



PROGRAM OF STUDY

Lower School

Our Mission

Engaging global learners in an education that values them as individuals, integrates their passions and pursuits into academic and career pathways, and fosters inquiry, growth, mastery, purpose, and independence.

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3rd Grade

MATH

This research-based course focuses on computational fluency, conceptual understanding, and problem solving. Students will review addition and subtraction with models, and then will learn what multiplication and division means before practicing finding products and quotients with single-digit multipliers and divisors. Students will learn about volume, weight, and time as well as finding the area and perimeter of common shapes. Students will end the course by learning basic elementary statistical ideas within a financial lesson.

SCIENCE

This research-based course provides structured lessons designed to introduce students to general science principles in a variety of science disciplines. Students study topics in earth/space science including our solar system, the water cycle, and volcanoes. In environmental science, students look at food chains. Students study plants and animals, and their differences, as part of the biology topics. Students finish up looking at the physical science topics of matter, force, energy, sound, and light.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

3rd Grade Health and Wellness helps young learners establish a basic understanding of the aspects of health. Students focus on the various aspects of their health and how they can make healthy choices. Topics of study include mental, emotional, family, and social health; growth and nutrition; personal health and safety; drugs and disease prevention; and community and environmental health.

4th Grade

ENGLISH

This course integrates reading, writing, speaking, listening, and the study of vocabulary and grammar in a way that engages today's learners and supports them in building a broad and diverse set of literacy skills. Students study classic literature as well as more contemporary forms, including media and multimedia products. Writing assignments in semester A focus on narrative and persuasive modes and emphasize the use of reasoning and details to support opinions. Each writing assignment spans several lessons and guides students through a writing process that begins with prewriting and ends by emphasizing one or more aspects of conventions of standard written English. Students also learn how to participate in collaborative discussion and peer review sessions. In each lesson, engaging and relevant models and step-by-step instruction guide students toward mastery and appreciation of 21st-century communication in all its forms and functions.

Note: Offline printable activities are included within this course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In this course, learners will use their understanding of social studies skills to explore their local states and communities. Learners will also research local animals and gain an understanding of local Native American grounds in their part of the country. This course walks students through the research and report writing steps that will be vital to their continuation of social studies. They will continue to focus on their individual states as they do projects based on local geography, state capitals, as well as nearby natural wonders and landforms. The course uses video, enrichment activities, and project-based learning to enhance the student's social studies skills.

Note: Offline printable activities are included within this course.

MATH

This research-based course focuses on computational fluency, conceptual understanding, and problem solving. Students will learn addition and subtraction with fractions and decimals and then will use multiplication and division to solve problems involving numbers up to the thousands place. Students will learn the names of various addition and multiplication properties. Students will be introduced to formal geometry by learning various terms and how to measure an angle. Students will also start to learn algebraic ideas including the idea of a variable and how to use it to solve problems.

SCIENCE

This research-based course provides structured lessons designed to introduce students to general science principles in a variety of science disciplines. Students study topics in biology including types of plants and types of animals. In environmental science, students look at ecosystems. Students study weather, rocks, and the moon as part of earth/space science topics. Students finish up looking at the physical science topics of machines, electricity, and waves.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

4th Grade Health and Wellness helps young learners establish a basic understanding of the aspects of health. Students focus on the various aspects of their health and how they can make healthy choices. Topics of study include mental, emotional, family, and social health; growth and nutrition; personal health and safety; drugs and disease prevention; and community and environmental health.

5th Grade

ENGLISH

This course provides structured lessons on reading, writing, grammar, and research. Students study parts of speech including verbs, adverbs, adjectives, pronouns, and prepositional phrases. The course spends time focusing on plot, setting, themes, and points of view. In addition, students will compare different types of drama and various forms of poetry. They will learn how to read and gather information from scientific articles and historical accounts. Students will go through the research process of planning, gathering information, analyzing information, and then presenting information in a multimedia format.

Note: Offline printable activities are included within this course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

This course combines the study of United States history through the Civil War with a geographical exploration of the United States and what it has to offer. Students will use their understanding of social studies skills and concepts as they study the development of the United States. Video, creative projects involving technology, journaling, and varied assessments will be used throughout the course.

Note: Offline printable activities are included within this course.

MATH

This research-based course focuses on computational fluency, conceptual understanding, and problem solving. This interactive course features new graphics, learning tools, and games; adaptive activities that help struggling students master concepts and skills before moving on. This course builds on student understanding of numbers and operations by making connections between place value, decimals, and fractions; introducing multiplication and division of decimal numbers; and extending understanding of fraction operations. The course enhances fluency of operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals through application in the solving of measurement, geometry, and data-analysis problems using mathematical problem-solving techniques. Students continue to develop algebraic thinking as they work with variables and formulas to solve multistep word problems, they further study patterns and rules, and they are introduced to representing problems graphically using the coordinate plane.

