

SCALED Curriculum Overview

MA Framework Connection

S
STEM

Our program offers a variety of interactive STEM activities, designed to engage students in critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. These activities promote scientific inquiry and mathematical reasoning while aligning with the Massachusetts STE standards. Students explore real-world applications of STEM concepts, fostering curiosity and innovation.

The STEM-focused activities in the SCALED curriculum align with the Massachusetts STE standards, providing students with hands-on learning experiences that enhance their understanding of scientific and mathematical concepts. Students engage in inquiry-based projects that promote problem-solving, collaboration, and critical thinking - skills essential for future success in STEM fields.

C
Career Connected
Learning

SCALED introduces students to the world of work through activities that connect classroom learning to real-world careers. By exploring different professions and learning essential skills for the future, students develop an understanding of how their education translates into career opportunities. This aligns with Massachusetts' goal of preparing students for success in both academic and professional pathways.

The SCALED curriculum's emphasis on career exploration helps students understand how academic learning connects to real-world professions. This supports Massachusetts' goal of preparing students for future academic and career success by introducing them to the world of work early on and encouraging them to think critically about their future paths.

A
Arts & Crafts

The program encourages creative expression through arts and crafts, providing students with opportunities to explore their artistic abilities while developing fine motor skills and problem-solving techniques. These activities support the Massachusetts Arts Curriculum

Through arts and crafts activities, students develop creativity, fine motor skills, and the ability to work collaboratively—skills that align with the Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Frameworks. These activities provide students with opportunities for self-expression, which enhances their social and emotional development.

L
Literacy

We emphasize the importance of literacy development through a variety of reading, writing, and storytelling activities. These exercises help students build their vocabulary, comprehension, and communication skills, aligning with the Massachusetts ELA standards. By fostering a love for reading and writing, we support the continued growth of literacy both in and out of the classroom.

The focus on literacy in the SCALED curriculum supports the Massachusetts ELA standards by encouraging reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and effective communication skills. Through engaging stories, writing exercises, and group discussions, students develop the literacy skills necessary for success in both school and life.

E
Education

YMCA programs help students build confidence to become active learners both in and out of the classroom. From homework help to spellings bees and more, the Y helps kids love learning.

Our program supports the academic, social, and emotional development of elementary students, ensuring that they are well-prepared for future success. We provide students with a comprehensive, enriching experience that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and global awareness.

D
Diversity &
Global Learning

Our program includes activities that foster an understanding of different cultures, global issues, and perspectives. Students gain a broader worldview and develop empathy and respect for others. This focus on diversity aligns with the Massachusetts History and Social Science frameworks, which emphasize cultural awareness and global citizenship.

By promoting cultural awareness and global learning, the SCALED curriculum helps students understand the interconnectedness of the world and respect diverse perspectives. This aligns with the History and Social Science frameworks in Massachusetts, which focus on teaching students to appreciate and engage with people from different cultures and backgrounds.



SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2:10-2:25	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE
	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDANCE
2:25-3:00	SCALED: Floating Lanterns	SCALED: Paper Chain Stem Challenge	CHOICE STATIONS	SCALED: Balance it Out	FREE CHOICE FRIDAY
	MOVEMENT: Gaga	MOVEMENT: Capture the Flag	MOVEMENT: Knockout	MOVEMENT: Flag Football	MOVEMENT: Free Choice Friday
3:00-3:25	SNACK	SNACK	SNACK	SNACK	SNACK
	SCALED: Beware the Kraken	SCALED: Mermaid Tail Mosaics	CHOICE STATIONS	SCALED: The Pieces of My Heart	FREE CHOICE FRIDAY
3:30-4:15	MOVEMENT: Fishy Cross My Ocean	MOVEMENT: Free Choice	MOVEMENT: Capture the Flag	MOVEMENT: Four Corners	MOVEMENT: Free Choice Friday
	SNACK	SNACK	SNACK	SNACK	SNACK
Early Pick Up Time: 4:30					
4:15-5:15	CHOICE: Arts & Crafts or Movement	CHOICE: Arts & Crafts or Movement	CHOICE: Arts & Crafts or Movement	CHOICE: Arts & Crafts or Movement	CHOICE: Arts & Crafts or Movement
5:15-6:00	Creative Stations	Creative Stations	Creative Stations	Creative Stations	Creative Stations
Late Pick Up Time: 6:00					

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

The YMCA integrates the Harmony SEL Curriculum into its afterschool programs to foster social-emotional learning (SEL), helping children build empathy, self-regulation, teamwork, and communication skills in an inclusive environment. As part of our paid SCALED YMCA curriculum, all children benefit from a structured approach to personal and social development.

