



Intermediate Curriculum

Reading and Language Arts

Class Goals - To develop analytical and interpretive skills in literature.
To develop creative, persuasive, and expository writing skills.
To develop linguistic competency.
To develop listening/oral communication skills.
To develop reasoning skills in the language arts.

Course Description - This year, we will utilize a method of Study developed by The College of William and Mary School of Education. This model is designed specifically for "High-level Learners" and dovetails nicely with the concepts we will be discussing in Social Studies this year of "Spaceship Earth". This Fall, we will explore the concepts of *inciting moments* and *turning points* through Persuasion. In the Spring we will delve deeper and investigate personal narrative, identity and transformation through the lens of Biographies and memoirs. These surveys utilize all genres of literature and various forms including novels, short stories, poetry, and plays, and are intended to generate student thinking about *cross-cultural connections*. Art areas other than Literature are explored as well. Included in the scope of the study will be working with vocabulary, parts of speech, and written expression. All Course Goals are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Students who are high-level learners, grades 4-6.

In addition to our explorations of literature, students will also attend to spelling and grammar patterns of English, as well vocabulary and the origins and etymology of English words.

Mathematics

4th

- Place Value, Rounding and Algorithms for Addition and Subtraction
 - Unit Conversions and Problem Solving with the Metric Measurement
 - Multi-Digit Multiplication and Division
 - Angle Measure and Plane Figures
 - Fraction Equivalence, Ordering and Operations
 - Decimal Fractions
 - Exploring Measurement with Multiplication
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5th

- Place Value and Decimal Fractions
- Multi-Digit Whole Number and Decimal Fraction Operations (Add, Subtract, Multiply, Divide)
- Addition and Subtraction of Fractions
- Multiplication and Division of Fractions and Decimal Fractions
- Addition and Multiplication with Volume and Area
- Problem Solving with the Coordinate Plane
- 6th grade topics as time allows

Science

Science Investigation and Reasoning

- Safety
- Experimental Design
- Tables, Graphs and Charts
- Scientific Reasoning

Force, Motion and Energy

- Experimenting with Force
- Uses of Energy
- Circuits and Electricity
- Magnetism
- Light
- Electricity conductors and insulators
- Forms of energy
- Energy transformations
- Potential and kinetic energy
- Changes in force and motion
- Incline planes and pulleys

Matter and Energy

- Classifying Matter
- Properties of Water
- Changes from heat
- Density
- Minerals
- Metals, non- metals, and metalloids

Earth and Space



- Gravity
- The sun and water cycle
- Weather and climate
- Organism and environments
- Carbon Dioxide and Oxygen cycle

Social Studies

Class Goals -

To develop an understanding of the concept of cause and effect and its relationship to events and eras in history.

To develop reasoning skills with application to social studies.

To develop interpersonal and social group process skills.

To develop skills in historical analysis and primary source interpretation.

To develop an understanding of the causes of major historical events, influential individuals of the period, and the complex reasons for outcomes.

Course Description - Students will understand and look for patterns in culture and historical events. In the scope of history, there are events that initiate changes in how human beings relate to one another. These ways of relating take many forms and involve the most basic of human characteristics. Where we chose to live determines much about how we live our lives and in turn, how cultures and civilizations thrive or decline. Modern human beings left Africa and as nomads, spread across the globe. As human beings developed agriculture and trade, civilizations developed. Resources are limited and this influences our perceptions of ourselves as members of the larger world. What is it which inspires people to migrate, navigate, and settle in new places? How do we handle over-crowding and limited resources? Students will develop an understanding of the relationships between person and place, and how those relationships affect changes of historical proportion. Although our perspective is through the lens of Texas History, we consider other points of view, understanding that we are citizens of a larger planet.

This "Spaceship Earth" year moves our studies into the history of Texas after the American Civil War, and into the modern age. This year, we will be pulling our study from various texts. We will utilize a method of Study developed by The College of William and Mary School of Education. This model is designed specifically for "High-level Learners" and relates well to the concepts we will be discussing in Language Arts this year of "Spaceship Earth". Texts utilized include, but are not limited to: We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution, developed by the U.S. Department of Education; A Gentle Tour Through Texas History, by Jodi Guerra; and A History of U.S., from Oxford Press.



Foreign Language

- Immersive French/Spanish Language - Class Time is Predominantly Conducted in French/Spanish
 - Intermediate proficiency in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing
 - Focus on Verb Tenses and Utilizing Proper Gender with Nouns/Articles
 - Respond Verbally and in Writing in French/Spanish (As Much As Possible)
 - Common Expressions, Scenario Based Vocabulary
 - Reading Fluency and Comprehension with Authentic, Age Appropriate Literature
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