

DSIS Workshops 2011-12

K-1 Workshops

Tuesday 10:10-11:00

K-1 Science – This year we will cover 3 units of study using the Foss Curriculum. We will start with Animals Two by Two, after winter break we will study Wood and Paper and in the spring we will learn about Solids and Liquids. Science class will be hands on, and we focused on observing and asking questions. To find out more about the Foss curriculum, our units of study and to find lists of suggested books and websites on the topics we will be studying I encourage families to go to the Foss website listed below.

<http://www.fossweb.com/ca/>

Tuesday 11:10-12:00

K-3 Art – Come and enjoy an artful experience! We will spend time creating art in the following four areas: Draw & Design, Paint & Print, Collage & Assemble, and Sculpt & Construct (including ceramics). We will also periodically take a close look at the work of various artists, learn from them, and let their work inspire us to create in their style.

Wednesday 10:10-11:00

K-1 Language Arts – This workshop is a condensed version of the morning in a K-1 classroom. It is an opportunity for students to build speaking, listening, and beginning writing skills and to learn to work together in a classroom environment. Literature will play a key role in this workshop and we will do many activities related to the books we read. We will also integrate some of the Social Studies curriculum over the course of the year.

Wednesday 11:10 – 12:00

K-1 Computers – This workshop will familiarize students with computers. We will go over the basics in hardware and in terminology. We will spend time on using the keyboard and mouse. We will also play on K-1 appropriate software, including KidPix, which is a drawing tool. We will explore the Internet and the local library access program and start talking about Internet safety.

2-3 Workshops

Wednesday 10:10-11:00

2-3 Computers – In this workshop, students will continue to gain skills and confidence using the computer. Students will begin to learn touch typing skills.

Wednesday 11:10-12:00

2-3 Science – We will begin the year with a physical science unit called Balance and Motion. In this FOSS unit, students will explore metric measurement, balance and stability, spinning and rolling, sound and vibration, and magnetic forces. Looking ahead, we will move into a unit called Life Structures, and then finish the year with Matter and Energy. Please explore the FOSS website for more information and resources. <http://www.fossweb.com/ca/>

Thursday 10:10-11:00

2-3 Writing – The primary goal of this workshop is to encourage student enjoyment of writing, but we'll also be covering some 2nd and 3rd grade level grammar skills as well as more formal writing tasks as the year goes on. Students will be given Writer's Notebooks and be encouraged to write in them at home. Time is devoted at the beginning of each workshop for students to share their writing and to receive feedback from their peers. This workshop is structured to support students who are already capable of writing independently; participants should join us able to write at least a few sentences on their own using invented spelling as necessary to express their ideas.

Thursday 11:10-12:00

2-3 Math - This workshop will focus on developing a conceptual understanding of Math at the 2nd and 3rd grade level. Activities will be primarily hands-on with students exploring numbers and problem-solving using manipulative materials, playing games that teach and reinforce skills, and working with real world uses for mathematics. Though the emphasis will be on problem solving, we will also occasionally use timed drills to support students as they commit math facts to memory.

4-6 Workshops

Tuesday 11:10 -12:00

4-6 Open Computer Lab/Robotics – This is not a structured workshop but a chance to explore the student’s interests on the computer. The robotics portion will involve the Lego Mindstorms program and Lego building. There will be supervision and help available.

Tuesday 1:10-2:00

4-6 Science – We will start our workshop this year with a study of Scientific Method though the use of ramp, photogate timers and car experiments. Our other 3 main units of study this year will be a 5th grade unit on Living System (cells and human body), 6th grade unit on Energy in Earth's System and a Solid Earth 4th grade unit (rocks and minerals.)

Tuesday 2:10-3:00

4-6 Math Cluster –The activities in this workshop will have a math related twist. First we will be working on a short graphing skills unit for the first month of class. Next we will move into a study an art/math projects unit. This will include math tiles and angle work, use of a compass, quilt design, collage, fractals, portraiture, perspective drawing, optical illusion, tetrahedrons. The last part of the school year we will work on a measurement study, utilizing hands on projects from TOPS curriculum.

Thursday 1:10-2:05

4-6 Social Studies – We will begin the year by introducing/reviewing the events leading up to the European colonization of North America Colonization. Students will move through their study of Colonial America as they work together to create travel agencies for each region, gather information about the colonies in their region, complete a research project to aid them in designing travel brochures, and ultimately attempt to persuade prospective clients to book passage to the New World. From there, we will move on to the events leading up to the American Revolution and students will participate in a simulation that will allow them to “experience” that period of history. Finally, we will conclude the year with a creative historical figures project.

Thursday 2:05-3:00

4-6 Writing – Our theme this year is journalism. We will be learning some background information and then begin with each student creating his/her own paper. From there, we will move into creating a class newspaper as a cooperative project that will be published (likely electronically) for families. We will also dip into how the delivery of news is changing in the 21st century and explore opportunities for students to interact in a closed, moderated blogging community to share thoughts and information with classmates. Activities in this class are geared for students who are able and willing to write independently. Support will be provided through conferences with peers and the teacher to help individual students improve their existing skills. Time will be provided during workshop for students to work on their writing projects; they will be expected to complete any unfinished work at home and occasionally have assigned homework.

7-9 Workshop

Wednesday 1:10-2:00

7-6 Science – This workshop will be using the hands on labs from the 7th and 8th grade CPO curriculum and the majority of the time we work on labs. At times (about once a month) I will give a PowerPoint

presentation to cover key concepts or show a short video to cover concepts related to our labs. This year we are starting with a 7th grade unit about Microscopes and cell biology (ch. 4-7 life sci). Other units of study we work through this year will include a study of the human body (ch. 16-18 life sci.), Properties of Matter (ch.4-5 physical sci.), and Matter and Change (chapter 9-11 Physical sci.)