

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A YCS CHILD

At YCS we value both academic achievement and character development. A child's talents, interests, and individuality are highlighted and encouraged. We value our students for their potential, as well as their achievement. Our goal is to continuously support their intellectual, social emotional and moral growth.

INTEGRATED UNITS OF STUDY

All grades engage in multiple units of study throughout the year. Our units of study are presented using an integrated, cross- curricular approach that emphasizes the reading of nonfiction text and the stages of researching to explore, learn and teach. Units are designed to provide engaging, rigorous and creative learning experiences. Our students sustain a sense of curiosity that is met by incorporating the community into our units to provide authentic learning experiences.

- Links explicitly made between past learning and new concepts
- Teachers use a variety of question types, including those that promote higher order thinking skills
- Frequent opportunities for interaction and discussion between teacher/student and among students, which encourage elaborated responses about lesson concepts
- Provides hands-on materials and/or manipulatives for students to practice using new content knowledge
- Pacing of the lesson appropriate to the students' ability level

READING

We follow the Balanced Literacy approach to reading instruction. The Reading Workshop components include Read Aloud, Independent Reading, Partner Reading and Word Study.

Read Aloud

There are several read alouds throughout the day. Read alouds improve students' listening skills and reading comprehension. They help to develop a child's sense of story, knowledge of written language syntax and how texts are structured. Children have the opportunity to think about and discuss books. Oral language is developed and a sense of community is created through children gathering, enjoying and sharing together during story time.

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Shared Reading

Shared reading is a time when the teacher and the children read enlarged texts together. The teacher demonstrates reading behaviors and strategies and allows for students to participate in reading a text. Poems, songs and Big Books are used during shared reading. These texts allow children to learn concepts of print and practice reading with expression.

Guided Reading

Guided reading is a strategy that helps students become good readers. The teacher provides support for small groups of readers as they learn to use various reading strategies (context clues, letter and sound relationships, word structure, intonation, etc.). Books are selected from a leveled library according to the needs and interests of the students.

Independent Reading

Independent reading is a time for students to make their own book choices, apply reading strategies, and have large blocks of time to read and set independent reading goals. Students pick “Just Right” books that they can read with minimal support. During this time, teachers conference one on one with students to assess their use of reading strategies.

Word Study

Word Study is a time when the teacher works with the whole class and in small groups to look at letter/sound relationships, explore spelling patterns and to practice using strategies to spell unfamiliar words.

WRITING

On a daily basis, children will be given the opportunity to write, draw and tell stories. Writers are engaged in the multi-step writing process - they will: Plan, Draft, Revise, Edit, Publish and Celebrate. Writing strategies and genres are explored through our integrated units of study.

Writing Workshop Units integrated into our Units of study:

- **Launching The Writing Workshop-** Learning routines, structures and tools
- **Informational Texts-** Researching to learn, write, teach and inform
- **How To -** sequencing, features of non-fiction text to write topics of interest and expertise
- **Persuasive Letter Writing-** using writing to persuade your audience, making a change through writing
- **Independent Writing Projects/ Crafting our Writing-** Open genre, raising the quality of our writing

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- Mini units...
- **Realistic Fiction**- elements of story –/ (fiction tied to unit of study)
- **Authors As Mentors**- Craftsmanship and revision
- **Poetry**- Powerful thoughts in tiny packages

MATH

Our students are taught using the TERC Investigations curriculum. TERC provides our students with hands-on learning opportunities that support the constructivist approach to learning. The curriculum was developed based on national and state standards in mathematics.

Math Workshop Focuses

- Addition, Subtraction, and the Number System
- 2-D Geometry, 3-D Geometry
- Addition, Subtraction, and the Number System Data Analysis
- Measurement
- Addition, Subtraction, and the Number System
- Patterns and Functions
- Addition, Subtraction, and the Number System

SCIENCE

Our students are taught using the FOSS (Full Option Science System) curriculum. FOSS is a research-based science curriculum for grades K–8 developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California at Berkeley. The curriculum is designed to engage students in scientific enterprise, learn important scientific concepts, and develop the ability to think critically. Our goal is to provide our students with opportunities to actively construct ideas through their own inquiries, investigations, and analyses.