



The **Green** School

| Elementary School Curriculum

2023 / 2024



Table of Contents

Welcome to The Green School's Elementary School..... 1

A Day in Elementary School
Social & Emotional Learning

Core Learning Areas..... 2

English Language Arts
Mathematics
Science and Social Studies
Specialist Areas

Extension & Support..... 4

Early Reading Intervention
Learning Support
Enrichment and Extension

Assessment Policy..... 4

Daily Documentation & Communication..... 4

CLICK PAGE
TITLE TO JUMP
TO PAGE



Welcome to The Green School's Elementary School

Welcome to our Elementary School, a unique learning environment where learning and play seamlessly intertwine. At the heart of our mission lies the development of each child's identity. Through a tailored curriculum that fosters unique interests and uncovers individual strengths, we firmly believe that nurturing a child's view of themselves as learners is the key to lifelong success.

Throughout their time in elementary school, our students cycle through the creative process, as they learn to generate their own ideas and share them with their peers and community. With a strong emphasis on reading, writing, maths, and speaking skills, we have found that blending choice and connection into our teaching methods results in highly motivated learners.

Our approach aligns with the Common Core State Standards, which encourage skill-based learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving through daily reading, writing, and maths workshops.



A Day in Elementary School

- Drop off and supervised play
- Morning Meeting as a whole class
- Engaging and student-driven learning in core learning areas
- Snack and lunch packed from home
- Break and outdoor play
- Curiosity and exploration in Science, Art & Music
- Exercise and play in PE
- Supervised play
- End of day pick up

Welcome to The Green School's Elementary School

Social & Emotional Learning

At The Green School, our social-emotional approach is firmly rooted in the **Responsive Classroom** framework, creating a nurturing environment for elementary students. This method not only emphasizes academic achievement but also places significant importance on fostering emotional well-being and social development. Through the Responsive Classroom approach, we establish a positive classroom culture that encourages open communication, active listening, and empathy among students.

Morning Meeting is a key component of this approach, providing a daily platform for students to connect with one another, share their thoughts and feelings, and engage in interactive activities. This practice cultivates a sense of belonging, respect, and cooperation within the classroom community. Additionally, the approach integrates positive discipline strategies, emphasizing logical consequences that promote self-awareness and accountability.

By intertwining social-emotional learning with academic growth, we empower students to become confident, compassionate, and well-rounded individuals who are equipped to navigate their educational journey and beyond.

Core Learning Areas

English Language Arts

English Language Arts in grades K-5 is designed to develop students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills while fostering their love of literature and language.



The Common Core State Standards ELA-Literacy provide a framework for ELA instruction, outlining key skills and concepts that students should master at each grade level. In the early grades, students focus on developing phonics, decoding, and sight word recognition skills to become fluent readers.

As they progress, they build comprehension skills by analyzing texts, identifying main ideas, and making connections between ideas and experiences. Writing instruction includes developing skills in narrative, informative, and argumentative writing, as well as grammar and vocabulary development. Students also develop communication skills through collaborative discussions and presentations. Overall, ELA instruction in grades K-5 aims to equip students with the foundational skills they need for success in later years.

Core Learning Areas

Mathematics

In grades K-5, mathematics instruction emphasizes conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and problem-solving skills. The Common Core Standards Math provide the framework for math instruction in elementary school.

Students are expected to master basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts and understand the properties of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. They are also introduced to geometry, measurement, and data analysis. Instruction focuses on building a strong foundation in the number sense, as well as developing skills in critical thinking, reasoning, and communication. The ultimate goal is to prepare students for higher-level math courses and real-world problem-solving applications.



Science and Social Studies

Our approach to teaching Science and Social Studies goes beyond memorization. We focus on equipping students with the skills to read, write, and analyze scientific and historical information effectively. Our engaging lessons and projects encourage students to create insightful reports, research articles, speeches, and assignments.

We also empower students to be active creators of knowledge, encouraging them to explore unique ideas and showcase their passions through captivating projects. Our science curriculum integrates engineering using hands-on experiences with Fischertechnik and Lego. These units follow the guidelines of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which can be explored at <https://www.nextgenscience.org>. This approach cultivates a culture of lifelong learners, critical thinkers, and confident communicators, preparing them for success in our ever-changing world.

Specialist Areas

- Physical Education
- Performing Arts
- Creative Arts
- Sustainability Projects



Elementary School Curriculum

Extension and Support

Early Reading Intervention

At TGS, our reading specialists offer early reading intervention to students who need additional support in their literacy development. Educators use targeted instruction, ongoing assessment, and individual guided reading sessions to identify and address specific areas of difficulty. Reading intervention involves providing explicit instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. Our Educators work closely with students to develop their skills and build their confidence, ensuring that they are equipped with the foundational skills necessary for lifelong learning.

Learning Support

At TGS, provide learning support for students who may require additional assistance to meet grade level expectations independently. Our learning support specialists work closely with students, teachers, and families to identify and address any challenges that impede a student's academic progress. With a focus on individualized instruction, ongoing assessment, and targeted interventions, we strive to help all students achieve academic success and develop the skills and confidence needed to reach their full potential.

Enrichment and Extension

At TGS, we recognize that some students exceed grade-level expectations, and we are committed to catering to their unique needs. To this end, we provide opportunities for students who demonstrate exceptional abilities in math and English language arts to receive extension and enrichment through differentiated instruction, allowing them to advance at their own pace. By challenging and empowering these students, we aim to foster their creativity, intellectual curiosity, and thirst for knowledge. Our expert educators are dedicated to promoting the growth of every child and strive to ensure that each student is adequately challenged, supported, and engaged in their learning journey.

Assesment Policy

Our Assessment Policy can be found in the [Elementary Guide Handbook](#)

Daily Documentation and Communication

In our Elementary School, we employ Seesaw, a dynamic "classroom on a cloud" platform, to capture and convey learning experiences within our classrooms. This innovative tool allows parents, students, and teachers to closely track progress and stay informed about daily activities. Through Seesaw, we facilitate seamless communication and information sharing, making it the central hub for all updates and interactions between the school and our school community.

The **Green** School



hello@thegreenschool.co.za

www.thegreenschool.co.za

