



LINCOLN SCHOOL

KATHMANDU, NEPAL

2019-20 Elementary School Program

Mission and Core Values

Lincoln School is a multicultural community in the foothills of the Himalaya that inspires in each student a passion for learning, the confidence and competence to pursue their dreams, and the commitment to serve as a compassionate global citizen and leader, who is a steward of the environment.

Lincoln's Core Values

- Compassion
- Collaboration
- Integrity
- Learning
- Respect
- Responsibility

An education at Lincoln School is guided by the following foundational core beliefs:

- Experiencing and understanding diversity enriches life and learning.
- Continuous learning is essential to growth and well-being.
- Each individual has value and positive contributions to make.
- Working together benefits the individual and the community.
- Working together towards a common goal creates limitless possibilities.
- A nurturing environment encourages people to realize and express their full potential.
- When individuals act with integrity and take responsibility for their actions, the community and the environment thrive.



ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

Literacy

The primary goal of the language arts curriculum is to instill a love of reading, writing, and communicating through immersion in a wide variety of literacy experiences.

Students are given the opportunity to read, write, listen and discuss ideas daily. Class libraries, shared literature study, individualized reading, leveled readers, sustained silent reading, thematic study of literature, writing and reading workshop and word/language study are areas of interaction/learning that students will experience throughout the elementary. Some of the core resources used to support our curriculum include Lucy Calkins' Units of Study for reading and writing, Fountas & Pinnell Reading Assessments, and Words Their Way (vocabulary/spelling).

In upper elementary, greater emphasis is placed upon thematic integration of the curriculum for reinforcement and expansion of language acquisition skills. Goals include improving the quality of reading comprehension, developing a range of reading strategies, and increasing the range of voluntary reading.

Mathematics

Our math curriculum follows the Common Core State Standards and is further focused through the NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) process standards. This framework includes the process strands of problem solving, reasoning and proof, making connections, communication and representation, while the key mathematical content standards include operations and algebraic thinking, numbers and operations in base ten, measurement and data, numbers and operations-fractions, and geometry. The core resource for the curriculum is Everyday Mathematics which is supplemented by a variety of resources rich in problem-solving.

Science

Lincoln School follows Next Generation Science Standards in our science curriculum. The objective of the science curriculum is to expose children to the wonder of science and the joy of discovery through inquiry. Students learn how to ask questions and define problems, plan and carry out investigations, analyze and interpret data, engage in argument with evidence, and obtain, evaluate and communicate information. To this end, the primary core resources for science are hands-on science inquiry kits from FOSS and supported through the use of science logs/journals. At each grade level, students are actively engaged in a variety of activities and reflections to develop competence in the scientific process and an understanding of basic concepts in the earth, life and physical sciences as well as engineering concepts starting at grade three.

Social Studies

The social studies standards are based on the C3 Framework (College, Career, Civic Life). Emphasis is placed on the development of students' self-understanding and what it

means to be part of a community and a part of the modern world. Through a process of inquiry, students explore past and living cultures to develop an appreciation of diverse peoples. They also gain familiarity with the skills used in social studies analyses such as critical thinking, mapping, graphing, and timelines.

Art & Design

The Visual Art and Design program for the Elementary students is to develop creative thinking and provide a different means of communication and self-expression. The program is designed to build awareness in our students that they live in a designed world, and that as designers they can become agents of change. At the heart of the program is a mindset that values playfulness, creativity, resiliency, empathy, collaboration and the desire to tinker. In ES Design, children are confronted with interesting materials and given freedom to explore novel solutions to compelling challenges.

Foreign Language – French (Grade 3-Grade 5)

French in elementary school is offered for students in Grade 3 to Grade 5. The coursework is designed so that students will acquire the fundamental elements of French in order to build a foundation of basic communication skills. Learning is differentiated by based on student skills levels. The program also focuses on cultural awareness.

Music

The music provides many experiences to help children acquire independence, a positive self-concept, and a realization of how music correlates to the world around them. Students attend music three times a week. The music program is a sequential, skills-oriented, participatory program which includes singing, listening, playing instruments (guitar, keyboard, recorder, Orf instruments), creating, moving, and writing.