SCIENCE

This research-based course provides structured lessons to introduce students to general science principles in physical science including topics in energy, force, and motion as well as energy resources. Students study topics in earth science related to the structure of the earth and rocks and minerals. Basic chemistry lessons include the periodic table and compounds and mixtures. Students explore astronomy with units in outer space and space exploration. Students learn biology topics such as cells and kingdoms. Lastly, students are introduced to the study of ecology and ecosystems.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

5th Grade Health and Wellness helps young learners establish a basic understanding of the aspects of health. Students focus on the various aspects of their health and how they can make healthy choices. Topics of study include mental, emotional, family, and social health; growth and nutrition; personal health and safety; drugs and disease prevention; and community and environmental health.

World Languages

Grades K–2

SPANISH 1–K–2

This introductory Spanish course, designed specifically for younger students, provides a fun, interactive experience for a student's first exposure to the Spanish language. The content for each unit is based on an authentic story, myth, or legend from Spanish-speaking cultures. This course focuses principally on vocabulary acquisition through stories, games, songs, and practice activities to start students on a path to language proficiency. Students are exposed to the Spanish language and Spanish-speaking cultures in a fun environment where they can explore meanings and begin to express themselves through simple words and phrases.

SPANISH 2–K–2

This second level of the introductory Spanish course continues the exploration of the language through an immersive, fun, and interactive experience designed for younger learners. In each unit, students are immersed in a different world where they meet unique characters who send them on a series of engaging tasks to acquire the vocabulary, learn the culture, and further their acquisition of basic Spanish skills. The content and characters for each unit are based on an authentic story, myth, or legend from Spanish-speaking cultures as well as an authentic song, karaoke, and a culture video. This second-level introductory course continues the focus on vocabulary acquisition and expression through simple words and phrases.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish 1–K–2

FRENCH–K–2

This introductory French course, designed specifically for young learners, provides an interactive experience for a lower school student's first exposure to the French language. The content for each unit is based on an authentic story, myth, or legend from French-speaking cultures. The course focuses principally on vocabulary acquisition, listening, and speaking through stories, games, songs, and practice activities to give students an introduction to the French language and culture. Through this engaging elementary course, students can explore meanings and begin to express themselves through simple words and phrases, building a foundation for lifelong language study.

CHINESE–K–2

This introductory Chinese course, designed specifically for young students, provides an engaging, interactive experience for a student's first exposure to the Chinese language. The content for each unit is based on an authentic story, myth, or legend from Chinese-speaking cultures to introduce students to language and culture. This course focuses primarily on vocabulary acquisition, listening, and speaking through stories, games, songs, and practice activities. Students are exposed to the Chinese language and Chinese-speaking cultures in a fun environment where they can explore meanings and begin to express themselves through simple words and phrases.

Grades 3–5

SPANISH 1

This introductory Spanish course provides a fun, interactive experience for a student's first exposure to the Spanish language. The content for each unit is based on an authentic story, myth, or legend from Spanish-speaking culture. Although the course focuses principally on vocabulary acquisition, basic grammar principles are intuitively grasped through the story, games, activities, songs, and assessments. In addition, students learn to perform simple tasks in connection with each unit's theme. Students engage in language learning in a rewarding, low-stress environment; get comfortable with the sounds and rhythms of Spanish; learn simple Spanish phrases; begin to read, write, speak and listen for meaning in Spanish; and recognize distinctive practices and products of Spanish-speaking culture.

SPANISH 2

This course is the second course in our introductory Spanish courses. It provides a fun, interactive experience for a student's continued exposure to the Spanish language. The content for each unit is based on an authentic story, myth, or legend from Spanish-speaking culture. The course uses each authentic story as a way to help students acquire vocabulary and other key concepts. The course focuses principally on vocabulary acquisition, basic grammar principles, pronunciation, and culture, all of which are grasped through the story, games, activities, songs, and assessments. In addition, students learn to perform simple tasks in connection with each unit's theme. Students engage in language learning in a rewarding, low-stress environment; get comfortable with the sounds and rhythms of Spanish; learn simple Spanish phrases and sentences related to each theme; continue to read, write, speak and listen for meaning in Spanish; and recognize distinctive practices and products of Spanish-speaking culture.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Lower School Spanish 1

FRENCH 1

This introductory French course provides a fun, interactive experience for a student's first exposure to the French language. The content for each unit is based on an authentic story, tale, or legend from French-speaking culture. Although the course focuses principally on vocabulary acquisition, basic grammar principles are intuitively grasped through the story, games, activities, songs, and assessments. In addition, students learn to perform simple tasks in connection with each unit's theme. Students engage in language learning in a rewarding, low-stress environment; get comfortable with the sounds and rhythms of French; learn simple French phrases; begin to read, write, speak and listen for meaning in French; and recognize distinctive practices and products of French-speaking culture.

