

**The Elementary School
Language Arts Curriculum
at
North Shore Schools**

The goal of the K-5 Literacy Program is to nurture students to develop into readers and writers who practice their authentic literacy skills with competence, ease, and joy.

In collaboration with Teachers College Columbia University, students learn within a reading and writing workshop approach, which allows teachers to draw upon a range of research-based practices to adapt the learning environment, materials, and methods to student needs, interests and abilities.

Students read and write for authentic purposes using “just right” materials in literacy-rich classrooms. Students have access to a variety of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, to increase their knowledge and vocabulary while developing habits of readers and writers.

A scope and sequence of literacy skills in reading, writing, and word study guide students’ growth through the elementary grades. Speaking, listening, language (grammar), and word study (phonics and spelling) skills are included.

Classes use the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project’s Units of Study. The Units of Study provide opportunities for children to develop their literacy skills in conjunction with social studies and science content as well as with literature. (A link to the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project is provided on this website.)

In grades K-2, phonics, spelling, and handwriting instruction is provided through the “Foundations” program. (A link to Foundations is provided on this website.)

Children learn through whole-class, small group and individual instruction. Teachers get to know their students’ abilities and needs and monitor their progress through on-going formal and informal assessments. A Literacy Profile for each student documents the child’s progress in reading and writing, ensuring that teachers have the information necessary to create lessons that meet the unique needs of each learner.