Patterns: A Cross-curricular Thematic Unit

Evaluation Strategy

In the primary grades summative and formative assessments often take the form of observation, and are recorded with anecdotal notes. Other assessment strategies that will be used throughout this unit will require students to write, draw, or create a finished product to show what they have learned.

During readers’ and writers’ workshops, the teacher holds daily conferences with individual students or small focus groups of students who are working on a particular skill. During the conference the teacher records notes on the students’ abilities, as well as what s/he wants the student to work on. During the next conference (formal or informal), the teacher can refer to notes to check each student’s progress. When doing Word Work, students will demonstrate their learning by manipulating letters and word parts, and actively participating in movement activities built into the lessons.

Much of the math curriculum incorporates hands-on activities, which allow students to explore and manipulate materials to make the learning more meaningful. Assessment strategies will include paper/pencil, modeling, and one-on-one assessment which is built into the Everyday Math program.

During art, students will have many opportunities to apply their understanding of pattern concepts through a variety of artistic creations in 2 and 3 dimensions. Some of these will be used for assessment purposes.

Science, and music curriculum, as well as movement activities provide time for students to explore, investigate, and practice applying pattern concepts. Kindergarteners are just beginning to critically think about the changing seasons, and can offer observations about different months of the year. Music time provides a time for learning that doesn’t feel like learning, yet allows students to make connections to reading and math. Observations can be made through movement activities that accompany movement or stand on their own. Students can demonstrate their abilities to copy, extend, or create their own movement or musical patterns.