



# Harford Day

SCHOOL

## Curriculum Guide

2016 - 2017

*Founded 1957*  
*Association of Independent Maryland Schools*  
*National Association of Independent Schools*  
*Accredited by the State of Maryland*

## K-PREP

Learning through joy is K-Prep's focus as children participate in a warm and accepting atmosphere. The K-Prep environment is rich, varied, and intellectually stimulating. K-Prep focuses on building the lifelong skills of respect, kindness, patience, cooperation, manners, and tolerance. The academic curriculum prepares the children for Kindergarten with a foundation of basic readiness skills including language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, geography, and handwriting. Children are learning Spanish and have numerous opportunities to explore the arts. Field trips and special events have included a fire station, orchard, [Baltimore Zoo](#), stage performance, visiting puppeteer, guest readers, and pajama party. K-Prep and Kindergarten children have the opportunity to come together as a community for morning gathering and special assemblies on Friday afternoons.

### Language Arts

Ongoing

Levis/Renard

#### **Reading/Literature**

Oral expression, verbal interaction, recitation, listening, comprehension, recall, visual and auditory memory and discrimination, rhyming patterns, picture clues, predicting outcomes, sequencing, parts of a book, parts of a story and enjoyment of good literature. Left to right progression, top to bottom orientation. Children are encouraged to take home beginning readers and classroom books for enjoyment.

Projects include: ABC animal book.

#### **Phonics**

Recognition of letter shapes and sounds.

#### **Grammar**

Correct usage in everyday speech.

#### **Creative Writing**

We celebrate the children's drawings and interpretations. We help children discover that the written word is a form of personal expression. Beginning writings include invented spelling and personal signs and messages to convey thoughts, feelings, and interests. Our class mascot's journal (stuffed animal) is written at home with parents and shared in school with the class.

#### **Vocabulary**

Developed through conversation, special focused activities and literature. Daily "Word Bird's" word.

Texts: Big Books  
Alphabet Stories

### Mathematics

Ongoing

Levis/Renard

Hands-on exploration, geometric shapes, counting, number recognition (0-20) and writing numbers 0 - 20, numeration, math vocabulary, set concepts, patterns, measurement, graphing, observing, describing, comparing, classifying, predicting, estimating, spatial relations, concept of time, calendar, basic concepts of addition and subtraction. Children who have mastered these concepts are challenged with enriching activities.

**Social Studies/History**

Ongoing

Levis/Renard

Children are encouraged to become caring, considerate, and responsible individuals who have respect for themselves and others around the world; global consciousness, International Day, Chinese New Year, holidays, national symbols and heroes; patriotism. Native Americans/Pilgrims.

Projects include: Halloween costume figure, student created book of American heroes and symbols, and Family Tree

Text: Appropriate story and resource books

**Geography**

Ongoing

Levis/Renard

Introduction to the globe in conjunction with Christopher Columbus and the Pilgrims' journey; introduction to the United States map, highlighting locations around the world that are meaningful to the students; locations discussed in literature, social studies, and science.

**Science**

Ongoing

Levis/Renard

Discover our world and wonder about it (observe, discuss, manipulate, compare, predict, experiment). Living things, (plants and animals), weather/seasonal changes, conservation and recycling, nutrition, caves, insects, class pets (guinea pigs.)

**Technology Studies**

1 time a week and ongoing

Levis/Renard/Schoene

Students are exposed to proper care and use of computers, equipment and software. The students begin to explore opening and closing programs, word processing, and web navigation. Students develop stronger fine motor skills through the use of the computer, iPad and iPod Touch.

Programs include: *Pixie, Jump Start Kindergarten* and various educational web resources.

**Handwriting**

Ongoing

Levis/Renard

Pencil hold, kinesthetic movement in rice, sand, finger paint, shaving cream, chalk, etc. Children are introduced to the D'Nealian style as they study each letter of the alphabet and numbers to twenty.

**Language: Spanish**

2 times a week

Donnelly

Through the use of music, games, and visuals, including the Promethean Board, flip charts and Spanish web sites, children learn basic greetings, names, colors, numbers, animals, classroom objects, parts of the body, clothing, and sports. They learn songs in Spanish, as well as general cultural knowledge about Spanish-speaking countries.

**Music**

2 times a week and ongoing

Levis/Renard

Through songs, vocal exercises, musical games and movement, children develop accurate singing, a sound sense of rhythm, and expressive sensitivity to music. Instruments of the orchestra are introduced. Performances include songs for the Holiday Program and Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day, and a class Spring musical.

Resources: First Steps in Music, John Feierabend  
"Peter and the Wolf," Sergei Prokofiev

**Art**

2 times a week  
and ongoing

Lyon/Levis/Renard

Art is an integral part of our program. We celebrate the children's self-expression. Children are encouraged to be creative and have many opportunities to choose art materials on a daily basis. Specific projects reinforce the study of letters, numbers, and themes.

**Physical Education**

3 times a week

Farrell/Marr

Introduction to movement education, fundamentals games, and body and spatial awareness. Parachute, bean bag, ball, hoop, jump rope, and scooters activities.

**Library**

1 time a week

Meerholz

Introduction to library, how to handle and care for books properly, check out books. Listen to and enjoy stories and other library experiences.

## KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten program develops intellectual curiosity through positive learning experiences. We emphasize a strong language arts program, ongoing exploration in math and science, creative expression through various art media, and practice in gross and fine motor coordination through play, manipulatives, songs, rhythms, role playing and games. They continue their study of Spanish. Field trips have included working farms and orchards, community services and businesses, National Aquarium, Science Center, plays, and concerts. Kindergarten and K-Prep children develop a positive self image through a social and emotional curriculum. They have the opportunity to come together as a community for regular morning gatherings and on some Friday afternoons when special assemblies are held.

### Language Arts

5 times a week  
3 sections

Crocker / Crawl / Brown

#### **Reading/Literature**

Left/right progression, auditory discrimination and listening, rhyming words, sequencing, comprehension, picture clues, prediction, recall, oral expression, reasoning, focus on memorization of sight words and the enjoyment of poetry, listening and story telling, instilling a natural affinity for the reading process.

#### **Phonics**

Consonant letter sounds, short and long vowels, digraphs, phonemic awareness, blending, decoding, comprehension.

#### **Grammar**

Correct usage in everyday speech, introduction to nouns, verbs and adjectives, capital letters, punctuation through a print rich environment.

#### **Creative Writing**

Development of each child's level of written expression and language experience. The use of class books, individual books, letters, sequence and cards, and journals forge a link between the reading and the writing process.

#### **Vocabulary**

Enhancement of vocabulary as appropriate in all subject areas and daily life.  
Sight word vocabulary developed throughout the year.

#### **Spelling**

Development of invented spelling, progression toward standard spelling and use of high frequency words.

