

ALL ABOUT...
SPECIALS AT PS11!

Art

Computers

Dance

Health

Music

Phys Ed

Science

Theater

**Special programs and events
across the grades**

SLT Family Workshops

ALL ABOUT...

Art with Ms Sam

In the art room, we focus heavily on process and individual expression, exposing student artists to as many types of art making experiences as possible and encouraging their imagination. Through the grades the projects change but the same major art disciplines are explored as skills develop. **Your kids will explore:**

Drawing from imagination, observation and memory using many different media including crayon, marker, graphite and oil pastels. Your kids will also receive their own sketchbook for project planning and sketching on location, including on our roof and in the garden.

Painting using watercolor and tempera paint, mixed with drawing for resist painting, and bamboo brushes to study Asian traditions.

Collage of all kinds! Your kids will delve into this wonderful, flexible artform, creating masterpieces from torn paper, cut paper, found images, three-dimensional and more.

Architecture starting with drawing, moving toward building and cooperative constructions.

Sculpture of all kinds, created from paper, found objects, mixed media, wood and paper maché.

Ceramics that are fired and glazed in PS11's very own kiln! Your kids will delight in clay exploration, creating pinch pots, coil pots, ornaments, mosaics and figures and more.

ALL ABOUT...

Computers with Mr Fier

PreK/ Kindergarten

Up through 6 years students at P.S. 11 come to the computer lab to work on one of several software programs to extend their classroom studies in literacy, math, and social studies. We use Kid Pix to put text and graphics together to express our voice. We use Kidspiration 3 to learn about geometry and math. And we use Thinking Things to become better problem solvers.

First Grade

First graders will create text and picture presentations to augment their literacy and social studies classroom work. We use Kidspiration 3 to learn about geometry and math. And we will use a multi-media program called MicroWorlds Jr. to create presentations and learn a little Logo software language.

Second Grade

Second graders will create text and picture presentations to augment their literacy and social studies classroom work. We will also do the computer component of the TERC math curriculum using the Investigation "Shapes" software and the multimedia software MicroWorlds Jr. Using Kidspiration 3 we will also explore a variety of literacy, math, and social studies topics.

Third Grade

Third graders will learn how to use the Internet as a research tool. Using Microsoft Office and Apple iWork software they will create presentations to augment their literacy and social studies classroom work. Third graders will all work with Scratch learn basic coding skills.

Fourth Grade

Fourth graders will use the Internet as an information resource, a bank of media, and a place to take virtual fieldtrips. They will then take this knowledge base to create multi-media presentations in Apple's Keynote program. We will also use MicroWorlds, Scratch, and Kidspiration to augment the TERC math curriculum.

Fifth Grade

Fifth graders will study a number of classroom subjects using the computer as a tool to augment their studies. We will be using a wide selection of software including: PowerPoint, Keynote, MicroWorlds, Scratch, Word, Kidspiration, and of course the Internet.

ALL ABOUT...

Dance with Ms. Wurman

PreK

- Students use their imaginations and bodies while dancing fun movement stories, like Spaghetti Dance and Playground Dance.
- Classes include exploring word opposites in movement, movement-themed songs, social dances, and choreographing the characters in a book.
- Students master the concepts of action, travel, and stillness, as well as what is right and what is left.

Kindergarten

- Students focus on shape making and changing supports to make new frozen poses.
- Classes include dance (quality and action) opposites, movement sentences, animal dances, and movement stories.
- Students master the ability to freeze with focus and intention, as well as explore locomotor and axial movements on all three levels.

First Grade

- Students work solo, in partners, small groups, and as a whole class to solve dance challenges.
- Classes include choreographing, performing, and notating the Greeting Dance, Our Neighborhood Dance, Cloud Dance, and narrative dances.
- Students master the Laban Movement Analysis (LMA) concepts of shape making: ball, wall, arrow and twisted/pretzel. We use the letters of the alphabet as inspiration to connect our shapes.

Second Grade

- Students conquer the Language of Dance (LOD) pathway notation, as well as action, stillness, levels, shape, travel, and gesture.
- Classes include exploring and choreographing the Treasure Map Dance, Mirroring/Following/Shadowing/Echoing Dance, and the Sharp and Smooth Planet Dance.
- Students rehearse and master their performances for the 2nd Grade Show.

Third Grade

- Students build on their notation and composition skills using LOD.
- Classes include exploring Yoga and Sun Salutation and using the poses as inspiration for their choreography, working with and understanding choreographic structure, and conducting dance interviews.
- Students rehearse and master their performances for the 3rd Grade Show.

