

Wiley 3-5 Course Description Guide

1st Semester 2009-2010

ACTING

In this course, students will participate in role-playing, scripted study, improvisation, and characterization. Teacher-guided study in voice, body movement, and concentration techniques will develop the actor's tools.

ALGEBRA ALLIES

This elective is designed to introduce third, fourth, and fifth grade students to algebra and develop their foundation in algebraic thinking, reasoning, and recording. Fictional professors introduce the students to various algebraic functions using a "Fabulous Function Machine", a "Morph Machine", and special scale. Students will have the opportunity to practice computational and mental math skills use T-tables and variables, express and solve algebraic equations, investigate area and perimeter through the lens of algebra, and identify the commutative properties of addition and multiplication. Students will use Math Journals to reflect, record, and explain what they are learning. As a culminating activity, students will use their acquired knowledge to design their own bedroom floor plan and/or create a "Balancing Mobile" that balances algebraic equations.

ARCHAEOLOGY – AG

Archaeology is the study of past cultures and a popular subject with elementary students. This elective is designed for gifted students or high-achieving learners because of its complexity of content, its interplay between science and humanities, and its abstract ideas which require critical thinking and creativity. Critical thinking skills are emphasized as students engage in experiential learning, scientific inquiry, productive thinking, experimentation, and the simulation of an archaeological dig. Students are introduced to the skills needed for an independent research project and are given a choice of topic, in keeping with each student's particular interests and learning styles. Children will learn to appreciate the science of archaeology and realize that we all are "stewards of the past."

AROUND THE WORLD SPORTS

This course is designed for the student who is interested in a variety of activities that do not emphasize competition. The student will learn about and participate in games and sports activities from all over the world. The teacher will select from a variety of activities according to facilities and equipment.

BASIC PAINTING

Using tempera and watercolor paints, students will have the opportunity to study color theory as they learn to mix the secondary and tertiary colors. They will also mix tints and shades. Paintings will reflect major subject matter themes that reflect art from around the world, including Portraits, Still life, and Landscape, Interior, and Genre themes.

Wiley 3-5 Course Description Guide

1st Semester 2009-2010

CHINESE

In this course students will progress from vocabulary to creative sentences. Communicative interaction and accuracy of pronunciation are emphasized. The pinyin system will be introduced as the only phonetic system. Culture and customs of China will be integrated into the lessons. Students will be able to identify classroom objects, express possession, location, asking and answering questions, talking about likes and dislikes and preferences. They will also be able to agree and disagree describe physical characteristics, and express quantities etc. In writing, students will be able to copy isolated characters, having more complex stroke configurations and will be able to write from memory 1 to 100. They will be able to use simple frequently used expressions. Students who have had no previous experience with the Chinese language are welcome to join this class. Instruction will be differentiated to meet the needs of both beginners and continuing students.

CHORUS 3-5

Students will learn to sing with comfort, accuracy, and a good tone. They will develop blend and ensemble skills and the ability to sing two-part harmony. Music studied will include a variety of styles and periods. Performance will be an expected part of this course.

CINDERELLA AROUND THE WORLD

The Cinderella story is one that has been told in many languages and forms. In this elective we will have engaging activities and materials to help students compare and contrast story elements, learn about different cultures, and build skills in Social Studies, Science as well as the Language Arts. The students will read, discuss, and enjoy the wonderful diverse worlds of Cinderella.

COMPOSING AND IMPROVISING MUSIC

Students will experiment with the creation of sounds related to music. Emphasis will be placed on rhythm, melody, and very simple harmony. Through the creation of sound patterns, students will learn to organize sounds. Compositions will be shared through performance. Students will learn to evaluate the effectiveness of their compositions and to explore various alternatives.

COOL GLOBES

This course is designed to help bring awareness and encourage children to work towards keeping our planet healthy and safe. Students will learn about global warming, the greenhouse effect, and carbon footprinting. Each student will have an opportunity to create his or her own globe that depicts an aspect of what we can do to become more eco-friendly. Students will also provide "green" tips to Wiley students and families. These ideas will be published in a section of our school newspaper, The Compass, called "The Cool Corner".