### Mathematics

5 times a week  
3 sections

Crocker / Crawl / Brown

Making math a part of everyday life through hands-on exploration, numeration, shapes, addition and subtraction through 10, measurement, telling time to the hour and half hour, recognizing coins, counting by 1's, 2's, 5's, 10's, graphing, math vocabulary, geometry, calendar, estimation, prediction, comparing, sorting, and classifying.

Text: My Math, McGraw-Hill

**Social Studies/History**

ongoing

Crocker / Crowl

Learning about "me," families, our school community, identifying our country's symbols, holidays, leaders; history of our country's beginnings, Native Americans / Pilgrims; exploring cultures of other countries, fostering character traits of patriotism, honesty, respect, courtesy, loyalty, and cooperation.

**Geography**

ongoing

Crocker / Crowl

Introduction to earth, sea, and air (concrete forms) and gradual introduction to the abstract (globe, maps.) Developing an awareness of geography by identifying visually where we live (Harford County, Maryland, United States) and places that we talk about daily, (trips, Indian homes, annual migration.) Developing an individual mapping quilt for each child to include a map of: my face, my body, my family, my bedroom, my heart, my pet. Integrating literature and story settings on the map.

**Science**

ongoing

Crocker / Crowl

Major animal groups: mammals, reptiles, fish, insects, birds, amphibians; living and non-living things; cycles of growing things; plants; weather; seasonal changes through discussion, exploration and projects. Units include: rainforest, marine mammals and fish, farm, and backyard science.

**Technology Studies**

Ongoing

Crocker / Crowl /  
Brown / Schoene

Students are exposed to proper care and use of computers, equipment and software. Students begin to explore basic, transferable computer skills such as opening and closing programs, saving and printing documents, word processing and web navigation. Students develop stronger fine motor skills through the use of the computer, iPad and iPod Touch.

Programs include: *Pixie, Jump Start Kindergarten* and various educational web resources.

**Handwriting**

5 times a week

Crocker / Crowl

Formation of numbers, upper and lower case manuscript letters, pencil hold, rhythmic movement, patterns, posture, paper slant.

**Language: Spanish**

3 times a week  
2 sections

Donnelly

Through the use of music, games and visuals, the children learn Spanish songs and names, colors, numbers, greetings and phrases, animals, foods, parts of the body, and clothing. They gain a general knowledge of Spanish culture and possess an ability to converse on a general level.

**Music**

2 times a week  
2 sections

Crowl

Through songs, vocal exercises, musical games and movement, children develop accurate singing, a sound sense of rhythm and meter, and expressive sensitivity to music. Instruments of the orchestra and their families are introduced, including a field trip to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Performances include songs for the Holiday Program and Grandparents' and Special Friends' and a class Spring musical.

**Art**

2 times a week / ongoing  
2 sections

Crocker/Crowl/Lyon

Daily and ongoing projects and opportunities to explore color, shape, line, space, using water colors, tempera, clay, markers, chalk, finger paint, Play Doh, glitter, sponge painting, pencils, crayons; linking famous illustrators to their different styles and techniques.

**Physical Education**

3 times a week

Farrell

Introduction to movement education, fundamentals of games, body and spatial awareness. Parachute activities, beanbags, balls, hoops, jump rope, scooters, and balancing activities.

**Library**

1 time a week  
2 sections

Meerholz

Learn and observe library rules and responsibilities, how to handle and care for books properly. Recognize differences in fiction and non-fiction; locate materials in the library; identify parts of a book. Demonstrate an appreciation of books as sources of information and recreation, share and enjoy stories. Participate in storytelling and acting out stories.

## GRADE ONE

First graders are ready for academic challenges and responsibilities. They enjoy a variety of subjects including reading, mathematics, Spanish, art, music, science, social studies, computer, and athletics, some with specialty teachers - in a warm, happy atmosphere. Field trips have included Strasburg Railroad, Fort McHenry, Baltimore Science Center, Longwood Gardens, and the Ladew Topiary Gardens.

### Language Arts

5 times a week  
3 sections

Bedsaul/Dippel/Moscowitz

#### **Reading/Literature**

Instruction is from the Harcourt series (minimum 5 levels) with controlled vocabulary, home readers, big books, trade books, and supplementary classroom materials. Children's literature will include a variety of different genres. These help to increase vocabulary, recognize correct sentence structure, understand expressions, and enjoy good literature. Reading skills taught: word attack, comprehension, expressive oral reading, higher level thinking skills, alphabetizing/study skills. Reading and listening are reinforced via textbooks, audio, games, and hands-on materials.

#### **Phonics**

Phonics includes consonant review, vowels, the teaching of word endings, contractions, possessives, plurals, compound words, and recognition of multisyllable words.

#### **Grammar**

Grammar usage is taught daily. Common and proper nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, punctuation, including commas, quotation marks, and sentence structure are introduced.

#### **Creative Writing**

Writing is connected to language arts and social studies throughout the year, using the Writing Process. Instruction in formal composition includes titles, topic, and supporting sentences. Daily journal writing begins in September.

#### **Vocabulary**

Developed and broadened across the curriculum.

#### **Spelling**

Inventive spelling is acceptable with encouragement to apply phonetic skills for correct spelling.

Texts: Harcourt Trophies Series

### Mathematics

5 times a week  
3 sections

Bedsaul/Dippel/Annen

First Grade Math students learn addition and subtraction facts 1 through 18. They also learn place value to 999. Using these skills, the students learn to add and subtract two and three digit numbers with and without regrouping. They also learn to compare numbers using the mathematical symbols ( $=$ ,  $<$ ,  $>$ ). They also explore fractions of a whole set. Multiplication, reading and interpreting graphs, identifying patterns, learning to identify coins, counting money, and basic geometry focusing on two and three dimensional shapes are also part of the program. Problem solving is an integral part of our daily math program.

Text: My Math, McGraw-Hill



**Social Studies/History**ongoing  
2 sections

Bedsaul/Dippel

Map skills begin this study with an emphasis on continents and oceans. Japan, Mexico, England, African animals, and Washington, D.C. are also studied. Appropriate field trips are planned for various units of study.

Text: Children in Other Lands, Allyn and Bacon

**Science**2 times a week  
2 sections

Annen

The major themes of science studied by HDS students include Classification, Change Over Time, Energy, Engineering Design, Forces and Interactions, Measurement, Problem Solving / Process / Scientific Method, Structure and Function, Systems, and collaborative discovery methods, problem solving strategies, and hands-on explorations. Units incorporating these themes include: What it means to be a scientist, the senses, trees, seasons, weather, light and sound, seeds and germination, insects, and magnets.

