

STAGE IV — TYPICAL DAY

For children ages 9 – 11

Stage IV children have a unique schedule that contains opportunities for small-group as well as individual work. Each student's schedule is designed to meet his or her particular abilities and interests. The curriculum includes two kinds of classes — homeroom class blocks centered on the academic areas of humanities and math, and special class blocks for required and elective offerings.

Humanities and math are personalized so that students can work at an appropriate pace, approach and level of difficulty through the use of flexible grouping allowing students the opportunity to work with others and/or independently. There is an extra block built into the schedule every other day for students to be in the homeroom. Adding this time allows for many community-centering experiences. Students may engage in cooperative activities, listen to guest speakers, collaborate with students across the stage to support stewardship activities, or participate in curricular tasks.

During each six-day cycle, children are required to take science and can also choose to study French or Spanish. For electives, they can choose from a variety of art, music, computer, dance, humanities exploration, math exploration and physical education classes. Students are encouraged to explore new possibilities to further develop individual passions.

The advantages to Stage IV's scheduling are many: teachers can work with students in smaller groups as well as individually; students learn special subjects with specialist teachers; students have the opportunity to broaden individual talents and interests; and students practice decision-making in a real-life context.

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

Block Time	Activity
8:10 – 8:25am	Classrooms open
8:25 – 8:40am	Homeroom Meeting
8:40 – 9:25am	Math*
9:30 – 10:15am	Elective
10:20 – 11:05am	Science
11:10 – 11:35am	Homeroom
11:35am – Noon	Lunch
12:05 – 12:35 pm	Recess
12:40 – 1:25pm	Humanities
1:30 – 2:15pm	Humanities
2:20 – 3:05pm	Elective
3:10 – 3:20 pm	Homeroom
3:20pm	Dismissal

**Sample schedule: courses during 45-minute blocks vary.*

CURRICULUM

WITH HOMEROOM TEACHERS

Humanities | The humanities program aims to improve and expand the student's ability to communicate through a combination of language arts and social studies. This implies a connection to many of the goals of our school, such as an appreciation for language, an interest in others, excitement about information and ideas and an eagerness to share one's own interests and opinions. They are also taught to trust that understanding can be reached through clear communication in a community that is supportive. The program also enables children to value themselves as unique individuals, to value others, to understand interdependence and to create a balance between the individual and the group. Content may include investigations of different cultures and how people view themselves in and over time, the role of the government, and environmental studies. Reading, writing, technology and the arts are woven throughout the units. Please note that each Stage IV student has a double block of Humanities every other day; on alternating days, Stage IV students have a single block.

Math | The Stage IV Mathematics program enables children to value themselves as mathematical thinkers. Children are encouraged to look upon mathematics as an active, exciting process with room for creative approaches and diversity of strategies. Program content includes: study of patterns, relationships and fractions, geometry and measurement, data analysis and statistics, number sense and numeration, numerical and algebraic operations, analytical thinking and a study of probability and discrete mathematics. Advanced math topics are also offered as electives.

continued
9.30.13

WITH SPECIAL TEACHERS

Art	Stage IV electives are designed to encompass a wide range of visual topics and media, giving the students exposure to a variety of artistic experiences. Electives include <i>Architecture, Sculpture, Figure Study, Painting, Clay, Fibers, Photo Images, Bookmaking, Mask Making, Set Design, Space Art, Weaving, Origami, and Cartooning and Simple Animation, etc.</i>
Computer	Our goal for Stage IV children is to achieve a solid level of ease and competency with the computer and to understand their own responsibilities in the areas of upkeep, ethical implications and the impact of their own digital footprint. Children master basic skills such as word processing, spreadsheet/graphing, accessing and using an Internet browser, and building multimedia presentations. Electives allow children to explore many different areas such as <i>Programming, Game Design, Bridge Design, Digital Photography and Applications, Game Reviewer, Animation, Keyboarding, Intro to Video</i> and various simulations.
Dance	Stage IV Dance provides students with kinesthetic experiences that directly benefit a child's physical, intellectual, social and emotional growth. Dance allows students to express feelings, ideas and observations about themselves and their environment. A major portion of class time is spent planning, choreographing and organizing the spring dance concert. Yoga is also offered.
World Languages: French & Spanish	The World Language program seeks to trigger curiosity and make language learning fun and creative, while encouraging authentic communication. Stage IV World Language classes review basic vocabulary presented in previous Stages, while introducing new words, expressions and structures thorough the study of thematic lessons. A variety of songs, visuals, games, and computer projections illuminate the lessons while encouraging multiple learning styles, and actively involving students in their learning.
Library Media Center	The Stage IV Library program encourages the children's love of reading and provides learning experiences that enable the students to become increasingly knowledgeable and independent information seekers and users. Children in Stage IV visit the Library Media Center once each week with their homerooms to hear book talks, browse for books and participate in lessons and activities that familiarize them with various print and electronic resources. The use of the Library and its resources is often integrated into the Stage IV curriculum so that children develop information literacy skills within a meaningful context. The Roper Library Media Center maintains subscriptions to <i>World Book Encyclopedia Online</i> as well as electronic databases for young learners such as CultureGrams, eLibrary Elementary, SIRS Discoverer, Kids InfoBits, and InfoTrac Junior.
Music	Stage IV is a time when students develop their musical passions in more depth. Students may begin a two-year process of learning a particular instrument in Band. They move from a beginning skill level and build into a focus on expressing unique style while listening and working together as an ensemble. The Stage IV Choir is a year-long class culminating in a fully-mounted musical theater production with scenery, costumes, singing, acting, and professional lighting and sound. Additional electives are available throughout the year, and include courses such as guitar, student composers, music games, and classes on contemporary, multi-cultural, and classical music genres. Tunes for 'Toons, Boomwhackers, Actors' Studio, and History of Rock 'n' Roll are among those offered.
Physical Education	The Stage IV PE classes focus on instructing the students on proper technique, basic rules and strategies of several games and the benefits of health and fitness. Electives may include <i>Floor Hockey, Games, Leadership PE, Cricket, Diamond Games, Flag Football, Soccer, Net Games, Girls Sports, Outdoor Track & Field, Golf and Archery.</i>
Science	Science in Stage IV is the predominant way students learn inductive reasoning and the scientific method. Students investigate a wide variety of topics in the natural and physical sciences. First-year students are required to take a science survey class, while second-year students take <i>Anatomy and Health. Adventures in Chemistry, Feathered Friends, Messages from Space, Electricity, Geology, Bubble-ology, Winter Nature, Air Pressure, Bernoulli and Flying Things, Science Fair, Rocketry, Invention Convention</i> and <i>Meteorology</i> are offered as electives.