

**Chicken Coop School**  
**Progress Across Domains**  
**Student's name**  
**Second Semester 2008-2009**

The paper titled "Skills" details the various skills that we are trying to make sure the students master. This document explains what material we examined while working on the skills, and how \_\_\_\_\_ is doing with regard to them.

**Social Skills**

This semester, we practiced social skills in every academic class, and while:

- Conversing in the mornings at our meeting. Particularly, being aware of the dynamics and encouraging everyone to participate.
- Playing games
- Collecting kindling and bringing in fire wood
- Engaging in independent work
- Engaging in group work
- Doing farm chores
- Maintaining the neatness of the classroom
- Resolving and handling conflict
- Cleaning after lunch
- Being actively helpful
- Interacting before school begins, during recess and breaks

\_\_\_\_\_ simply blossomed this semester. It has been so wonderful to see how comfortable and confident she has become. In so many ways, she took responsibility for herself and her own happiness. She also demonstrated a real understanding of the responsibility we all have to make the classroom a kind and joyful place. She adeptly and patiently helps her classmates with their writing and math. She can be counted on to tidy her area and help clean the kitchen. She can stay focused until her task is done, often working while other kids are doing something more fun. She understands that we are all responsible for creating a joyful tone in the classroom, and she works to spread joy and sunshine.

**Reading and Interpreting**

This semester, the students practiced Reading and interpreting skills while examining:

- The Giver by Lois Lowry
- Short Stories-such as:
  - The Open Window (Saki)
  - In the Catbird Seat (James Thurber)
- Last Days of Summer by Steve Kluger
- Charlotte's Web, by E.B. White
- Essays written by other young people
- Independent reading books

- The US Government

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\_\_\_\_\_ has continued to grow as a reader, to savor and interpret the reading and to add her voice to the group. She doesn't just read books, she *lives* books! As she stated in her end of the year reflection, "The Canning Season and The Last Days of Summer are more than just a good read to me." This is made clear in her comments in class, her sticky notes and her writing. As she puts it, she is trying to "soak everything in" as she reads and discusses the books, poems and short stories we have studied this year.

\_\_\_\_\_ 's has a thorough understanding of the US government, and is comfortable explaining how a bill becomes a law.

We hope that next year, in a new class, \_\_\_\_\_ will continue to participate in discussions, as her comments are extremely valuable to her classmates.

### **Writing and Presenting**

The students practiced Writing and Presenting skills while creating:

- A weekly essay or piece of writing
- Weekly letters to Theresa about what they are reading
- Thoughtful responses to the ideas they encounter in Literature studies
- A Utopian community
- Oral Reports
- Effective note taking to be prepared for class
- Memoir writing about their trip to New York City
- An End of the Year Essay that summarizes their learning

They also studied grammar and punctuation directly

\_\_\_\_\_ 's written work is reliably full of perceptive and original ideas, and her comments in class demonstrate her engagement in and insight into the material. In preparation for her oral report on Eleanor Roosevelt (part of our study of last Days of Summer), she became deeply immersed in Eleanor's world and her report demonstrated not just her knowledge of her but her respect and affection for Eleanor as well. \_\_\_\_\_ 's writing is thoughtful and poetic, and she has grown deeply here as well. One of her NYC memories demonstrates her ability to set a scene and show the reader why something was funny. Her other piece about New York demonstrates her ability to take an abstract idea, such as the passage of time, and beautifully weave a discussion of it into a description of an experience she's had.

\_\_\_\_\_ 's entire Utopia Project was a work of art. Everything from the language she used to describe her community to the art work she created to demonstrate the culture she wanted it to have to the model of the community itself, was beautiful. It showed great attention to detail and a distinctly artistic eye for loveliness.

\_\_\_\_\_ can consistently put together a thoughtful, well organized essay, that has a point, and supports the point with reasons and examples. She only occasionally has a run-on or incomplete sentence, and she can correct errors on her own when she is nudged to find them.

## Math

The students practiced mathematical skills while learning to:

- Convert numbers between fractions, decimals and percents
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions, decimals, and percents
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide positive and negative numbers
- Identify similar shapes and work with scale factor
- Identify Independent and Dependent Variables
- solve equations for a variable
- Graph a line
- Plot points on an x and y axis
- identify linear equations
- Manipulate linear equations
- Manipulate exponential equations
- Solve equations for an unknown variable
- Identify quadratic equations
- Work with quadratic equations
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What \_\_\_\_\_ has unquestionably mastered is good-humor during math class. She is reliably, consistently happy during math class, even when the math is hard! Her and her class giggle just enough to put everyone in a good mood, and then they learn their math.

\_\_\_\_\_ will be ready for high school math. She understands ratios and rates, and can convert fractions, decimals and percents. She can manipulate fractions, decimals, and percents, and knows the rules for working with positive and negative integers.

She is comfortable with the parts of the linear and exponential equations. She can solve equations for missing variables, even when fractions are involved, and can figure, algebraically, where two lines cross. She can combine polynomials and use the distributive property.

She will do fine in high school math. Her math skills, however, are tentative. \_\_\_\_\_ would certainly benefit from continued tutoring throughout the summer.

## Science

The Students practiced the skills necessary for scientific thought while:

- Investigating how a cell phone works
- Exploring the different physical principals involved in constructing a bridge so that it can hold the most weight
- Testing different household chemicals to see which are acids or bases then using the chemicals mixed with a buffer to tie dye handkerchiefs different colors
- Taking on roles in a mock trial over deforestation which enabled students to examine evidence closely and look at both sides before making any judgments on a case
- Investigating the forces acting on a hot air balloon, and the effects of heat on a gas
- Conducting various experiments with water and recording the results. Then writing a scientific lab

report to show the information collected and any conclusions made

- Exploring the science of sound waves and making a drum
- Examining the physical characteristics of both predators and prey by taking part in an simulation that involved collecting essential requirements for survival
- Dissecting a Shark and a Sea Star and identifying the internal anatomy of both
- Using food products to design an edible volcano which included identifying all the parts of the volcano
- Studying the behavior of a sow bug by designing an experiment to determine what types of environments they prefer.
- exploring the motion of physical objects e.g. distance, direction, speed through the design of a rocket.
- examining a stream by taking measurements using thermometers, testing the pH and making observations to determine its health
- Investigating a crime scene by exploring the forensic science that is involved in solving a crime.

\_\_\_\_\_ has shown that she understands Science concepts very well. She is always an asset in all class projects and is knowledgeable during class discussions. During the semester, the students had to do lab report based on an experiment they performed in class. \_\_\_\_\_'s lab report was very detailed and had an excellent discussion section, which showed she clearly understood the concepts of the experiment and came up with some intelligent conclusions. She was deeply engaged in the dissection of the shark, and was very interested in the whole process.

### **Approaches to Work**

\_\_\_\_\_ always works hard to do a good job. She should be very proud of her work, and everything that she has accomplished. She takes responsibility for her own work in an impressive way. One day \_\_\_\_\_ was having trouble with the copying machine. I looked at her once, and she was pressing various buttons. A few minutes later, she was opening and checking the paper. She then proceeded to check the cable going to the computer. Her intention to get that machine working was palpable. She went at it intently and with good humor. That sort of dedication will serve her well in high school.

\_\_\_\_\_ is still working to develop a system to help her remember all of her work. When her work is so thoughtful and so well done, it is unfortunate that it is sometimes forgotten at home.

### **Additional Comments**

It has been such a pleasure to work with \_\_\_\_\_. She has learned so much, and has become so strong and confident. I can't wait to see what she does in the world! I am sure that it is going to be beautiful, and I couldn't be more proud of her.