**Technology Studies**1 time a week  
2 sections

Schoene

Students are exposed to proper care and use of computers, equipment and software. Using primarily *Pixie*, *Kid Keys*, *Kid Blog*, and various educational web resources, students acquire basic, transferable computer skills such as saving a document, printing to a networked printer, retrieving a saved document, word processing, desktop publishing, blogging, and web navigation.

**Handwriting**ongoing  
2 sections

Bedsaul/Dippel

Letter sizes, form, slant, and spacing are learned and practiced. Capital letters are presented in common-stroke letter groups. Students work to develop a proper pencil hold. Number shapes and correct pencil holds are reinforced.

**Language: Spanish**3 times a week  
2 sections

Donnelly

Using games, music, and a wide variety of visuals and objects, including Spanish web sites and flip charts, children learn Spanish names and greetings, basic phrases, colors, numbers, animals, foods, clothing, classroom objects, days of the week, the calendar, the family, the weather and seasons, sports, and parts of the body. Students learn many songs in Spanish and gain an understanding of the Spanish culture and basic language. They study Puerto Rico and Mexico and do many activities and projects associated with the two countries.



## GRADE TWO

Second graders build on and broaden their basic skills and use these skills to meet new challenges encountered each day. They read various trade books, enjoy creative writing, and explore the concept of communities. Field trips may include the Byrnes Health Education Center, Anita Leight Estuary Center, Theatreworks, Maryland Science Center, Irvine Natural Science Center, Amish Farm, Eden Mill Nature Center, and local farms and businesses.

### Language Arts

5 times a week  
3 sections

Creighton/Rupprecht/Morgan

#### **Reading/Literature**

Language Arts is taught using a thematic approach. Students read trade books relating to various topics. Skills are taught directly from the language curriculum and reinforced by the books being read. Students learn to recognize different genres of literature, as well as literary elements and devices.

#### **Speaking**

Speaking is a major part of the language arts program. Students participate in discussions, oral reading, interviews, poetry recitation, and a theatrical production.

#### **Listening**

Listening is of equal importance. Students listen to meaningful literature, improve their ability to follow oral directions, and practice small group discussion.

#### **Grammar**

Students learn the naming and telling parts of a sentence as well as the four types of sentences used in writing. Appropriate capitalization, punctuation, verb usage, and parts of speech are taught.

#### **Writing**

Students review the writing process which involves prewriting, writing, conferencing, editing, and publishing. Students write journal entries, reading responses, poems, and reports.

#### **Phonics**

Students review and reinforce letter sounds including clusters, blends, and digraphs. Suffixes, prefixes, contractions and plurals are all studied.

#### **Spelling**

The test-study-test method is utilized in the spelling curriculum. Students are given a weekly list of words. Students are responsible for learning the words and transferring the words and spelling rules to their daily writing.

### Mathematics

5 times a week  
3 sections

Creighton/Rupprecht/Annen

Second Grade students review and build on the concepts previously studied. The operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division are presented. We begin by learning place value to the ten thousands and rounding these numbers. Students learn to recognize coins and their value, as well as make change up to \$10.00. Students explore fractions and learn the part of a whole set. In measurement, students learn to measure in both the customary and metric systems. Students also learn to recognize basic geometric shapes and congruency. All topics taught include word problems and application.

Text: My Math, McGraw-Hill

**Handwriting** 2 times a week Creighton/Rupprecht  
2 sections

Students continue to develop correct size, slant, and form of lowercase letters. Continued practice of capital letters are presented in common - stroke letter groups. Students work to develop a proper pencil hold.

**Social Studies** ongoing Creighton/Rupprecht  
2 sections

Students are introduced to American history, geography, and cultural differences. Students study important historical figures and their related periods in history. They learn about the geography and economics of a community. Students are introduced to map and globe reading. They become aware of diverse cultures through the study of the Amish community and ethnic holidays. Emphasis is placed on class discussion and projects. Field trips are planned to enhance the information taught in the classroom.

Text: Harcourt Social Studies: People we Know, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

**Science** 3 times a week Annen  
2 sections

Second graders explore science through observation and experimentation. Children learn about good nutrition by studying the food groups and the food pyramid. The migration and habitats of local waterfowl on the Chesapeake Bay are observed. Students continue to learn about our solar system and distant stars. In late winter, students participate in maple sugaring activities. In the early spring, they study seed germination, growth, and the life cycle of plants. Later in the spring, the process of metamorphosis is taught by observing the life cycle of butterflies in the classroom. The skills required for scientific observation are stressed.

**Computer** 1 time a week Schoene  
2 sections

Students are exposed to proper care and use of computers, equipment and software. There is a strong emphasis on logical thinking, etiquette and manners. They learn to navigate the Mac OSX operating system and grasp the concept of input/output devices and processors. Using primarily *Pixie*, *Typing Agent*, and *Zoombinis* students begin to master basic, transferable computer skills, such as word processing desktop publishing, keyboarding, and web navigation. Internet safety activities for the safe use of communication technologies are introduced in Second Grade.

**Language: Spanish** 3 times a week Donnelly  
2 sections

Using games, music, and a wide variety of visuals and objects, including Spanish websites and flip charts, children learn Spanish names and greetings, basic phrases, colors, numbers, animals, foods, clothing, classroom objects, rooms in a school, days of the week, the calendar, the family, the weather and seasons, sports, emotions, idioms and parts of the body. They learn many songs in Spanish, play games, and gain a general understanding of the Spanish culture. Students study Mexico and its culture. Activities and projects from the text Viva el Español! are used.

**Music** 2 times a week Lewis  
2 sections

Second graders begin a three-year long study of famous composers from the Baroque through the Modern musical periods. Rhythm and basic note identification, reading and performing are taught. Skips and steps in melody are identified. These rhythmic and melodic skills, in addition to learning about basic choreography, are reinforced as the students learn and perfect their

selections for the Holiday program, Second Grade play, and Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day performances.

**Art**

2 times a week  
2 sections

Lyon

Creativity and basic skills are emphasized as the students continue to be exposed to the elements of art: line, shape, space, color, pattern, and texture. Using many medias, these fundamentals become the foundation for more complex thinking, planning and creating throughout the school year. Projects relate to consecutive classroom studies, art appreciation and the study of different cultures.

**Physical Education**

3 times a week  
2 sections

Farrell

Emphasis is placed on teamwork, fitness, fundamental movement skills, cooperative games, body and spatial awareness, and creative rhythms. Students will continue to participate in activities involving jump ropes, hoops and balls, parachutes, beanbags, frisbees, and traditional field and court sports.

**Library**

1 time a week  
2 sections

Meerholz

Second graders reinforce previous skills, such as the use of encyclopedias and dictionaries and are introduced to the automated Library Catalogue System. They select materials appropriate to their reading levels and begin to learn research skills. Students discuss award-winning picture books in an effort to develop a greater appreciation of literature. Participate in the Black-Eyed Susan Book Award program.