To meet the Department of Early Education and Care's SEL assessment requirement, our YMCA conducts two annual CASEL 5 Assessments, measuring self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Lead staff use these results to support children's growth, collaborate with families and schools, and provide referrals when needed.

Positive Behavior Guidance Frameworks

Youth Development training is at the core of our approach, providing staff with the skills to foster developmental relationships and nurture each child's potential. Our Positive Behavior Guidance training focuses on the 3 B's:



This approach helps staff set clear expectations for behavior, teach conflict resolution, and guide children toward making positive choices. This holistic training ensures that our afterschool program is enriching and supportive, aligning with the same philosophy of the Georgetown Public Schools. Together we ensure all students feel welcomed, represented, and that they truly belong.

CHILD GUIDANCE PLAN

The YMCA fosters a supportive, inclusive after-school environment where all children can thrive. Our Child Guidance Plan helps students follow directions, adapt to transitions, and manage sensory input.

For children facing challenges, we collaborate with families to develop individualized strategies. We regularly review policies, monitor behavioral data, and strictly prohibit corporal or severe punishment. Parents are encouraged to partner with staff to support positive behavior. See **Appendix 3** for the Child Guidance and Inclusion Plan.

As a working mom, having after school is critical and I really appreciate that the girls have a space where they can hang with their friends and be productive. They love all of the teachers and the special attention you each give. Thank you for all you do!

- Caroline & Eliza W's Family

SCHOOL RULES

The YMCA will work closely with GPS to adhere to all school and district rules and policies. YMCA staff communicate daily with school personnel, including teachers, principals, and adjustment counselors. YMCA's educator onboarding will include a review of the **Georgetown Public School Code of Conduct and Student Handbook**.



Impact Report on the SCALED Learning Framework's Before and After School Enrichment Program

Overview: The SCALED Learning Framework is a comprehensive before and after school enrichment program designed by Y-USA in collaboration with Elevate Curriculum Solutions. SCALED stands for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), Career-Connected Learning, Arts & Crafts, Literacy, Education, and Diversity & Global Learning. This curriculum aims to foster holistic development in school-aged children, promoting both academic growth and social-emotional skills. The following report outlines the key impacts of the program based on its components and its benefits for children, families, and communities.

1. Academic and Cognitive Development

STEM Education: The STEM component of SCALED introduces children to foundational concepts in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through hands-on activities and experiments. This approach not only reinforces classroom learning but also fosters curiosity and problem-solving skills essential for 21st-century careers.

- **Impact:** Children participating in STEM activities demonstrate improved critical thinking abilities and higher engagement in science and math subjects. This early exposure to STEM fields also encourages interest in future STEM-related careers.

Literacy and Education: SCALED integrates literacy activities that focus on reading comprehension, vocabulary building, and creative writing. These sessions are designed to complement school curricula and address specific learning gaps.

- **Impact:** The literacy component has been shown to improve reading skills and language proficiency, contributing to better academic performance and increased confidence in the classroom.

2. Career-Connected Learning and Arts & Crafts

Career Exploration: Career-connected learning introduces students to various professions and career paths, often through guest speakers, field trips, and interactive projects. This

exposure helps students understand the relevance of their education and start setting career goals early on.

- **Impact:** Children engaged in career-connected learning develop a clearer understanding of future career opportunities, which helps them connect their current education with long-term goals.

Arts & Crafts: Artistic activities in the SCALED program encourage creativity and self-expression. Through arts and crafts, children explore different mediums, from painting and sculpture to digital arts, allowing them to develop fine motor skills and aesthetic appreciation.

- **Impact:** Participation in arts and crafts has been linked to improved cognitive development, emotional regulation, and self-esteem. It also provides a creative outlet for children to express their individuality and cultural heritage.

3. Diversity and Global Learning

The SCALED curriculum emphasizes the importance of diversity and global awareness. Activities and discussions are designed to foster an appreciation for different cultures and perspectives, promoting inclusivity and empathy among students.

- **Impact:** Children who engage in diversity and global learning activities show increased cultural competence, empathy, and social skills. These skills are crucial for building a cohesive, respectful community and preparing students to thrive in a diverse, interconnected world.

4. Social-Emotional and Community Impact

Social-Emotional Learning: Through structured social-emotional learning (SEL) activities, the SCALED program helps children develop self-awareness, self-regulation, and interpersonal skills. These competencies are essential for academic success and overall well-being.

- **Impact:** SEL activities reduce behavioral issues and improve students' ability to manage stress and form healthy relationships. This, in turn, creates a positive learning environment and reduces the need for disciplinary actions.

