



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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Kindergarten

ENGLISH

This Kindergarten English course will teach students to identify and write all letters, produce letter sounds and also frequently used phonograms. Students will also master weekly sight words and reading and comprehension strategies to grow as readers.

SOCIAL STUDIES

This course introduces students to their place in the community and the responsibilities of being a member of society. Great figures of U.S. history such as Pocahontas, George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln are a focus of learning in the first semester. Students will also learn about everyday heroes, the responsibilities of pet ownership, the importance of rules, table manners, and eating well. Students will practice the skill of retelling stories. They will also be taught to read maps and will learn about U.S. symbols, such as the American flag and the eagle. From there, students learn about holidays with a particular focus on Thanksgiving. They will be introduced to what money is, how money can be spent, the power of buying locally, and the difference between wants and needs.

MATH

During Kindergarten Math students will learn foundational math facts. They will learn a variety of topics, some of which are: counting, comparing sizes, basic measurements, sorting, geometric shapes, and money. Students will have many opportunities to practice these new concepts by interacting with online confirmation exercises and filling out worksheets offline.

SCIENCE

In Kindergarten Science, students in this course will use their senses to explore their world. Students experience nature walks, gardening, and imitative games by exploring varying concepts.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Health & Wellness offers a balanced approach to health instruction that helps students develop a healthy foundation. Students learn important life skills, such as how to manage stress, resolve conflicts, set health goals, and make responsible decisions. The course also focuses on promoting health and preventing disease.

1st Grade

ENGLISH

This 1st Grade English course will teach students to identify and write all letters, produce letter sounds and also frequently used phonograms. Students will also master weekly sight words and reading and comprehension strategies to grow as readers.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students will explore basic fundamentals of social studies including map skills, cardinal directions, and will begin to examine maps of the U.S. and the globe. They will also be introduced to important figures from American history such as Pocahontas, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Clara Barton. A skill that students will practice throughout the course is retelling stories. Students will also make maps of their homes, neighborhoods, as well as a personal timeline. The second semester has a focus on introductory economics. They will study bartering, goods and services, jobs in the community, and how the marketplace works. Another focus is on positive character traits such as honesty, what the aspects of personal responsibility are, and how to help and respect others.

MATH

During the first semester, students will build fluency with basic math facts. They will learn to count to 100, basic addition and subtraction facts, and how to add double-digit numbers. Students will be introduced to such new concepts as word problems, Venn diagrams, and basic geometric concepts. There is an emphasis on learning practical skills such as reading thermometers, looking at maps, and understanding the value of coins. During the second semester, students will begin counting by twos, fives, and tens. They will learn both vertical addition and subtraction. Students are introduced to multiplication and division and the signs used in those operations. They will also study even and odd numbers. Students continue their exploration of geometric shapes through drawing and apply what they learn about shapes by sorting various figures in Venn diagrams. They will also use a balance beam to understand the concept of weight—lighter versus heavier. Throughout the course, students will have multiple opportunities to practice new skills and knowledge through using integrated online practice problems.

SCIENCE

In 1st Grade Science, students in this course will complete projects that are designed to allow for exploration and discovery. Students observe their surroundings and through observations of the natural world conduct inquiries into topics related to their healthy development. Students in this course will complete projects that are designed to allow for exploration and discovery. Students observe their surroundings and through observations of the natural world conduct inquiries into topics related to their healthy development.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Health & Wellness offers a balanced approach to health instruction that helps students develop a healthy foundation. Students learn important life skills, such as how to manage stress, resolve conflicts, set health goals, and make responsible decisions. The course also focuses on promoting health and preventing disease.

2nd Grade

ENGLISH

The 2nd grade English course will teach students to spell and write vocabulary, read more fluently, apply grammar concepts, and participate in handwriting and writing activities through thematic units. Students will also continue to master weekly sight words and reading and comprehension strategies to grow as readers.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students in this course will begin to explore the basic fundamentals of social studies including culture, geography, and economics. They will explore the ancient cultures of China, Africa, and the Celts. Students will learn how to locate boundaries while using a world map. They will develop a rudimentary understanding of map symbols as they locate continents, the equator, and oceans. Students will also learn to identify on a road map where they live, rivers, mountain ranges, and lakes nearby their homes. The second semester begins by introducing learners to economics and the role that money plays in every civilization. Students learn the difference between natural, human, and capital resources. The end of the course asks learners to examine the diversity of the community they live in. They will be asked to recognize the different types of people around them. Students should gain an appreciation for the differences around them and learn how having respect for others and being honest will contribute to society as a whole.

MATH

In this class, students will learn all about math through illustrated, step-by-step lessons that take their skills to surprising new levels. They will see numbers from a whole new point of view, and learn how to use measurements, patterns, shapes, and sizes in all parts of their lives. During the first semester, students will build fluency with basic math facts, and add and subtract within 100 to solve word problems using strategic methods. Students will also manipulate numbers to 1,000 using knowledge of hundreds, tens, and ones. They will also demonstrate arrays with repeated addition. During the second semester, students will use place value to add and subtract within 1,000. Students will measure and compare length and represent it on a number line. They will work with money and time to compare values. Lastly, they will recognize common 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes by specific characteristics.

SCIENCE

2nd Grade Science introduces students to the process of observation and how important it is to the study of science. Learners will identify their five senses and why they are critical to observation. Students will use these observation skills throughout the course as they examine many different types of animals and their environments. Students will come to understand plant and animal rhythms and will perform small experiments with plants. During the second semester, students will come to understand the different groupings of animals including those with vertebrates, invertebrates, warm- and cold-blooded animals, carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores. They will also learn how animals communicate and the relationship between animals and humans. The course ends with the students taking a closer look at the characteristics of reptiles, insects, birds of prey, and fish.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

2nd 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.

3rd Grade

ENGLISH

This course provides structured lessons on reading, spelling, writing, vocabulary, grammar, and cursive handwriting. Students study parts of speech including nouns, verbs, and adverbs. Students will go through the writing process creating a variety of genres, such as narratives, cause/effect, compare/contrast, biographies, and much more. In addition, appropriate spelling words will be studied throughout the course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In this course learners will begin to explore the fundamentals of social studies including geography, civics, and economics. Learners will begin by looking at the beginning of civilization and examining the ancient Hebrew civilization, the Phoenicians, and the Kush tribe of ancient Africa. They will then move on to examining the Native American tribes of the Cherokee, Sioux, and Hopi. Students will also look at the first explorers of the Americas and learn about the beginning of the United States.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

GERMAN 1

The German Elementary 1 course consists of approximately 90 lesson days formatted in an intuitive calendar view, which can be taught over a semester. The content for each unit is based on an immersive authentic German story that ties in the vocabulary from the unit. Although the course focuses principally on vocabulary acquisition, basic grammar principles are intuitively grasped through the story, games, activities, and assessments. Culture lessons are presented through multimedia lessons covering cultural aspects of major German-speaking areas in Europe.

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.



LIMITLESS LEARNING

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