

Language Arts

The language arts curriculum has been aligned with the California English Language Arts Framework. It is designed to develop skills to enable students to apply a variety of strategies in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking. Students hear, enjoy, and discuss high quality literature selections appropriate to their maturity and interests. Enrichment activities are an integral part of the program, with opportunities for making connections to other disciplines, incorporating critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and enhancing appreciation. At all levels, vocabulary development and spelling practice are based upon words taken from students' reading and writing and from lists of words frequently used in writing. The following reflect student practice in skills and concepts learned in earlier years as well as new skills and concepts:

Listening and Speaking

- Listen attentively to a story
- Listen to another student complete a presentation (sharing)
- Listen and respond appropriately to oral directions
- Echo as teacher reads poems, songs, and rhymes
- Listen to a story to determine whether it is real or make-believe
- Respond verbally to literature that has been read
- Respond to questions related to student presentations (Sharing)
- Recite simple poems, songs and rhymes
- Distinguish between questions and statements
- Express needs and feelings

Reading and Writing

- "Read" (retell) a simple predictable story using picture clues
- "Read" (recite) their own (dictated) story
- Develop an understanding that reading means interaction with and deriving meaning from print
- Develop a sense of how print works (letters represent sounds, sounds form words)
- Be familiar with letter/sound relationships
- Distinguish beginning sounds from a given picture card

- Arrange three story picture cards in a logical sequence
- Write/dictate their own story in (a) complete sentence(s)
- Write first name correctly using manuscript handwriting
- Write all upper and lower case letters from sample

Mathematics

The priority of the mathematics curriculum is the development of students' thinking and understanding through direct personal and interactive experiences. Concepts are taught through real-life situations and the use of a variety of tools, manipulatives, and materials. Enrichment activities are an integral part of the program. Students participate in instructional activities based upon the following mathematical strands:

Logic and Language

- Classify and sort objects by using one or more attributes
- Order like objects
- Explain thinking in own words, written and oral

Measurement

- Estimate and measure objects
- Identify a penny, nickel, and dime
- Tell time by hour intervals
- Use a calendar and name the seasons of the year

Geometry

- Identify, classify, sort, and match geometric objects using concrete materials

Patterns and Functions

- Recognize, reproduce, extend, and label simple patterns using a variety of materials

Statistics and Probability

- Use assorted graphing activities
- Collect, organize, represent, and interpret data using concrete materials

Algebra

- Match sets having the same number of objects, using the term “equal”

Numbers

- Count to fifty with and without manipulatives
- Identify numbers--zero through twenty
- Write numbers to ten
- Match objects to determine equivalent sets
- Match sets of objects to a number
- Manipulate objects to complete a set for a given number
- Identify ordinal numbers first to tenth
- Identify real experiences leading to appropriate use of mathematical terms (e.g., addition, subtraction)

History/Social Science

The MCCS curriculum is based on the California History/Social Science Framework which includes major goals and interrelated strands that are the same for all grade levels. The major goals are:

Knowledge and Cultural Understanding
Incorporate what is learned from their family history and others in their community.

Democratic Understanding and Civic Values
Incorporate an understanding of our national identity, constitutional heritage, civic values, and rights and responsibilities.

Skills Attainment and Social Participation
Incorporate basic study skills, critical thinking skills, and participation skills that are essential for effective citizenship.

Students in Kindergarten participate in units of study based upon the theme of “Learning and Working Now and Long Ago”:

Learning to Work Together

- Share and work cooperatively
- Respect the rights of others
- Learn about people in the past and in other cultures

Working Together: Exploring, Creating, and

Communicating

- Explore the school environment
- Use pictures, stories, and books to acquire information
- Understand the importance of literacy to acquire knowledge

Reaching Out to Times Past

- Listen to stories about people in the past
- Learn what it was like to live in other times and places
- Compare own way of life with life in the past

Christian Education

Mid County Christian School offers Bible instruction. Biblical principles are fully integrated into all subjects and students learn and memorize Bible verses. The Bible is used to help students understand how to apply biblical truths to daily living.

CREATION: God Made the World

Relationships with God

- Know that God sent Jesus as a baby
- Know that God is a loving Father and a true friend
- Grow in thankfulness
- Pray at all times

Relationships with Others

- Share God's Good News
- Grow in kindness and goodness
- Eagerly learn God's Word
- Know that missionaries tell others about Jesus
- Know that the Church is a family

Relationships with the World

- Grow in awe and wonder at all that God created
- Take care of God's creation
- Know that God made them and sent Jesus to save them
- Accept and help people everywhere
- Know that God is always with them

Science/Health

The ultimate goal of science education is that of science literacy for all students. Science literacy means that students will:

- Be familiar with the natural world and recognize both its diversity and its unity
- Understand key concepts and principles of science
- Be aware of some of the important ways in which science, mathematics, and technology depend upon one another
- Have a capacity for scientific ways of thinking
- Use scientific knowledge and ways of thinking for individual and social purposes

Students will be active participants in learning to incorporate the scientific processes of observing, communicating, comparing, ordering, and categorizing. They will make connections with other disciplines and develop the capacity to relate science to everyday life. Major concepts include:

Physical

- Everything is made of matter and can be observed

Life

- Using our senses to observe similarities, differences, and changes in living things

Earth

- There are observable changes on the earth (seasons, weather)

Health

- Our bodies have needs
- Safety at home, school, and in the community

Environmental

- The environment encompasses all that is around us

Physical

The MCCS physical education activities are based on the California Physical Education Framework. The framework contains three major goals with interrelated curriculum strands for all grades.

Movement Skills and Movement Knowledge

Develop motor skills and an understanding of the fundamentals of movement through practice. Areas of study and practice may include:

- Locomotor skills - walking, running, hopping, jumping, skipping, sliding, galloping, leaping
- Non-locomotor skills - bending, rocking, swinging, twisting, stretching, pushing, pulling
- Object use: soft balls, bean bags, hoops, ribbons, etc.
- Dance and rhythm activities
- Balance

Social Development and Social Interaction

Students begin to learn about and interpret their environment through play, alone and with others. They learn appropriate social behaviors.

Self-Image

Activities are designed to develop and maintain positive self-image and an understanding of sportsmanship and team skills.

The Arts Visual, Performing and Vocal Music

MCCS encourages integrating instruction in the visual and performing arts as a means of enhancing and extending the curriculum for students at all grade levels. Instruction in the historical origins and cultural influences of the visual and performing arts is promoted to develop knowledge, appreciation, and performance skill for students.

Mid County Christian School
A ministry of Twin Lakes Church

Highlights of the Core Curriculum

Kindergarten

MISSION STATEMENT

Encouraging, equipping, and empowering the whole child to positively impact God's world by providing, in partnership with the home, a balanced education in a loving, Christ-centered environment.

Assessment of Learning

Teachers assess academic progress regularly to support student learning, a process which includes daily checking for understanding, formal and informal testing, and observation.