



K-4 Specials Handbook

Computer, Art, Music, Physical Education

2016 — 2017

Table of Contents

Overview	Page 3
Computer Technology Education	Page 4
Art Education	Page 5
Music Education	Page 6
Physical Education.....	Page 7
Grading Guidelines – Participation/Effort Grade.....	Page 8
Conduct Grade/Disciplinary Plan.....	Page 9

Overview

Aristoi Classical Academy offers Computer/Fine Arts/PE classes, not only to add fun and variety to the school day, but also to enhance the classical curriculum and provide additional settings for the students to make good choices and solve problems.

In **Computer Technology**, students will be introduced to many different aspects of computers and current technology. They will gain knowledge of appropriate digital citizenship and Internet Safety. The opportunities provided are planned to enhance their current classical education here at Aristoi, while gaining skills necessary to operate and be successful in our Technological Age.

Fine Arts will introduce the students to fundamentals of art and music as well as the rich history and work of the Classics throughout the ages. Students of all ages will discover how music and art are a direct reflection of the times in which they are made. It is our hope that they will begin to find how the Arts influence their own lives - through listening, viewing, discussing, and participating in the creation of it.

In **Physical Education**, students will meet two times a week to help encourage a lifestyle of regular activity and health, as well as to provide opportunities to practice character traits, such as respect for others and perseverance. Physical Education plays a significant role in helping our whole self be ready to function in the classroom, at play, and when working with others as a team.

Grading for Computer/Fine Arts/PE is primarily based on participation and effort, rather than skill. The purpose for this is to encourage students to not be hindered by fear of failure or struggle. Ideally, as the students are open to exploring new concepts or activities in a safe environment, new and positive aspects about themselves may be discovered. Please see the more specific grading guidelines as outlined in this handbook.

Communication is an essential element to success. This handbook is one communication tool for helping parents and students know about Aristoi's high expectations in Computer, Fine Arts, and PE. The teachers will notify parents by note, email, or phone regarding any major or continuing concerns or achievements that their child is exhibiting in class. The progress report halfway through the quarter is another communication tool. However, because the Computer/Fine Arts/PE teachers instruct all of kindergarten through fourth grade, this communication may seem more limited than you may have with the homeroom teacher. Parents are encouraged to contact each Computer/Fine Arts/PE teacher by email initially with further questions or concerns.

Computer Technology Education

Contact Information:

K-4th Mrs. Jessica Withaar jwithaar@aristoclassical.org

Class Frequency: once a week

About the class:

Computer Technology will primarily be a web-based class using various websites and programs. All websites the students will be using are accessible to them at home via my class webpage under the tab “Links”. Students will be doing some offline activities as part of their lessons, and Internet Safety will be stressed throughout the year through conversations and activities. Students will also learn and explore using “Virtual Field Trips”. Mrs. Withaar is thrilled to be able to offer a new set of experiences for her students in class using I Pads and some programs such as “Osmo” and “Makey Makey”. She is excited for this year at AristoI with your beautiful children!

Curriculum:

Kindergarten

Beginning mouse and keyboarding skills

Math and reading programs

Internet Safety, beginning coding, Virtual Field Trips

1st grade

Proper home-row technique and typing skills

Basic word-processing skills, such as cut, copy, and paste images/text

Internet Safety, beginning coding, Virtual Field Trips

2nd grade

Typing skills and word-processing using correct capitalization, spelling, word spacing, and punctuation

Beginning research skills used to advance typing skills

Internet Safety, beginning coding, Virtual Field Trips

3rd grade

Two-hand home-row typing proficiency and word-processing skills

Introduction to spreadsheets and power point presentations

Internet Safety, beginning coding, Virtual Field Trips

4th grade

Continue to develop two-hand home-row typing proficiency and word-processing skills

Spreadsheets and power point presentations

Internet Safety, beginning coding, Virtual Field Trips

Art Education

Contact Information:

K-4th Mrs. Alison Rodgers arodgers@aristoicclassical.org

Class Frequency: once a week

About the class:

Alison Rodgers is a talented teacher with a passion for art and a love for sharing it with students. She is honored to have the privilege of teaching your students. As a new school year begins, she wishes for a happy year full of creativity, learning, and exciting art projects!

Classwork will consist of exploring materials, practicing techniques, making artwork, and being able to talk about their art and master artworks using art vocabulary and the steps of art criticism.

Curriculum:

Kindergarten

Color: primary and secondary, warm and cool

Elements and Principles: Lines

Sculptures, Mobiles

1st grade

Color: primary and secondary, warm and cool

Elements and Principles: Line, Shape, Texture

Portraits, Still Life, Murals

Cave paintings and Ancient Egyptian Art

2nd grade

Elements and Principles: Line

Sculpture, Landscapes, Abstract art

Ancient and Modern Architecture

3rd grade

Elements and Principles: Light, Space, Figure and Ground, Pattern, Balance and Symmetry

American Indian Art, Ancient Roman and Byzantine Art

4th grade

European Middle Ages Art, Islamic Art and Architecture, African Art, Chinese Art, American Art

Music Education

Contact Information:

Mrs. Vikki Camper vcamper@aristoiclassical.org

Class Frequency: once a week

About the class:

Mrs. Camper is beginning her 6th year at Aristo. Music and children are two of her favorite things – and she gets to spend her day with both!

It's very important that you check out the music class website. This will be a great source of information for you, especially as music programs are coming up. You'll also find tabs on the side to see the Computer/Fine Arts/PE grading policies, music class schedule, and a page with fun music websites your child may really enjoy.

