



About Eastover: Curriculum Highlights

Vision

To provide a learning environment that builds proficient students to succeed in a progressive community. Eastover will be a school that families actively seek because students will be prepared to adapt to and participate in an evolving world.

Mission

To serve as a catalyst for student achievement and personal excellence through rigorous and relevant core content as we sculpt responsible citizens in a 21st century global learning environment.

By the Numbers: Quick Facts

Approximately 360 students call Eastover home. We have 20 full-time classroom teachers, one exceptional children teacher, five special area teachers and seven full-time assistants, who work with our students in both regular and exceptional children's classrooms. Eight members of our staff are Nationally Board Certified, and 14 members of our staff have advanced degrees. Additionally, 12 of them are Orton-Gillingham trained.

Literacy

Eastover uses the Balanced Literacy method in teaching our students, which incorporates all parts of language arts and is designed to help students learn to read and write effectively. The program is based on the premise that students can best learn to read and write if they receive individualized teaching appropriate to their strengths and needs. This literacy program is divided into four equal blocks of time – reader's workshop, writing, reading instruction and word work/grammar.

At Eastover, we challenge each student at his or her current level through the use of flexible grouping and workshops. This enables teachers to work with students individually and in small groups. Through various writing experiences, students develop strategies and skills, learn about the writer's craft and use writing as a tool for learning and communication. Students write for sustained periods, compose a variety of texts and explore different genres and formats for different audiences.

Mathematics

The N.C. Mathematics curriculum is taught using Investigations. This K-5 curriculum is designed to help all children understand fundamental ideas of numbers and operations, geometry, data, measurement and early algebra. Direct instruction is followed by student-guided exploration.

Our PTA supports mathematics with Chess Enrichment, which allows our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders to apply mathematical concepts and strategy while working with a chess grand master. Eastover is one of only three public schools in the state that offers chess as part of regular classroom instruction.

Science and Social Studies

Science and Social Studies are other components of the student schedule and are also integrated throughout the literacy curriculum. Kindergarteners study many topics including responsible citizenship, basic geography/economics, earth materials, weather, plants, and animals.

Talent and Development

The overall goal of the Talent Development Catalyst Model is to provide inclusive services for gifted and advanced students to best support their growth, academic achievement, and social/emotional needs. Students begin the process for gifted identification in 2nd grade.

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Special Area Classes

Special area classes are an integral part of the learning experience. Students attend one of the special area classes each day during the week. They include:

- **Art:** The art curriculum guides students in learning and using elements and principles of design, thinking critically and creatively, and expressing their own ideas and feelings in original ways. Imagination and concept are emphasized over the final produced work, placing the focus on developing each student's individual ideas and capabilities. Students use various media, including paint, collage, colored pencils, and clay, and they will learn about works of historical importance by artists such as Henri Matisse and Piet Mondrian, and produce their own works in these artists' styles.
- **Spanish:** Many studies have shown that learning a second language improves children's problem-solving skills and creativity as well as exposes them to new cultures and fascinating places. Our Spanish curriculum focuses on vocabulary and conversation and adds in reading, writing and grammar as age appropriate. Lessons are taught through instruction, songs, games, stories and age-appropriate activities. Spanish is provided once a week to each student at Eastover.
- **Media:** Students enhance their understanding and love of literature through book and author studies. Our library collection includes approximately 5,500 books, all updated to the Outstanding Standard set by CMS. Depending on grade level, students learn research skills and digital citizenship, and are allowed time to complete research-based projects. Grades K-2 learn the check-out process and may borrow one book per week, while Grades 3-5 may borrow 2 books per week.
- **Physical Education:** Students develop the skills necessary to live a healthy, active lifestyle. During the school year, students work on basic gross-motor movements, sport skills and game play. The lessons and teaching are based on the National Association for Sport and Physical Education standards and the NC Essential Standards for Physical Education.
- **Music:** Eastover's music curriculum offers meaningful and rewarding experiences for students and helps children develop skills and concepts that not only apply within the music classroom but are also complementary to relevant curriculum they are studying outside of music. Students spend time learning the basic elements of music including reading music, rhythm, melody and harmony, expression, and timbre. They are exposed to composers, such as Mozart and Liszt, and their most famous works. They also have the opportunity to practice with a variety of instruments and participate in grade level choral performances throughout the year.