



CURRICULUM AT BES

2017-2018

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All students at BES participate in the following courses:

- * Language Arts
 - * Reading
 - * Writing
 - * Word Study
- * Math
- * Science
- * Social Studies
- * Specials*
 - * Music
 - * Art
 - * Spanish
 - * PE/Health
 - * Library
- * STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math)
- * Computers (1st-3rd Grades)

*Information regarding Special Area courses can be found in the specified brochure on the district website.

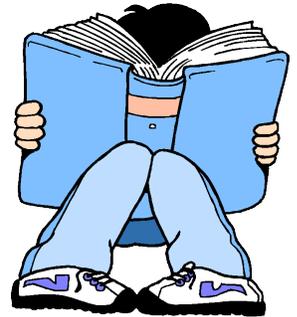
LANGUAGE ARTS

READING

Reading instruction at BES utilizes a guided reading and Readers' Workshop approach. This means that we explicitly teach concepts geared towards the students' instructional needs. In order to do this, we collect data about student reading levels through the use of the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System. Language Arts teachers assess students three times a year to determine each student's instructional reading level. This is the level at which the student can read with some assistance. The assessment provides us information in decoding (how well the student can read the words), fluency (student rate, prosody, and intonation), and comprehension (how well the student understands the

text on multiple levels). We use this information to create guided reading groups.

In each classroom, students work in small groups under the guidance of the language arts teacher to improve their reading skills. Students are grouped based on reading level or interest depending on the unit of instruction. Grades K-2 utilize short reading books that students can generally complete in one day. These students may read these texts multiple times. Students in grades 3-6 read novels corresponding to different units. Each unit has a theme and genre. The students are all reading about the same theme and genre but on a book that is on their instructional reading. The teacher models reading strategies through the use of a read-aloud.



Novel Reading Units

3rd Grade

- ◆ Fantasy: Fairy Tales
- ◆ Biographies: Inventors & Pioneers
- ◆ Fantasy: Animal Friendships
- ◆ Realistic Fiction: School Life
- ◆ Poetry

4th Grade

- ◆ Realistic Fiction: Bullying
- ◆ Biography: Black History Month
- ◆ Mystery: Friendship
- ◆ Fantasy: Heroism

5th Grade

- ◆ Realistic Fiction: Overcoming Obstacles
- ◆ Historical Fiction: Prejudice
- ◆ Fantasy: Leadership & Responsibility
- ◆ Poetry: Author Study of Sharon Creech

6th Grade

- ◆ Mystery: Family Life
- ◆ Realistic Fiction: Survival
- ◆ Historical Fiction: The Holocaust
- ◆ Science Fiction: Dystopia

LANGUAGE ARTS

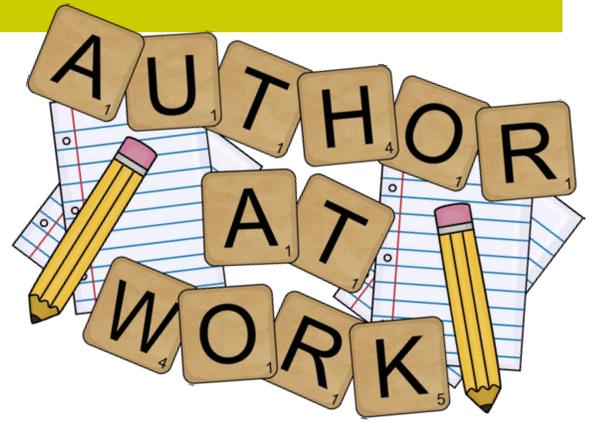
WRITING

Writing instruction at BES follows a Writer's Workshop approach. Students are taught a skill explicitly in a minilesson. The teacher models the skill and shows the student how it improves writing. Then students apply the skill in their writing piece during independent writing. During this time, the teacher conferences with students to assist each of them in their personal growth. Students share their writing pieces or portions of their writing with the class to obtain feedback from their peers.

