



Image by Danny Fernandez

Grades K–5

Course Descriptions

Connections Learning Online Course Catalog 2016–2017

Grades K–5

Language Arts

Language Arts K A
 Language Arts K B
 Language Arts 1 A
 Language Arts 1 B
 Language Arts 2 A
 Language Arts 2 B
 Language Arts 3 A
 Language Arts 3 B
 Language Arts 4 A
 Language Arts 4 B
 Language Arts 5 A
 Language Arts 5 B

Mathematics

Essential Math 3 A
 Essential Math 3 B
 Essential Math 4 A
 Essential Math 4 B
 Essential Math 5 A
 Essential Math 5 B
 Math K A
 Math K B
 Math 1 A
 Math 1 B
 Math 2 A
 Math 2 B
 Math 3 A
 Math 3 B
 Math 4 A
 Math 4 B
 Math 5 A
 Math 5 B

Science

Science K A
 Science K B
 Science 1 A
 Science 1 B
 Science 2 A
 Science 2 B
 Science 3 A
 Science 3 B
 Science 4 A
 Science 4 B
 Science 5 A
 Science 5 B

Social Studies

Social Studies K A
 Social Studies K B
 Social Studies 1 A
 Social Studies 1 B
 Social Studies 2 A
 Social Studies 2 B
 Social Studies 3 A
 Social Studies 3 B
 Social Studies 4 A
 Social Studies 4 B
 Social Studies 5 A
 Social Studies 5 B

Humanities

Art K
 Art 1
 Art 2
 Art 3
 Art 4
 Art 5
 Discovering Music I (3-5)
 Discovering Music II (3-5)
 Discovering Music III (3-5)
 Elementary Chinese I (3-5) **
 Elementary Chinese II (3-5) **
 Elementary Sign Language
 Elementary Spanish I (3-5) **
 Elementary Spanish II (3-5) **
 Experiencing Music I (K-2)
 Experiencing Music II (K-2)
 Experiencing Music III (K-2)
 Home Life

Health and PE

Physical Education K
 Physical Education 1
 Physical Education 2
 Physical Education 3
 Physical Education 4
 Physical Education 5

Technology

Ed Tech and Online Learning K
 Ed Tech and Online Learning 1
 Ed Tech and Online Learning 2
 Ed Tech and Online Learning 3
 Ed Tech and Online Learning 4
 Ed Tech and Online Learning 5
 WebQuest

Gifted and Talented

Gifted and Talented
 Language Arts 3 A †
 Gifted and Talented
 Language Arts 3 B †
 Gifted and Talented
 Language Arts 4 A †
 Gifted and Talented
 Language Arts 4 B †
 Gifted and Talented
 Language Arts 5 A †
 Gifted and Talented
 Language Arts 5 B †
 Gifted and Talented
 Literature Study 2 #
 Gifted and Talented Math 3 A
 Gifted and Talented Math 3 B
 Gifted and Talented Math 4 A
 Gifted and Talented Math 4 B
 Gifted and Talented Math 5 A
 Gifted and Talented Math 5 B
 Gifted and Talented Science 3 A
 Gifted and Talented Science 3 B
 Gifted and Talented Science 4 A
 Gifted and Talented Science 4 B
 Gifted and Talented Science 5 A
 Gifted and Talented Science 5 B

Key

Designates course is an elective credit

† Must accompany G&T Literature Study

** Please note: The World Languages courses require a headset and microphone which is compatible with the computer being used for the course. This equipment is not provided by Connections Learning.

Course list subject to change.

Kindergarten

Language Arts A&B

In kindergarten, students build a foundation for successful reading as they explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. Learning activities consist of phonics, listening, comprehension, and vocabulary instruction with daily exposure to books, including literature and informational texts. A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises encourages the development of fine motor skills. Students learn language skills as well as letter formation, and they practice these with drawing, dictating, and writing. By the end of kindergarten, many students will be reading, and all students should be able to recognize consonant as well as long and short vowel sounds.

Math A&B

In kindergarten, mathematical thinking and problem solving are introduced. Students explore topics and apply mathematical practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. They learn how to identify numbers, write numbers zero to 20, and count to 100 by ones and tens. They also describe, sort, and compare objects and learn basic shapes. Stories and activities introduce addition and subtraction. A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises teaches students about money, time, fractions, and measurement.