Physical and Health Education

Students attend physical education three times a week. The PE program follows the SHAPE standards and is based on a non-competitive movement education approach. Classes are designed to stimulate creativity, problem solving, self-confidence, and physical development. The program includes swimming, exploration with small hand apparatus, activities in gymnastics, rhythm and dance, track and field, and invasion games. Health is also part of the the curriculum and follows the National Health Education Standards.

Library Media Center

The Elementary Library is located on the ground floor of Lincoln School's newest building. The library is home to picture books, graphic novels, junior fiction, board books, and nonfiction books. Additionally, the library has 60 Kindles, magazine subscriptions, and a variety of database subscriptions. Both students and parents may check out books during school hours. The library strives to help foster a lifelong passion for reading, promote a culture of questioning and information seeking, collaborate with teachers and

students, and provide access to information and technology for all learners

The library program is built on a collaborative model between our library specialist and the classroom teachers. The classroom teachers and the librarian work together to address 21st century information literacy skills in conjunction with the curriculum as well as to instill a passion of books and reading.

Service Nepal

Service learning at Lincoln School is supported through the four pillars of our mission statement. Our service program hopes to create students who are aware of themselves, their community and the global environment. With this awareness, we foster the empathy, inspiration, and ability to selflessly serve as compassionate global citizens and leaders who actively engage within their communities. Lincoln School students engage with host country partnerships throughout the service-learning experience.

Service in the Elementary program falls under four headings; people, education, environment, animals. Each grade level is responsible for choosing a theme to focus on and investigate. This program is guided through Lincoln's service vision statement and program standards.

Early Childhood Program - Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten

Lincoln Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten class promotes teaching and learning to ensure “school readiness” for children. Our program gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for successful future progress throughout school and life. Play is essential for children’s development. Learning through play builds their confidence as they learn to explore, and supports their thinking about problems and relating to others. Therefore, each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a variety of adult-directed and child-initiated activities.

Social and Emotional Development

At Lincoln School, social and emotional development helps children have a positive sense of themselves and others. Through activities and a nurturing environment, students learn and are encouraged to form positive relationships and develop respect for others, as well as develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings. They learn to understand appropriate behavior in groups and have confidence in their own abilities.

Communication, Language and Literacy

Communication and language development at Lincoln School provides children with opportunities to experience a rich language environment, to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a variety of situations. Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Through the classroom library as well as weekly visits to the school library, children experience a wide range of reading material such as poems, picture books, online books, fiction and nonfiction books to ignite their interest.

Mathematics and Science

Mathematics provides children with the opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, and calculating simple addition and subtraction problems. They use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, time and money. Children compare quantities and objects, as well as solving mathematical problems. They explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

Concepts of science will be taught through inquiry, observation and experimentation. The children experience hands-on activities enable them to manipulate objects, ask questions, make predictions and learn relevant vocabulary in contexts that are meaningful to the child.

Music

Music at Lincoln School enables the children to participate in a variety of musical activities including singing songs, imitating rhythmic patterns, experimenting with

various musical instruments, as well as using music to tell stories and express feelings. The children experience this in class and during their weekly music lesson.

Visual Arts/Dramatic Play

The Lincoln School Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten classroom inspires creativity. The children experiment with a variety of mediums and methods of using art materials, including tools, texture, color and technique. They also respond and react to visual arts created by themselves and others. The children participate in a variety of dramatic play activities to represent fantasy, real life experiences, imagination and literature.

Physical Development and Health

This area provides opportunities for young children to be active and interactive. It develops their co-ordination, control and movement, whilst helping them to understand the importance of physical activity and make healthy choices in relation to food. The children experience this in class, during their PE lessons and when exploring their playground. The children experience swimming once a week which develops their confidence in the water, helps them learn water entry, bubble blowing, floating, kicking and underwater exploration. In addition, they learn to manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs successfully.