Fourth Grade

- Students build dance performance and compositional skills through choreography and technique.
- Classes include composition projects like Positive and Negative Space Dances, incorporating every aspect of LMA's Space, and Chance Dance with LOD mini-flashcards and dice.
- Students learn vocabulary from the classical technique of Jazz and remember repertory.

Fifth Grade

- Students expand their dance performance and compositional skills through advanced choreography, technique, and anatomy studies.
- Classes include composition projects like Spring Dances, after exploring the 5 ways to spring, flexion and extension, and Dance Recipe Compositions that build 'ingredients' each week.
- Students learn vocabulary from the four basic movement groups of Breakin' and its history.

ALL ABOUT...

HEALTH with Ms. Marcou

The 5th grade health curriculum covers all basic information that allow the students to learn how to live a long and healthy lifestyle.

- **Health and Wellness**

This is the first unit for the health classes. This unit helps students understand what it means to be healthy. Students will understand what factors and behaviors that can influence their health.

- **Self-Esteem and Decision Making**

Students will understand how our self-esteem plays a significant role in our social, emotional and physical well-being. The value we attribute to ourselves has a major impact on our social relationships and on our confidence in our ability to set goals for ourselves and to achieve them.

- **Cooperative Learning and Team Building Activities**

The students should be able to work together to cooperatively come up with a solution to the problems given to them and work together as a group to achieve success. The students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the activities by showing their leadership and decision making skills.

- **Bullying**

Students will understand what bullying is and resources where they can get help and information on bullying. Bullying is defined as behavior toward another person that is intentional, repetitive, and hurtful resulting in an imbalance of power between the bully and the target.

- **Peer Pressure**

Students will learn how to make positive decisions to avoid peer pressure situations. Students will learn how to resist pressures which may lead to health-risking behaviours.

- **Nutrition**

Students will learn how to make smart choices about the foods they are eating. The students will learn that proper nutrition is essential for maintaining good health. We are going to learn about how food affects our bodies, good and bad.

- **Physical Activity**

Students will understand the important role that physical activity plays in our life. Students will also learn the benefits from being physically active have in helping us live a long healthy life and how to avoid illness and injuries.

ALL ABOUT...

Music with Ms. Golub

PreK

PreK will start with discussions on the four types of voices we have (whisper, talking, singing, shouting), simple vocal warm ups, and a study of Nursery Rhymes. They'll play simple unpitched instruments (triangles, maracas, small drums) to learn rhythmic patterns and beats and self-expression. We'll also work on locomotor skills, walking, jogging, and skipping to various rhythms.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten starts the *Music and the Brain* keyboard program and Piano Book I. The program focuses on singing, rhythms, and patterns and taking those skills to the keyboard. Warm up exercises are introduced for their voices. They'll learn, sing and perform unison songs and games in both English and other languages. We'll play some pitched and unpitched instruments to reinforce the rhythmic patterns, dynamics and tempi that they are learning.

First Grade

First Graders continues in the *Music and the Brain* program, adding different tempi, dynamics and rhythmic patterns to their keyboard playing. We continue in Piano Book I, adding both hands to some songs and more difficult rhythms. We work on expanding their vocal range and adding more vocal warm ups.

Second Grade

Second Graders continue in Piano Book I or start Book II, depending on where their class left off the previous year. We introduce playing hands together and moving out of the Middle C range, and further explore dynamics in music. Vocally, we'll sing rounds and partner songs. The Second graders do our Spring Show — a big part of their Music/Theater curriculum.

Third Grade

Third Graders perform our Thanksgiving/Winter show at the end of November. Following the show, they each get a recorder as a gift. We'll review notes and rhythms from the previous year. We begin B, A, G songs on the recorder, playing some classic songs, songs they are familiar with from the radio, as well as "rock" songs for motivation.

Fourth Grade

Fourth Graders will review their recorder work, starting the year off with more difficult songs. We will do a treble clef note reading unit, and also begin a simple guitar study. (*Ms Golub is looking for parents/friends to help tune guitars during their class time if you are interested.*)

Fifth Grade

Because of their busy schedule, Fifth Graders start music next semester. We'll review music theory (e.g.note values and treble clef note reading skills) in preparation for Middle School. We start work on their Moving On songs. Those who choose to participate in the 5th Grade Production will see me earlier in the year, during morning and afternoon play practice.

ALL ABOUT...

