FIELD SCHOOL
Northview Public Schools

FIELD GUIDE

Field School: Curriculum and Instruction

English Language Arts
Field School uses a workshop model for reading and writing instruction. The components of the workshop model include a whole group mini lesson with opportunities to "turn and talk," independent practice in reading and writing (tied to the mini lesson), conferring meetings/collaboration with peers and/or teacher, and sharing time. Student choice is a key component of our workshop and students are given the opportunity to choose the books they read and the topics they write about.

Students are guided to select books that are "just right" for them to ensure they grow as readers. Students write narrative, expository, and persuasive pieces throughout the year, as we use mentor texts to help guide us. Students are encouraged to think within, about, and beyond the text while reading-making connections to their lives and other books. They develop a variety of strategies to problem solve new words and develop deep comprehension about what they read.

Guided reading groups with the teacher, partner reading time, and independent reading time are opportunities to grow as readers that students will have each day. Students and teachers "book talk" what they are reading with the goal of sharing our reading lives and inspiring each other to voraciously read more books.

Our daily field experiences provide additional motivation for reading and writing as we explore the world around us, notice, question, and problem solve. Science and social studies standards are integrated into our daily language arts block through read alouds, writing opportunities, research projects, and journaling. Many of our mentor texts will be selected based on students' discoveries and wonderings they make in the field. Connecting literacy and field work will happen daily as we use texts focusing on nature, the outdoors, and environmental topics. Students will use field guides to help them identify species of plants and animals in our community.

Mathematics
Field School uses a workshop model for mathematics instruction. Students will begin their math time participating in a mini lesson around a mathematics skill or concept. They have time to practice this concept collaboratively and independently, while the teacher confers with groups and individuals or meets with groups for guided math instruction.

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Our primary resource for math is called Investigations. Investigations is fully aligned with the Common Core State Standards and teachers work *with* students to enact this curriculum in the classroom. The following are the core beliefs on which this program is built:

1. All students have the capability of mathematical thinking and reasoning when given the chance.
2. All students can achieve proficiency in mathematics.
3. Teachers are ongoing learners of math content and of student thinking and learning.

Mathematical concepts taught throughout the grade levels include: Numbers and Operations, Geometry, Measurement, Data, Fractions, and Rational Numbers.

Mathematics is integrated into our field work each day as students apply mathematical understanding to the natural world. As a result, students will learn how math is used to solve problems they will encounter as they continue to develop as learners and citizens.

Science

Inquiry and investigation are at the heart of Field School. Students spend much of their day exploring their world, asking questions, and investigating science topics. Kids are naturally curious and, we believe, motivated to learn when following their sense of wonder. At Field School, we "do" science through interesting, inquiry based, hands-on activities. Students are exposed to, and study a variety of, science topics that align with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Kindergarten/1st - NGSS Topics

1. Energy: Sound, Light, Heat, & Motion
2. From Molecules to Organisms: Plants & Animals, Heredity, Adaptations & Survival
3. Earth's Systems: Local/Regional Weather and Seasons
4. Relationships: How Humans Interact with the Earth
5. Engineering: Using the Natural World to Solve Problems/Influences of Plant & Animal Adaptations on Design
6. Patterns: Observing Our World, Asking Questions, Creating and Testing Hypotheses

Projects students might undertake to learn these topics include studying the differences in local ecosystems around the school, tracking and observing the weather throughout the seasons, and documenting how humans and nature "work" together.

2nd/3rd - NGSS Topics

1. Motion and Stability: Balanced and Unbalanced Forces, Electromagnetic Forces
2. Matter and Its Interactions: Classifying Materials, Temperature Change
3. From Molecules to Organisms: Life Cycles, Heredity- Inheritance and Variation of Traits
4. Biological Evolution: Fossils & Species Adaptations

5. Ecosystems: Plants & Animals Interacting with their Environment
6. Earth's Systems: Erosion, Landforms, Climate & Water
7. Engineering and Design: Problem Identification, Develop Multiple Solutions, Test Possible Solutions, Implement

Projects students might undertake to learn these topics include finding, describing, and documenting the diverse plant and animal life around school and other local ecosystems, investigating the types of landforms around Grand Rapids and Michigan, and making models to demonstrate the unique qualities and power of water.

Social Studies

The Michigan Social Studies Standards are currently under review until June 30, 2018. The Michigan Department of Education will likely adopt the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies. As part of that framework, students will:

1. Think and Communicate Critically
2. Learn and Consider Issues Collaboratively
3. Learn Independently
4. Create Knowledge
5. Act Ethically

In the Kindergarten/1st grade multiage classroom, students will study the social studies disciplines of history, geography, civics, government, and economics through the lenses of "Myself and Others" & "My Family and Community". In the 2nd/3rd grade multiage classroom, students will study the same social studies disciplines through the context of the local community and Michigan studies. Similar science instruction, social studies will be taught through inquiry-based learning and involve collaboration, research, and communication. Students will investigate topics that are interesting to them and learn how they can have an impact on their community through civic engagement. This form of place-based education helps students understand their important role in our community and their role in our democratic society. (Draft, Michigan K-12 Standards: Social Studies, May 2018. Michigan Department of Education)

Art, Music, and Physical Education

All Field School students will experience instruction in Art, Music and Physical Education. Currently, the District has not finalized the teaching schedule for the 2018-2019 school year. Details of timing and method of this instruction will be finalized later this summer.

Assessments

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Field School will adhere to all district and state assessment criteria. Three times a year we will formally assess the reading achievement of your child. All academic needs of students will be met through an ongoing formative assessment process. Students will participate in project-based learning and will reflect on their own learning using rubrics. We follow the state's recommendations regarding the third grade reading law and will provide the necessary supports if your student is behind grade-level in reading.

Multiage Instruction

Multiage Instruction is rooted as a "traditional" learning environment for students, reaching back to the one-room schoolhouse. When environmental outdoor education and the multiage classroom meet, students actually experience a more progressive learning environment where old and new come together.

Students develop the ability to collaborate, lead, and trust each other when working with much younger or much older classmates. The older students develop a deeper level of understanding when guiding the learning of a younger peer. Younger students grow in listening, speaking, and social interaction as they listen and learn from older classmates.

Adventures

Adventures are an important part of the Field School experience. Field School adventures are much more than "Field Trips." These experiences will help students construct an understanding that learning occurs outside of the traditional classroom and actually occurs in many parts of our community. Adventures may emphasize academic or life-skill experiences and may range from visiting a local museum to fishing at a local lake or hiking in a wilderness area.

Student Supports

Student accessibility and support is an important aspect of the Field School. Students requiring special accommodations, supports, or related services will receive those services in accordance with Michigan special education laws and federal statutes.