In Geneva, students learn in a literacy-rich environment that is designed to provide them with strong content knowledge and critical-thinking skills. Our instructional program is based upon the *new Illinois Learning Standards*. Below you’ll find information (adapted from Fountas and Pinnell’s Continuum of Literacy) about both the instructional strategies used by teachers and the specific skills we are building in our students.

Instructional Continuum:

- **Interactive Read-Aloud and Literature Discussion**: Students engage in deep discussion and communication about texts.
- **Shared Reading and Performance Reading**: Students read together and reflect on the meaning of a shared reading text.
- **Writing About Reading**: Students extend their textual understanding by writing in a variety of genres.
- **Writing**: Students compose and write their own thinking for different audiences.
- **Verbal, Visual, and Technological Communication**: Students communicate their own ideas and thinking by using a variety of discussion, presentation, and technology-based approaches and tools.
- **Phonics, Spelling and Word Study**: Students learn about the relationship between sounds, letters, and the structures of words, which provide the foundational building blocks of strong readers.
- **Guided Reading**: Students work with teachers in a small-group setting in which the teacher provides explicit instruction on reading skills and strategies.