Science A&B

The key to science is to stimulate curiosity. A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises encourages students to observe, describe, measure, and question the world around them. Life, Earth, and physical sciences are introduced. Students investigate living things, such as plants and animals, and nonliving things, such as matter and mixtures.

Social Studies A&B

Students learn the concepts of community, nation, and world in this course. They answer essential questions including: "How do people get what they need?"; "How is culture shared?"; and "How does life change throughout history?" A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises teaches students about personal responsibility, good citizenship, and basic geography. While learning about America's past and important historical figures, students research their personal history and heroes.

Electives

Art

In art, students explore color, line, and shape. A combination of interactive and hands-on studio projects encourages students to create art. They sharpen their fine motor skills and explore the areas of art they find interesting. Artistic modes include drawing, painting, assembling, and sculpting.

Educational Technology and Online Learning

In this course, students explore the features of a draw and paint program as a tool to support emerging reading, writing, and mathematics skills. They learn to locate letters and numbers on the keyboard. A study skills unit introduces them to listening and visualization skills that support learning across the school day. Students also learn to recognize safe and responsible use of technology resources so they can become model digital citizens.

Physical Education

In kindergarten, physical education encourages students to develop their fine motor skills, movement, and confidence to enjoy healthy physical activity regularly. A combination of interactive and hands-on activities teaches students essential skills. Students learn how to respect themselves and others while playing.

 Course requires a free third-party download

First Grade

Language Arts A&B

Students explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. Students are taught to attack new words using a variety of decoding and contextual strategies, and are given daily opportunities to apply these skills to literature and informational texts. They are taught to think about what they read through various guided reading strategies. Their handwriting improves and their writing skills strengthen as they compose narrative, informational, and opinion pieces.

Math A&B

In first grade math, students explore topics and apply mathematical practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. While building strategies for addition and subtraction of whole numbers up to 18, students also develop their problem-solving and reasoning skills. Students use hands-on activities and tools to practice money and measurement concepts. They also explore geometry topics—shapes, congruence, and symmetry—and learn to analyze picture graphs, data, and bar graphs.

Science A&B

This course encourages students to explore the natural world. They study Earth, its resources, ways to protect them, and how plants and animals grow and change. They create a model of a mountain and investigate the way sunlight affects leaves. Students also learn about the scientific method and explore possible careers in science.

Social Studies A&B

Students learn about the ways people contribute to their communities and work together to the benefit of all. This course explores the concepts of good citizenship, neighborhoods, and economics. Students also study maps, photographs, biographies, illustrations, poetry, and music to help explain the concept of communities and extend it to the larger world.

Electives

Art

Students expand their understanding of color, line, and shape. Activities include drawing, cutting, creating designs, and paper construction. The concepts of texture and three-dimensional forms are also introduced.

Educational Technology and Online Learning ◇

In this course, students build on foundational skills while using software to draw, type, and format text, and they create presentations to support academic skills. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety and appropriate online behavior.

Physical Education

Each week, students learn new games and activities that are grouped in thematic units including Making Healthy Choices and Games Around the World. In addition to doing the activities described in the lessons, students have the option of participating in yoga or an individual sport.



◇ Course requires a free third-party download

Second Grade

Language Arts

Students explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. They are given the opportunity to apply word-attack skills to increasingly complex texts and build their oral and sight vocabularies through daily instruction. While practicing new skills, students take part in activities based on selections they are reading. Students apply handwriting and grammar skills to frequent narrative, informational, and opinion pieces.

Math

Students explore topics, and apply mathematical practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. Students use hands-on activities to study time, money, geometry, and fractions. They connect numbers to statistics using basic algebraic concepts and simple graphs. Students also investigate measurement topics such as weight, mass, capacity, time, and temperature.

Science

This course stimulates students' curiosity about the world around them. They investigate energy and changing states of matter, such as liquid water changing to water vapor, and they create a weather chart. Students enjoy hands-on and virtual activities as they investigate the importance of water and vegetation in life science and explore forces in physical science.

Social Studies

Students explore basic concepts of history, geography, economics, and government while discovering more about world cultures. Students practice basic map, chart, graph, and critical-thinking skills. They also learn about ordinary people who demonstrate good citizenship and famous people who have influenced our country and the world.