Community Engagement: The program fosters a sense of community by involving families and local organizations in the learning process. Events, volunteer opportunities, and family engagement activities help strengthen community bonds.

- **Impact:** Community involvement in the SCALED program leads to stronger support networks for children and families. It also promotes civic engagement and a sense of responsibility among participants.

5. Support for Families and Schools

The SCALED Learning Framework provides much-needed support for working families by offering safe, structured, and enriching environments for children outside of school hours. This program also alleviates some of the pressure on schools by extending learning opportunities beyond the traditional classroom setting.

- **Impact:** Parents report higher satisfaction and lower stress levels due to the reliable and enriching care provided by the program. Schools benefit from reduced absenteeism and improved student performance, as children who participate in quality afterschool programs are more likely to attend school regularly and perform better academically.

Conclusion

The SCALED Learning Framework offers a robust, multifaceted approach to child development that goes beyond academics to include career readiness, social-emotional learning, and community engagement. Its diverse curriculum is designed to meet the needs of children, families, and communities, making it a valuable asset for any YMCA afterschool program. By fostering a love for learning and equipping children with the skills they need for future success, the SCALED program makes a significant positive impact on the lives of its participants.



at least 3 days prior to leading.

Submit Lesson Plan Feedback



using the QR Code.



SCALED LEARNING™

LESSON PLAN

Review this lesson plan

LESSON NAME: (What is the name of the activity?) Sequin Mermaid Tail Mosaics	TIME REQUIRED: 30 – 60 minutes	AGES: All
SCALED LEARNING FRAMEWORK ELEMENTS: (STEM, Career Connected Learning, Arts, Literacy, Education, Diversity and Global Learning, etc.) • Arts Education and Exploration		
STANDARDS ADDRESSED: (Common Core State Standards; Next Generation Science Standards; National Core Art Standards) Arts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.• Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.• Refine and complete artistic work.		
LESSON OBJECTIVE: (What youth should get from this activity, what they should achieve?) Youth will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design and create a mermaid tail mosaic using sequins and paper tiles.• Explore color patterns and gradients to mimic the iridescent look of mermaid tails.• Express creativity while working on a detailed, reflective art project.		
MATERIALS NEEDED: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mermaid tail templates (printed on cardstock or heavy paper)• Cardstock or heavy paper• Sequins in various colors and sizes• Pre-cut paper or foam tiles (1/2-inch squares in iridescent and pastel colors)• Glue sticks or craft glue• Markers or crayons (optional, for coloring background areas)• Glitter glue (optional, for extra sparkle)• Plastic trays or bowls to organize sequins and tiles	PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Print mermaid tail templates.• Organize sequins and tiles by color in small trays or bowls.• Prepare a sample mosaic for inspiration.• Cover workstations with tablecloths or paper for easy cleanup.	

PART ONE:

SAY: Mermaids are known for their beautiful, shimmering tails that sparkle under the water. Today, we're going to create our own mermaid tails using sequins and colorful tiles to make them shine just like the ones in our imaginations!

ASK & CONNECT (prepare opening ideas to connect lesson to youth's prior experience or prior session) • Have you ever imagined what it would be like to be a mermaid or see one in the ocean?
• What colors do you think would look amazing on a mermaid's tail?
• Have you ever seen a mosaic before? How do all the little pieces work together to create a picture?

What key skills will I need to be

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PART TWO:

(What are the steps for youth to complete this activity?)
Highlight steps when youth have a choice.

1. Provide each child with a mermaid tail template.
2. Encourage them to sketch a rough design or choose their color scheme before starting.
3. Begin applying glue to small sections of the tail template.
4. Attach sequins and tiles in a pattern, starting from the bottom of the tail and working upward. Suggest overlapping sequins slightly to create a layered, scale-like effect.
5. Use glitter glue to outline sections of the tail or add accents between the tiles and sequins.
6. For younger kids, focus on simpler designs with larger tiles and fewer sequins.
7. Once the mosaic is complete, children can color or decorate the background of the template if time allows.
8. Allow the glue to dry and display the tails on a bulletin board or window to catch the light.

prepared to model or teach?

- *How to arrange sequins and tiles for a balanced and visually appealing design.*
- *Proper use of glue to secure small decorative pieces without excessive mess.*

ASK DURING

(open-ended questions for during activity)

- How are you deciding which colors to use next in your design?
- What makes your mermaid tail unique?
- If your mermaid tail had magical powers, what would they be?

SITE SPECIFIC (complete prior to lesson delivery)

Leadership (How can youth help lead?)

Choices (What content or process choices are there?)