Wiley 3-5 Course Description Guide

1st Semester 2009-2010

CRADLES OF CIVILIZATION

Students will spend 8 weeks discovering the history and culture behind 4 of the major civilizations that have been influential in shaping our world today. Students will study, cook, create crafts, role play, read and write literature while taking an in-depth look at Greece, China, Egypt, and Rome.

CREATIVE DANCE

Students will be offered an intensive study in the creative process of dance. This course will increase individual facility from movement improvisation to basic choreography.

ECOLOGY - AG

The balance of nature will be explored as students investigate water, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen cycles. They will study photosynthesis, food chains and webs, and numerous predator-prey relationships. Man's misuse of natural resources will be examined. Students will become aware of the functions of the Environmental Protection Agency and address environmental concerns in their own community.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

The ESL program provides English instruction to students from different language backgrounds. The English language acquisition is enhanced through the use of instructional technology at all levels of proficiency. The ESL students' progress in language acquisition, reading, and writing skills, is measured by administering an initial North Carolina State mandated test to each child upon entering WCPSS, and then annually every spring. ESL students are exited from the program once they attain a level of advanced or superior in the state mandated test in the oral reading and writing areas.

FRENCH

BEGINNING FRENCH

This course focuses on student's oral, reading, writing and comprehension skills in French, with more of an emphasis on their oral and comprehension skills. Students are exposed to cultural activities through songs, dances, games, videos and French cultural performances. They learn basic facts and locations of France and other French speaking countries. Math, Science, Art and Geography are integrated in the French curriculum. This is a continuation of K-2 French studies and the entry point for 3-5 students who are beginning to study the language.

Wiley 3-5 Course Description Guide

1st Semester 2009-2010

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH

Students continue improving their oral comprehension, reading and writing skills. Grammar is gradually introduced to them. They learn to write sentences using correct grammar and eventually write paragraphs. They can ask and answer questions related to all subjects studied. Cultural activities and integration of Math, Science, Art and Geography are used to build their vocabulary and to gain confidence in speaking French. Beginning French 3-5 is a prerequisite for this course or students must have a teacher recommendation.

ADVANCED FRENCH

This course prepares students to continue their French studies in middle school. They learn the fundamentals of French grammar. Different written activities help them identify the sentence formation with a subject and predicate, and the function of nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs and prepositions. They learn to conjugate verbs in the present tense. They participate in a variety of cultural activities. Math, Science, Art, Social Studies and Geography are integrated in the French curriculum. Intermediate French is a prerequisite for this course.

FURTHER WITH NUMBERS -AG

This course provides both horizontal and vertical enrichment for the student who loves math and likes challenges! Students will look carefully at other number systems, other bases, and strange and wonderful math patterns and theorems; solve simple algebraic equations; build a city of polyhedron shapes; and "taste" probability.

GERMAN

BEGINNING GERMAN

Students learn to converse in German on topics and at levels appropriate to their age and interests. Games, songs, and dances help them to learn to use structure and vocabulary through sound association and analogy. They will apply their language skills in daily activities. German is a sequential course and will be taught on a continuing basis as students progress from one level to the next. Beginning cultural exposure will enhance the students' knowledge and appreciation of the German culture.

Wiley 3-5 Course Description Guide

1st Semester 2009-2010

INTERMEDIATE GERMAN

Students continue to spend most of their time in conversation, developing the basic skills of listening and speaking. Videos, films and tapes add variety to the presentation of cultural information. Phonics will be introduced in preparation for reading and writing. Easy German readers supplement the text. Cultural exposure will enhance the student's knowledge and appreciation of the German culture.

ADVANCED GERMAN

Reading and writing is added to the curriculum at this level. Students read German magazines, sing popular German songs, correspond with German pen pals, make games, and write their own script for a play. They listen to and converse in the German language while learning about the culture. Fun filled videos are also an exciting part of this elective.

INDIVIDUAL AND DUAL SPORTS

An introduction of the origin of the sport and its rules will be studied. Intermediate and advanced courses will offer more practice and competition with emphasis on good sportsmanship.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE

Folk dances from many countries will be studied. Students will gain an understanding of those cultures through movement, music, costumes, and holiday festivities.

