PAVIRTUAL

CHARTER SCHOOL

Course Descriptions

Fourth Grade

4

Fourth Grade Course Descriptions

Language Arts

This comprehensive course covers reading comprehension, analysis, composition, vocabulary. and grammar, usage, and mechanics, including sentence analysis and diagramming. Structured lessons on spelling enable students to recognize base words and roots in related words, while direct and explicit instruction in vocabulary teaches students to identify and clarify meanings of grade level-appropriate and domain-specific words. Lessons are designed to develop reading comprehension, build vocabulary, and help students become more independent readers. The course emphasizes classic literature. Additionally, students read works of nonfiction as well as four novels selected from a long list of classic titles. This course addresses current thinking in assessment standards.

Math

This research-based course focuses on computational fluency, conceptual understanding, and problem solving. This 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 continues to emphasize the understanding of numbers and operations. There is a focus on computational fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers. The course enhances fluency of operations through application in the solving of measurement, geometry, and data analysis problems using mathematical problem-solving techniques. Students make connections between fraction and decimal representation of numbers. Students study equivalences and relationships between fractions and decimals on the number line and with other models. Students develop algebraic thinking as they work with variables and formulas to solve multistep word problems and as they study patterns and rules. They extend their knowledge of geometry through more in-depth classification of shapes and work with lines, angles, and rotations and the connection of geometric concepts to measurement and problem solving. This course includes standards-based tasks, digital literacy skills, and assessment questions.

Science

Students develop scientific reasoning and perform hands-on experiments in Earth, life, and physical sciences. They construct an electromagnet, identify minerals according to their properties, use chromatography to separate liquids, and assemble food webs. Students will explore topics such as the interdependence of life; plant and animal interactions; chemistry; forces and fluids; the human body; the nervous system; invertebrates; electricity and magnetism; rocks and minerals; weathering, erosion, and deposition; the fossil record and the history of life; and the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic eras.

History

History 4 concludes a program that spans the elementary grades, exploring world geography and history from the Stone Age to the Space Age. This course focuses on the period from the Scientific Revolution to modern times. Supplementary lessons focus on concepts in economics and citizenship.

Art

Lessons include an introduction to the artists, cultures, and great works of art and architecture from the French and American revolutions through modern times. Students will study and create artworks in various media, including portraits, quilts, sculpture, collages, and more; investigate the art of the United States, Europe, Japan, Mexico, and Africa; learn about Impressionism, Cubism, Art Nouveau, and Regionalism; and create artworks inspired by works they learn about, using many materials and techniques. For example, after studying sculptures and paintings of ballerinas by Edgar Degas, students create their own clay sculptures of a figure in motion.

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.