Primary 1

As the first formal year of elementary school, the primary one program is designed to foster intellectual curiosity and lay the foundations for a life-long love of learning. While children develop the skills they need to succeed throughout their education, they are also empowered to make their own connections, draw their own conclusions and construct their own knowledge. We have one expat teacher and one assistant teacher, who both believe in nurturing the whole child and provide an environment in which children can thrive both academically and emotionally.

Themes

Curriculum is integrated and introduced through meaningful themes which spark children's natural curiosity and interests.

Language & Literacy

We practice a balanced literacy program that incorporates both phonics and whole language. Through environmental print, building phonemic awareness, interactive read alouds and guided reading groups, we are taking steps in our journey to literacy. We are also using invented spelling to write in meaningful ways during our Writer's Workshop, and practicing letter formation using the Handwriting Without Tears program.

Mathematics

As the name suggests, our Everyday Math curriculum helps children understand and apply mathematical concepts through the context of their own lives. We use math manipulatives in our classroom, for concrete representation of math ideas. We focus on numbers sense and operations, patterns, geometry, measurement and data analysis.

Social Studies

Throughout the year we work with the theme; "Respect yourself, respect each other and respect your environment." We are learning that, by celebrating each other's differences, we are building a closer classroom community.

Science

We work with Next Generation Science Standards, which includes the themes of weather and climate, forces of motion, and interdependent ecosystems.

Grade 1

The Grade 1 class forms a strong classroom community where students are encouraged to take risks and express themselves in a fun and structured environment. First graders become more independent throughout the year, learning to ask and answer questions and participate in respectful discussions. To prepare for a life of literacy, students build good reading habits, apply knowledge about the way words work, and write across a variety of genres. In Grade 1, students work to solve problems and explain their thinking individually and with a group, particularly in math and science. For more information regarding the Grade 1 curriculum check out the Look at Learning!

Reading

Throughout the year, students build reading stamina, working to read independently for 15-20 minutes. Within his/her own reading level, students learn and practice good habits for solving hard words, comprehending a variety of texts, and talking about books.

In the first *Lucy Calkins* unit of study, we focus on “Building Good Reading Habits.” Students learn to take a sneak peek before reading and to do *something* at the end of a book. In the following unit, students “Learn About the World” by gaining skills for reading and comprehending nonfiction text. The third unit, “Readers Have Big Jobs to Do,” focuses on fluency, phonics, and comprehension, setting up students to read increasingly difficult text. “Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons” is the final first grade unit. In it, students learn about story elements and build the foundational skills necessary to make predictions, inferences, and character evaluations.

Writing

Throughout the year, students follow the writing process from planning to editing and revising to publishing his/her work. We focus on adding length and detail to narrative, information, and opinion pieces.

Students begin with *Lucy Calkins*’ unit of study on writing “Small Moments,” where they take everyday events and stretch them out into personal narratives, making the characters think, talk, and move. Next, in the “Nonfiction Chapter Books” unit, students add pictures, charts, and specific vocabulary to create teaching texts about a topic they know well. In the third unit, “Writing Reviews,” we focus on expressing opinions and bolstering arguments in a variety of persuasive reviews. “From Scenes to Series,” the last writing unit, encourages students to “show, not tell” as they create a series of fiction books.

Word Study

Words Their Way is a “hands-on sorting approach” to word study. Students work with words within his/her own stage of spelling and orthographic development to notice and learn patterns in how words work. Words Their Way helps students build phonics, vocabulary, and spelling skills.

Math

The *Everyday Mathematics* curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards, providing multiple exposures to content and frequent opportunities for review and practice. First grade topics of study include counting, addition, subtraction, place value, measurement, and geometry. Students will engage with these topics in “real-world, age-appropriate” contexts and open-ended activities. Students are encouraged to take risks and use multiple problem-solving strategies in individual, small-group, and fact-based game practice opportunities.