JAMMIN' GEOMETRY

Students will explore and learn about two and three-dimensional shapes as they participate in, among other things, an engaging project called "Polyhedrville".

JAPANESE

BEGINNING JAPANESE

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the sounds and forms of the Japanese language. Emphasis will be placed on listening and speaking. Limited reading and writing are done. Hiragana and the Hepburn type will be used. Songs and games will facilitate vocabulary and provide practice in correct pronunciation. Annual culture events will also be incorporated to enhance the students' interest in Japanese.

Goal: Students comprehending at this level will have a mastery of basic everyday conversation.

INTERMEDIATE JAPANESE

Major emphasis will continue on aural/oral skills development. Phonics and syntax will be introduced in preparation for reading and writing. TPR, films and tapes constitute basic texts.

Goal: Katakana will be taught. The students will also learn the use of past and future tense.

Wiley 3-5 Course Description Guide

1st Semester 2009-2010

ADVANCED JAPANESE

A study of the basic syntactical patterns will be continued and the writing of simple sentences by the use of basic kanji in connected passages will be practiced. Vocabulary building will be accelerated through the reading of Japanese children's books. Conversations based on these readings will be practiced with native speakers of the language.

Goal: Students will be able to use Kana and Kanji to express feelings about everyday life. If selected as exchange students, they will be able to attend local elementary classes in Japan.

JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS

In a nationally developed program of interpretive reading and discussion, students will increase their comprehension skills. Logical and critical thinking processes and literary interpretation will be presented through the study of exciting literature for young people.

LIFETIME SPORTS

This course is designed for the student who is interested in investigating and developing skills in a variety of lifetime sport activities. Students will learn the basic skills, rules and regulations, game play and strategies, and care of equipment associated with each sport. Individual and dual sports to be covered in this course will include archery, golf, and badminton.

LINE DRAWING

Students will have the opportunity to draw a wide variety of subjects from life, art history, and the imagination with a wide variety of drawing media, including a quill pen and ink!. Line techniques, perspective, proportion, and visual texture will be taught.

LOGIC AND PROBLEM SOLVING - AG

Thinking and reasoning skills will be developed in this course. Students will discover techniques for solving problems through appropriate activities that will include logic puzzles, deductive thinking exercises, and flow-charting.

MARS 3

This elective is targeted for 3rd grade students whose reading and math skills need extra reinforcement. The primary goal is to raise reading and math ability to grade level or above. Students will learn to apply reading strategies (predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing) across the curriculum. Math skills will be reviewed and practiced. Strategies for problem solving are used in a wide range of activities. Students will be encouraged to develop their own thinking practices through explorations with manipulative and hands-on activities.

Wiley 3-5 Course Description Guide

1st Semester 2009-2010

MARS 4

This elective is targeted for 4th grade students whose reading and math skills need extra reinforcement. The primary goal is to raise reading and math ability to grade level or above. Students will learn to apply reading strategies (predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing) across the curriculum. Math skills will be reviewed and practiced. Strategies for problem solving are used in a wide range of activities. Students will be encouraged to develop their own thinking practices through explorations with manipulative and hands-on activities.

MARS 5

This elective is targeted for 5th grade students whose reading and math skills need extra reinforcement. The primary goal is to raise reading and math ability to grade level or above. Students will learn to apply reading strategies (predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing) across the curriculum. Math skills will be reviewed and practiced. Strategies for problem solving are used in a wide range of activities. Students will be encouraged to develop their own thinking practices through explorations with manipulative and hands-on activities.

MYSTERIES OF EGYPT

The first civilizations arose near the Nile River because its waters meant life. Let's cruise the peaceful Nile, study the remains of ancient cities along her banks and learn about the village life of people who were nurtured by the Nile. The Great Pyramids continue to fascinate us, as they have others for thousands of years. Learn how the pyramids of Egypt were constructed, and construct your own model. Through this historical study, the mysteries of Egypt will unfold.

NEW GAMES 3-5

Students will participate in a wide variety of games suitable for this age level. Based on the philosophy, "Play Hard, Play Fair, Nobody Hurt," these games will promote the development of leadership ability in a cooperative group setting. Stamina and agility will be developed, as well as social interaction skills.

ON STAGE!

