

**New Haven Elementary School  
and  
Endeavour Elementary School**

**CURRICULUM GUIDE**  
**2022-2023**



## 2022-2023 ELEMENTARY COURSE CATALOG

### **YOUNG 5's**

The Young 5s (Y5) classroom experiences are designed to support the physical, social-emotional, and cognitive development of young children. The curriculum is based on the Michigan Academic Standards which include the Reader's and Writer's Workshop Framework focusing on basic literacy skills of reading and writing. The Y5 classroom further incorporates numeracy concepts and problem-solving tasks through the use of manipulatives. Collaborative learning experiences include interest-based experiences, taking turns, and identifying personal needs.

- It helps children adjust to the school environment and develop strong learning skills.
- First Fives provides children with the gift of time to learn skills that will help them build a strong foundation for success in elementary school.
- Young 5s allows children to spend time learning important social, emotional, and academic skills that will help them succeed in kindergarten and beyond.
- Young Fives provides young 5-year old with an opportunity to start their kindergarten experience with children their age and a teacher who can tailor lessons to their needs.

### **Kindergarten**

Letter-sound correspondence, phonemic awareness, rhyming, word families, and concepts about print are the areas in which your child will expand his knowledge this year. Kindergarten students learn how to identify letters in the alphabet and their sounds, and about letters and sounds that go together to form words. Most kindergarten children are expected to read words by the end of the school year.

They also learn to print letters. They will work on developing fine motor skills as they learn to write the alphabet in both capital and lowercase letters. They will also attempt to write stories, journal entries, or poems. These will often be a disjointed jumble of letters and words, but it's a first step towards expressing themselves in writing.

Math in kindergarten is all about the basics. They will learn how to count, recognize numbers up to 10, and sort objects. Using concrete props, they will learn the concepts of more and less, ordinal numbers, basic addition, and subtraction, creating patterns. They'll start to learn about time and calendars and cover these regularly in class. By the end of kindergarten, students should know the components of a calendar and how to build on the – days, weeks, months, and some basic time – on the hour, half-hour segments recognize numbers up to 100 and count to 100, and some basic single-digit addition and subtraction.

### **1ST GRADE**

In grade 1, your child will be able to recognize core words, write, and know the sound correspondence of most letters in the alphabet. They'll be building on the phonemic awareness with more complicated sounds like blends and digraphs, and they'll be learning strategies for decoding/sound out words they don't know.

In writing, kids are exploring expressing themselves on paper, often inventing spelling as they start to understand written language. Teachers will ask your kids to keep a journal, write stories, and work on simple fact projects – all to have them practice their writing skills.

As kids move into first grade, they find themselves moving onto problem-solving, operations, and number sense. Having learned the basic numbers, they now learn about numbers greater than those they can count, they do simple addition and subtraction problems – often working with physical objects – and they learn to count by 2s, 5s, and 10s. They will also start learning about time and money, as well as basic geometric shapes in 2D and 3D.

## **2ND GRADE**

Grade 2 is a pivotal year for young readers. They are expected to move beyond the decoding skills they use to figure out unfamiliar words and to move onto using context clues instead. Students will also be asked to summarize and retell stories in their own words as they develop their reading comprehension skills. Teachers will focus on helping your child become fluent readers so that they grasp the overall fiction stories or facts that they are reading. By the end of grade 2, your child will know and understand suffixes and prefixes, outcome prediction, self-correction, and how to use a dictionary to look up words they don't know.

Your child will also become a better writer – putting basic sentences together to create a short story or write about events that have happened to them. Kids will also be asked to explore different kinds of writing, for example, writing in the first or third person. Teachers start focusing on handwriting, making sure students' printing skills are neat, and introducing cursive handwriting. There will also be a closer watch on grammar and spelling in grade 2.

In math, your child will move beyond knowing and recognizing numbers to learning and understanding that numbers are part of a system. Second graders start to learn to add and subtract by regrouping numbers. They will move up to 2-digit addition and subtraction. They'll also practice skip counting, as a precursor to multiplication. They'll also explore basic fractions, units of measure, basic money, and how a thermometer works.