Phys Ed with Mr. Nichols and Ms. Marcou

Kindergarten and First Grade

We will focus on developing students' loco motor skills (skipping, hopping, etc.) with an emphasis on spatial awareness. Students will participate in fun group activities that support this and hopefully encourage them to participate in physical activities on a daily basis. In addition, the Downtown United Soccer Club will again partner with PS 11, providing a FIFA certified coach to come in and teach soccer during the physical education period. Many of our students play in their recreation league and academy.

Second Grade

Second Graders will start their first year of swimming classes. During their normal physical education period, they'll receive group-differentiated instruction. Students will understand the concept of buoyancy and how it helps them float and learn how to swim. Higher-level swimmers will improve their technique on specific strokes.

Third Grade

Third Graders will be playing soccer on the roof to start the year. They will then continue progressing as swimmers throughout the year. In the spring they will participate in a Track and Field unit. This is the first year that they are eligible to participate in the DOE Citywide Track and Field Series. Those students who sign up will participate in two track meets, with the opportunity to qualify for the New York City Championships.

Fourth and Fifth Grade

Fourth and Fifth Graders will also start the year playing soccer on the roof. In October, they will start swimming. In addition to the instruction, they will also participate in games and sports in the pool. Water Polo is always a favorite for the students. In December and January, they'll participate in the NYC Fitnessgram — a citywide physical education assessment of their skill and health-related fitness. Hopefully the feedback from these assessments will encourage students to be active and maintain a healthy lifestyle. After completion, they will again swim until the Track and Field season begins. When track season is over they will participate in a brief basketball unit. Finally, when the weather heats up, they will be back in the pool to cool off.

PS11's Bike Program (Grades 3-5)

With New York City fast becoming a bike friendly city, students in grades 3-5 now receive instruction in both biking and bike safety. The curriculum is modeled after Bike New York's learn to ride program.

The program uses a "balance first method", where students practice on bicycles without pedals. While we provide guidance and encouragement, the student does most of the work. This also helps alleviate some of the pressure that students feel when learning how to bike. Hopefully students will have the opportunity to practice and continue to enjoy a safe, fun, and healthy form of exercise.

ALL ABOUT...

Science with Mr Roylance

Third grade

Third graders learn how to measure using the metric system (the system scientists use). Then they do fun experiments and learn all about the properties of solids, liquids and gases and how different kinds of energy transform into another kind of energy. Then they move onto the water cycle, weather, and the Sun/Earth/Moon system. Finally they learn all about the life cycles of plants and animals. Then they GO BIRDING! They use real binoculars and learn how to identify many kinds of bird species.

Fourth grade

Fourth graders learn all about ecosystems and how organisms play different roles in their environment. They learn about food chains, food webs, and play Oh Deer!, a game that teaches them what animals need to survive. Then they move on to magnetism and electricity where they will learn all about magnetic fields, circuits, and electromagnets. Force and motion and simple machines come next where they will learn about gravity, six simple machines and how the Egyptians were able to build the pyramids. Finally they will learn all about the structure of the Earth and why in 250 million years all the continents will be one gigantic land mass.

Fifth grade

Fifth graders learn how to set up experiments with dependent and independent variables. They experiment with pendulums, boats and planes. Then they learn all about food and nutrition and what goes into our food that wasn't there to begin with and why. They do several wonderful experiments that identify the fat, sugar, and acid in food. Then they move on to the human body and learn all about their skeletal, respiratory, circulatory and digestive systems, and what they need to do to eat right as they spurt into adulthood.

ALL ABOUT...

Theater with Ms. Sarah

Students in Kindergarten will:

- Dramatize storybooks and build their own dramas based on them.
- Create characters and dramatic storylines.
- Stretch their imaginations and PRETEND!
- Learn and use their Actor Tools; Body, Voice, Face and Imagination!

Students in First Grade will:

- Engage in dramatic storytelling through narrative and tableau.
- Explore emotional expression using their Actor Tools.
- Create characters and scenes using props, costumes and other theater materials.

Students in Second Grade will:

- Participate in the Second Grade Show
- Create characters and write short plays using photos and other stimuli as inspiration.
- Explore and hold different theater roles: actor, director, technical theater, designers, etc.

Students in Third Grade will:

- Participate in the 3rd Grade Show
- Delve into the world of pantomime and create their own piece of pantomime performance piece.
- Train their voices in projection and articulation.

Students in Fourth Grade will:

- Work on ensemble and team building.
- Participate in a scene study unit culminating in an invited performance.
- Develop spontaneity via improv activities.

Students in Fifth Grade will:

- Create dynamic characters
- Write and perform monologues.
- Have the opportunity to be part of the cast or crew of our full-scale 5th Grade Musical.

