

## STAGE II — TYPICAL DAY

### For children ages 5 – 7

The Stage II program supports children in attaining self-understanding and a broader understanding of others. Children are respected and valued for their individual strengths and talents and are encouraged to appreciate those of others. Each child's uniqueness is nurtured and children are taught to understand the interdependence of each of their classmates. Group discussions help them to express their thoughts and feelings and to solve problems.

Since exploration and play are extremely important to the development of the child, it is an integral component of the Stage II program. Through play, children are offered opportunities for sharing, cooperation, leadership and following. Skills are gained in planning, organizing, learning rules and regulations, ethical consideration and physical, cognitive and creative development.

The Stage II program is defined broadly in that it is much more than the mere attainment of academic concepts and skills. This program provides multiple, integrated and personalized learning opportunities that result in the acquisition of concepts as well as critical life skills. Each classroom provides an environment that supports the acquisition of these important understandings and skills: self-respect, empathy and respect for others, appreciation of interdependence and equal rights, a sense of justice, inner mastery and a sense of competency.

Times and activities are general and may vary by the day or individual homeroom.

8:10am	Classrooms open
8:20 – 8:45am	Morning Meeting
8:45 – 9:10am	Explorations and Inquiry
9:10 – 9:25am	Snack
9:25 – 11:05am	Language Arts and Math (small groups) or Special Classes
11:05 – 11:30am	Social Studies and Sharing
11:30 – 12:05pm	Recess
12:05 – 12:35pm	Lunch
12:35 – 1:20pm	Homeroom Activities or Free Choice
1:20 – 2:15pm	Homeroom Activities, French or Library
2:20 – 3:00pm	Homeroom Activities or Free Choice
3:00 – 3:10pm	End-of-Day Meeting
3:10pm	Dismissal

NOTE: Afternoon "Homeroom Activities" often include additional language arts, math and social studies learning opportunities, but are explored as a whole class rather than in small groups.

## CURRICULUM

### WITH HOMEROOM TEACHERS

<b>Language Arts</b>	In Stage II, Language Arts draws on a young child's natural curiosity and inclination to make sense of the world. Reading, writing, speaking and listening become interwoven disciplines as children are given numerous opportunities to experiment with language and communication and to gather information. Children are encouraged to explore, develop and test their language arts understanding in a supportive community of learners.
<b>Math</b>	Daily opportunities are available to the children to explore developmentally appropriate activities and lessons that focus on problem solving, patterns and relationships, geometry and spatial awareness, measurement, operations and computations. Children come to know the "why" as well as the "how" of mathematics through the use of manipulatives and hands-on activities. Specific skills are acquired as well as an understanding of the interrelatedness of different areas of mathematics. The core program is based on the Singapore Math Program.
<b>Social Studies</b>	Stage II utilizes an inquiry-based approach in the teaching of Social Studies. The children's theories and ideas are the starting points for the investigations, and teachers work with students to challenge their thinking and help them grow. In individual homerooms and as a stage, teachers work with both large and small groups of children to develop in-depth units of study based on interaction, exploration, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Children are encouraged to express their knowledge in a variety of ways, including through art media, creative movement, oral presentations, written reports, storytelling, music and poetry.

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WITH SPECIAL TEACHERS

<i>Art</i>	The Art curriculum in Stage II is designed to encourage the students to explore a variety of materials and techniques, continue to develop basic skills, and begin to understand the importance of visual expression in their world. Processes include painting, drawing, clay, printmaking, and puppetry. It combines structured class art time with elective Free Choice time.
<i>Computer</i>	During Stage II we want students to build a basic comfort level with the computer, mouse and keyboard. Technology is integrated and used to support children in their academic journey. Students' experiences include an introduction to keyboarding, Logo robot commands, publishing, art programs, educational games and Internet exploration.
<i>Creative Movement</i>	Creative Movement provides meaningful ways for young children to develop motor control, spatial awareness, personal relationships and self-esteem. Lessons focus on movement concepts such as directions, levels, rhythm, pathways or qualities. Children are exposed to these concepts in a variety of ways: through puppets, songs, stories, poems, chants and games.
<i>French</i>	From the first day of school, children are taught solely in French. As the year progresses, children begin to hear and comprehend French as their native tongue. Learning is accomplished using theme-based centers. Children use songs, games, illustrations, poems and dialogues to learn the language.
<i>Library</i>	Students use the library to support and encourage a love of reading and life-long learning. Each Free Choice aims to awaken and deepen students' love of the library through beautifully illustrated stories, intellectually challenging information and opportunities for creative expression.
<i>Music</i>	The approach in Stage II is to develop musical understanding through a combination of creative musical experiences joined with the listening and performing aspects of musical education. The following musical skills are developed: singing in tune, pitched and non-pitched sounds, improved listening skills of self and others, and improved expression of musical skills.
<i>Physical Education</i>	To develop the physical self at this age, we concentrate on body awareness, locomotor skills, rhythmic skills and manipulating objects. We share, take turns, help others, cooperate and follow both verbal and visual directions. Safety is addressed when using equipment and when all the children are moving together.
<i>Science</i>	The Stage II science program is designed to provide a framework for the scientific method and to expose children to a broad range of topics. Process skills (observing, classifying, describing, predicting, asking questions, investigating, problem-solving, and recording) are developed through hands-on experiences. Through concrete experiences children also begin to expand their conceptual framework. Positive attitudes are cultivated, and an atmosphere of inquiry is encouraged. The free choice program is designed to support and to extend children's interest in pursuing topics of interest in science and to explore science concepts with depth. Classes evolve from the interests of the children, and include activities that reflect the broad spectrum of science.