Electives

Art

Students learn how the elements and principles of art are combined to create unique and expressive artwork. They explore how art is connected to other subjects such as science and math. Students also learn the basics of drawing, painting, and three-dimensional design.

Educational Technology and Online Learning ♦

In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects and solve problems. Students use software to draw, write, organize, and present information. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety and appropriate online behavior.

Physical Education

Each week, students learn a new game or activity based on thematic units including Games You Can Make and Games Around the World. In addition to doing the activities described in the lessons, students have the option of participating in yoga or an individual sport.

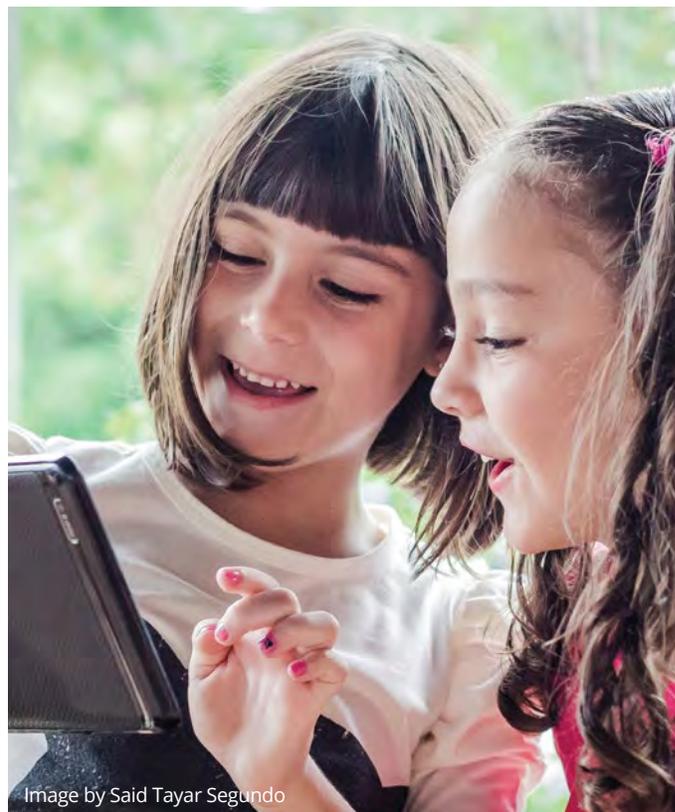


Image by Said Tayar Segundo

♦ Course requires a free third-party download

Third Grade

Language Arts

Students explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. As they read critically and analyze literature and informational texts, they are also learning and applying new word-study skills. Writing progresses to paragraphs and, eventually, longer compositions. As they compose, students learn the five stages of writing: planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Students also begin to conduct short research projects.

Math

Third grade math provides the opportunity for students to explore topics and apply mathematical practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. Multiplication and division are introduced as well as adding and subtracting decimals. Students' understanding of these operations continues to develop as they apply problem-solving strategies and mathematical reasoning to solve problems. Students use hands-on activities to explore geometric patterns, shapes, and solids. They also use tools to determine measurements including time and temperature. In the probability unit, students gather data, create graphs, and perform experiments.

Science

Students explore the living world and the sky above. In life science, students begin by analyzing things that make up our living world and then study life cycles and the ecosystems. They study the composition of Earth as well as its location in relation to the sun and moon. In physical science, students investigate the properties of matter.

Social Studies

This course centers on the theme of community, focusing on history, along with civics, economics, and geography. Students compare communities and examine the American political system, including the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the three branches of government, all within the context of a citizen's rights and responsibilities. Students are introduced to economics by studying money, prices, and supply and demand, with a special emphasis on making good personal economic decisions.