ALL ABOUT...

Special Events in Kindergarten

- **Education in Dance**

Students will experience and explore dance and music in this fantastic 16-week cycle of *Education in Dance*.

- **Cooking**

Students begin their cooking experience, learning about healthy foods “from seed to table.” Each session, one featured, healthy, locally-grown food will be the star of a delicious dish that all students help prepare in class. Recipes and informational sheets will come home as well.

- **Enrichment**

Students will enjoy one cycle of Enrichment Classes, which will take place on Thursdays. They will choose from a menu of fun and exciting classes.

- **100th Day of School**

On this special day, Kindergartners will be engaged in fun activities all celebrating the number 100.

- **Field Trips**

Every year, Kindergartners go on many exciting field trips, learning about their community and taking advantage of the wonderful city in which they live.

- **Wonderhut Science**

Students will work with Science Educators to explore the wonders of all things scientific!

ALL ABOUT...

Special Events in First Grade

- **Joyce Dance Theater**

Students will attend professional dance concerts at the highly acclaimed Joyce Dance Theater.

- **Cooking**

Students begin their Cooking experience, learning about healthy foods “from seed to table.” Each session, one featured, healthy, locally-grown food will be the star of a delicious dish that all students help prepare in class. Recipes and informational sheets will come home as well.

- **Enrichment**

First Graders will enjoy one cycle of Enrichment Classes, which will take place on Thursdays. They will choose from a menu of fun and exciting classes.

- **100th Day of School**

On this special day, First Graders will be engaged in fun activities all celebrating the number 100.

- **Field Day**

All First Graders will compete in fun athletic events throughout the day.

- **The First Grade Post Office**

First Graders create a school-wide Post Office emulating all aspects of a real Post Office (i.e. creating the materials, selling them to the PS 11 community and then collecting, stamping, sorting and delivering the mail).

- **Field Trips**

Every year, First Graders go on many exciting field trips, learning about their community and taking advantage of the wonderful city in which they live.

- **Wonderhut Science**

Students will work with Science Educators to explore the wonders of all things scientific!

ALL ABOUT...

Special Events in Second Grade

- **Juilliard**

Talented teaching artists from Juilliard will teach our Second Graders Music Theory, and each artist will teach students specifically about their musical instrument.

- **Cooking**

Students begin their cooking experience, learning about healthy foods “from seed to table.” Each session, one featured, healthy, locally-grown food will be the star of a delicious dish that all students help prepare in class. Recipes and informational sheets will come home as well.

- **Pascal Rioult Modern Dance**

Second Graders will work with company members from the internationally renowned Pascal Rioult Company, and will perform on stage in an original modern dance performance.

- **Enrichment**

Second Graders will enjoy one cycle of Enrichment Classes, which will take place on Thursdays. They will choose from a menu of fun and exciting classes.

- **Second Grade Show**

Second Graders will be the stars and perform in a musical extravaganza directed by Ms. Sarah and Ms. Golub.

- **Field Day**

All Second Graders will compete in athletic events throughout the day.

- **Field Trips**

Every year, Second Graders go on many exciting field trips, learning about their community and taking advantage of the wonderful city in which they live.

- **Wonderhut Science**

Students will work with Science Educators to explore the wonders of all things scientific!

ALL ABOUT...

Special Events in Third Grade

- **Chess**

For ten weeks, Third Graders will be taught the game of chess by a member of the *Chess in the Schools* staff.

- **African Dance**

All Third Graders will be taught the art of African Dance.

- **Circle in the Square Playwriting**

Teaching Artists from the renowned Circle in the Square will work with our Third Graders to write an original short play. Each student's play will then be performed live on a Broadway Stage!

- **Enrichment**

Students will enjoy two cycles of Enrichment Classes, which will take place on Thursdays. They will choose from a menu of fun and exciting classes.

- **Third Grade Show**

Third Graders will be the stars, and perform in a musical extravaganza directed by Ms. Sarah and Ms. Golub.

- **PS 11 Farm Market**

Third Graders will run our Farm Market each Wednesday, learning about the fruits and vegetables available from our local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), and about how CSA is run. They will then price and sell this fresh produce in front of PS 11 each Wednesday morning.

- **Field Day**

All Third Graders will compete in athletic events throughout the day.

- **Track & Field**

All Third Grade students will have the opportunity to participate in a District 2 Track & Field Meet in the Spring.

- **Field Trips**

Every year, Third Graders go on many exciting field trips, learning about their community and taking advantage of the wonderful city in which they live.

ALL ABOUT...

