



Curriculum Guide
2010/2011
Level 1
Kindergarten

Ms. Mary Doty

Reading Readiness

Students bring a broad range of language readiness skills and experiences to Kindergarten. To enhance each child's ability to use language effectively, the program is multi-sensory structured. This means we employ a variety of sensory techniques—visual, auditory, and tactile/kinesthetic modalities—to teach skills and concepts.

The main goal of language development in reading readiness in Level 1 is for students to master the alphabet/letter sound association.

To meet that goal, we:

- use a structured, systematic approach with consistent review of previously presented concepts
- develop skills related to phonological processing (rhyming, segmented and blending)
- teach sound/symbol correspondence and the rules that govern the structure of language

Using this scope and sequence approach and the foundation of a literacy-based environment ensures instruction in essential skills for reading.

Writing/Motor Skills Development

The main goals for writing and fine and large motor skills development in Level 1 are:

- Writing left to right
- Writing first and last name
- Writing with correct directionality
- Writing numbers, letters, and three letter words
- Using inventive spelling

Children engage in daily journal writing, language mechanics and manuscript instruction. Teachers model writing and take dictation. Students process with kinesthetic techniques by using manipulatives such as clay, rice, sand, and so forth.

Speaking and Listening

In Kindergarten, students are learning to articulate ideas and concepts and to differentiate between making statements and asking questions. Through consistent direction and teacher intervention, students learn to take turns when speaking, to respect other speakers, to listen to directions, and to follow instruction.

To gain a deep understanding of Mathematical ideas, children need to be able to integrate and connect a variety of concepts in many different ways. The effective use of manipulatives helps children connect ideas and integrate their knowledge so that they gain a deep understanding of Mathematical concepts.

The Level 1 Math Program has three stages of development:

1. Concrete

- a. A Mathematical concept is introduced with manipulatives and the children explore the concept using the manipulatives in a purposeful activity.

2. Representational

- a. A Mathematical concept is represented on paper using pictures to stand for the concrete objects (or manipulatives) of the previous stage.

3. Abstract

- a. Mathematical symbols (numerals, operation signs, etc.) are used to express the concept in symbolic language.

The main goals in Level 1 Mathematics are:

- Understanding what math is
- Recognizing numbers, and what they represent, up to 100
- Writing the numbers to 25
- Recognizing basic shapes

Mathematics Topics Include:

- Counting
- Number Relations
- Measurement
- Problem Solving
- Geometry
- Graphing

At this Level, students are learning to have an appreciation for the world around them. They are inquisitive and curious. The Science program teaches each student to look at the world around them as a Scientist.

Skills of focus include:

- Wondering
- Observing
- Asking questions
- Making connections
- Predicting
- Testing ideas
- Coming up with conclusions

These skills are the launching pad for Science investigations. We explore as Botanists, Astronomers, and Biologists throughout the school year.

Fall	Winter	Spring
Physical Science	Earth & Space Science	Life Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science Fair• Senses• Backyard Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weather systems• Earth & Space• Backyard Botany	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health & Nutrition• Human Body• Insects

Botany and conservation are ongoing and are integrated into many aspects of the curriculum. Through backyard gardening and composting projects, children learn about backyard habitat—structure, lifecycle, growing requirements, and critters—as well as basic concepts of ecology. Through this hands-on study, students gain an appreciation for the natural world.

The school-wide Science Fair is held in November. Kindergarten students participate by contributing to a class project on the Senses. After learning about smell, taste, sight, hearing, and touch through hands-on experiments, students teach their Waimea Country School peers what they have learned during the Science Fair.

The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society. Social studies prepare young adults to be responsible citizens by stressing the safeguarding of rights, fulfillment of responsibilities, and honoring the dignity of all people.

By Kindergarten, students are beginning to realize that they are a unique person who interacts with other individuals, groups, and cultures, including family, school, community, Hawai'i, the nation, and the world.

Students learn about their own identity within the context of family and the classroom. They learn that each person and family has unique characteristics that are of value and should be respected. They learn that people are similar and different in various ways. Students also have the opportunity to participate in various activities that require them to speak to others, to listen to one another, and to cooperate with one another.

The heart of the Level 1 Social Studies program is community. The majority of the school year is spent on exploring local communities and our place in them. As the year progresses, we branch out to larger picture of the world around us.

Fall	Winter	Spring
Local Community	Our Country	Our World
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classroom• School• Waimea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Big Island• U.S.A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other cultures• Ancestry

Waimea Country School embraces a school-wide character education program that focuses on a different value each month. Through this study, students learn the value of community and 'Ohana.

Hawaiian Studies

***All Levels
2010/2011***

Hawaiian Studies at Waimea Country School is integrated into many areas of the curriculum rather than taught as a separate class. Our main goal with Hawaiian Studies is to expose our children to aspects of the culture—from learning songs and chants to studying cultural beliefs and practices to understanding the importance and history of the Hawaiian culture.

