

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

JOURNEYS - FALL II 2019 - 10/7 - 11/15

NATURE EXPLORATION

Educators: Ms. Lorelei, Ms. Rachel, Ms. Mikael

This time is dedicated to students exploring and playing outdoors. Nature Exploration allows for children to play collaboratively, explore their surroundings, build problem-solving skills, determine personal physical limits, increase flexibility and gross motor skills. This free play gives students a mental break in between learning so they return to the classroom with fresh minds and ready to learn.

MORNING MEETING

Educators: Ms. Lorelei, Ms. Rachel

Morning Meeting focuses on building a safe and connected school family - the groundwork for which all other learning will rely. Each day begins with a Brain-Smart Start - short activities to unite, connect, disengage stress. We will focus on building our Conscious Discipline structures and rituals (safety commitments, safe space, wish wells, time machine, school meetings and more) to assist our students in mindfully practicing how to self-regulate, develop an assertive voice, practice empathy, and resolve conflict.

GUIDED FOCUS & DISCOVERY CENTERS

Educators: Ms. Lorelei, Ms. Rachel

Guided Focus is a time when students discuss the plan for individual and group time. With a Project Based Learning (PBL) focus, students will meet as a group to plan, research, discuss through a driving questions. Educators are facilitators of the project focus and timeline. Students are naturally building strength in literacy through speaking and listening, research, demonstrating comprehension, writing and representing ideas. Most, if not all, of our core subjects learn through the PBL driving question focus. This course allows for students to work collaboratively on their projects. During Discovery Centers, students have the time to work on their projects, meet with educators for specific literacy skills and explore provocations set up to drive thinking and learning in the classroom.

INDEPENDENT READING

Educators: Ms. Lorelei, Ms. Rachel

Students will have time to explore different texts, meet with educators for one-to-one or small group conferences and improve their reading abilities by actually reading! On some occasions, older students will pair with younger ones for Reading Buddies.

STORYTELLING

Educators: Ms. Lorelei, Ms. Rachel

In this course, students will explore mentor texts and experience focused writing instruction within a workshop model where they will devise, tell and act out stories with loose parts, dramatic play or natural materials before writing them down, as play is shown to boost narrative and writing skills, as well as skills of interaction and cooperation.

MATH

Educators: Ms. Lorelei, Ms. Rachel

During this time, students will work in ability groups for targeted math instruction. These courses will allow for students to develop foundational number concepts and connect mathematics to the natural environment around them. They learn to see patterns and shapes in nature, recognize sets, count, solve addition and subtraction. Students will practice using rulers and measuring things by keeping track of the growth of seedlings at our school house. By the end of this hands-on course students will have acquired introductory and more advanced math skills all while having fun!

MUSIC [CHOICE COURSE]

Educators: Ms. Sarah

Students will learn about maintaining tone quality, singing patterns, grow in notation literacy and experiment with instruments. Students will grow in solo and group singing while refining listening skills and discovering the art of performing.

GARDENING [CHOICE COURSE]

Educators: Ms. Mikael

In the Gardening course, we will learn the basics of growing edible plants from seed to harvest in the spaces around our schoolhouse and at the next door farm. The gardening course is designed to allow kids get dirty and have fun while engaging all of the senses, encouraging healthy eating, enhancing fine motor development, introducing scientific concepts, teaching responsibility, learning to plan and organize, and encouraging environmental stewardship.

ART ATELIER [THURSDAY & FRIDAY]

Educators: Ms. Denise

An atelier is an early childhood space for children to express themselves artistically through multiple mediums using the language of art. The outdoor atelier houses multiple, intentionally scaffolded artistic tools and materials which children can use to create in nature. We will be exploring a variety of materials and processes through weekly creative provocations.

REFLECTION

Educators: Ms. Lorelei, Ms. Rachel

At the end of the day, students will have time to document their work through the SeeSaw app, complete any work begun and not finished during the course of the day and come together as a class to reflect on the day. Students will also get into the habit of journaling about their day and be guided through reflection processes.