## **3RD GRADE**

In third grade, kids take their basic reading skills to the next level. They'll by now have learned how to decipher words they don't understand, by context clues or looking at pictures. Your third grader will now delve into chapter books (if they haven't already done so) and fact books. They are making steps towards learning to read, to reading to learn. They'll be asked to discuss book stories and facts in smaller groups, and to summarize and present book reports. Teachers will introduce different kinds of writing, from newspapers and magazines to web sites, to fiction and fact books.

In writing, your child will be expected to prepare more complex writing assignments and, in doing so, will learn organizational methods, such as creating maps, webs, and Venn diagrams to organize their thoughts and use as guides when putting those thoughts in writing. They'll be asked to keep a regular journal, write book reports, creative fiction, and fact-based pieces. This

year there is a greater focus on grammar and students will be expected to revise, edit, and proofread their work.

Moving on from adding and subtracting two- and three-digit numbers, regrouping, and measurement in grade 2 math, third graders focus on more advanced multiplication and division, larger whole numbers (from 1,000 up) patterns that involve those numbers, geometry, and probability. By the end of grade 3, students will have learned the skill of mental math and to work out problems on paper rather than with physical objects, to work with fractions, to estimate, to interpret graphs, and to predict probability and outcomes.

#### **4TH MATH**

In math, students will build on the number sense and patterns learned in grade 3, to learn how to use those patterns to find factors and multiples of numbers, to convert and calculate units of measure, and to work with fractions. They will learn about prime numbers and explore geometry formulas for determining perimeter and area, and measure angles. Students will work on conversion problems and will learn to read and create graphs, tables, and charts.

#### **4TH SOCIAL STUDIES**

In grade 4, your kids will move from learning about the local community to the history of their home state. Students will learn about the first people that lived in this area, explore the changes in population over time, and how different people from different cultures have immigrated, and adapted, to living in their state. Kids will also be introduced to local and state government and their laws.

#### **4TH READING**

Reading gets more sophisticated in grade 4. Your kids will be working on building their vocabulary, beginning to look at word roots, suffixes, and prefixes. They will also be reading a greater range of genres, such as folk tales and fables, myths and legends, and all kinds of non-fiction materials, including encyclopedias, newspapers, and magazines.

#### **4TH WRITING**

Your fourth grader will delve into research to gather information on topics they are writing about. Through the use of dictionaries, encyclopedias, and the Internet, your child will be expected to organize information into paragraphs, essays, and presentations in a logical manner. They'll be expected to review and edit their work before handing it in.

In creative writing, students will learn how to develop their personal voice and writing style. They will learn about proper punctuation, quotation marks, and dialogue in stories.

#### **4TH SCIENCE**

In science, fourth graders will be observing the interactions between organisms and their environment, learn about the water cycle and look at changes in the Earth over long periods of time. They'll be working on projects that will ask them to build hypotheses and make predictions. Topics they'll explore may include matter in its different states, the solar system, motion of objects, electricity, and circuits, and forms of energy.

## **5TH MATH**

Fifth-grade math is about solving complex problems with complex numbers. Students make connections between decimals, fractions, and percentages. They move onto multiplying and dividing fractions and they apply problem-solving to real-world time, measurement, and money problems. They will also be covering geometry, learning about the symmetry of shapes, perpendicular and parallel lines, and how to use formulas to calculate the volume of geometric shapes.

## **5TH SOCIAL STUDIES**

Grade 5 students focus on citizenship. They look back at early immigrants and the events of early American history. They cover and compare the Native American experience to those of the colonial settlers and their lives today. They learn why people immigrated to America and the different cultures of the colonies. They will also cover the evolution of our government and its branches. Students will also cover the different geographies of each of the states.

## **5TH READING**

Fifth-grade readers are asked to cover a lot of subject areas and to delve deeper into stories, learning to analyze characters, plots, settings, and the author's style of writing as well as the purpose for writing. Students will also be asked to interpret texts from their perspectives and provide their own opinions.

## **5TH WRITING**

Writing goes hand-in-hand with the reading your kids carry out in grade 5. They'll be asked to write in many different styles, from journaling, to book reports, to essays, short stories, and poems. They'll be asked to explore their inner author and to express facts and opinions in clear, concise, and well-presented ways. They will be asked to edit their writing and use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

## **5TH SCIENCE**

Science moves your kids to the next level. This year they will cover photosynthesis, the digestive system, and the chemical properties of elements. They will be asked to experiment, observe, gather data, and draw conclusions. They may even experiment with simple chemical reactions.

