

COMPREHEND™

2019-2020 Course Catalog



COMPREHEND™ provides
QUALITY, CHARACTER-BASED DIGITAL LEARNING OPTIONS
that equip students to be academically successful
with generous opportunities for
practice, deeper learning, and proof of mastery.

CURRICULUM

Comprehend™ provides quality, character-based digital learning options that equip students to be academically successful, with ample opportunities for practice, deeper learning, and proof of mastery.



Teachers and parents are invested partners in the students' learning. Comprehend courses are flexible for teachers and students to use or modify to meet individual needs in a blended environment.

“The COMPREHEND curriculum has helped my teachers and students. Even our SpEd students have experienced success due to the fun, multi-media approach. Our students enjoy the online learning, and that’s the biggest plus.”

MS. ROGENESS

*Director of Virtual Special Education
for iSchool Virtual Academy of Texas*

Courses are academically rigorous and provide different levels of learning to meet all necessary state assessment requirements. Throughout the curriculum, students build vocabulary and become better readers by taking ownership of their learning. Students also receive character education which is embedded within the course material to encourage a life of moral excellence.

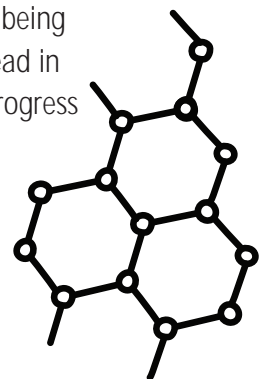
Comprehend curriculum allows students to progress at their own individual rate. Students who are more skilled or have previous knowledge may proceed at a quicker rate in the areas of their strengths. Students who need more time to grasp academic concepts are encouraged to do their best, but are able to work at their levels of proficiency and proceed as they are capable.

Each core subject consists of 10 units. Typically, students work on one unit in each subject daily. Most students complete at least 60 units per year.

WHAT IS A UNIT?

Comprehend has taken the traditional-style textbook and divided it into bite-sized, obtainable worktexts called units. Each grade level consists of 10 units in each core subject for a full-credit course. Half-credit courses are usually 5 units.

Comprehend stands out from other curriculum providers with its individualized, self-instructional, mastery-based approach. With minimal assistance, units allow students to absorb subject material according to their own learning abilities rather than being pushed forward or held back by their abilities and age. Students may move ahead in some subject areas and proceed at a slower pace in others. Overall, students progress forward once they have demonstrated success.



COMPREHEND™

2019-2020 COURSE CATALOG



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

3rd Grade English Language Arts
4th Grade English Language Arts
5th Grade English Language Arts
6th Grade English Language Arts
7th Grade English Language Arts
8th Grade English Language Arts

English I
 English II
 English III
 English IV
 Literary Genres
 Speech Communication

Paper Only:

Creative Writing

MATHEMATICS

3rd Grade Math
4th Grade Math
5th Grade Math
6th Grade Math
7th Grade Math
8th Grade Math

Algebra I
 Geometry
 Algebra II
 Math Models
 Precalculus

SCIENCE

3rd Grade Science
4th Grade Science
5th Grade Science
6th Grade Science
7th Grade Science
8th Grade Science

Biology
 Integrated Physics and Chemistry (Physical Science)

Chemistry

Physics

Aquatic Science

Environmental Systems

Paper Only:

Astronomy

SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY

3rd Grade Social Studies
3rd Grade Oklahoma State History
4th Grade California State History
4th Grade Texas State History
5th Grade Social Studies (U.S. History)
6th Grade Social Studies (World Cultures)
7th Grade Texas State History
7th Grade Ancient History
8th Grade Social Studies (U.S. History)

World Geography
 World History
 United States History
 Economics
 United States Government
 Psychology
 Bible Literacy Old Testament
 Bible Literacy New Testament
 Logic I
 Logic II

FINE ARTS

3rd Grade Art
3rd Grade Health
3rd Grade Music
4th Grade Art
4th Grade Health
4th Grade Music
5th Grade Art
5th Grade Health
5th Grade Music

Middle School Art

Middle School Music

Middle School Theater

Art History

Music Appreciation

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Career Prep

Paper Only:

Investigating Careers (middle school)