In Levels 1 and 2, students learn basic Hawaiian words and phrases through songs, chants, and direct teaching. In Levels 3 and 4, where students are learning about state history and geography, teachers cover early Hawaiian life, voyaging and exploration, and cultural influences.

All students in the school participate in our Hui ‘Ohana program. These multiage “family groups” within our WCS ‘Ohana are comprised of students from all Levels and are headed up by a full time teacher. Each Hui ‘Ohana shares a lunch period and a reading period each week, and they meet frequently throughout the year to learn about Hawaiian culture—singing songs, learning chants, practicing for Lei Day, participating in Makahiki, and so on.

Waimea Country School embraces a school-wide character education program that focuses on a different value each month. The overriding theme for the school throughout the year is Pono—the Hawaiian cultural ideal of balance and rightness. We interpret Pono as 1) I control myself; 2) I respect myself and others; 3) I am safe and responsible. Through daily implementation of this character education study, students learn the value of community and ‘Ohana.

Garden

***All Levels
2010/2011***

We are committed to promoting healthy living and a greater understanding for the natural world. To that end, all students in all Levels spend regular time in the garden. Students engage in all aspects of the gardening process:

- amending soil
- composting
- planting
- transplanting
- mulching
- weeding
- harvesting
- seed saving

Our time in the garden often ties directly to our units of study in science, art, mathematics, language, and social studies, and at the same time gives students valuable knowledge of how to live a sustainable lifestyle and how to care for the land around them. Students find great satisfaction in being outside and harvesting the food they have planted. This process promotes healthy eating habits and knowledge of how to eat local, slow, nutritious food.

Some classes learn how to cook and utilize the plants we harvest. Others may harvest food for donation to the local Emergency Food Pantry. What’s more, all students participate in a plant sale in the spring to show off their work in the garden and earn funds for our school.

Music and Art

***All Levels
2010/2011***

Art is taught by individual Level teachers, with guest artists brought in whenever possible and appropriate. Art is largely integrated into academic assignments and activities, however there is also direct instruction in art techniques. For example, students in Level 1 may learn crayon resist techniques with watercolor painting while a student in Level 4 may study and practice drawing in the cubist style of Pablo Picasso.

Students in all Levels participate in art contests throughout the year, such as the Hawai'i State Library System Book Poster Contest, the Kahilu Theatre Art Show, and the Recycle Hawaii Art of Recycling Show in the spring.

Music is integrated into class projects and assignments as often as possible. Singing and rhythm games are used throughout the school day to help students remember new vocabulary and move smoothly through transitions.

In addition, students have music instruction with a part-time music instructor once a week. Each class has instrumental instruction:

- Levels 1 & 2: Percussion
- Level 3: Recorder
- Level 4: Ukulele

Students also participate in a winter holiday program and spring Lei Day performance. These shows integrate all students in the school into one performance.

Students in all Levels attend live performances at the local Kahilu Theatre, whenever scheduling permits. These shows, which often contain a teaching component presented by the performers, are an important part of our overall music education program.

The goals of the music program include:

- Introducing students to music basics (rhythm, beat, tempo)
- Providing performance opportunities
- Engaging students with music and movement
- Teaching appreciation of a variety of musical genres
- Providing age-appropriate instrumental instruction

Health and Fitness
Instructor: Nancianne Mahoney

2010/2011

Over the course of the 2010/2011 school year, students participate in a physical educational program designed to provide the basis for a wide range of learning experiences. With an emphasis on making healthy choices, units are characterized by locomotor skills, body awareness, endurance, and cooperation. Every class focuses on stretching routines, practice, rules of the game, and healthy competition.

Students are expected to come to class prepared with appropriate footwear, clothing, and attitude. P.E. is taught twice a week; Levels 1, 2, & 3 for 30 minutes, and Level 4 for 45 minutes.

Health and Fitness
UNITS by Trimester & Level

Levels 1, 2, & 3	Levels 4
<p>Fall Trimester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Directional Movement ▪ Jump Ropes ▪ Balls & Paddles ▪ Soccer ▪ Yoga ▪ Physical Fitness Challenge 	<p>Fall Trimester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperation ▪ Jump Ropes ▪ Balls & Paddles ▪ Soccer ▪ Yoga ▪ Physical Fitness Challenge
<p>Winter Trimester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Team Building ▪ Makahiki Games ▪ Healthy Living & Exercise ▪ Rugby ▪ Rhythmic Movement & Tumbling 	<p>Winter Trimester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Team Building ▪ Makahiki Games ▪ Healthy Living & Colorful Food ▪ Rugby ▪ Rhythmic Movement & Tumbling
<p>Spring Trimester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flag Football ▪ Volleyball & Skills ▪ Running Games ▪ Physical Fitness Challenge 	<p>Spring Trimester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flag Football ▪ Volleyball & Skills ▪ Running & Endurance ▪ Physical Fitness Challenge