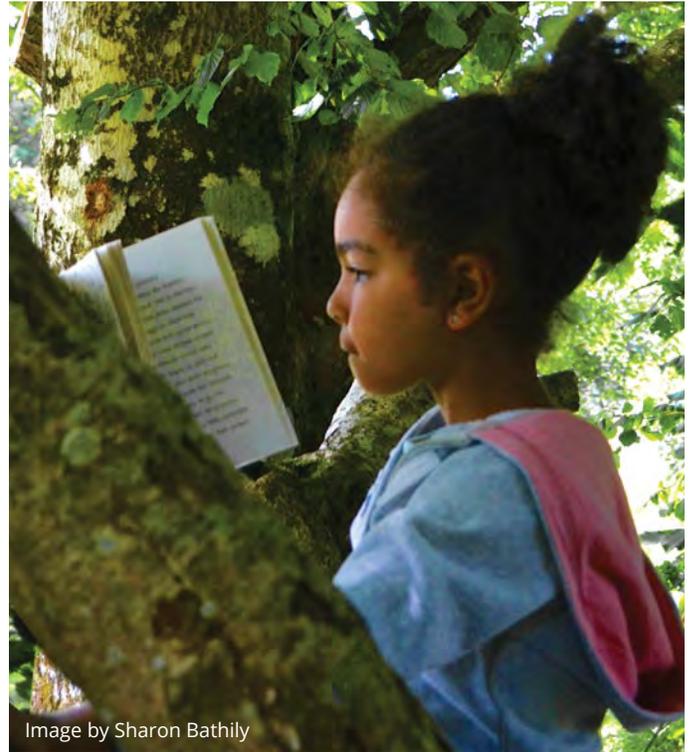


Image by Sharon Bathily

Electives

Art ♦

Students engage in arts and crafts that explore the characteristics of the four seasons. As they study the art of various cultures, they will be introduced to art history and art criticism. Students also use a variety of media to create two- and three-dimensional projects.

Educational Technology and Online Learning

In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects, manage information, and solve problems. Students use software to write, organize, analyze, and present information. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety and appropriate online behavior.

Physical Education

By third grade, students are expected to understand and demonstrate clearly defined combinations of movements, and they learn one or more new activities each week. The students learn the importance of nutrition as it relates to health and physical fitness. Students also have the option of participating in yoga or an individual sport.

♦ Course requires a free third-party download

Fourth Grade

Language Arts

Students explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. They learn to understand vocabulary and read more independently. Basic writing skills are reinforced as students write longer, well-organized narrative, informational, and opinion compositions. Spelling, handwriting, and proper language usage are also emphasized. Daily spelling activities help students learn to spell and use words correctly.

Math

Students explore topics and apply mathematical practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. Mastery of basic skills helps students multiply two-digit numbers and divide three-digit numbers by one-digit divisors. Measurement covers both customary and metric units. Students also study geometry concepts including lines, angles, polygons, perimeter, area, and congruence. Fourth grade math also covers equations, statistics using data and graphing techniques, and probability concepts. Throughout the course, students practice problem-solving strategies and explain mathematical reasoning.

Science

Students in this course use the scientific method to complete hands-on and virtual explorations. In the area of life science, they explore the differences and similarities among organisms. In Earth science, students investigate the differences between rocks and minerals and explore forces and forms of energy. Students are also introduced to the idea of a career in science.

Social Studies

A regional approach is used to examine the geography and history of the United States in this course. During their studies, students learn how to use different types of maps and apply geographic skills and concepts. The course emphasizes the role of the individual in the community and the concept of change over time.

Electives

Art

In this course, students are introduced to works of art from several continents. As they become more familiar with art elements and the principles of design, they learn how these are applied in creating visual art in diverse cultures around the world. In addition, students use various media to create two- and three-dimensional projects.

Educational Technology and Online Learning

In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects, manage information, and solve problems. Students use software to write, organize, analyze, and present information. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety, appropriate online behavior, and effective search and website evaluation strategies.

Physical Education

By fourth grade, students are ready for more advanced instructions for both individual and partner activities. They understand rules and the importance of following them, and their hand-eye coordination has improved. Students learn the importance of nutrition and exercise as they relate to health and physical fitness. Students have the option of participating in yoga or an individual sport.

Fifth Grade

Language Arts

Students explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. Writing instruction focuses on structure, format, and grammar. Students use effective planning tools such as graphic organizers and outlines to create narrative, informational, and opinion compositions.

Math

Students explore topics and apply mathematical practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. The order of operations is discussed, and students learn to solve and write equations and inequalities. Students advance in geometry as they classify two- and three-dimensional solids; calculate the surface area and volume of regular and irregular figures; explore graphing and probability; create circle graphs; and make predictions based on statistics. Throughout the course, students practice problem-solving strategies and explain their mathematical reasoning.