## GRADE THREE

Third grade is a transitional year when children become more responsible and independent. They enjoy cooperative learning activities and group projects. They broaden their knowledge of Maryland as well as their knowledge of the United States. Field trips have included Anita Leight Estuary & Nature Center, Annapolis, Maryland Historical Society, Star-Spangled Banner Flag House and the Baltimore Museum of Industry.

### Language Arts

5 times a week  
2 sections

Kamyszek/Kennedy

### **Reading/Literature**

Trade books of various genre are used throughout the year to teach and emphasize these comprehension skills: main idea and details, cause and effect relationships, compare and contrast relationships, predicting outcomes, drawing conclusions, problem and solution relationships, summarizing, reading critically, fact and opinion. Literary skills: story elements, figurative language, dialogue, vocabulary, sound devices (rhyme, alliteration.)

Text: Grammar Workshop, Sadlier & Oxford

Trade books: Various Caldecott Award Books

Narrative:

Sarah, Plain and Tall, Patricia MacLachlan

The Pumpkin Book, Gail Gibbons

To the Point, David Rollins

What Are You Figuring Now, Ferris

Trumpet of the Swan, E. B. White

Sharks, Gibbons

Sunken Treasure, Gibbons

Covered Wagon, Levine

Waterman's Boy, Sharp

Nature

Non-fiction

Biography

Biography

Fantasy

Reading for information

Reading for information

Reading for information

Historical fiction

### **Grammar**

Grammar units are correlated with the spelling units and trade books used in literature classes. These units include sentence sense, types of sentences, subjects and predicates, capitalization, punctuation, parts of speech (nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, and adverbs), sentence and paragraph revision.

### **Creative Writing**

Writing projects are correlated with reading units, and the writing process is emphasized throughout the year. Some works will be published using computers. Journals are written. Projects include writing narratives, letters, poems, advertisements, descriptions and articles that compare.

### **Spelling**

Spelling generalizations, prefixes, suffixes, endings, possessive, contractions, antonyms, synonyms, context clues, and syllabication. Words introduced on Monday with practice work during the week. Words are tested on Friday. The spelling list is from across the Third Grade curriculum.

### **Phonics**

Review of phonetic skills taught in Grade 2: consonants, short and long vowels, syllables, consonant blends and digraphs, word structure, suffixes and prefixes and dictionary skills.

Texts: Grammar Workshop 4, Sadlier & Oxford

Phonics, Steck-Vaughn

Spelling, Steck-Vaughn

**Mathematics**5 times a week  
2 sections

Kamyszek/Kennedy

Third Grade students learn to identify place value to the millions and round these numbers. They also learn to add and subtract multi-digit whole and decimal numbers with regrouping. Multiplication of three-digit multiplicands with two digit multipliers are also taught. Students explore division with two-digit divisors and three-digit dividends. They also explore a brief geometry unit where they learn to identify geometric shapes and design their own tessellations.

Text: My Math, McGraw-Hill**Social Studies/Geography**4 times a week  
2 sections

Kamyszek/Kennedy

The study of the six regions of the United States: location of each region; states in each region; famous places; famous people; geographic "wonders." Map skills; locating states on the U.S. map; distinguishing between a city, a state, a country, and a continent; applying directional words; using map legends and scales; identifying different land forms and different water forms. By the end of the year, the students are asked to identify all the states and capitals on the U.S. map. Study of Maryland: awareness of the beginning of our colony until the present, noting people from Maryland as they connect to the history of the U.S.; geographic features of our state.

Text: My World, Social Studies: Regions of Our Country, Pearson

**Science**3 times a week  
2 sections

Annen

Third Grade Science allows the children to explore thematic units through observation, exploration and the use of technology. Students begin the year exploring geology to gain an appreciation for metamorphic, igneous and sedimentary rocks as well as the rock cycle. Next, they study inventors to gain an appreciation of how inventions have changed our lives today. Through experimentation and research, students create their own inventions. In winter, third graders take on the role of engineers as they learn how ancient civilizations used simple machines to construct amazing architecture. Students learn the laws of motion through experimentation and demonstrations. In early spring, students explore the world of ecology beginning with Earth's major biomes and the ecosystems present in each. Over the course of the year, each student participates in the Wizards of Harford Day program where he or she share an experiment with the class to show his or her understanding of the scientific method.

Classroom resources: Earth Beneath Your Feet, MacMillan/McGraw Hill  
Kids Discover  
Internet

**Computer** 1 time a week Schoene  
2 sections

Students are exposed to proper care and use of computers, equipment and software. There is a strong emphasis on logical thinking, etiquette and manners. They learn to navigate the Mac OSX operating system. Students learn how data is transported through a computer and how various peripherals work together to perform a task. Using primarily *Pixie*, *Typing Agent*, *Timliner*, *Zoombinis* and various educational websites, students begin to master basic, transferable computer skills, such as word processing, desktop publishing, keyboarding, web navigation and creating Quick Time movies. Internet safety activities for the safe use of communication technologies are taught in Third Grade through Common Sense Media.

**Handwriting** Ongoing Kamyszek/Kennedy  
2 sections

Teachers monitor students' use of handwriting skills including: pencil hold, paper placement, formation of letters, joins, patterns; reinforced in language arts, creative writing, spelling, grammar, social studies, science, and math. Reinforcement and remediation is provided as needed.

**Language: Spanish** 3 times a week Donnelly  
2 sections

Students work to achieve a more spontaneous and natural level of greeting and basic conversation; child directed dialogues; pronunciation; introduction to basic reading and writing in Spanish; identify objects; describe people; negation; colors; shapes; basic math; numbers to 100; weather; science experiments; family members; sing and act out songs, recite poems. Students also use Spanish web sites and flip charts to increase learning. Students complete two projects - one on an animal, one about a Spanish-speaking country.

Workbook: Viva el Español!, National Textbook Company

**Music** 2 times a week Lewis  
2 sections

Third graders continue with a three-year long study of famous composers from the Baroque through the Modern musical periods. Rhythm and note-reading skills are continued. Patterns in melody are taught. These rhythmic and melodic skills are reinforced; as is their basic knowledge of choreography, as the students learn and perfect their selections for the Holiday Program, and Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day performances.

**Art** 2 times a week Lyon  
2 sections

Drawing, sculpting, and painting skills are emphasized as the students further examine the elements of art: color, line, shape, space and design. Projects are related to classroom studies, art appreciation, and different cultures.

**Physical Education** 3 times a week Farrell/Marr  
2 sections

Fundamental movement skills, attention to games, body and spatial awareness, creative rhythms and dance. Jump rope activities, hoops, parachute, beanbag, frisbees, hoops and balls, and court games. Introduction to team sports, emphasizing sportsmanship and teamwork.



