**CURRICULUM SYNOPSIS**

**Kindergarten, Grade 1 & Grade 2**

**The Little Schoolhouse**

The Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 classroom approach is interactive and hands-on. It is a stress-free, enjoyable learning environment in which the children thrive.

The Reading, Language, Comprehension, Phonics, Spelling, Science and Math lessons are anchored in the Harcourt curriculum.

In addition to Harcourt, we are experiencing great success with the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum approach for accurate letter formation, grammar, vocabulary, sentence structure and creative writing prompts. The students are taught to use appropriate language to communicate effectively and positively as we strive to develop socially and academically sound individuals. The children are encouraged to develop proper handwriting skills through the lessons presented. HWT aims to reinforce legible and fluent handwriting, a skill that students can easily master when in this program.

A natural extension of the HWT program is the highly anticipated twice-weekly Sentence School lesson. These specific lessons use a multisensory approach to provide a quick, active lesson to sharpen handwriting accuracy, practice and internalize sentence structure, reinforce correct grammatical usage, build vocabulary and creative expression.

The Harcourt Math program is a balanced mathematics curriculum that promotes conceptual, computational and problem-solving proficiency. It provides a consistent 4-step method that includes intervention, Family support, Assessment, and use of technology. This ensures that we use a variety of strategies and activities to reach all students.

The Science program is also part of the Harcourt curriculum offering. Effective science integrates many opportunities to develop reading, writing, and math skills while learning about the world around us. It also features hands-on investigative opportunities as a child’s sense of exploration is nurtured. In addition, a weekly Health & Fitness lesson is a valuable integration of physical sports education, health science and social moray learning.

One of the most popular and confidence-boosting aspects of each week in the Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 classroom is the Shared Reading program. The “big kids” read to the younger children fostering a sense of community and bolstering reading confidence and ability.

The students enjoy the RAZ-KIDS online reading benchmark program. Each student gains comprehension and fluency in reading. Students are encouraged to use the RAZ-KIDS program at home for increased practice and a way to keep a strong home to school connection involving their parents.

In our best effort to provide a well-rounded curriculum, our students also participate in the following weekly activities: Literature, Sports and Swimming, Music and Drama, Sign language, Social Studies, Spanish, and Cooking.