

## Expected School-Wide Learning Results

In developing the whole child, Almaden Country School will prepare students to be:

- ◆ *Critical and creative thinkers* who know, comprehend, apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate.
- ◆ *Literate individuals* who demonstrate developmental competency in reading, writing, mathematics, sciences, and other disciplines.
- ◆ *Effective communicators* who listen, explain, make presentations, and respond with clarity, in all curriculum disciplines.
- ◆ *Healthy individuals* who understand and demonstrate the elements of physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle.
- ◆ *Community contributors* who practice respect, responsibility, courtesy, service, cooperation, generosity, honesty, patriotism, good citizenship, appreciation for diversity, and school team building.
- ◆ *Productive individuals* who discover, develop, appreciate, and apply their unique gifts with a strong work ethic.
- ◆ *Self-respecting individuals* who understand their personal value and demonstrate confidence in their abilities.

## Statement of Purpose

Since 1982, the mission of Almaden Country School has been to discover the gifts in every child. An Almaden Country School education is one that offers a traditional liberal arts and sciences curriculum, taught in a developmentally appropriate sequence. It focuses on the individual and includes strong academics, continuity and integration of curriculum, broad enrichment programs and a dedicated partnership between home and school.

At ACS, we value childhood. Guided by our recognition that each child has unique capabilities and learning styles, we provide a wide variety of experiences to enable children to develop their innate talents. Academic expectations are high, and with the guidance of superior faculty, students acquire and develop the necessary skills to prepare them for life.

We also strive to develop inherent values in each student, encouraging learning in an atmosphere of respect through courtesy, cooperation, patriotism, honesty, good citizenship, and appreciation of diversity. With these values at the helm of our school, we believe that faculty, students, and parents will contribute to the well-being and stability of our community and our society.

Our purpose as a school is clear: we want children to succeed in their educational, social, and personal endeavors. In the process, our students also grow into delightful people—considerate, concerned, committed, and ready to make significant contributions to the world-at-large.

# Almaden Country School Curriculum

## Elementary School

*Rigorous Academics   Focus On The Individual   Broad Enrichment*



At Almaden Country School we focus on each child as an individual who is accepted and valued. We offer continuity and consistency of a curriculum designed to develop the whole child.

The Elementary curriculum is made up of the Foundation Program for grades 1–3 and the Intermediate Program for grades 4 and 5. In addition to the basic subjects of language arts, mathematics and social studies, students take classes in art, science, French in grades 2–5, physical education, and music and drama, all taught by specialist teachers. Technology is integrated with the curriculum as appropriate to extend learning opportunities for children.

A multi-sensory approach is used at each grade level to accommodate all types of learners. Students are actively involved in thinking skills, problem-solving strategies and real life applications enabling them to

develop a thorough understanding of mathematics. A systematic program is used for reading instruction, balancing phonics and authentic literature with explicit skills instruction. Decoding and encoding, comprehension strategies and a broad range of writing and language skills are thoroughly taught. Teachers customize instruction according to each child's Gifted Education Plan, individualizing each lesson through flexible grouping and differentiated instruction.

The Elementary years provide a strong foundation for future academic and social growth. We are dedicated to providing an environment in which students explore and research ideas, develop higher level thinking skills, and become independent, self-directed, joyful learners.