How will I promote exploration? How will I

		nurture creativity?
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PART THREE:

REFLECT

- What was your favorite part of creating your mermaid tail mosaic?
- How did the colors and materials you chose affect the way your tail looks?
- If you could design another tail, what colors or patterns would you try?

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (Select how activity will be shared):

- ☐ Invitation: During activity, invite families to join as they are picking up their child. ☐ Conversation: Draw caregivers' attention to their youth's contribution at pick up and explain their child's positive contributions to the final product or process.
- ☐ Communication (written): Photos or written Staff or Youth recap for upcoming newsletter or email.

		SES - February Enrichments					
		Upper SES					
		Blue		Purple		Green	
		Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 1	Activity 2
Week 1							
MONDAY	3	Celebrity Dodgeball Organized Physical Activity	Side Playground (Gaga/ 4 Square)	Celebrity Dodgeball Organized Physical Activity	Front Playground	Gym (Knockout/ Capture the Flag)	Circle Birds Art Project
TUESDAY	4	World Cup Soccer-Gym	Capture the Flag-Gym	Paper Chain STEM Challenge	Balance It Out STEM Project	Bombardment-Gym Game	How Puzzling STEM Project
WEDNESDAY		Sarah Clubs Wednesday					
	5	How Puzzling STEM Project	Paper Chain STEM Challenge	Celebrity Dodgeball Organized Physical Activity	Side Playground (Gaga/ 4 Square)	How Puzzling STEM Project	Balance It Out STEM Project
THURSDAY	6	World Cup Soccer-	Front Playground	Side Playground (Gaga/ 4 Square)	Striker Ball Organized Physical Activity	Gym (knockout/ Capture the Flag)	Side Playground (Gaga/ 4 Square)
FRIDAY	7	Brick By Brick STEM Activity	Side Playground (Gaga/ 4 Square)	Bridge ball Organized Physical Activity	How Puzzling STEM Project	Celebrity Dodgeball Organized Physical Activity	Celebrity Dodgeball Organized Physical Activity
Week 2							
MONDAY	10	Free Choice- Gym	Capture the Flag-Gym	Brick By Brick STEM Activity	Bombardment-Gym Game	Bridge ball Organized Physical Activity	Gym (knockout/ Capture the Flag)
TUESDAY	11	Paper Chain STEM Challenge	Brick By Brick STEM Activity	Snowball War - Gym	Celebrity Dodgeball Organized Physical Activity	Hoop Glider STEAM Project	Side Playground (Gaga/ 4 Square)
WEDNESDAY		Sarah Clubs Wednesday					
	12	Bridge Ball Organized Physical Activity	Scavenger hunt	Paper Chain STEM Challenge	Side Playground (Gaga/ 4 Square)	How Puzzling STEM Project	World Cup Soccer-Gym
THURSDAY	13	Simple paper stem	Side Playground (Gaga/ 4 Square)	Celebrity Dodgeball Organized Physical Activity	Balance It Out STEM Project	Balance It Out STEM Project	Side Playground (Gaga/ 4 Square)
FRIDAY	14	Side Playground (Gaga/ 4 Square)	Blow Paint Monsters Art Project	Gym- Camp Games	Spoon Bugs Art Project	Side Playground (Gaga/ 4 Square)	Celebrity Dodgeball Organized Physical Activity
Week 3							
MONDAY	17	VACATION WEEK					
TUESDAY	18						
WEDNESDAY	19						
THURSDAY	20						
FRIDAY	21						
Week 4							
MONDAY	24	How Puzzling STEM Project	Gym (knockout/ Capture the Flag)	World Cup Soccer-Gym	Gym (knockout/ Capture the Flag)	Bombardment-Gym Game	Free Choice- Gym
TUESDAY	25	Side Playground (Gaga/ 4 Square)	Balance It Out STEM Project	Hoop Glider STEAM Project	Circle Birds Art Project	Capture the Flag-Gym	Balance It Out STEM Project
WEDNESDAY		Sarah Clubs Wednesday					
	26	Side Playground (Gaga/ 4 Square)	How Puzzling STEM Project	Brick By Brick STEM Activity	World Cup Soccer-Gym	Blow Paint Monsters Art Project	Striker Ball Organized Physical Activity
THURSDAY	27	Paper Chain STEM Challenge	Hoop Glider STEAM Project	Bridge ball Organized Physical Activity	Capture the Flag-Gym	World Cup Soccer-Gym	How Puzzling STEM Project
FRIDAY	28	Front Field or Gym	Celebrity Dodgeball Organized Physical Activity	How Puzzling STEM Project	Free Choice- Gym	Bridge ball Organized Physical Activity	Capture the Flag-Gym