Science

Following the *Next Generation Science Standards* (NGSS), students will explore the world around them through three units of study. In “Earth’s Place in the Universe,” students will predict, observe, and describe patterns in the way the Sun, Earth, and Moon move and work together. Students will learn about the relationship between sound and vibrating materials and the idea that light travels from place to place in the “Waves and Their Applications.” The “From Molecules to Organisms” unit focuses on how plants and animals survive, grow, and meet their needs. Throughout these units, students will ask questions and define problems, develop and use models, and analyze and interpret data.

Social Studies

This year, units of study will follow the *C3 (College, Career, & Civic Life) Framework*. The first unit, “Family and Family Stories,” explores the ways that families are similar and different from past to present. In “Maps and Geography,” students use maps and models to ask questions about and describe where places are located and why they are located there, as well as identify natural and human-made features. Students will make decisions and resolve conflict around his/her responsibilities in the classroom, community, and world in the “Global Citizen” unit.

Grade 2

Second graders expand on the skills they acquired in first grade and build upon them in order to make a successful transition to third grade. One of the major changes you and your child will discover is the emphasis on becoming a more competent, confident student.

Literacy (reading and writing)

In reading, second graders will develop reading strategies related to comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and expanding vocabulary through independent reading, reading groups, and guided reading. Reading continuums and the Fountas and Pinnell leveled readers are used to assess progress.

By the end of second grade, students:

- read chapter books (Fountas and Pinnell level M) independently and fluently.
- are able to read independently for at least 20 minutes.
- use a variety of reading strategies.
- use word structure cues when encountering unknown words.
- make predictions.
- retell what they have read.
- make connections (self-to-text, text-to-text, text-to-world)

During writing workshop, second graders use Lucy Calkins Units of Study. The students learn to write a combination of genres including: personal narratives, informational "All About" books, fiction and poetry. Through Words Their Way, students learn how to spell the English language, develop numerous strategies and extend that learning into their writing. In Second grade, students also refine their printing skills using Handwriting Without Tears.

By the end of second grade, students:

- are familiar with and able to follow the writing process.
- begin to use paragraphs to organize writing.
- add descriptive details to their writing
- write using correct grammar and sentence structures.
- are able to write for 30 minutes independently.

Mathematics

Everyday Mathematics and Investigations are used as core resources to focus on the areas of numeracy, geometry, measurement, data analysis and problem solving. Second graders are expected to have a satisfactory grasp of basic addition and subtraction facts, as they focus on adding and subtracting larger numbers using regrouping strategies. Students will begin to develop an understanding of multiplication and fractions. Emphasis will be on application of mathematical knowledge to everyday life.

By the end of second grade, students:

- order and compare numbers to 1,000 using greater than, less than and equal to and the symbols that correspond to those descriptors .
- apply strategies including counting on, counting back, doubling or halving to solve addition and subtraction facts .
- develop basic multiplication facts using visual representations, known as arrays.
- identify, describe and compare basic two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes.
- identify and label halves, thirds, fourths and whole units.
- select and use appropriate tools and units to measure length, time, capacity and weight.
- construct and analyze bar, picture and line graphs.

Social Studies

Our social studies curriculum is integrated into other subject areas with an emphasis on our “Service Nepal” program. Students learn about their roles and responsibilities in our school community and in our neighborhood community by following a community service model. There is a focus on learning how to plan and generate resources for service with the inclusion of local agencies and/or charitable organizations. Other academic topics include: communities, their differences, their leaders, how one person can make a difference in a community and economics.

By the end of second grade, students:

- define what a community is and identify different types of communities.
- discuss leaders who have been influential in their communities and relate how they themselves can make differences in their communities.
- describe how and where goods and services are produced.

Science

In second grade performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate grade-appropriate proficiency in developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, constructing explanations and designing solutions, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating and communicating information. Students are expected to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.

By the end of second grade, students will:

- plan and conduct an investigation to describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties.
- plan and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight and water to grow.
- Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

Grade 3

Welcome to Grade 3 at Lincoln School! This is a year in which students build a strong community with each other in the classroom and throughout the school. Grade 3 students are encouraged to be curious about the world around them. With this curiosity they develop new skills as collaborators, communicators, risk-takers, responsible global citizens, and compassionate members of Lincoln School and beyond.

