

EEC CURRICULUM COMPONENTS



Thinking Skills Development

Students will become involved in activities in a variety of skill areas for thinking skills development, which will:

- Stimulate and challenge students to think and to perform at higher levels of thinking
- Assist in the development of critical, inductive, deductive, and creative thinking skills
- Present specific instruction in areas of information gathering, organizing, and using resource materials

Thematic/ Mini Study

Enrichment materials will be provided in the form of thematic/mini study units, including resources and background information. Thematic/mini study approach is an attempt to expose students to a variety of topics in order to broaden existing interests, knowledge, and experiences. It also serves to stimulate interest in topics generally unknown to the students and provides motivation to probe beyond the obvious.

Independent Study

The term independent study is used to include work done by an individual student, or by two or three students working together as a team. Such projects may be an outgrowth of a thematic/mini study unit or an activity presented in class. The students will use a variety of discovery, inquiry, and exploration techniques which enable them to extend and enrich their knowledge of interest / content areas.

Technology Skills Development

Students will use technology as a learning, communication, creativity, and productivity tool. Students will use:

- Word processing programs for their written communication (MS Word)
- Graphics to clarify or enhance documents and presentations
- Interpret and display visual information and graphic organizers using a variety of tools and programs (MS Word, Inspiration)
- Internet and web search engines to explore educational resources (VES – Virtual Education Space)
- Internet for thematic / mini study web-based lessons and conducting research
- Presentation software to present their research concerning a problem or area of focus in their learning (PowerPoint, Hyper Studio)

EEC RATIONALE

The Elementary Enrichment Center program has been designed to meet the needs of academically talented students who will benefit from working with others of like ability. The program identifies students who have exhibited an interaction among three basic clusters of human traits: above average abilities, high levels of task commitments, and high levels of creativity.

A program of differentiated instruction is presented in order to meet the educational needs of the participants. These identified students are brought together in a different environment for a whole day each week so that they may interact with and challenge one another.

EEC has two major aims:

- to develop higher order thinking skills; and
- to stimulate academic achievement.

These goals are achieved through a three-fold curriculum: thinking skill development, mini study units, and independent study.

The EEC program emphasizes the teaching of critical and creative thinking throughout its curriculum. The program looks at these elements of the higher cognitive levels of thinking according to Bloom's Taxonomy. The levels are analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.



EEC activities and mini studies help develop specific skills:

- * Critical thinking skills; analysis, evaluation, synthesis, logic and reasoning
- * Creative thinking skills; fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration (Torrance)
- * Creative problem solving
- * Decision-making
- * Collecting and organizing data
- * Debating
- * Research
- * Hypothesizing
- * Coding/ classifying
- * Interpreting
- * Experimentation
- * Exploration/ Inquiry
- * Role playing
- * Discussion
- * Creating (imagining)
- * Summarizing

Mini-Study Units

Animals of the Night

Architecture

Bubbleology

Change

Chinese New Year

Folk Tales

Everyday Law / Criminology

Flight

Future Think

Kites

Law

Lighthouses

Masks and Cultures Around the World

Natural Disasters

Optical Illusions

Patterns

Pony Express

Probability

Puzzlemania

Robotics

Salem Witch Trials

South East Asia

Structure and Design

Tessellations

Time

Water

Winter Solstice