Special Events in Fourth Grade

- **New York City Ballet Nutcracker Project**

Fourth Graders will study the George Ballanchine's *Nutcracker* and then attend a performance at Lincoln Center.

- **Hip Hop Dance**

Fourth Graders will learn the art of Hip Hop Dance.

- **Juilliard Concert Series**

Fourth Graders will attend several concerts in the Juilliard Concert Series.

- **Enrichment**

Students will enjoy two cycles of Enrichment Classes, which will take place on Thursdays. They will choose from a menu of fun and exciting classes.

- **Camping Trip**

In early Fall, all Fourth Graders will go on an overnight camping trip.

- **Lunch Leaders**

As a part of our Community Service Project, all Fourth Graders will serve as Lunch Leaders, helping our Kindergartners at lunch and recess.

- **Field Day**

All Fourth Graders will compete in athletic events throughout the day.

- **Track & Field**

All Fourth Grade students will have the opportunity to participate in a District 2 Track & Field Meet in the Spring.

- **Field Trips**

Every year, Fourth Graders go on many exciting field trips, learning about their community and taking advantage of the wonderful city in which they live.

ALL ABOUT...

Special Events in Fifth Grade

- **Rosie's Theater Kids**

For 16 weeks, Fifth Graders will work with professional teaching artists from Rosie O'Donnell's *Rosie's Broadway Kids*. Students will be taught the art of musical theater. All students will also attend a live Broadway Show. Select students will be asked to continue their studies at the RBK arts center in Times Square.

- **Ballroom Dance**

Fifth Graders will learn several different styles of Ballroom Dance including the Waltz, Meringue, Swing, and the Tango. A select group of students will be invited to members of our *PS 11 Ballroom Dance Team* which will compete with other NYC schools.

- **Spring Musical**

Fifth Graders who are interested will perform in a full scale musical.

- **Enrichment**

Students will enjoy two cycles of Enrichment Classes, which will take place on Thursdays. They will choose from a menu of fun and exciting classes.

- **Washington DC trip**

All Fifth Graders will attend an overnight trip to our Nation's capital.

- **Lunch Leaders**

As a part of our Community Service Project, all Fifth Graders will serve as Lunch Leaders, helping our Kindergartners at lunch and recess.

- **Field Day**

All Fifth Graders will compete in athletic events throughout the day.

- **Track & Field**

All Fifth Graders will have the opportunity to participate in a District 2 Track & Field Meet in the Spring.

- **Field Trips**

Every year, Fifth Graders go on many exciting field trips, learning about their community and taking advantage of the wonderful city in which they live.

ALL ABOUT...

SLT FAMILY WORKSHOPS

In addition to its official responsibilities, the PS11 SLT also chooses to organize **Family Workshops** that foster parental involvement, community building and provide valuable information and tools to students, parents and guardians throughout the school year.

- **Literacy Night (September 30, 6-7:30pm)**

Parents and guardians will learn what LITERACY looks like in their child's classroom, and how to be an active partner in their education. Past topics: Reading and Writing in Kindergarten, The Power of "Just-Right" Leveled Books, Tackling Tricky Words, Reading Response Notebooks, and the Upper-Grade Reading and Writing Process.

- **Math Night (October 8, 6-7:30pm)**

Parents and guardians will learn what MATH looks like in their child's classroom, and how to be an active partner in their education. Previous topics: What Math Looks Like Across All Grades, How To Be A Good Math Partner, Breaking Numbers Apart, The Power of "Problem Solver", Multistep Word Problems and Division Strategies.

- **Science Fair (January 29, 6-7:30pm)**

Student teams from Grades 3 to 5 will showcase their research and scientific talents gallery style to the PS11 community.

- **Architecture Event (April 1, 6-7:30pm)**

Students and their families will learn about local architectural highlights in their own community and meet working architects and engineers who will help them create cityscape models.

- **Girl Facts Night (April 30, 6-7:30pm)**

3rd, 4th and 5th Grade girls and their families are invited to this opt-in workshop focusing on puberty and menstruation.

- **Poetry Night (May 21, 6-7:30pm)**

Students and their families explore poetry on display from each and every student, and a student from each class will share their original work at our live Poetry Reading.

- **Curriculum Connection Morning Workshop Series (Oct 21 , Dec 9, Jan 14, Feb 5, Mar 31 at 9am)**

Parents and guardians are invited to this series of curriculum-focused information sessions. Topics in the past have included Math, Literacy, Writing, Reading, Questioning, The School/Home Connection, Reducing Reading Frustration and Testing.