**Library**

1 time a week  
2 sections

Meerholz

Reinforce previous skills. Locate, read, and enjoy books in fiction collection; locate specific areas of interest in the non-fiction section; locate biographical materials. Distinguish between types of folklore, fable, fairy tale, and tall tale. Use of the automated library catalog system, encyclopedias. Appreciate books as a source of information and pleasure. Begin to evaluate quality in picture books. Participate in a Caldecott unit. Complete a Spanish speaking country research project using print and non-print materials. Read and evaluate picture books for the Black-eyed Susan Book Award Program.

## GRADE FOUR

Fourth graders are active and inquisitive and enjoy a great deal of 'hands-on' activities in all areas. Field trips may include a select drama performance, Philadelphia, Baltimore Symphony, Anita Leight Estuary Center and Chesapeake Bay Foundation Living Classroom. All trips reinforce the fourth grade curriculum. Fourth graders join fifth graders for a weekly "town meeting."

### Language Arts

5 times a week  
2 sections

Gaugh/Westervelt

### **Reading/Literature**

Children's trade books are used in each literature class. Emphasis is on comprehension, reference and study skills, literary skills, vocabulary, and language skills. Students gain an understanding of plot, character development, conflict, and cause/effect as they develop higher level thinking skills. Pleasure reading is encouraged and is done both in the classroom setting and at home.

Trade books may include:

Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary

Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by Bette Bao Lord

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

Newbery Award Books

Ben and Me by Robert Lawson

### **Grammar**

2 - 5 times a week  
3 sections

Sentence structure, parts of speech (nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions), usage (nouns/verbs - irregular plural forms, subject-verb agreement, irregular verb forms) - adjectives (descriptive) - pronouns (subject or object form, possessive form), mechanics (capitalization, punctuation.)

### **Writing**

various times  
3 sections

Many writing activities correlate with other areas of the curriculum: science, social studies, math. Compositions may include paragraphs, essays, poems, descriptions, research papers, biographies, letters, fables, and comparisons. Some assignments are revised and published using computers.

### **Vocabulary**

2 - 3 times a week  
3 sections

Pronunciation, usage, meaning in context and out of context, dictionary skills. Words are chosen from current novels. Students are responsible for word definitions on quizzes.

### **Spelling**

3 - 5 times a week  
3 sections

The spelling program stresses spelling generalizations, sound-letter patterns, syllabication and prefixes. Personal spelling lists are compiled from writing assignments and content areas in fourth grade.

Text: Various resources

**Handwriting**

continuous monitoring

Teachers monitor students' use of handwriting skills including: pencil hold, paper placement, formation of letters, joins, patterns; reinforced in language arts, creative writing, spelling, grammar, social studies, science, and math. Remediation is provided as needed.

**Mathematics**5 times a week  
2 sections

Peck / Westervelt

Place value; add, subtract, multiply, divide whole numbers; add, subtract and multiply, fractions; introduction to decimals; calculations of measurement; geometry. Periodic Big Math; whole group activities such as consumer math, geometry.

Text: My Math, McGraw-Hill

**Social Studies/History/Geography**3 times a week  
2 sections

Ballweber

U. S. History (Native American cultures through the creating of the Constitution), reading graphs and charts, writing outlines and taking notes, and practicing positive citizenship skills. Recalling the 50 states and capitals, major U.S. mountain ranges and rivers, defining geographical terms, reading and drawing maps.

Text: U. S. History: the Early Years, Houghton Mifflin

**Science**4 times a week  
2 sections

Peck

The scientific method is the basis for investigating topics in Chesapeake Bay ecology and conservation, astronomy, and human anatomy. In class activities and experiments, along with field trips to the Chesapeake Bay, and the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center will be used to support and enhance concepts.

Texts: Scott Foresman Science, Pearson/Scott Foresman  
Scott Foresman Activity Book, Pearson/Scott Foresman  
ScienceSaurus, Great Source/Houghton Mifflin

**Language: French or Spanish**3 times a week  
2 sections

Denisyuk/Bowen

Conversation, reading and writing. Topics include greetings, articles of clothing, foods, animals, seasons, numbers, months, days of the week, idiomatic expressions; asking and answering simple questions; using adjectives, prepositions, partitive articles, asking and telling time. Cultural units on France/Spain and French/Spanish speaking countries.

Text: Discovering Languages French, AMSCO School Publications, Inc.

**Music**2 times a week  
2 sections

Lewis

Fourth graders conclude a three-year long study of famous composers from the Baroque through the Modern musical periods. Melodic and rhythmic note reading on the Treble Clef is taught. These rhythmic and melodic reading skills are used, as are their choreography skills, as the students learn and perfect their selections for the Holiday Program.



## GRADE FIVE

Fifth grade is a transitional year personally and academically. The Intermediate teachers, as well as a well designed Health course, help students navigate this time of rapid physical, mental, and emotional growth. To prepare for the challenges of middle school, fifth graders experience an increase in their academic workload, responsibilities, and organizational skills. Fifth graders enjoy individual and group projects that utilize and further develop their critical thinking and research skills. Fifth grade students join the fourth grade students for a weekly "Town Meeting."

### Language Arts

6 times a week  
2 sections

Ballweber / Westervelt

#### **Literature**

In Literature fifth graders explore a variety of material from nonfiction to poetry to mythology. It is a time to strengthen comprehension skills: literal, interpretive, critical, and analytical. The texts used may include some of the following:

Texts: The Book of Three by Lloyd Alexander  
D'Aulaire's Greek Mythology  
realistic fiction  
mystery  
poetry

#### **Grammar**

Grammar skills are emphasized throughout the year in speaking and writing. Topics include, action verbs, direct objects, linking verbs, prepositional phrases, adjective forms; the eight parts of speech; effective word use, run-on sentences, fragments, and dictionary skills.

#### **Composition**

Writing is an important part of the Fifth Grade English curriculum. It integrates concepts and skills studied in literature and grammar. Outlining, research and reference skills aid the student in the writing process. Practice is given to various types of writing such as expository, comparisons and poetry. Emphasis is placed on developing a well written 5-paragraph essay.

#### **Vocabulary**

New words are studied each week through programmed lessons from the vocabulary workbook or selected definitions, synonym, antonym, context, or analogies. Periodic tests.

Texts: Vocabulary Workshop Sadlier-Oxford  
Grammar Workshop Sadlier-Oxford

### Mathematics

5 times a week  
2 sections

Gaugh / Morgan

Math in Fifth Grade stresses proficiency in basic skills and emphasizes problem solving. This includes addition, subtraction, multiplication, division of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, geometry and measurement. Puzzles, games and hands-on projects are used for each unit. Units based on sports, flight, business, board games, and mystery videos provide a unique experience for students in all sections to work together to deepen problem solving skills, critical thinking, and historical perspective.

