i>World Languages: French &amp; Spanish</i>	The World Language program seeks to trigger curiosity and make language learning fun and creative, while encouraging authentic communication. Stage III World Language classes review basic vocabulary presented in previous Stages, while introducing new words, expressions and structures through the study of thematic lessons. A variety of songs, visuals, games, and computer projections illuminate the lessons while encouraging multiple learning styles, and actively involving students in their learning.
<i>Library</i>	Stage III students visit the library once during a six-day cycle with their whole class. During their visits, students engage in the research process, enjoy read-alouds and access informational and fictional materials. The librarian assists students in discovering who they are as readers, learners and contributors to the world of information and literature. In addition to Class Library, Stage III students can further explore literature and technology through library electives.
<i>Music</i>	Students are helped to perceive the qualities of music such as rhythm, melody, timbre, texture and dynamics. They work on learning the language to name and discuss these elements. Emphasis is placed on learning the written language of music and musical notation. First-year Stage III students work on singing and instrumental Orff work, while second-year students focus on recorder ensembles. Electives include classes such as Choir and Magical Musical Mystery Tour.
<i>Physical Education</i>	The Stage III Physical Education program strives to create an atmosphere in which students are willing to take risks without the fear of failure and instill the values of staying fit and being physically active. Students learn proper technique, basic rules and strategies of games as well as the workings of the cardiovascular system and the importance of an active lifestyle. Base-running and co-op games are some of the elective classes offered.
<i>Science</i>	Science is primarily focused on teaching inductive reasoning, scientific method and the study of the natural world. Students learn to pose a question, devise a reasonable hypothesis, set up a valid experiment, collect and record data and arrive at a logical conclusion based on the data. Science electives can include Minibeasts and Secret Formulas.

**12:35 - 3:00PM (THREE CLASS BLOCKS)**

SPECIAL CLASSES OR HOMEROOM

This period of time is spent in the homeroom and elective classes. Elective offerings change two times per year and may appeal to a student's area of passion, curiosity and/or strength.

<i>Possible Homeroom Activities</i>	Reading/literature groups Project-based work (small groups and individual) Social Studies Cursive writing instruction Quiet reading Math investigations
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