Students will be cast in a Broadway jr. musical as they increase their acting, singing, dancing, and performance skills. Culture of the musical's setting will be studied as well as musical and theatrical terms. Students will work as a team as they run backstage and perform in the musical for several shows including a night performance. This is a semester elective.

SOUNDS OF THE WORLD

Students will explore cultures of the world through music and musical instruments. An appreciation for a variety of musical styles will be fostered through exposure to music from all over the world and the creation of some unique and interesting musical instruments.

Wiley 3-5 Course Description Guide

1st Semester 2009-2010

SPANISH

BEGINNING SPANISH

This course focuses on student's oral, reading, writing and comprehension skills in Spanish, with more of an emphasis on their oral and comprehension skills. Students are exposed to cultural activities through songs, dances, games, videos and French cultural performances. They learn basic facts and locations of Spain and other Latin American countries. Math, Science, Art and Geography are integrated in the Spanish curriculum. This is a continuation of K-2 Spanish studies and the entry point for 3-5 students who are beginning to study the language.

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH

Students continue improving their oral comprehension, reading and writing skills. Grammar is gradually introduced to them. They learn to write sentences using correct grammar and eventually write paragraphs. They can ask and answer questions related to all subjects studied. Cultural activities and integration of Math, Science, Art and Geography are used to build their vocabulary and to gain confidence in speaking Spanish. Beginning Spanish 3-5 is a prerequisite for this course or students must have a teacher recommendation.

Prerequisite: Beginning Spanish or approval of Spanish teacher.

ADVANCED SPANISH

This course prepares students to continue their Spanish studies in middle school. They learn the fundamentals of Spanish grammar. Different written activities help them identify the sentence formation with a subject and predicate, and the function of nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs and prepositions. They learn to conjugate verbs in the present tense. They participate in a variety of cultural activities. Math, Science, Art, Social Studies and Geography are integrated in the Spanish curriculum. Intermediate Spanish is a prerequisite for this course.

TALK ABOUT IT! BOOK CLUB

Join the club!

During this elective, students will have the opportunity to select from and read a variety of novels. This book club allows opportunities to read novels and participate in small group seminars/discussions. Follow-up extension projects will be generated through the use of computers, songs, advertisements, literature circles, Paideia seminars, and other book enrichment choices. Students will present their book projects creatively and participate in the development of a collection of book reviews for the school library.

Wiley 3-5 Course Description Guide

1st Semester 2009-2010

THE WRITE STUFF AG

Students will express their thoughts and experiences in creative writing activities. Descriptive and narrative composition writing will be taught with an emphasis on word usage, sentence structure, and paragraph organization. Story writing will include character, setting, and plot development. Students will complete a short story as a final project.

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCES AG

Every individual is unique, has problems to solve, and has the right to basic fairness and respect. In this elective, students will research specific disabling conditions, do simulations of disabilities, research the accessibility of various sites in the community (including Wiley), and learn about the lives of people with disabilities. We will explore barriers and discrimination that have faced people with disabilities through history.

WATER, OH PRECIOUS WATER!

Although listed under science, this elective integrates math, social studies, language arts, and science focusing on the subject of water. Instruction provides an interesting integration of earth cycles, mixtures and solutions, and the use of natural resources. The course is designed to involve students in hands-on experiences, which will strengthen process skills. Children will develop an ongoing portfolio of their work during this elective.

WEATHER WATCHING

Beginning meteorologists will be assisted in understanding the elements which make up weather. Students will perform experiments and build their own weather instruments.

WILEY INTERNATIONAL NEWS (WIN)

Students will learn all aspects of producing a news program---what goes on in front of and behind the camera. Each student will gain experience learning the roles of anchor, camera-person, director, news reporter, technical and sound director. Each student will also learn how to write a simple interview and news report and will learn how to operate the video and sound equipment. An emphasis will be placed on working in teams and through experience, students will gain confidence and independence in working outside of the classroom "on location." An outgrowth of projects will be student's participation on the daily WIN news program at Wiley.

YOU GOTTA HAVE ART (BASIC ART)

This basic multi- media, multi-cultural elective will explore a variety of subject matter while using a variety of materials to create both two and three-dimensional works of art.