Text: Glencoe Math Course 1, McGraw-Hill

**History/Geography**4 times a week  
2 sections

Ballweber

Ancient history, including prehistoric man, Sumer and Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, India, Greece, and Rome. Map skills and graphing skills are developed. Research and study skills including note-taking, outlines, oral and written reports.

Text: A Message of Ancient Days, Houghton Mifflin

**Science**4 times a week  
2 sections

Peck

The scientific method is the basis for investigating topics in basic botany; introductory chemistry; energy sources, its uses and conservation; and ornithology. In-class activities and experiments, along with field trips to the U. S. Botanical Gardens and Annie's Playground will be used to support and enhance concepts.

Texts: Scott Foresman Science, Pearson/Scott Foresman  
Scott Foresman Activity Book, Pearson/Scott Foresman  
Science Saurus, Great Source/Houghton Mifflin

**Language: French**4 times a week  
1 section

Denisyuk

Greet/introduce someone and/or oneself; identify ownership; ask/tell date and time; who, what, why; interrogatives; descriptions of people. Discuss food and sports. Express likes/dislikes; agreement/disagreement; location, family relationships. Numbers; the verbs "aller" and "être" in the affirmative and negative form; plural.

Texts: Discovering French, Nouveau, Bleu 1, text and workbook;  
McDougal Littell  
Mabelle la Baleine, Follett  
Trudi la Cane, Follett

**Language: Spanish**4 times a week  
1 section

Bowen

Information on Spanish speaking countries, numbers, dates, identifying classroom objects, describing people, nationalities, time, days, months, weather, families, house, clothes, and songs. Singular verb forms of tener, ser and ar verbs.

Text: Buen Viaje: text, workbook; Glencoe



## GRADE SIX

Sixth grade is the beginning of middle school. Students have an increased work load, have different teachers for each subject, and begin working with a faculty advisor. Students work to acquire organizational skills. Sixth graders take exams in English and math; they participate in the Student Council, dances, and team sports. Field trips have included the Medieval Times and Ashland Nature Center,

### English

6 times a week  
3 sections

Smithwick/Jameson/Way

#### **Literature**

Poetry, short stories, novels, plays, writing with a professional playwright, and oral presentations.

#### **Vocabulary**

Vocabulary workbook, weekly quizzes, monthly tests, emphasis on roots, prefixes, and usage in sentences.

#### **Grammar**

Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation rules; the eight parts of speech.

#### **Composition**

Continued focus on the process of writing, including informative essays, fiction and non-fiction stories, a play, and poetry. Students will use the computer for a variety of writing assignments.

Texts: Capitalization & Punctuation  
Wordly Wise Book 7  
Holt Handbook, Book 3  
Literature: Best Short Stories Introductory Level  
Beowulf - edited by Burton Raffel  
The Miracle Worker, by William Gibson  
The King's Shadow, by Elizabeth Alder  
Best Poems Introductory Level

### Mathematics

5 times a week  
3 sections

Poole/Keeney/Smith

Order of operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals; ratio, proportion, and percent; metric measurement, basic statistical concepts; plane geometry, introduction to basic algebraic concepts, equations in solving problems, number theory.

Text: Glencoe Math Course 2, McGraw-Hill

Websites: mathform.com, studyweb.com, codmath.com



**History**5 times a week  
2 sections

Marr

Middle Ages: Barbarian invasions of Europe, rise and spread of Islam, Vikings, Roman Catholic Church, early church architecture, importance of Latin Christendom, the Norman Conquest of England, the strengthening of monarchy, economic/cultural revival, the Crusades, life in a medieval village/castle (including a Medieval feast.) Compare/contrast different cultures through analytical writing and reading. Develop an appreciation for current events and apply geographical knowledge/terms.

Texts: World History: Journey Across Time, McGraw Hill  
World History: The Human Experience, Houghton Mifflin  
Early Middle Ages, Lucent  
Late Middle Ages, Lucent  
Good Masters! Sweet Ladies, Candlewick Press

**Science**5 times a week  
2 sections

Poole/Wetzel

Classifications: A thematic approach involving aspects of earth science, life science, and physical science. Topics of waves, weather, and the animal kingdom will be studied in order to understand how scientists classify the natural world. All students complete a major group project designed in support of a themed science symposium. Emphasis on the scientific method and experimentation.

Texts: Science Explorer: Sound & Light, Prentice Hall  
Science Explorer: Weather & Climate, Prentice Hall  
Science Explorer: Animals, Prentice Hall  
Website: [www.phschool.com](http://www.phschool.com)

**Language: French**5 times a week  
1 section

Denisyuk

Conversations and discussions involving people and possessions, city life, and buying clothes. Grammar: regular and irregular verbs (present tense and near future), descriptive adjectives (agreement and placement), and possessive, interrogative, demonstrative adjectives. Strong emphasis is given to conversational French. Culture and civilization of France and other francophone countries.

Texts: Discovering French Nouveau, Bleu I, text, workbooks, CD's, videos, McDougal Littell  
La Famille Marais/Un Séjour en France, EMC Publishing

**Language: Spanish**5 times a week  
1 section

Bowen

Conversations on people, places, numbers, school subjects, supplies, colors, sizes, and activities, as well as on shopping for clothing and food. Grammar: regular and irregular verbs, stem changing verbs, present and past tense, cultural comparisons between Spain, Latin America, and Mexico with the United States.

**Language: Japanese**5 times a week  
1 section

Matsuzaki

The Middle School Japanese students study both the language and the culture. During their sixth grade year, students are taught how to read and write hiragana, katakana, and basic kanji; they build on this base in the subsequent three years. Students learn how to communicate in different situations, varying from a simple self-introduction to describing their vacations. Songs, mnemonics, and other methods are used in class to help students learn the language. Students are always encouraged to be creative. Students complete projects to develop their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Projects include creating a video of themselves. Authentic Japanese artifacts are used in class to practice the language and to connect the language to the culture.

Texts: *Adventures in Japanese 1*  
Cheng and Tsui Publishing

**Music**1 time a week  
2 sections

Lewis

American music history is taught. Students also learn the basics of playing the recorder. Solo and group performances.

**Art**1 time a week  
2 sections

McGuirk

Students' further study of the elements of art stresses improving their drawing and composition skills. More sophisticated projects related to classroom studies and art history will be based on Medieval art, including heraldry and architecture.

**Health**1 time a week  
2 sections

Farrell

Discussions of current health topics through magazine and media issues. Sexuality Education deals with reproduction and changes during puberty and adolescence.

Text: *Current Health* (magazine)

**Physical Education**2 times a week  
2 sections

Farrell/Marr/Banno/Way

Activities offered may include field hockey, soccer, flag football, basketball, volleyball, softball, Frisbee, kickball, games, dance, and lacrosse. Students work towards attaining skills for effective team play. Good sportsmanship is stressed.

