

PAHTO (1ST GRADE) CURRICULUM OVERVIEW



CLASS OVERVIEW & OVERARCHING GOALS

Children enter Pahto with a range of abilities. With this range of abilities children are able to grow at their own rate. The culture of the classroom creates an environment where students help and learn from one another. Students work in various groupings to allow for optimal instruction. The overarching goals of Pahto are to help children become:

- self-directed learners
- critical thinkers
- collaborative workers
- respectful
- producers of quality work
- contributors to the community
- responsible
- kind to themselves and others



MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES

In Pahto, the multiple intelligences are referred to as “smarts” as a way to help the children understand them. The students spend time at the beginning of the year reviewing and learning in greater detail about the intelligences and reflecting upon their own and one another’s gifts. Throughout the year the class identifies activities and projects with the multiple intelligences to reinforce the concept and practice using the “smarts” vocabulary.

LITERACY

Students in Pahto are strengthening their decoding skills and developing a love of reading. Reading and writing are embedded into all areas of learning and are a foundation to the thematic approach that is used at Gardner. For the Pahto students, speaking, reading, writing, and listening all cultivate language development. The program bridges the elements of reading readiness to advanced comprehension and vocabulary. This includes learning strategies for figuring out unknown words (starting with phonics), learning to read fluently (using word families, high-frequency words, and sight words), and understanding what is read from literal in-the-story information to higher level, deeper comprehension.



MATHEMATICS

When introduced to new concepts, children use games and manipulatives, such as cubes, tiles, and pattern blocks, to explore mathematical theory and perception. There is a strong emphasis on helping children see connections between their work in mathematics and real-life situations, and to realize there is more than one way to get the answer to any given problem. Quality time is spent on sharing ideas and understanding how students arrived at the answer to a problem. Pahto students use the Bridges curriculum and calendar program to introduce and practice math skills.

THEMATICS

Thematic studies at Gardner are a primary part of the community involving the entire school. The staff selects themes that allow our students to develop a deep level of understanding within a topic. The children give feedback and direction to the projects, allowing for their individual interests to help drive the study. We work to connect units throughout the school, keeping explorations for a topic at developmentally appropriate levels for our students.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment in Pahto is a very natural element of the classroom and a part of all components of the curriculum. It is ongoing and done through a combination of teacher comments and self-reflection. Teachers note children trying new things, asking questions or making revelations, using problem-solving strategies, and engaging in social interactions. Teachers also assess the children through more formal evaluations in reading and math.

FIELD TRIPS

Many field trips are taken throughout the year. The trips are tied to the thematic studies, the arts, or literature. Parent volunteers are needed to transport and chaperone students. One overnight trip is planned yearly.