Science

Students continue to sharpen their investigative skills. In life science, students examine the living world, and in physical science, they explore characteristics of matter, sound, and light. Students also learn about Earth's composition and the forces that shape its surface. The scientific method is reinforced, and careers in science are discussed.

Social Studies

In this course, students trace the history of the United States from the earliest Americans to the 21st century. Students practice map skills as they chart the growth of the nation and develop their ability to compare, sequence properly, and interpret sources. Students also study how geography has affected culture and historic events.

Electives

Art

Students are introduced to various works of art, and they become familiar with art elements and the principles of design. They examine how these elements and principles were applied to create visual art in different time periods and cultures. Students use assorted media to create two- and three-dimensional projects.

Educational Technology and Online Learning

In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects, manage information, and solve problems. Students use software to write, organize, analyze, and present information. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible communicators and users of technology as they learn about intellectual property, Internet safety, and effective search and evaluation strategies.

Physical Education

By fifth grade, students understand the concept of fair play and playing by the rules. Respecting themselves and others is emphasized during cooperative physical education activities. Students learn the importance of nutrition and exercise as they relate to health and physical fitness. They have the option of participating in yoga or an individual sport.



Image by Lu Yi

K–5 Electives

Discovering Music I, II, III (3-5)

Designed for students in grades 3–5, these courses teach students fundamental musicianship skills from a Western Classical approach while aligning to national music education standards. The courses challenge students to improve their listening, notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies, these courses provide a unique and advanced learning experience for students in these grades.

Elementary Chinese I and II (3-5) **

Students learn Mandarin Chinese through conversations with a native speaker. Cultural explorations lead students to make connections between their cultures and those of people in the Mandarin-speaking world. These introductory courses use many interactive components to engage students with the Chinese language and culture. (The courses are offered for students in third, fourth, and fifth grade.) This course requires a headset and microphone which is compatible with the computer being used for the course. This equipment is not provided.

Elementary Sign Language

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of American Sign Language through the use of vocabulary, grammar, and conversation as well as basic signing and fingerspelling techniques. Special activities and exercises also help students understand the culture of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Elementary Spanish I and II (3-5) **

These highly interactive courses enable students to communicate with a native speaker and make connections between their culture and the culture of people in the Spanish-speaking world. Students further develop their Spanish communication skills as they study familiar topics such as school, clothes, and community. (These courses are offered for students in third, fourth, and fifth grade.) This course requires a headset and microphone which is compatible with the computer being used for the course. This equipment is not provided.

Experiencing Music I, II, III (K-2)

Designed for students in grades K–2, these courses introduce younger students to the basic components of music: melody and rhythm. Students use these components to explore their own voices by creating beats and rhythms. In addition, students use critical-listening skills to analyze music they hear as they participate in interactive experiences. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies, these courses provide a unique and advanced learning experience for students in these grades.

Gifted and Talented Language Arts 3 A&B †

This course provides students opportunities to work at an accelerated pace, while engaging in more complex and challenging instructional activities. Students are provided opportunities for increased student-teacher interaction and discussion, as well as increased interaction with their peers. This course focuses on developing critical thinking and analytical skills. Students also create compositions throughout the course by moving through the five stages of the writing process: planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Students continue to master the basic skills of writing with instruction in spelling, handwriting, grammar, and language usage.

Gifted and Talented Language Arts 4 A&B †

This course provides students opportunities to work at an accelerated pace, while engaging in more complex and challenging instructional activities. Students are provided opportunities for increased student-teacher interaction and discussion, as well as increased interaction with their peers. Oral language skills are developed with instruction in oral compositions, interviews, and discussion. Writing skills are reinforced with instruction in spelling, handwriting, grammar, and language usage. Classic and award-winning children's literature carries students across oceans and through centuries as tales of adventure unfold.

† Must accompany G&T Literature Study

** Please note: The World Languages courses require a headset and microphone which is compatible with the computer being used for the course. This equipment is not provided by Connections Learning.

