



## **Curriculum**

*“The purpose of the Carden Method is to develop well-adjusted, capable, confident, eager, alert, courageous, generous, just, compassionate, courteous, happy children, who have a sense of humor, who will be able to develop their ingenuity, who base their actions on the idea that we come to life to make a contribution to the welfare of the human race; children who realize that happiness is a by-product of doing for others; children who realize that the goal of living is not the amassing of money or possessions, but the attainment of the desires of the heart.” - Mae Carden*

**Reading** is taught simultaneously with writing, spelling, and the fundamentals of grammar. The foundation is phonemic awareness, word attack skills, comprehension, mental imagery, vocabulary development, and rhythm.

**Literature** is selected appropriately for each grade level and presents enduring ideas and values expressed in beautiful language and vivid imagery, thereby building an awareness of the richness of our language and our heritage.

**Spelling** is a unique combination of phonics, listening skills, dictionary marks, clarity of diction, rhythm, and organization. Lessons are taught daily and include sound drills, a vowel chart, rules, word grouping, and recall through mental imagery, not memorization.

**Language** incorporates grammar, which Miss Carden called “the key to comprehension.” It covers parts of speech, parts of sentence, verb tenses, and punctuation, and trains the student in analysis and evaluation, as well as, verbal and written expression for the communicating of ideas.

**Writing** integrates the Carden foundation with the Write Source program, and introduces the students to various forms of writing. Processes including prewriting, outlining and organizing, revising, and editing are taught using a step-by-step approach. Penmanship (printing and cursive) is an integral part of the elementary curriculum. In middle school, computers are used for the publishing of written works.

**Mathematics** is taught using both Singapore Math and Saxon Math™. Singapore Math is a results based program designed to build a deep understanding of mathematical concepts through word problems and concrete illustrations. Saxon Math is designed to promote student success through incremental development, continual practice and review, and ongoing, cumulative assessment.

**Social Studies** is taught using the SRA/McGraw-Hill Skills Handbooks and Geography Books. Students learn to master skills and strategies including; map skills, reading and thinking skills, writing and research skills, chart and graph skills, and test taking strategies. The geography program leads students to see how the land shapes lives while building critical thinking skills and the knowledge base students need for exceeding the new national standards in geography proficiency.

**Science** is taught at all grade levels using Delta Education science modules, which include hands-on investigations and inquiry-based instruction to master science concepts which correlate with State and National Science Education Standards.

**French** is the language chosen for study by Miss Carden because of the many words in the English language that are of French origin. French grammar is similar in structure to English as well, giving the student a secure base from which to build. Vocabulary building, songs, games, poetry, and visual aids are important techniques used to infuse joy and confidence in the learning of this foreign language.

**Music** is taught to build the love of music and the joy of singing. The children learn a wide range of songs including patriotic, seasonal, Hawaiian, simple rounds, and folk songs. The recorder, ukulele, and drums are featured in the upper grade levels. Music appreciation is fostered by listening to the works of great composers.

**Art** is an integral part of our program. It provides opportunities for individual, creative expression. Children work with a wide variety of mediums over the course of the year. Students are introduced to art appreciation and art history through discussion of some of the world's great art and artists.

**Physical Education** is an opportunity to put to practical use the standards of behavior set forth in the classroom. The emphasis is on fair play and mastery of fundamental sport skills. The students learn independence, leadership, responsibility, and a respect for the rights and property of others. They learn also that physical fitness is a way of life, not merely a leisure activity.

**Drama and Creative Movement** are used to enrich student's understanding and awareness of subjects studied.

**Poetry** is an essential part of the Carden curriculum. Miss Carden said, "Poetry breathes beauty into the commonplace and lifts the soul." At each grade level the students learn a variety of poems that appeal to a sense of beauty, values, and humor.

**Virtues** are integral to our Carden curriculum. A new virtue is introduced each week and reinforced throughout the day to assist with confidence building, social values, and other varying personal aspects. The virtues are then subsequently kept alive throughout the school year.