College and Career Transitions

CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Anatomy and Physiology
 Business Management
 Child Development
 Entrepreneurship
 Medical Microbiology
 Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance
 Principles of Health Science
 Principles of Human Services
 Virtual Business

STAAR® STUDY GUIDES

5th Grade Science STAAR®
8th Grade Science STAAR®
8th Grade U.S. History STAAR®
Algebra I STAAR®
Biology STAAR®
English I STAAR®
English II STAAR®
United States History STAAR®

DIAGNOSTICS

English Diagnostic

Math Diagnostic

½ credit
 1 credit
 ½–1 credit

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COMPREHEND

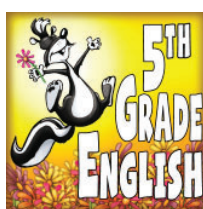
English Language Arts

**3rd Grade English Language Arts and Reading**

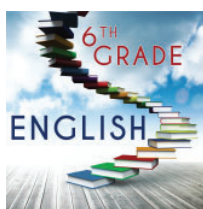
This course provides students instruction and practice in reading, comprehending, and analyzing various genres. Students will also learn skills to become stronger writers while creating texts for various purposes. Students will complete basic research tasks. In addition, students will learn spelling, grammar, and conventions to strengthen their writing and learn and practice skills and strategies to build their vocabulary. Students will further their communication skills by listening, speaking, and working with peers. Students will also learn and utilize cursive writing.

**4th Grade English Language Arts and Reading**

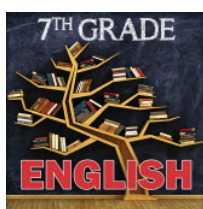
Covering 4th Grade ELAR objectives, this course builds upon third-grade skills and vocabulary development. The focus is reading comprehension of main ideas, details, and themes. Students also keep a reading journal and compare different genre elements. Students write narratives and various essays, including a persuasive essay and an informative research paper. They also evaluate graphic elements, media, and speeches. In the area of cooperative learning, students practice good listening and discussion skills. Additionally, they use technology to make a presentation and self-evaluate their performance.

**5th Grade English Language Arts and Reading**

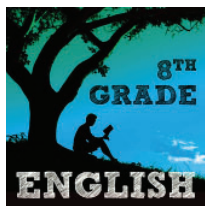
All standard conventions of English grammar are thoroughly covered. Vocabulary and spelling are spiraled throughout and include word roots, affixes, use of the dictionary, and using context. Students will read and analyze all major genres and be asked to imitate each in their own writing. Students analyze the novel *Number the Stars*. The students compose all forms of writing required by the state standards and are given detailed instructions in formal research and essays. A section on media literacy is included. Many lessons require peer collaboration. Fluency in reading aloud is taught overtly.

**6th Grade English Language Arts and Reading**

This course provides an overview in reading/comprehension of various genres including fiction and non-fiction. Students read the novel *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen and analyze the main character's development. Various activities emphasize informative and fiction writing, including planning, research, use of organizers, drafting, revision, and editing. Instruction also includes grammar basics and mechanics such as combining sentences and using correct punctuation. Analytical exercises consist of comparing genres, evaluating media, and identifying and using persuasion. Additionally, students practice necessary life skills such as communication and presentation, reflecting on the importance of collaboration in teamwork.

**7th Grade English Language Arts and Reading**

In this course, students will learn and apply new skills in reading, writing, and oral communication. Students will consider the importance of establishing a purpose in reading and identifying themes. Reading assignments include short stories, myths, legends, true stories, and expository texts. Students will read and critique the historical novel *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*. Students will plan, draft, revise, proofread, edit, and publish a fictional narrative and an expository essay. Students will research reliable sources in order to create a research essay and accompanying multimedia presentation. Exploring the poetic devices of sensory and figurative language, students will create a poem of their own. Students will develop oral communication skills by preparing and presenting persuasive and instructional speeches. The course finishes with an investigation of communication in teamwork and collaboration.



8th Grade English Language Arts and Reading

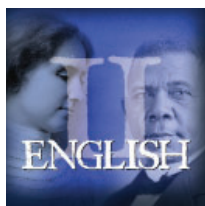
This course will expand students' reading horizons and communication skills. Investigating narrative, epic, lyric, and free verse poetry, students will develop an appreciation for the sound, structure, and language of poetry. Students will better understand the elements of literature after reading O. Henry's "A Retrieved Reformation," Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, and William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker*. Writing projects include creating a personal narrative, a procedural text, and a multimedia research presentation. Students will examine various forms of media and learn to distinguish bias when evaluating a persuasive text. Presenting a persuasive speech, participating in a debate, and practicing formal and informal speaking and listening will enhance students' communication skills.



