

Mulberry School Grade 1-2 Classroom

What is Grade 1-2? Here at Mulberry School, students in 1st and 2nd grades are placed in the same classroom, forming a multiage community of learners. As a result, students are able to remain with the same teacher for two years, thereby cutting down on the number of transitions they face in the early elementary years. There are many advantages to this structure:

- Having fewer transitions is associated with increased achievement.
- The teacher has a deeper understanding of each child's needs, personality, and learning style.
- Students develop a greater sense of community and belonging.
- Small class sizes mean more opportunities for enrichment.
- There is greater flexibility in grouping and differentiation.
- Older students develop a sense of leadership and responsibility, while younger students have peer mentors and learn social skills.

Curriculum:

The Common Core State Standards are used to help guide curriculum, while still allowing for enrichment and student interests.

•**Literacy:** Students will participate in Reader's Workshop, with a focus on Daily 5 and CAFE. The Daily 5 structure allows children to develop their reading, writing, and peer interaction skills through five literacy tasks: Read to Self, Read to Someone, Listen to Reading, Word Work, and Work on Writing. CAFE stands for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Expanding Vocabulary, which are the four components of successful reading. For writing, we will follow a Writer's Workshop approach with an emphasis on writing as a process.

•**Math:** Lessons will be differentiated by grade level as well as according to students' needs, using a Guided Math workshop approach which incorporates direct teaching, peer collaboration, games, math writing, and hands-on activities. Guided Math was developed for multiage classrooms or classrooms with a wide range of abilities. Number talks are another component of the math curriculum, which help develop number sense and problem solving.

•**Science and Social Studies:** Students will learn through a variety of methods, including "hands-on/minds-on" activities, reading nonfiction, and conducting independent research. We will work on developing science process skills such as observation and communication throughout the year.

•**P.E.:** We have regular P.E. activities, and also incorporate movement throughout our day, using resources such as Go Noodle.com for "brain break" activities.

•**Specials:** Art, Music, Spanish, and Pilates may be offered in any given year, depending on the availability of instructors.



Grade 1-2 Sample Schedule*

9:00-9:20	Morning Work
9:20-9:30	Calendar
9:30-10:30	Math
10:35-10:40	Brain Break Activity
10:40-11:20	Writer's Workshop
11:20-11:40	Lunch
11:40-12:10	Recess
12:15-12:25	Teacher Read-Aloud
12:25-12:40	Read to Self
12:40-2:00	Daily 5 (Literacy and Guided Reading)
2:00-2:30	Science/Social Studies
2:30-2:55	Free Choice/ Snack
2:55-3:00	Pack up and dismissal

*Music, Art, Spanish, and Pilates may also be offered. Specials typically meet once a week for 30 minutes.