Curriculum:

Kindergarten & 1st grade

In every class, the children will sing and move to music, often using simple folk songs and classical music as a primary resource. At times, students will experience dancing, playing games, or playing instruments. A strong foundation will be built for helping the children to become *musical people - TUNEful, BEATful, and ARTful. (*Feierabend – *First Steps in Music*). Nursery rhymes and Mother Goose poems may be used for feeling the beat, which come from their classroom curriculum. Music will be heard from operas and ballets originating from classic literature – such as “Hansel and Gretel” and “The Nutcracker”.

2nd & 3rd grade

Singing and moving will still be important parts of our class, but there will be an emphasis on music literacy – how to read, write, and create music – and then make it come alive with singing and playing instruments. In addition, the music of topics covered in their history class will be studied: our country's beginning and Patriotism, and music and play parties from the Westward Expansion.

Second graders will have an evening music performance in the spring, and the third graders will participate in a Musical one evening in the spring.

4th grade

Students will continue to practice their music literacy by playing instruments. In January, students will play on melodic instruments, and after Spring Break, students will learn to play the recorder. There will be more dancing, too.

The fourth graders have the honor of presenting the annual Veterans Day Program for our school and local veterans in November.

Physical Education

Contact Information:

Mrs. Heather Steen, instructor hsteen@aristoicclassical.org
Mrs. Sandria Ray, aide sray@aristoicclassical.org

Class Frequency: two times a week

About the class:

Physical Education will be an environment for students to learn about physical activity, sportsmanship, and health/nutrition. PE class activities will work to reinforce the cognitive skills and the academic learning initiated in the classroom setting.

Curriculum:

Kindergarten – 2nd grade

Students will focus on mastering gross motor skills, various physical activities, as well as reinforcing social development. Basic skills will be taught through coordinated activities, games and fitness stations. We will be using a curriculum called "Ready Bodies, Learning Minds," that focuses on a child's development and what it means to learn.

3rd & 4th grade

Students will focus on developing sports skills, physical activity and social development. They will learn the rules and regulations of sports such as volleyball, football, soccer, and general fitness. We will work on developing sportsmanlike conduct and teamwork. Third and fourth grade students will participate in the Texas state assessment, "Fitness Gram." We will conduct a benchmark test at the beginning of the year and take the actual test near the end of the spring semester. Fitness Gram is used solely as a tool for ACA to report the health and fitness level of our students to the state of Texas Curriculum.

Grading Guidelines—Grades K-4

Computer, Art, Music, Physical Education

Quarterly Grades:

Students will receive a weekly participation/effort grade. Parents may see this by looking at the Parent Portal. Grades will also be included on the student's progress report and quarterly report card.

In addition, the quarterly report card will also show a grade reflecting classroom conduct.

Participation/Effort Grade

Students are expected to participate when asked and show reasonable effort. Most students will receive an "S", which shows satisfactory participation and effort. Outstanding participation and effort, or lack thereof, will move the grade higher or lower.

E - Excellent. This student CONSISTENTLY PARTICIPATES AS DIRECTED and shows OUTSTANDING EFFORT without any additional encouragement from the teacher. Typically, very few students perform at this level.

S - Satisfactory. This student TYPICALLY PARTICIPATES AS DIRECTED and SHOWS EFFORT, or may need some encouragement. Most students will receive this grade.

N - Needs improvement. This student PARTICIPATES SOMEWHAT AS DIRECTED and MAY SHOW SOME EFFORT, but is often not participating in the lesson because of their choice. If this happens repeatedly, parents will be notified.

U - Unsatisfactory. This student DOES NOT PARTICIPATE AS DIRECTED OR SHOW EFFORT, even after encouragement. Parents will be notified of this lack of participation.

Please note:

- Occasionally in 2nd – 4th grade, there may be an assessment or special project. For instance, in fourth grade, students will learn how to play the recorder in music. In these situations, the amount of effort in completing the work and following directions will affect the end result of the assessment or project. These will be reflected in the E, S, N, U grading scale as well.
- Students missing class due to an unexcused absence or a school suspension (in-school or out-of-school) will receive an automatic weekly grade of a "70". (see Parent-Student Handbook)
- Honor Roll and Exemplary Honor Roll will allow for an "E" or an "S" in Computers, Fine Arts, and PE.

Conduct Grade

Computers, art, music, and PE follow these expectations:

RESPECT – yourself, others, and things

Disciplinary Plan

If a student has difficulties with one of these expectations, the following steps are typically taken in this order. However, the specific action will depend on the situation and the student.

- 1 – RESET in the classroom
- 2 – RECOVERY in another room
- 3 – REFERRAL (parent notified)

Every attempt will be made to maintain the dignity and self-respect of both the student and the teacher.

Students will be given opportunities to make decisions and live with the consequences, be they good or bad.

Students will have the opportunity to tell their side of the story, “due process”, when consequences seem unfair.

Grading

The conduct grade for the quarter will be based on the number of RESETS, RECOVERIES, and REFERRALS received during the particular class.

However, a SUSPENSION (in-school or out-of-school) in any class will result in a “U” in Conduct in every subject at school for the quarter.

E - Excellent = No conduct problems.

S - Satisfactory = May have a few RESETS or RECOVERIES, or perhaps even one REFERRAL, depending on the situation.

N - Needs improvement = Two or more RECOVERIES. One REFERRAL may result in this conduct grade, depending on the situation.

U - Unsatisfactory = Typically, a student will have two or more REFERRALS. A SUSPENSION in any class will result in a “U” in Conduct.

Please note:

- Students are not eligible for Exemplary Honor Roll if they have an “N” or “U” in Conduct.
- Students are not eligible for Honor Roll if they have a “U” in Conduct.