



Falcon International School

Course Description First and Second Grade

Teacher: Miss Jaclyn Lyons

Duration: 2009-2010

Language Arts

This year students will learn strategies that enable them to be effective readers. These strategies include prediction, inference, understanding phonics and decoding, self-monitoring, clarifying, asking questions, evaluating and summarizing materials. The instruction is standards-driven with specific goals in mind for the students. Students engage in a variety of learning and assessment activities that are adjusted to reflect their needs. Reading and gaining an appreciation for literature will be at the heart of this class. They will learn to relate to the characters in their stories as well as analyze the author's reason for writing a story. Students engage daily in experiences in which they learn to express their thinking and understanding in writing. Basic language conventions such as writing complete sentences, proper punctuation, understanding parts of speech, capitalization, and spelling are taught through explicit and comprehensible lessons. In addition, students learn techniques for proper handwriting, which is emphasized in different writing genres, such as, personal narratives, writing a sequence of events, descriptive narratives and friendly letters.

After successfully completing this course, the student will –

- Understand the basic features of a reading. They will select and know how to translate letter patterns into spoken language using phonics, syllabication, and word parts. They will apply this knowledge to achieve fluent oral and silent reading.
- Read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They will draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources).
- Read and evaluate a wide variety of significant works of children's literature. They will distinguish between the structural features of the text and the literary terms or elements (e.g., theme, plot, setting, characters).
- Write clear and coherent sentences and paragraphs that develop a central idea. Their writing will consider audience and purpose. They successfully use the stages of the writing process (i.e., pre-writing, drafting, revising, and editing successive versions).
- Write compositions that describe and explain familiar objects, events, and experiences. Student writing will demonstrate a command of standard English and the drafting, research, and organizational strategies
- Write and speak with a command of standard English conventions that are appropriate to each grade level.
- Listen and respond critically to oral communication. They will speak in a manner that guides and informs the listener's understanding of key ideas, using appropriate phrasing, pitch, and modulation.
- Deliver brief recitations and oral presentations about familiar experiences or interests that are organized around a coherent thesis statement. Student speaking will demonstrate a

command of standard American English and the organizational and delivery strategies