FRENCH 2

French 2 is the second year of introductory French for students in grades 3-5. The content for each unit is based on an authentic story, myth, or legend from a French-speaking culture. Each story provides a framework for students to learn vocabulary, acquire basic grammar principles, practice pronunciation, and explore cultural topics. Story and song animations, practice activities, games, and assessments encourage students to engage with the French language in a rewarding, low-stress environment. As students move through the course, they will become more comfortable with the sounds and rhythms of French. They will learn simple French phrases related to each theme and continue to read, write, speak, and listen for meaning. They will also come to recognize some of the history, practices, and products that define French-speaking cultures around the world.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Lower School French 1

CHINESE 1

Students are introduced to Mandarin Chinese through a series of dynamic and engaging animations based on authentic Chinese stories. These stories share an aspect of Chinese culture and language from famous myths to historical tales familiar to all Chinese children. Each story introduces key vocabulary words and phrases that are then practiced through a series of interactive games and activities. In addition, other video and media materials are used to further demonstrate the culture and daily life in China. Students are introduced to simplified characters throughout the course and targeted character-based activities help to prepare students how to read and write Chinese characters. Students are challenged with comprehension quizzes at the end of every unit, as well as teacher-graded assignments where they will be able to speak Mandarin Chinese. All of the materials in the course are designed to familiarize students with Chinese culture, characters, vocabulary, and simple phrases.

Electives

Grades 4–5

INTRODUCTION TO CODING—SEMESTER

In Introduction to Coding, students use Coding Adventure, an educational game-based environment where students learn to code in a real programming language. Using CoffeeScript, a real-world programming language, the students learn how to develop and generate unique and personalized apps and websites. Coding Adventure fosters the development of executive functioning skills, such as problem solving and planning as well as geometric and mathematical thinking. Throughout the CodeMonkey program, students learn concepts such as statements and arguments, objects, loops, variables, arrays, functions, conditions, and boolean logic. Coding Adventure provides an easy entry into text-based coding, paving the way for students to proceed to learn advanced subjects in Computer Science, such as game design, algorithms, and data structures.

Microcourses

Microcourses provide students the opportunity to explore interdisciplinary subjects with real-world applications on an abbreviated schedule. During each three-week course, students have the chance to discover, explore, question, propose, and develop projects of their own creation. Our microcourse offerings are designed to prompt students in being purposeful and playful with their learning, in the hopes they discover a passion with the potential to evolve into future academic or professional pursuits.

Grades K–2 Microcourses

K–2 ART ADVENTURES

Students will discover world-renowned artists and the styles that made them famous before trying out these techniques in their own artistic creations. Our youngest students will experiment and have fun while learning various ways and reasons to create art.

K–2 MUSIC ADVENTURES

In this course, students will go on a musical journey as they explore nature and the weather in the great outdoors. Multiple stories, compositions, and hands-on activities woven into lessons with vocabulary and classical artists will help students grow in their discovery and love of music.

Grades 3–5 Microcourses

LS FUNTASTIC FOOD

Funtastic Food is an exciting, hands-on course where students will apply everyday academic skills to real-world cooking fun. Through a guided investigation of the mathematics, science, and nutrition skills used in preparing delicious recipes, students will create a menu meeting various needs to enjoy with their family or friends. They will document what they've tried out and learned on their way to becoming a capable chef through pictures and a journal leading to a final demo video or cookbook for kids.

LS BACK TO LIFE

Welcome, student scientist. You are invited to join us on an experiment, one that could bring the past back to life. Once upon a time, in Earth's very distant past, creatures we can only imagine roamed our planet. Did a woolly mammoth ever graze right in the spot where your house stands today? Can you imagine a one-ton armadillo called the Glyptodon, trundling past you, the ground quaking with each thunderous step? Get ready to research what de-extinction scientists are learning and design a plan to welcome one of these creatures back to the modern day.

LS POWERFUL GRAPHIC NOVELS

In this course, students will discover how authors put the "POW" into their graphic novels by using the POWERful text features and literary devices that make this type of literature so exciting to read. Through guided exploration and hands-on practice, students will investigate how POWERful plots, characters, and script-writing can bring their own stories to life. At the end of this course, students will be amazed by the project that they create showcasing all the POWERful knowledge they gained about graphic novels. Who knows, maybe they will create the next big hit like Marvel or Dogman!

LS THE POWER OF THE SUN

Students will begin by considering the environment where they live: how often does the sun shine there? How do the solar panels they see work to provide electricity to homes and buildings, and why aren't there more solar-powered structures in all communities? They will go on to discover how solar energy works and the ways even kids can harness it in their everyday lives, beginning with how to make solar-powered s'mores in their very own backyard. Students will leave with the understanding that their generation is needed to help solve the problems modern scientists are facing to make this renewable resource a reliable source of energy for the future.