Lucy Caulkins' Units of Study

are utilized in grades K-6. The Units of Study provide teachers with a framework for implementing a writing unit. Students will learn how to write for various purposes and audiences through the writing of personal narratives, research compositions, opinion/argument essays, compare and contrast essays, and "How to" compositions. Skills are built upon in each grade level as students learn about craft and skill.

Grammar is a component of writing instruction as students



learn how to write complete sentences, punctuation, and the appropriate use of parts of speech. These skills are taught during minilessons and reinforced in student writing. Vocabulary and word choice are a crucial component of Language Arts instruction and are emphasized in all aspects of the course (reading, writing, word study).

WORD STUDY

Word Study is a term used to encompass a multitude of skills. It is the study of spelling, vocabulary, phonics, and how our language works. Students do not receive a spelling list to memorize but, instead, learn how words are made and how letters and letter pairs sound in the English language. Students in grades K-3



use the Foundations program and students in grades 4-6 use Words Their Way.

Foundations is a systematic program that includes phonemic awareness, phonics-word study, high frequency word study, fluency, vocabulary, handwriting, and spelling. Students learn the different sounds in the English language as well as how to use these sounds through a multi-sensory approach. The English language is one of the hardest to learn. Our words and the sounds they make do not always make sense. Words that do not follow traditional spelling or phonics rules are called "trick words". These words are memorized.

Words Their Way is a develop-

mental approach to word study in which students learn spelling patterns throughout the stages of spelling. The stages of spelling are Emergent, Letter Name/Alphabetic, Within Word, Syllables & Affixes, and Derivational Relations. Students in the Emergent & Letter Name/Alphabet stage are learning the relationship between letters and sounds. Students in the Within Word stage are learning patterns that guide the grouping of letters. Students in the Syllables & Affixes and Derivational Relations stages are learning the meaning that groups of letters represent. An assessment is administered to students to determine their level of spelling and their instruction is tailored to their needs.

MATHEMATICS

All students at BES use the Go Math program for mathematics instruction. The Go Math program provides teachers with a blended learning approach through the use of student notebooks, online videos and lessons, and hands on tools for students to manipulate. Teachers have the ability to administer assessments on the computer which allows students to practice taking an online test but also provides them with immediate feedback. Use of this function varies depending on the grade level and level of the

course.

Grades 3-6 have one class designated as the Advanced math class or Top Math. These students have been identified through multiple measures as being able to handle a more difficult and faster paced curriculum. The remaining math classes are comprised of mixed ability students and differentiation is provided depending on their level.

Many teachers at BES find a Guided Math approach to be beneficial for their students. This

occurs when teachers group students with other students of a similar ability and provide them with small group instruction that helps them progress at their levels. This format allows all students to receive the instruction they need to succeed depending on their individual abilities/needs.



Progression of Major Skills Taught from Kindergarten-6th Grade

K	1	2	3	4	5	6
Know number names and the count sequence	Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction	Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction	Represent & solve problems involving multiplication and division	Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems	Understand the place value system	Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions
Count to tell the number of objects	Understand and apply properties of operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction	Add and subtract within 20	Understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division	Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers	Perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and decimals to hundredths	Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers
Compare numbers	Understand addition as putting together and adding to, and understand subtraction as taking apart and taking from	Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract	Multiply & divide within 100	Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multidigit arithmetic	Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions	Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems
Work with numbers 11-19 to gain foundations for place value	Work with addition and subtraction equations	Measure and estimate lengths in standard units	Solve problems involving the four operations, and identify & explain patterns in arithmetic	Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering	Geometric measurement: understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and to addition	Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities
	Extend the counting sequence	Relate addition and subtraction to length	Develop understanding of fractions as numbers	Build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations	Graph points in the coordinate plane to solve real-world and mathematical problems*	Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables
	Understand place value		Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time, liquid volumes, & masses of objects	Understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare decimal fractions		
	Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract		Geometric measurement: understand concepts of area and relate area to multiplication and to addition			
	Measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units					

Additional information provided at <http://achievethecore.org/category/774/mathematics-focus-by-grade-level>

