

Chicago Friends School Curriculum Overview

Kindergarten through Grade 4 in 2015-2016

Quaker Tradition

For hundreds of years, Quaker schools have provided strong educational preparation that is focused on the whole child. Chicago Friends School is built upon the Quaker belief that a child's quality of character is as important as his or her intellectual growth.

Quaker schools are not based upon a particular doctrine, but upon shared principles and values. The following Quaker testimonies are woven into all aspects of the curriculum:

- Community
- Equality
- Peace
- Integrity
- Simplicity
- Service

Language Arts	Mathematics	Social Studies	Science
Chicago Friends School is committed to a developmentally appropriate, differentiated approach to language arts development. Daily activities incorporate the language arts. Teachers support and guide each child's early attempts to become a reader, writer, and speaker.	At Chicago Friends School, we see mathematics as real-life problem solving, not isolated skills and procedures. Math is related to other subjects like science, art and music. We use <i>Everyday Mathematics</i> in all grades. See: everydaymath.uchicago.edu for more information.	Social studies themes are explored with children through a variety of activities and projects. The aim of social studies is to understand one's place in human society and history. Aside from specific topics, we strive to teach students to plan, learn and be critical thinkers.	Science at Chicago Friends School starts with children's natural wonder and curiosity and teaches them to investigate and learn more about the world. Students use appropriate scientific processes, evaluate claims, and prepare for the 21st Century.
<p>Language Arts concepts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ fundamental reading skills, including phonics and sight word development ▪ fluency and decoding strategies ▪ developmental spelling and handwriting ▪ conventions of spoken and written English ▪ writing expressive and informative texts ▪ rhymes, songs, poetry ▪ listening and speaking ▪ literature and non-fiction comprehension skills 	<p>Math concepts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ counting and number patterns ▪ number and quantity concepts including place value, estimation and fractions ▪ basic geometry including shapes, graphing, and figures ▪ problem solving strategies and everyday applications of math in measurement, Surveys, calendars and money. ▪ Operations including addition, subtraction multiplication and division 	<p>Social Studies concepts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ human communities, from families to nations ▪ culture and multiculturalism, including different practices and beliefs ▪ current events ▪ civics and government ▪ geography and map skills ▪ cities and the built environment ▪ history, including biographies, timelines, and specific episodes 	<p>Science concepts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inquiry, including evidence gathering, analysis, drawing and communicating conclusions ▪ environmental stewardship and appreciation for the natural world, including gardening and composting ▪ earth, atmospheric and space science ▪ physical science concepts including matter, energy and forces

Annual Theme, Service Learning	Visual and Performing Arts	Outdoor Recess/ Physical Education
<p>Every year the entire school explores a theme together for the entire year. A service project and field trips align to the theme being explored.</p> <p>Service opportunities strengthen children's relationship with the wider community, build self-esteem and connect curriculum to action in the world, reflecting the Quaker tradition of putting one's beliefs into action.</p>	<p>From creation to contemplation, the arts are essential to a well-rounded education. Creativity and self-expression engage children and enhance both academic learning and emotional well-being.</p> <p>The arts are woven into all subjects at Chicago Friends School, and professional artists provide dynamic instruction in music and visual arts.</p>	<p>Children need time to play and to explore the outdoors. Extended daily recess, outdoors as weather permits, is an integral part of every day at Chicago Friends School.</p> <p>In addition, formal gym classes teach children sportsmanship, motor skills, and enjoyment in a healthy lifestyle. <i>My Gym Chicago</i> provides on-site, weekly instruction in the CFS gymnasium.</p>
<p>The 2015 Theme is Chicago. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How and why people have come to Chicago ▪ How humans make shelter and meet needs from the Potawatomi to modern urban infrastructure ▪ The Urban melting pot, with an exploration of jazz and the arts. ▪ Civics, and government. <p>Service includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trips to a local retirement community ▪ Work with preschoolers ▪ Urban gardening 	<p>Integrated arts curriculum includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dalcroze musical training to explore the basic elements of music; rhythm, dynamics, tone and form ▪ Improvisation in movement, voice or instrument ▪ Solfege method to train the ear, eye and voice in pitch, melody and harmony ▪ Movement and dance ▪ Theatre production opportunities with local children's theatre ▪ Observational drawing using a variety of media 	<p>Physical education curriculum includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motor skills ▪ Coordination ▪ Balance ▪ Flexibility ▪ Agility and endurance ▪ Rhythm ▪ Individual and group play ▪ Movement (yoga, dance) ▪ Non-competitive games ▪ Sports ▪ Sportsmanship, respect, teamwork ▪ Tumbling ▪ Nutrition



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