Gifted and Talented Language Arts 5 A&B †

This course provides students opportunities to work at an accelerated pace, while engaging in more complex and challenging instructional activities. Students are provided opportunities for increased student-teacher discussion, as well as increased interaction with their peers. Critical thinking skills are intertwined with novel activities in order to sharpen students' analytical abilities. Reading comprehension instruction allowing students to practice identifying main ideas and themes in any given reading passage. The writing content throughout the course concentrates on crafting quality sentences, organizing paragraphs, summary writing, and adding detail to writing.

Gifted and Talented Literature Study 2 #

The Junior Great Books™ program involves a student in reading engaging literature and participating in rich discussion. The literature included in the Junior Great Books program is chosen to spark a high level of thinking and expose the student to rich language and vocabulary. The teacher and Learning Coach use the Shared Inquiry™ method to help a student acquire the qualities and strategies of effective readers and thinkers. The student learns to read actively, noticing thoughts and questions that come to mind during the act of reading. The student also learns to use the text, his own experiences, prior knowledge, and critical and creative thinking to participate in discussions about the text. These discussions help the student answer their own questions, satisfy their curiosity, and think more deeply about the content and process of their reading.

Gifted and Talented Math 3 A&B

This course provides students opportunities to work at an accelerated pace, while engaging in more complex and challenging instructional activities. Students are provided opportunities for increased student-teacher interaction and discussion, as well as increased interaction with their peers. Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing are introduced in a way that provides students with a conceptual understanding of the operations. Statistics is presented by creating graphs and conducting experiments in probability. Students also have the opportunity to study geometry concepts, including lines, angles, shapes, perimeter, area, congruence, and similarity.



† Must accompany G&T Literature Study

Designates course is an elective credit.

Junior Great Books and Shared Inquiry are trademarks of The Great Books Foundation.

K–5 Electives *(continued)*

Gifted and Talented Math 4 A&B

This course provides students opportunities to work at an accelerated pace, while engaging in more complex and challenging instructional activities. Students are introduced to more complex activities, such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals, fractions, and fractions with mixed numbers. Patterns and variables are studied as a precursor to solving equations and inequalities. Students learn number theory to help them understand divisibility, factors, and prime numbers. Throughout the course, students are provided opportunities for increased student-teacher interaction and discussion.

Gifted and Talented Math 5 A&B

This course reinforces students' understanding of mathematical concepts in preparation for higher level courses. Students learn to create, analyze, and interpret graphs in their study of statistics. Geometry continues to be explored, with students classifying polygons and using measurement skills to find the perimeter, area, and volume of geometric figures. In addition to learning basic probability and permutations, students begin their algebra studies with solving equations and inequalities.

Gifted and Talented Science 3 A&B

This course introduces science as an adventure in learning about the world around us. Through hands-on activities, student-designed experiments, research, and guided readings, students begin exploring the life and Earth sciences. In the Earth science unit, students learn about the Earth and its changing features. In life science, they explore the living world and its organisms. Designed to accommodate a variety of learning styles, the lessons encourage students to apply new concepts through activity-centered learning, reading, and traditional research and instruction methods. Students also explore the scientific method and various careers in science.

Gifted and Talented Science 4 A&B

This course deepens the student's understanding of the life and Earth sciences through observation, research, and experimentation. Our life science unit explores the differences and commonalities between organisms. The Earth science unit investigates the Earth's different land features and how to care for the Earth in the 21st century. Students become engaged while observing seed growth, exploring the effects of flooding on a riverbank, and conducting a variety of experiments.

Gifted and Talented Science 5 A&B

This exciting course encourages students to see themselves as scientists by empowering them to make their own discoveries. Students begin by studying the roles of scientists and the scientific method and then explore the Earth and life sciences in the context of the discoverer. In life science, they study cells and heredity. In Earth science, students design their own experiments for investigating the earth's composition and the factors affecting that composition. A range of activity-based learning and traditional instruction engages students of diverse learning styles.

Home Life

In this course, students select from a number of projects that develop skills through fun, experiential learning projects. Activities include cooking, crafts, sewing, home maintenance, family outings, and genealogy. Projects feature photography as well as textiles and clothing.

WebQuest

This interactive elective allows students to participate in a unique online experience. The course is primarily based on students' collecting, submitting, and tracking their own data. In addition, students are able to share the collected information with other students online.

