



# High Meadow School

## 2nd GRADE CURRICULAR OVERVIEW - SPRING 2023

TEACHER - OLIVIA HARRIS

This spring, the second graders have focused on the following topics during our curricular exploration, inquiry, and studies:

### **Social Emotional**

Social emotional learning is a thread that is woven throughout every day in the 2nd grade classroom. We encourage students to share their feelings, as well as explore a variety of coping and self-help strategies to manage the many feelings that can arise at school. Our morning meeting and closing circle times are often moments in our day when we talk about our feelings, reflect on the day, or navigate through challenges that might come up. If there are conflicts between friends and adult help is needed, we often mediate a conversation between the parties, encouraging all students to listen to the other person's experience, acknowledge any harm caused, and move on in a positive way. We have resources and routines in the classroom like the cozy corner, student journals, and movement breaks that give students time and space throughout the day to listen to their bodies and process their emotions.

### **Reading Workshop**

#### **Tackling Longer Words and Longer Books**

During this unit, we focused on decoding, comprehension, and fluency strategies that accompany reading more complex texts like chapter books. Various lessons focused on how to read multisyllabic words part by part as well as phonics instruction in vowel sounds, blends, digraphs, and “oddballs” like the schwa. We learned about many self-monitoring strategies, like stopping to ask “Why?” while reading, taking notes with important details, and retelling the book by focusing on the problem and solution. We also circled back to our first reading unit of the year and reviewed story elements such as characters, setting, problem, and solution. We ended the unit with a focus on fluency, practicing reading smoothly and with expression.

### **Writing Workshop**

#### **Poetry**

Our final unit of the year has focused on reading and writing poetry. Through studying mentor poets like Shel Silverstein, William Carlos Williams, ee cummings, and Naomi Shihab Nye, we have been inspired by the quirkiness, humor, and beauty that often shines through poetry. Students have honed in on their unique poetic voices and have practiced techniques such as rhythm, rhyme, line breaks, and imagery, writing about topics that are close to their hearts.

## **Conventions of Writing**

We have continued to practice conventions of writing such as the appropriate use of capital and lowercase letters, spacing between words, punctuation, and spelling. Students participated in regular handwriting practice through the program Handwriting Without Tears. We often do handwriting in the morning, and I regularly hear from students how much they love it, and I often see students choosing to work in their handwriting books during free times. Booklets will go home for the summer, and I invite all of the rising third graders to continue any incomplete pages in their free time this summer.

## **Word Study**

We have continued to practice spelling and phonics learning through word study. Each week, we focus on a particular spelling pattern and/or phonics concept. Students notice, talk about, sort, and write with their weekly words. Students also get a set of high frequency words based on their spelling development in their weekly rotation. Students are assessed on these words each week and continue practicing the ones they have not yet mastered. Students have continued to love Lexia Core 5, and I welcome you all to keep up with this program at home, as it tracks student progress and will go with them into 3rd grade.

## **Math**

### **Geometry, Time, and Money**

This multi-part unit started with a study of geometry, and throughout the spring we have moved on to the interconnected topics of time and money. After learning shape identification and classification, students worked on partitioning shapes and labeling equal parts such as halves, thirds, and quarters. Students then related halves, fourths, and skip-counting by 5 to tell time and practiced the skill of telling and writing time using digital and analog clocks, as well as the conceptual understanding of a.m. and p.m. In our study of money, students identified the value of bills and coins and used addition and subtraction to solve one and two-step story problems involving dollars and coins. We culminated the unit with real-life practice in calculating and handling money through our math market.

### **Measurement**

In this abbreviated unit at the end of our year, students have practiced measuring and estimating lengths in standard units and solving measurement story problems within 100.

### **Social Studies/Science inquiry**

We had a variety of field trips this spring that enhanced our learning in the areas of science and social studies. Our visit to the New Paltz planetarium was supported by a unit on space in the classroom. During our visit, we learned about the planets, constellations, and various other objects and ideas found within the cosmos. Students worked on creating their own constellations and constellation stories in class. We also visited the Hudson River Maritime Museum, where we learned about the local maritime history of Kingston and got to ride on a 100% solar powered boat. We also had some guest visits at school, such as a viewing and discussion with rescued birds and a drag queen story hour, both of which brought out lively discussions in the classroom. We also got back to outdoor gardening this spring alongside Courtney, working with plants and flowers such as tulips, marigolds, peas, and radishes. It was an amazing experience to see the fruits of our labor!