Themes

Themes such as friendship, community, and setting goals are intertwined throughout the Grade 3 curriculum. Interpersonal skills and growth mindset concepts are encouraged and explored in conjunction with daily morning meetings, bi-weekly counselor meetings and on-going peer and self-reflections during learning activities.

Language & Literacy

The Reading and Writing Workshop model is utilized to guide language and literacy. Students examine mentor texts from published authors, enjoy making choices in their reading and writing, as well as explore and utilize strategies that support them in their literacy development. Each unit culminates with a celebration where students share reading or writing projects with an audience.

Mathematics

The Everyday Mathematics program is a spiraled curriculum. Students study a combination of skills to master and skills to begin developing. Third graders develop strong number fluency and become capable of doing mental math problems quickly. Students also master multiplication facts from 0-10.

Science

Students explore three different science units in the year: Forces & Motion, Weather & Climate, and Inheritance & Variation of Traits. Students study the scientific method and conduct experiments to explore the natural environment.

Social Studies

Students explore the social sciences through units on Cultural Diversity, Leadership & Government, and Global Trade. Students learn to respect and appreciate their own and other cultures through varied experiences including class discussions, projects, read aloud books, and much more!

Grade 4

Among grade level transitions in the elementary school, the jump from Third to Fourth Grade may be the most challenging and exciting. The level of independence and organization is much greater than students experienced in the lower elementary grades. Additionally, Fourth Grade students can begin to see and wrap their minds around big issues, and are often being able to plan big world-changing ideas. However they do not yet quite know how to deal with the pressures of smaller, everyday worries. Fourth Grade is a year in which the children take great strides in recognizing the world around them, and begin defining the part they play on the world stage. It's an exciting year of learning, change, and growth!

Social Studies

Our social studies is integrated into language arts and science. We study three major areas:

- Values of ourselves and our classroom community
- Economics
- The effect of human activity on Nepal's natural resources

By the end of fourth grade students will be able to:

- Make informed and reasoned decisions by seeking and assessing information, asking
- questions, and evaluating alternate solutions.
- Develop strategies to reach consensus and resolve conflict.
- Evaluate what makes a good rule or law.
- Select a local issue and develop a group action plan to inform school and/or community members about the issue.
- Identify actions that are unfair or discriminatory and propose solutions to address such actions.
- Make effective decisions as consumers, producers, savers, investors, and citizens, and accurately balance a bankbook.
- Explain the relationship between consumption and the availability of natural resources.
- Describe how the interaction of all buyers and sellers influences prices.
- Identify the risks and potential returns to entrepreneurship, as well as the skills necessary to engage in it.

Reading

Fourth Grade Language Arts is Literature based. That is, all reading, writing, speaking and listening activities are based on grade-level appropriate Fourth Grade literature. Through independent reading, interactive reading, shared reading, writing about their reading, and reading discussions, students will practice higher level processing of a text such as inference, interpreting symbolism, and making connections.

Grade Five

Grade Five promises to be a year of investigation, discovery, and rewarding educational experiences. Fifth graders will be engaged in a richly diversified curriculum designed and implemented to meet individual learning needs in an environment that promotes risk taking and problem based learning.

Literacy Workshop

An exciting and interactive “workshop” style class period which incorporates the ideas of the Lucy Calkin’s Reading and Writing Workshops. Students explore and investigate a plethora of reading and writing strategies which provide them the necessary tools to become stronger and more competent readers and writers while simultaneously building their overall confidence as upper elementary students.

Mathematics

The Everyday Mathematics program connects students to number theory and problem solving in new and exciting ways. Students examine new algorithms and discover problem solving abilities they never knew they had.

Science

Fifth grade science activities employ the exciting Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) . Students engage in experimental activities to tap into the exploratory parts of their brains. Variables, scientific method and inquiry, properties of matter, plants and environments are a few of the topics examined.

Social Studies

Grade Five gives students the opportunity to explore a number of exciting and relevant social and global topics. Geography, migration, government, and Nepali culture are a few of the topics covered in class.