

K / 1 Year A
2024-2025 Curriculum Overview
(alternates yearly)

**Social
Studies**

This year, the K/1's explore the following units of study:

- What is family?
- What is my identity?
- Lake Temescal

Possible related field trips:

- K/1 Field Day at Lake Temescal
- Joaquin Miller Park
- All-School Field Day at Lake Temescal

Reading

In the K/1 classrooms we use a balanced literacy approach throughout our daily reading program. Activities include meaning-based as well as phonics-based instruction. Children work independently, in small groups, and with the whole class to develop as readers.

- Phonics activities (Foundations): letter sounds, blends, digraphs, short and long vowels, word families, and spelling patterns
- Fluency development
- Guided Reading group (Teacher's College) strategies: directionality, one to one matching, initial sound
- Partner reading
- Poems, Rhymes, and songs
- Comprehension strategies: making predictions, making connections, visualizing, and retelling
- Read alouds
- Self-selected literature
- Just right book bags
- Trick (Foundations) word study

Writing

Our balanced writing program incorporates creative, as well as content-based, writing. Writing Workshop is based on the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project model. Students edit their work for meaning as well as for conventions. Authors publish at the culmination of each unit. Children also write non-fiction with a purpose. Writing at the K/1 stage looks different for each student. Some are dictating, some are sound spelling, and some are writing more conventionally.

- Writing Workshop units
 - Launching Workshop/Narrative Writing
 - Information Writing
 - Opinion Writing
 - Fiction Writing
- Letter writing
- Class books (often social studies based)
- During handwriting instruction (*Handwriting Without Tears*)

Math

Our math program (*Bridges in Mathematics, 2nd Edition*) is a balance of whole-class investigations, small group explorations, and individual work. Children use math manipulatives, play games, work collaboratively and individually, share problem solving strategies, and communicate their mathematical thinking.

Kindergarten units:

- Numbers to Five and Ten
- Numbers to Ten
- Bikes & Bugs: Double, Add and Subtract
- Paths to Adding, Subtracting and Measuring
- Two-Dimensional Geometry
- Three-Dimensional Shapes & Numbers Beyond Ten
- Place Value
- Computing and Measuring with Frogs and Bugs

1st grade units:

- Numbers All Around Us
- Developing Strategies with Dice and Dominoes
- Adding, Subtracting, Counting and Comparing
- Leapfrogs on the Number Line
- Geometry
- Figure the Facts with Penguins
- One Hundred and Beyond
- Changes, Changes

Science "Land"

In the K/1 science program children develop a deep knowledge and respect for the world around them. Students learn the science curriculum through multiple modalities. Hands-on experiments come from [Full Options Science Systems](#) (FOSS kits) developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science. Students share their previous knowledge, learn new facts, make predictions, observe, and record data as they gain experience in the scientific method. Children learn using movement, visual art, and music. Their studies may culminate in a science themed class play each year. Students also participate in meaningful service learning projects.

Essential questions:

- What do we notice about trees?
- What do animals need to live and grow?
- Where is air and what can it do?
- When you look up at the sky, what do you see, and how does it change?
- How do we observe and describe the wind?
- How do daylight and weather change through the seasons?

Units of study:

- Trees & Weather
- Animals 2-by-2
- Air & Weather

Possible field trips:

- Joaquin Miller Park
- Berkeley Botanical Garden
- Tilden Naturalist Program

Social- Emotional Learning

Aurora uses the [Open Circle](#) Social Emotional Program developed at the Stone Center at Wellesley College. [Open Circle](#) is an evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL) curriculum. This innovative program proactively develops children's skills for recognizing and managing emotions, empathy, positive relationships and problem solving. [Open Circle](#) helps schools build communities where students feel safe, cared for, and engaged in learning.

Elements of Open Circle:

- Managing ourselves
- Strengthening relationships
- How to sort problems
- Problem solving

Other elements of the K/1 SEL curriculum include:

- Morning Meeting (*Responsive Classroom*): class promise, greetings, games, songs
- Restorative Justice
- All-school *Community Creators*
- Aurora Active Ally Week