## **SPECIALS OFFERED**

### **ART**

#### **Lower Elementary**

Students are introduced to the elements of art—line, shape, color, and more. They learn about portraits and landscapes, and realistic and abstract art. Students will learn about important paintings, sculptures, and architecture; students study art from the beginnings of ancient civilizations such as Aztecs, Egyptians, etc. and create artworks similar to works they learn about, using many materials, techniques, and media resources.

#### **Upper Elementary**

Lessons include an introduction to the artists, cultures, and great works of art and architecture from the French and American revolutions through modern times. Students will study and create artworks in various media, including portraits, quilts, sculpture, collages. Students will create artworks inspired by the works they learn about, using many materials, techniques, and media resources.

### **GYM**

Healthy, active adults started out as active children. It is important for children to engage in daily physical activity. The old saying, Strong minds, strong bodies, still hold true. To get fit and stay fit, children need to exercise regularly. It's work—but it's also fun! This program is designed to engage your student in activities that reinforce basic physical skills and improve overall fitness levels. Each lesson provides a schedule of instructions for five days of activities.

### **MUSIC**

#### **Lower Elementary**

This course offers a variety of learning activities that include singing, dancing, using musical instruments, musical exploration using iPads, listening, teamwork, and composing music to build foundational musical skills. Music comes to life in this course through interactive and engaging songs and activities. Students learn about these musical elements: duration, pitch, design, tone color, expressive qualities, and cultural context. Students explore music from around the world while also exploring beat, meter, rhythm, melody, harmony, texture, form, tone color, dynamics, tempo, style, and music background. Students also have the opportunity to perform seasonal and celebratory songs, as well as take part in a yearly winter concert.

#### **Upper Elementary**

This hands-on music course offers a variety of learning activities that include singing, dancing, musical instruments, composing, teamwork, virtual music using iPads, rhythm reading, in-depth listening, playing the recorder (4th), and learning to read music (4th & 5th). Students learn about these musical elements: duration, pitch, design, tone color, expressive qualities, and cultural context, while exploring music from all over the world. Students also learn to read music and explore beat, meter, rhythm, melody, harmony, tonality, texture, form, tone color, dynamics, tempo, articulation, style, and music background. Students apply the music skills they are learning while performing seasonal and celebratory songs, as well as take part in a yearly spring concert.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

**Kindergarten** and **First-grade** students concentrate on acquiring beginning technology skills with a strong focus on developing mouse skills, learning parts of the computer, how to use the Internet and Internet safety. Students will explore keyboarding, change font sizes, styles, and colors as well as explore how to insert, size, and position clipart/images, add page borders, and print documents. Students will also explore their creativity with art programs on computers and tablets and will explore coding.

**Second graders** will utilize their foundation in typing and word processing to further develop skills in vocabulary, writing, editing, and formatting. Explore skills for building comic creations or the use of block-based visual programming to build a game or storytelling. Develop further skills in coding/programming logic, presentations, research, and continue their development of internet safety, word processing, and typing proficiency.

**Third graders** will combine multiple skill sets to complete projects that challenge students to research facts, collect images, name, store, and manage files, and create multimedia presentations. Students will work with a variety of computer applications for spreadsheets, slideshows, word processing, and will also use various approved apps from the internet. 3rd graders will also further explore and develop coding, internet safety, and visual programming concepts.

**Fourth and Fifth graders** will apply prior technical knowledge and experiences to figure out how new technologies or applications work. Continue to develop skills in word processing and presentations with a variety of research assignments, as well as coding. Students will also develop skills in graphic and photo editing, website creation, narrated slideshows, video screen capture, video editing, word processing, typing, internet safety, and emerging technologies.

## **STEM**

STEM stands for *science, technology, engineering, and math*. [STEM curriculum blends](#) those subjects in order to teach “21st-century skills,” or tools students need to have if they wish to succeed in the workplace of the “future.” The idea is that in order to be prepared for jobs and compete with students from different parts of the world, students here in the US need to be able to solve problems, find and use evidence, collaborate on projects, and think critically. Skills, the thinking goes, that are taught in those subjects.