

## K2

Our K2 class welcomes students who have turned 30 months prior to enrollment. Their school day is from 8-12. Social skills and the ability to work with others are central focuses of this class. Gross and fine motor skills are developed through free play and hands-on activities. Pre-reading skills and developmentally appropriate math skills are learned through the use of centers and group experiences. Our 2-year olds have daily music time in class and they have fun educational events such as going to the pumpkin patch in the fall and the strawberry patch in the spring.

## K3

Students enrolling in K3 must have celebrated their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday before September 1<sup>st</sup> and they must be potty-trained. The program runs from 8-12 each day. Essential social skills, gross and fine motor skills, pre-math, language and pre-reading skills are developed through creative play and class activities. Learning stations present students with opportunities to investigate their world and learn new skills. 3 year olds attend weekly music and library classes. Craft and art projects are created in the classroom as part of the learning environment.

## K4

Our four-year-olds develop foundational skills in language arts and math. Instructional time is balanced with outdoor activities and snack time during their school day. Children learn in a hands-on environment which encourages structured activity as well as exploration and inquiry. Units are also given in science and social studies. The students participate in weekly enrichment classes, which include music and library. Field trips offer experiences and opportunities for children to visit interesting places in the state. Students must be four by September 1 to enroll in this program. We use the Abeka curriculum with our 4-year-olds and their school day runs from 8-12.

## K5

Our 5 year old Kindergarten rounds out our pre-school program with a unit-based curriculum that integrates the language and math skills that should be mastered in order to be ready for first grade. We use the Houghton Mifflin Reading and Math series. Whole group instruction and guided reading groups are a vital part of our program. Learning centers are a favorite for K5 students. Investigative and problem solving skills are reinforced through these activities. Kindergarten students participate in daily songs to reinforce skills taught during our daily math meeting which covers all standards taught in K5. Our students participate weekly in enrichment classes in the areas of library, PE, and music. Our Science curriculum is supplemented using the Scholastic *Science Spin* and our Social Studies is supplemented by the Scholastic *Let's Find Out* weekly publication.

## Elementary School Grades 1-4

All elementary students attend related arts classes weekly. These include computer lab, library, music, PE, and art as well as a monthly chapel assembly. All elementary students are encouraged to participate in the Accelerated Reader program where they can earn points for reading and comprehension on grade level. Additional activities include mini-cheerleading, flag football, and elementary basketball. These activities are usually weekend activities but they are available for elementary students if they are interested. Other fun events during the year are pep rallies in the gym, the Halloween Carnival, the Santa Shop, a class project and theme basket for our school auction, a Mother's Day shop, book fairs, a Basketball Shoot-A-Thon, the Book Parade, as well as class parties for holidays and field trips to different locations and events.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Our first grade uses the Houghton-Mifflin Reading curriculum that includes 10 theme units and incorporates different writing styles throughout the year. Houghton-Mifflin Math uses and builds skills from one unit to the next, starting with a review of skills learned in kindergarten and continue up to beginning second grade math skills by the end of the year. Science and Social Studies are taught using *Science Spin* and *Scholastic Weekly* readers.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Second grade at Lee Academy continues with Houghton Mifflin textbooks and workbooks for Language Arts and Math. Second grade students use the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting curriculum to refine their manuscript during first semester and during the second semester students are introduced to cursive handwriting. By the end of the year, students have learned all of the cursive letters and are working towards proficiency with cursive handwriting. Science and Social studies skills are taught primarily through the use of *Scholastic News*, *Science Spin*, and *Studies Weekly*.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

The third grade class of Lee Academy utilizes the Houghton-Mifflin curriculum for Language Arts and Math. Math manipulatives are used to enhance the math curriculum by concrete application of math facts and skills. The Reading series incorporates reading, writing, grammar, and spelling each week. The teacher supplements several on-line resources to coordinate with this curriculum. *Scholastic News* and *Science Spin* resources are used to cover events in Science and facts in History. We conduct science experiments that correlate with these resources. The third grade also uses the *At Home in South Carolina* curriculum to thoroughly investigate the history of our great state.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Fourth graders at Lee Academy use the Houghton – Mifflin textbooks and practice books for Language Arts and Math. Multiplication and division are essential skills for 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Mastery of the multiplication tables is an essential ingredient for success on “the hill” in middle school, so it is stressed in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Science is taught using the SC SCIENCE textbook and resources (McMillan/McGraw-Hill). Social Studies lessons are taught using the Houghton-Mifflin-Harcourt Social Studies Grade 4 Core Skills (US History) resource. As a supplement to Science and Social Studies, *Scholastic News* and *Science Spin* are utilized often.

Our rising 5th students “graduate” to the building on the hill for middle school, which includes 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grades. Students change classes by subject and have three different teachers during the day; one for math, one for social studies, and one for language arts. Their homeroom teacher is also their science teacher.

## 5th Grade

### English/Language Arts

Fifth grade ELA encompasses several elements and provides exposure to a vast amount of reading experiences. Throughout the year, students read 3 novels and a multitude of fiction and nonfiction short stories. Students are exposed to character analysis, identifying themes, discovering the elements of plot, and discussing the author’s purpose. Fifth grade students begin writing for purpose: expository, narrative, descriptive and persuasive writing. The fundamentals of the paragraph are addressed throughout the year. This course focuses on basic grammar skills and applies them to their writing.