**Study Skills**1 time a week  
2 sections

Katsafanas

Students engage in various activities that help them plan, organize and study for various assessments in their classes. Students use the content that they are learning in their classes to apply these study skills. Students are encouraged to try the various methods taught in class and hone in on the ones that are close to their learning style.

## GRADE SEVEN

Seventh graders refine organizational and study skills. They broaden their knowledge of basic elements of research and take exams in four academic courses. Field trips may include Echo Hill (overnight), and Peace Day.

### English

6 times a week  
3 sections

Jameson/Smithwick/  
Way

#### **Literature**

Poetry, short stories, novels, plays, and critical analysis.

#### **Vocabulary**

Bi-weekly quizzes, monthly tests. Emphasis on roots, prefixes, and usage in sentences.

#### **Grammar**

Usage; parts of a sentence; independent and dependent clauses; comma rules agreement.

#### **Composition**

A continuation of the writing skills and styles started in sixth grade. Expository and creative essays stemming from the literature, a short story, and a play.

Texts: Writing a Research Paper  
Wordly Wise Book 7  
Grammar for Middle School  
Words, Phrases, Clauses

#### Literature:

Best Short Stories, Middle Level;  
Tom Sawyer, by Mark Twain  
A Raisin in the Sun, by Lorraine Hansberry  
Best Poems, Middle Level

### Mathematics

5 times a week  
3 sections

Keeney/Smith

Problem solving/application, some calculator usage, group activities, provide students with an introduction to the concepts of algebra and geometry, and solidify their grasp of arithmetic concepts and procedures. Topics include: properties, order of operations, simplifying expressions, metric measurement, integers, graphing functions, graphing and data analysis, planes, angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, circles and polygons, number theory, rational numbers, ratio, proportion, and percent, probability, and polynomials. Each year students work in collaborative groups to form a business, which markets and sells a product or service to the school community.

Texts: Pre-Algebra

Glencoe Publishing

Algebra

Glencoe Publishing

Software: *PowerPoint* (time permitting)

Websites: mathdrill.com, mathforum.com, studyweb.com, eduplace.com

**History/Geography**5 times a week  
2 sections

Banno

Review fall of Feudalism leading to rise of Renaissance trade. Age of Exploration (daGama, Columbus, Prince Henry, Magellan, etc.), Northern Europe Renaissance (Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth, Shakespeare, France, Netherlands, etc.) the Protestant Reformation (Martin Luther, the sale of indulgences, etc.), and the Catholic Church's response to the Reformation and the Absolute Monarchs. If time permits, begin study of U.S. History. Wrestle with historic problems, defend opinions. Class discussions, historical research, historical essays, and creative writing emphasized. Projects, outside reading, and notebook. Physical features, political divisions, geographical terms, current events. Use periodicals, atlases, and Internet, etc. Accurately place countries, important cities, bodies of water, mountain ranges, major rivers, deserts, political and physical regions in Western Hemisphere. Awareness of problems, understanding of cultures.

Texts: World History, Pearson  
World History - The Human Experience, Glencoe/ McGraw-Hill  
References: The Explorers, Lucent Books  
Western Civilization, Amsco

**Science**5 times a week  
2 sections

Poole

Relationships: A thematic approach involving aspects of earth science, life science, and physical science. Topics of ecology, cells, genetics, evolution, and human body systems will be studied in order to highlight the complete and diverse relationships governing the natural world. All students participate in a group project designed in support of a themed science symposium. Emphasis on scientific method and experimentation. All students write a scientific research paper in conjunction with the English Department.

Texts: Science Explorer: Environmental Science, Prentice Hall  
Science Explorer: Human Biology and Health, Prentice Hall  
Science Explorer: Cells and Heredity, Prentice Hall  
Website: [www.phschool.com](http://www.phschool.com)

**Language: French**5 times a week  
1 section

Denisyuk

Topics include discussing daily activities and leisure pastimes, shopping for food and clothes. Grammar: regular -er, -ir, -re, and irregular verbs (present, near future, and past tense), partitive article, direct and indirect object pronouns. Advanced work is offered to students who show ability.

Texts: Discovering French Nouveau, Bleu I, DVD's, CD's, text, workbooks, McDougal Littell  
Un été pas comme les autres, AMSCO School Publication, Inc.

**Language: Spanish**5 times a week  
1 section

Bowen

Conversations about sports, activities, illness, body parts, weather, seasonal activities, movies, museums, cultural events, travel, grooming habits, daily routine, and cuisines. Grammar: simple past tense, indirect object pronouns, using verbs, present progressive, reflexive verbs, irregular preterite tense, stem changers. Cultural units comparing Spain, Latin America, and the United States.

Text: d como te va: text, workbook, Glencoe McGraw Hill

**Language: Japanese**

5 times a week  
1 section

Matsuzaki

Students continue to refine the four essential skills of learning a foreign language: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. In the seventh grade, students are engaged in more challenging topics including what they like and dislike, describing a person, describing a location, and telling time. The students have opportunities to build on the different grammar points to create more complicated sentence structures. In the seventh grade, the students are given more opportunities to use the language and are always encouraged to speak in Japanese both in and out of class. Japanese cultural points that are relevant to their age is integrated into the lessons. In the seventh grade, students will be responsible for knowing more of the third alphabet, kanji.

**Music**

1 time a week  
2 sections

Lewis

The history of the American Musical Theater topics include early American forms, Vaudeville, and musical theater forms from the 1900's to the present. The students view a few very important musicals and one to present in class.

**Art**

1 time a week  
2 sections

McGuirk

The finer aspects of the presence and purpose of the elements of art are highlighted as the students study art history of the Renaissance from architecture to painting. Emphasis is put on learning how to identify and manipulate these elements within their own creative process.

**Health**

1 time a week  
2 sections

Farrell

Discussions on current health topics through magazine and science book. Similar to 6th grade, but in more detail and using more mature language. Values, decision making, peer pressure and support, pregnancy avoidance. STD and AIDS education are taught.

Texts: *Current Health* (magazine)  
Life Science, Prentice Hall

**Physical Education**

2 times a week  
2 sections

Farrell/Marr/Banno/Way

Activities offered may include field hockey, soccer, flag football, basketball, volleyball, kickball, Frisbee, aerobics, games, dance, and lacrosse. Students work towards attaining skills for effective team play. Good sportsmanship is stressed.

**Public Speaking**

1 time a week  
2 sections

Palinkas

Structures of a variety of kinds of speeches, integration of visual aids, and preparation of presentations in front of large audiences. Each student prepares and presents three speeches and participates in a debate, time permitting.