*Dr. Ole Jorgenson, Head of School*

GRADE	Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science	French	Art	Drama & Music	Physical Education
1	Phonemic awareness; reading with fluency and comprehension; spelling and writing skills; proofreading, self-correction and collaborative revision; listening skills; language extension; punctuation	Number system based on 10; read, write and compare numbers to 100; place value of ones and tens; addition and subtraction; relationship signs; intuitive multiplication and division; applications, estimation and thinking skills; geometric shapes; units of measurement; time; money	Thematic units based on the environment; community and cultural events; sharing traditions and diversity	Start exploring ideas methodically, follow directions, develop small motor skills, look for reasons behind observations and learn to form a hypothesis. Topics cover: sensory review; trees and habitats; garden cycles; honey bees; ants; frogs; eggs; liquid exploration; simple machines; graphing; earth's place in the solar system, visit the Star Lab		<b>Grades 1-5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students build on their knowledge and skill through the study and application of the Elements and Principles of Art to create their one of a kind 2-D and 3-D art works at their developmental level</li> <li>Explore their unique creative abilities</li> <li>Work with classroom teachers to incorporate and complement selected social studies curriculum</li> <li>Explore, experience and develop artist's skills using a variety of mediums and subjects</li> <li>Have the opportunity to express their unique personalities and emotions through their art and self expression</li> <li>Develop terminology and understanding of the arts and how the master artists influence our culture and lives</li> <li>Discover the joy and creativity of being an artist</li> </ul>	<b>Drama: Grades 1-5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will learn the fundamentals of performance over an eight-week period of time. Each student will gain self-confidence by performing on the stage</li> <li>Drama skills to be learned: auditioning process; memorization; characterization; acting skills; performance skills; music and singing; timing; choreography; costuming; set design; stage balance; stage directions</li> <li>Students will have a fun and fulfilling experience by performing in a play or musical that is applicable to their grade level. Each grade level play will involve the audition process, learning all the above skills and a final production for students and parents</li> </ul>	<b>Grades 1-4 Fitness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cardiovascular health</li> <li>Aerobic and anaerobic fitness</li> <li>Flexibility</li> <li>Muscular endurance</li> </ul> <b>Gross Motor Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spatial awareness</li> <li>Locomotor skills</li> <li>Balance</li> <li>Speed</li> <li>Whole body coordination</li> <li>Movement patterns to music</li> <li>Agility</li> </ul> <b>Lead-up Games to Team Sports</b> Modified multiple ball & equipment games, which promote a high level of repetitions to develop fundamental skills of the following team sports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soccer</li> <li>Football</li> <li>Softball</li> <li>Basketball</li> <li>Hockey</li> <li>Volleyball</li> <li>Track and field</li> <li>Innovative games</li> </ul>
2	Novels; fairy tales, biographies, early American history; phonemic awareness, phonics; spelling and vocabulary; grammar; writing; printing; introduction to cursive; reading for understanding and fluency; listening skills; book report projects with a presentation	Study numbers 0-1000; hundreds place value; addition and subtraction; regrouping; simple fractions; measurement; money; weight; volume; time; estimation/ approximation; introduction to multiplication as repeated addition	Family ties; calendars, using references and other sources; earth and our home (U.S. and World Geography, Mapping); a working world (food production, economics); we the people (national symbols, government, time lines); discovering our past (early U.S. history); people, places and holidays	Learn about natural cycles and how they are connected, understanding cause and effect, observing, problem solving using hypotheses, and teamwork. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earth habitats and food webs</li> <li>Water cycle and ocean habitats</li> <li>Dinosaurs, fossils and camouflage</li> <li>Electricity &amp; magnetism</li> <li>Planets of our Solar System, Star Lab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to elementary vocabulary and genders of nouns</li> <li>Oral recitation and songs</li> <li>Conversation with simple sentence structure</li> <li>Use of the Total Physical Response teaching method</li> <li>Exposure to simple French history</li> </ul>		<b>Music: Grades 1-5</b> The goal of music instruction at Almaden Country School is four-fold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To learn the basics of music theory as a foundation for reading music</li> <li>To develop the voice as an instrument and discover the joy of singing</li> <li>To learn the songs of our country and other cultures</li> <li>To experience the beauty of great works of music and learn about the composers who wrote them</li> </ul> Each student is given the opportunity to share his/her musical skills and talents in class	<b>Fitness Testing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curl ups</li> <li>Push ups</li> <li>Sit-and-reach flexibility</li> <li>One mile run/walk</li> <li>Pacer test</li> <li>Shuttle run</li> </ul>
3	Variety of literary excerpts for reading discussion; higher level thinking skills of predicting, summarizing, comparing and evaluating; spelling; decoding; book reports with oral/written presentations; composition/creative writing with proofreading; cursive penmanship; poetry, grammar/usage: listening and oral communication skills	Addition and subtraction up to five digits with regrouping; multiplication, division; column computation; logical thinking and reasoning; equation concepts; tables; graphs; fractions; algebraic functions; basic geometry; area and perimeter; measurement: time and money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Themes related to the traditions, cultural events and history of countries around the world</li> <li>Comparing and contrasting lifestyles</li> <li>Identifying map elements and understanding geographic terms</li> </ul>	Data collection, using maps and graphs, cause and effect of natural events and human influence, energy as applied to objects and work, asking questions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cartography and geography</li> <li>Biomes around the world</li> <li>Newton's laws of motion</li> <li>States of matter</li> <li>Earth and Moon, visit the Star Lab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand vocabulary and practice sentence structure</li> <li>Additional conversational phrases</li> <li>Simple grammar concepts conveyed implicitly</li> <li>Cultural activities and songs</li> <li>Use of the Total Physical Response teaching method</li> <li>Exposure to simple French history</li> </ul>			
4	Develop strategies in sequencing, summarizing, note taking, predicting, clarifying, linking unit concepts to stories and comprehension; spelling mastery; building vocabulary; sentence structure; parts of speech; paragraph writing; researching; literary appreciation; creative writing	Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts; place value and rounding; algebra readiness; geometry: lines, angles, perimeter and area; multi-digit multiplication; fractions and decimals; word problems; measurement	History of California to statehood; California Indians; California missions; California regions and landforms; Gold Rush; California resources; first European settlers to California; Mexican-American War; ranchos and pueblos; maps, globes and other geographic tools	Scientific method, research, data collection and observations, graphing, teamwork, problem solving, scientific journal writing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skeletons, human vision</li> <li>Electricity &amp; Energy</li> <li>Science fair</li> <li>Planets in our Solar System, Star Lab</li> <li>World weather &amp; patterns of change</li> <li>Robotics and Newton's Laws of Motion</li> </ul>	Continuing emphasis on speaking and listening; introduction to elementary reading and writing; additional grammar concepts conveyed implicitly; expand vocabulary and sentence structure; cultural activities; stories; exposure to geography and history			
5	Enhance reading comprehension strategies by discussion of themes; exposure to different authors and genres; increase writing skills by studying narrative, expository, descriptive writing; development of paragraph and sentence structure; spelling/vocabulary; public speaking; research skills	Review of basic operations; estimating and rounding; line, bar and circle graphing; division up to three digits and decimal dividends; fractions and mixed numbers; geometry: angles, congruent and similar shapes; circumference; symmetry; rotation; translation and reflection; scale; concave and convex shapes	United States geography and history: globes and maps; natural regions; major rivers; climate and vegetation; natural resources. Study of uses, sources and conservation of natural resources; economy, landforms and waterways. This will culminate in a state report. History of Native Americans and world explorers	Basic knowledge of matter and life, teamwork, collecting data, research and observations, basic knowledge about the physiology and function of humans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic atomic structure and molecules</li> <li>The human body systems &amp; functions</li> <li>Robotics and Newton's Laws of Motion</li> <li>Astronomy and Space Exploration, Star Lab</li> </ul>	Emphasis on speaking and listening; reading and writing new vocabulary; additional verbs; simple grammar concepts; cultural activities; geography and history			Students continue practicing the specific skills and activities listed above, but increase to more advanced knowledge and application of fundamental skills. Aerobic fitness continues with changes in distances, frequency, and degree of challenge.