### Math

A thorough understanding of place value is necessary for the development of the middle school math curriculum. Whole numbers and decimals as well as exponential form are taught. The curriculum focuses on mastering the 4 operations; addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to include whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. Problem solving using various strategies is included to help develop critical thinking skills. Equations with variables are introduced in differing ways to help the flow into Algebra.

### Science

The South Carolina State Standards provide the basis of the science program for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. An overview of topics for Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science are included. A variety of resources are utilized as we learn about the Nature of Science which includes lab introduction. Safety, science tools, and the scientific method are emphasized. Earth and Space Science concentrate on our changing Earth; its resources, climate, and the solar system. Physical Science includes classifying matter and investigating motion. Life Science focuses on the study of different ecosystems and the plant and animal life within each.

### Social Studies

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade begins its journey through history by reviewing Native Americans and then moves to famous explorers. We discuss the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving, moving straight into the Thirteen Colonies. The big topic of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade comes next with the causes of and life during the American Revolution. With our discussion of the Revolution, we watch videos and activities to enhance the understanding of our fight for independence. We end the year with our discussion of the Constitution. Through all of these topics students have STEAM activities and watch videos to help give a visual perspective to the students of the history we are studying.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### English/Language Arts

Sixth grade ELA builds on the elements learned in the fifth grade and then expands upon those elements through writing. Sixth grade continues with character analysis, identifying theme and the elements of plot in their reading, author’s purpose and the tone of the sample. Students read 3 novels and several fiction and nonfiction selections. Writing in the sixth grade requires a more in-depth exploration of what the author wished to convey and how it affected

them as a reader. The expectations for evaluating student comprehension are elevated in this grade. Grammar in the sixth grade requires the student to utilize the basic rules in their writing as we continue to learn and explore the elements of grammar further.

## Math

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum continues the development begun in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Mastery of the place value skills, operations with whole numbers, decimals and fractions is expected. Integers are introduced along with algebra expressions, equations, patterns, functions, and the coordinate plane. Ratio, proportion and percentage are used in a variety of ways including problem solving. Statistical graphs are constructed and analyzed in math as well as crossing over to Science and Social Studies.

## Science

We begin our 6<sup>th</sup> grade science studies with a thorough review of the Scientific Method and Lab Safety. We study cells, heredity, adaptation and change, ecosystems and biomes, matter, Newton's Law of Motion, and weather. With each chapter and topic, we complete a lab experience or other STEAM activity to give the students a hands-on understanding of the science topic.

## Social Studies

We begin our Westward expansion with a study of Lewis and Clark and their explorations. We investigate pioneers like Davy Crockett and discuss their contributions. We watch documentaries to help students visualize and see history through media. We move to the causes of the Civil War and how the War changed our country. We have activities that allow students to view the causes and effects of this War from both sides. We transition to the Transcontinental Railroad and end with lawmen and outlaws of the Wild West. Through all of our studies, we do STEAM activities and watch videos and documentaries so students will get a visual perspective of the topics.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

### 7th Grade ELA

Seventh grade ELA proceeds at a faster pace in preparation for English 1 in high school. We will continue to master grammar, vocabulary, and writing. Students are required to write several papers in this class. This class will ask students to identify point of view, analyze theme, and take a critical look at figurative language through identifying and explaining the type of figurative language used. This is the year where we will explore proper annotation and begin the MLA format. We, often, take a creative approach to the writing process in the class to make it an enjoyable experience. Students are required to read 3 novels. We read several short stories from authors such as: Hemingway, Walter Dean Myers, and Alice Walker. Students are expected to participate in discussions and offer opinions.

## Math

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum includes a very inclusive Geometry unit which includes plane and solid figures. Perimeter, area, circumference, volume, and surface area are taught. The calculator is introduced and utilized with these skills. Customary and metric measurements systems are included so students will be able to transfer knowledge to science skills in high school. The Pre-Algebra book provides the foundation of Algebra as we study expressions, equations, setting up and solving multi-step, integer and rational computations, rates, proportions, and percentages.

## Science

7th Grade Life Science at Lee Academy encompasses the following concepts: Cells, Bacteria and Viruses, Protists and Fungi, Plants, Sponges and Worms, Amphibians and Reptiles, and the Human Body. These topics are just an overview of the concepts as we look in-depth at each of these through labs, supplemental materials, and field trips. Students are required to do at least 2 presentations in the Life Science class. Students are introduced to the lab report and evaluating data. Through the exploration of the diversity of life, the classification of plants and animals, and the processes required to sustain life in the human body, students gain a better understanding of the living world around them. Lee Academy strives to provide hands-on experiences for their students.

## Social Studies

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade begins their study with the causes of World War I as well as life during and after the war. We move to the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression. After the Depression, we study World War II and its causes. We discuss the Civil Rights movement and the Vietnam War. After Christmas, we go back in time to focus our studies of Ancient Civilizations. We begin with Ancient Mesopotamia and journey through Egypt, then to Greece, Rome, and then Ancient China. Documentaries bring the history to life for the students as do other activities in class.