



PAVVIRTUAL

CHARTER SCHOOL

Course Descriptions

First Grade

1

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Language Arts

In this course, students receive structured lessons on readiness skills through emphasis on phonics, language skills, literature, and handwriting to help develop comprehension, build vocabulary, and promote a lifelong interest in reading.

- **Phonics:** There are 36 units in the Phonics program. Each unit contains five lessons. In the first four lessons, students learn new skills or practice what they've previously learned. The fifth lesson in each unit begins with online review and practice activities that reinforce skills learned in the unit, and is followed by an offline unit assessment. In some lessons, students will read an online decodable reader. These are short, interactive stories that consist entirely of words students are able to read. Students will acquire the critical skills and knowledge required for reading and literacy.
- **Literature and Comprehension:** The K12 Language Arts Literature and Comprehension program consists of 24 units with reading selections from the Classics anthology, nonfiction magazines, trade books, and other books students choose for themselves. Students will listen to and read a variety of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction to develop their reading comprehension skills.
- **Handwriting:** Students will further develop their handwriting skills through Handwriting Without Tears. In Semester 1, students will work in the My Printing Book. In Semester 2, students will practice handwriting on their own.
- **Spelling:** There are 18 units in K12 Spelling, which begins in the second semester of Grade 1. Each unit contains five lessons. The first lesson of a unit introduces new Spelling words. In the second and third lessons, you and your students work together to practice the spelling words introduced in the first lesson. There is an online review in Lesson 4 and an offline assessment in Lesson 5. Students will master the spelling skills needed to read and write proficiently.
- **Vocabulary:** K12 Vocabulary exposes students to a wide variety of words. Students will learn, review, and practice words online. There are 18 units in K12 Vocabulary. In the first 8 lessons of each unit, students will study three (3) sets of related words. Lesson 9 of each unit is a review of all the words. The 10th lesson is always a Unit Checkpoint, testing students on all the words they studied.

- **Writing Skills:** The program includes 18 alternating units of Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics lessons and Composition lessons. In odd-numbered units, students will learn grammar, usage, and mechanics skills that will help them communicate in standard English. The fourth lesson of each unit is an online review of the unit's skills, and the fifth lesson is an offline assessment. In even-numbered composition units, students will also learn techniques for planning, organizing, and creating different kinds of writing. Each unit starts with a journal assignment that will help get students writing and generating ideas to be used in their writing assignments. The program includes rubrics and sample papers to help evaluate students' work.

Math

This research-based course focuses on computational fluency, conceptual understanding, and problem solving. The engaging course features new graphics, learning tools, and games; adaptive activities that help struggling students master concepts and skills before moving on; and more support for Learning Coaches to guide their students to success. This course extends their work with place value to numbers through 100, emphasizing fluency of addition and subtraction facts, and focusing on number sentences and problem solving with addition and subtraction. Students begin work with money, telling time, ordering events, and measuring length, weight, and capacity with non-standard units. Students identify attributes of geometric figures and also extend their work with patterns and data, including representing and comparing data.

Science

Students learn to perform experiments, record observations, and understand how scientists see the natural world. They germinate seeds to observe plant growth, and make a weather vane. Students will also explore topics such as matter (states of matter, mixtures, and solutions), weather (cloud formation, the water cycle), animal classification and adaptation (insects, amphibians, birds, and mammals), habitats (forests, deserts, and rain forests), the oceans (waves and currents, coasts, and coral reefs), light (how it travels, reflections, and inventor Thomas Edison), plants (germination, functions of roots, and stems), and the human body.

History

History 1 kicks off a program that, spanning the elementary grades, provides an overview of world geography and history from the Stone Age to the Space Age. This course takes students through the age of classical civilizations. Supplementary lessons focus on concepts in economics and citizenship.



Art

Following the timeline of K¹² History, Art 1 lessons include an introduction to the art and architecture of different cultures such as Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt, Greece, and China. Students will identify landscapes, still lifes, and portraits; study elements of art such as line, shape, and texture; and create art similar to the works they learn about, using many materials and techniques. For example, inspired by Vincent van Gogh's *The Starry Night*, students paint their own starry landscape using bold brushstrokes, and make clay sculptures inspired by a bust of Queen Nefertiti and the Great Sphinx.

Spotlight on Music

Spotlight on Music promotes successful music learning as students explore and build foundational music skills. The program includes enriching musical experiences that help students understand music concepts. Students are exposed to a variety of interactive learning activities, such as focused listening, singing, creative movement, dancing, real and virtual instruments, authentic recordings, videos, music theory exercises, and playing the recorder (grades 3–8). Spotlight on Music provides opportunities for students to make meaningful connections with math, language arts, science, social studies, and other subjects.

