

Library and Technology:

- 90 minutes per week. Direct instruction and book selection. Computer lab for 45 minutes-connected to technology standards and projects integrated into curriculum. Teachers join librarian for that session.
- Students are encouraged to self-select books because the librarian feels that children who pick their own books are more likely to read more at home.
- Our goal is to have the student see him/herself as a reader, one that chooses books over other activities. As a school we have modeled how to love to read by selecting exciting read-alouds that broaden students' experience. We also make reading fun!
- Students should be Information Literate. Critical thinking skills are at the heart of all projects.
- Kindergarten highlights: The Kindergarten author study exposes students to over 30 popular authors. Students are engaged in writer's notebook (model used in classroom) to make connections from their lives to the book characters. The students also practice their observation skills in picture books while reading to their stuffed Monster that sits on their lap. This allows the child to talk out loud some interesting points in the plot development in a safe way to their special stuffed friend.
- Kindergarteners engage in two inquiry-based projects in which they define "make believe animal characters do this" vs. "what these animals are truly like." Using post it notes they point out the pictures that do not seem real. Then they fact check it on the nonfiction data base, which can read the information to the students.
- Technology in kindergarten uses the Keyboarding Without Tears program year-round to instruct on proper finger positioning and mouse use. The students also learn to navigate different education based websites and one nonfiction database: Pebble Go.

Music :

- 45 Minutes per week.
- Each month we choose an "Artist of the Month" and try to not only learn about a musician, but the style of music, the historical period, and a visual artist who connects in some way.
- We are excited to be utilizing iPads and technology to learn about instruments, composition, technology—a wonderful way to creatively explore music.
- We create performance opportunities for everyone, knowing that also helps in so many other areas beyond music.
- Each student brings their music background and preferences to our program, and in sharing, expands everyone's musical landscape. It fosters respect for all musical styles and ethnic roots.
- Drama Program:
 - Provide an after school drama program for students in grades 2-6

- Looking for funding to provide a similar program for students in grades K-1

Art:

- All students have 45 minutes of art per week, in a studio setting
- Our art curriculum provides age appropriate lessons which build year upon year.
- Students have an opportunity to create 2 & 3 dimensional works using a wide variety of materials.
- We are fortunate to have a kiln, so all students work on a variety of ceramic projects as well.
- Art projects are often cross disciplinary in subject matter to make further connections for students. For example, 2nd grade science unit is insects: One art project is to create a ceramic insect made of clay and then glaze it with appropriate colors.
- Mr. C. is a RISD graduate, RI Certified and has over 15 years of teaching experience.
- Art work displayed in the hallway

Gym/Pool

- Students participate in two, 30 minute PE classes every week.
- Purpose: To provide fun opportunities for enjoyment of movement and exercise, as well as to teach basic sports and game skills in an encouraging environment.
- Monthly units include soccer, cycling, beach ball volleyball, dance, kickball, basketball, wiffle ball, and group games.
- Students run laps at the beginning of every class.
- Adaptations are made as needed so that children of all abilities participate together.
- In addition to two PE classes per week, students go in the pool once every 5 weeks for recreation and group swimming lessons. The teacher is a certified lifeguard and Water Safety Instructor. The heated salt water pool is 4 feet deep and a platform is placed in the pool for students to stand on and flotation devices are used as needed.

For all courses:

- As much as possible, we individualize instruction.
- We want our students to say, “I’m a reader, I’m a writer, I’m a mathematician, I’m a scientist and I’m a problem solver.”
- High adult-student ratio provides for more individualize and small group instruction
 - Independent reading and guided reading
 - Writing Without Tears
 - Spelling-Vocabulary: *Words Their Way*
 - Science-Inquiry based kits (2 units of study in Kindergarten)

The Hope Academy Curriculum Synopsis for Special Subjects: Kindergarten

- Students keep Science Notebooks
- All year: Study weather and trees; Third trimester: Animals 2 by 2
- Math – Engage NY (Completing our pilot year)
- Social Studies: In the revision process-developing our units of study; emerging year-long theme: **Sharing, Caring and Personal Responsibility**:
Self and Family: How can I help? And then, How people at school help us.
How we can help them. Global: School helpers in distant places. We want our study to be place-based in order to make connections with the community as a resource for what students learn.