## GRADE EIGHT

Eighth graders assume leadership positions in Student Council, as well as in other areas of school life. Assuming organizational skills are solid, they polish research skills. Eighth graders prepare for high school and determine which school they will attend with the help of their teachers and the school administration. Each eighth grader selects, prepares, and practices a seven to ten minute speech to be given to the student body during an assembly. Field trips have included Mt. Vernon, Franklin Institute, meeting an author at Brandywine River Museum, and white water rafting.

### English

6 times a week  
3 sections

Jameson/Way/Smithwick

### **Literature**

Poetry, short stories, novels, and plays; expansion of elements of each literary genre.

### **Grammar**

Review and refine all grammatical rules and concepts with continued emphasis on phrases, clauses, and usage.

### **Vocabulary**

Vocabulary workbook, weekly quizzes, emphasis on roots, prefixes, and usage.

### **Composition**

Literary analysis as well as creative writing; continued computer use for a variety of writing assignments, research term paper.

Texts: Writing A Research Paper  
Vocabulary from Classical Roots, Book B  
Words, Phrases, Clauses  
Grammar for Middle School

Literature: Best Poems - Middle Level  
Romeo and Juliet, by William Shakespeare  
To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee

### Mathematics

5 times a week  
3 sections

Keeney/Smith

Algebra is studied including variables and expressions, basic properties, solving linear equations, basic trigonometry, polynomials (factoring, simplifying), ratio, proportion, percent, slope-intercept graphing of linear functions, solving inequalities, systems of linear equations, solving quadratic equations, rational expressions, word problems on all topics. Enriched groups also study irrational numbers, Pythagorean theorem, distance formula, quadratic functions and their graphs, completing the square, quadratic formula, and the discriminant. Explorations with calculators and Ipad activities provide students with an opportunity to discover mathematics for themselves.

Texts: Algebra, Glencoe Publishing  
Geometry, Glencoe Publishing

**History/Geography**5 times a week  
2 sections

Banno

U. S. History focused upon units including race, foreign relations and war, individual rights and social movements, economics, and government. The units will cover the 1700's to the middle 1800's. Each unit will be broken down to cover key terms, important figures, events, and their causes and effects. Research skills, response papers, primary source materials, map skills, projects and one major paper and an organized notebook. Current events will be discussed and analyzed. Geographic impact upon the development of the U.S. Geographic terms taught and reinforced. The Constitution will be emphasized.

Texts: America, Pearson  
History of a Free Nation, Glencoe-McGraw-Hill  
American Nation, Prentice Hall  
The French/Indian War, Lucent Books

**Science**5 times a week  
2 sections

Wetzel

Energy: A thematic approach involving aspects of earth science, life science, and physical science. Topics of chemistry, cellular processes including respiration, photosynthesis, and mitosis, plate tectonics, motion, forces, and energy will be studied in order to highlight the various forms of energy found in the natural world. All students participate in a group project designed in support of a themed science symposium. Emphasis on scientific method and experimentation.

Texts: Science Explorer: Chemical Interactions  
Science Explorer: Cells and Heredity  
Science Explorer: Inside Earth  
Science Explorer: Motion, Forces, and Energy

Websites: [www.phschool.com](http://www.phschool.com)

**Language: French**5 times a week  
1 section

Denisyuk

Conversations on food and meals, daily activities, appearance, daily routines and one's health. Grammar: regular and irregular verbs, reflexive verbs in the present, past, imperfect, future tenses. Strong emphasis is given to conversational French. Culture and civilization of France and other francophone countries.

Texts: Discovering French Nouveau Blanc II, cd's, text, workbooks;  
McDougal Littell  
Le mystere des faux billets, AMSCO

**Language: Spanish**5 times a week  
1 section

Bowen

Emphasis is placed on conversational Spanish about cultural diversions, travel, shopping, food, telecommunication, hobbies, and games. Grammar: present and simple past tense verbs, regular and irregular verbs, reflexive verbs, future, conditional, and imperfect verb tenses. Cultural comparison of Spain, Latin America and the United States. Spanish websites and the Promethean planet flip charts are also used.

Text: Buen Viaje! Level II and cd  
Additional resources: Patricia va a California  
Conversaciones Simpaticas  
Pobre ana  
Casi se muere

**Latin** 2 times a week Marr  
1 section

Latin is an option open to students whose seventh grade performance indicates ability to handle an additional academic course in eighth grade. Material covered at this level is about one-half of a high school Latin 1 course. Emphasis is on understanding links between English, the Romance languages and the Latin vocabulary, making a so-called dead language come alive.

Text: Latin is Fun, AMSCO

**Creative Writing** 2 times a week Smithwick  
1 section

Creative Writing students will focus on the writing of literature itself, rather than on the analysis of literature already in existence. Students will read and write creative compositions, develop their own creative exercises to share with the class, and create work of publishable quality. They will learn about various outlets for sharing their work with an audience, and they will submit work to contests and for publication in print and online literary journals.

**Music** 1 time a week Lewis  
2 sections

Students learn to play the hand chimes and perform 2 or 3 selections during an assembly.

**Art** 1 time a week McGuirk  
2 sections

Using a variety of medium and units of study, students develop their individual strengths and explore areas of personal interest. Emphasis throughout the year is on portraiture, graphic design, and art of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

**Set Design** 2 times a week Lyon  
1 section

In set design, the students learn the intricacies of creating different sets for each of the plays for the lower school and for the Fall Play, as well as for the Spring Musical. They will learn the various techniques to make each scene effective for the particular play. They will also learn the techniques in creating the programs. Students will also have opportunities to work on other aspects of play support.

**Passages** 1 time a week Paul  
2 sections

Passages includes a wide spectrum of topics. The year begins with personal goal setting and discussion about morals and ethics. Topics range from general health/physiology to detailed sensitive issues and include the following: review of body systems, reproduction, sexual harassment, contraception, STD's, drug/alcohol abuse, gender roles, and bullying. Students are trained and certified in CPR.

Students begin with a strong foundation for good decision-making and then apply those principles to situations likely to be encountered during adolescence. For example, they discuss peer pressure to engage in risky behaviors such as sexual activity, alcohol, and drug abuse. These behaviors, as well as others, are explored through DVD's, presentations, and classroom discussion. Through candid information sharing, students are challenged to think critically and to apply a moral/value based framework to current societal issues.



**Physical Education**

2 times a week  
2 sections

Farrell/Marr/Banno  
Way

Activities offered may include field hockey, soccer, flag football, basketball, volleyball, kickball, softball, Frisbee, games, dance, and lacrosse. Students work towards attaining skills for effective team play. Good sportsmanship is stressed.

**Speeches**

1 time a week  
2 sections

Paul

Each eighth grade student will make a speech in front of their peers, as well as their family members. They will incorporate various techniques they learned in previous years to write and deliver a speech to not only inform the audience, but for them to take away a meaningful lesson.