English I

1 Credit

English I launches a four-year journey during which students will confidently master grammar, develop advanced communication skills, and learn to analyze and appreciate challenging literature. The course begins with grammar fundamentals including sentence structure, parts of speech, and phrases and clauses. Students' vocabulary will expand through a study of technology, literary terms, and words with multiple meanings. Culturally diverse texts will emphasize literary elements and techniques while an overview of short and long prose will delve into excerpts from *The Odyssey*. Reading *Animal Farm* and *Romeo and Juliet* will expand the students' literary world. Writing skills will advance as students learn and apply the steps for creating a research paper. The course includes coverage of effective speaking and listening.



English II

1 Credit

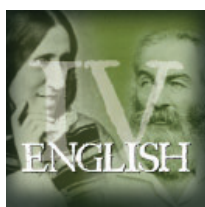
English II begins with a major focus on grammar to help students become stronger writers. Students then analyze literary genre elements in various excerpts of classical stories. A major focus is the Greek drama, *Antigone*, by Sophocles. The novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee is required with this course to study for analysis, as well. Students compare informational texts and have various writing projects. For example, they write an analytical essay on a short story and a persuasive essay that they also present as a speech. Their research paper is about a topic they choose on the Civil Rights Movement in which they construct a multi-media presentation to accompany it. Additionally, this course includes work-related documents with students constructing their own resumés and letters.



English III

1 Credit

In English III, students focus on the development of American Literature and compare it with ideas and forms of literature around the world. Students review the basics of the language arts, then scaffold with practices of increasing complexity to meet the required grade-level objectives of analytical thinking. Engaging in a step-by-step process, students learn to write complex analyses and argument papers. Students also learn principles in research, teamwork, discussion, and presentation skills. The text that should accompany the course is the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, by Joseph Stein. This play highlights literary devices as well as the ideas of immigration and cultural assimilation with supporting literature. Additionally, students explore college and career planning as well as tips for dealing with information in technology today.



English IV

1 Credit

English IV emphasizes the interpretation of various types of literature from different time periods. The genres covered include fiction, drama, and poetry. The dramatic play *Cyrano de Bergerac* is read and studied for its use of language to convey dilemmas and themes. Poetry studies include a survey of British poetry as well as ancient and modern poetry from various cultures and in various periods. Students are also given a wide range of writing assignments. For example, students produce a fiction story and a script. They also write essays evaluating literary elements. The course also includes research and writing arguments with logic. These various writing assignments help prepare students for end-of-course and SAT essay writing. Coverage is also given to analyzing and evaluating media and speeches, as well as using presentation and discussion skills.



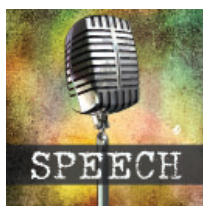
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Literary Genres

1 Credit

Literary Genres is a senior level course in which students will explore and analyze a variety of literature. A grammar review precedes a study of rhetorical and literary devices, and a brief survey of the major literary forms. Students will read a variety of fictional selections and stories including *The Canterbury Tales*, various mythologies, *Beowulf*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Dracula*, and Edgar Allan Poe's "The Masque of the Red Death." Students will better understand drama after reading excerpts from William Shakespeare's plays and will contemplate timeless poems by Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Lord Byron, and other poets. Comparing and contrasting speeches by Barack Obama and Ronald Reagan will assist students in analyzing persuasive texts. The course concludes with a look at perspective in nonfiction texts such as diaries and autobiographies.



Speech Communication

½ Credit

Speech Communication seeks to improve the interpersonal and public communication skills of students. Surveying the communication process, students will learn the components and functions of communication, differentiate between oral and nonverbal communication, and comprehend the listening process. Developing familiarity with self and personal strengths and weaknesses, students will boost self-confidence as public speakers in situations such as speeches or interviews. The course will culminate with students applying their acquired communication skills in researching, preparing, and giving a speech.

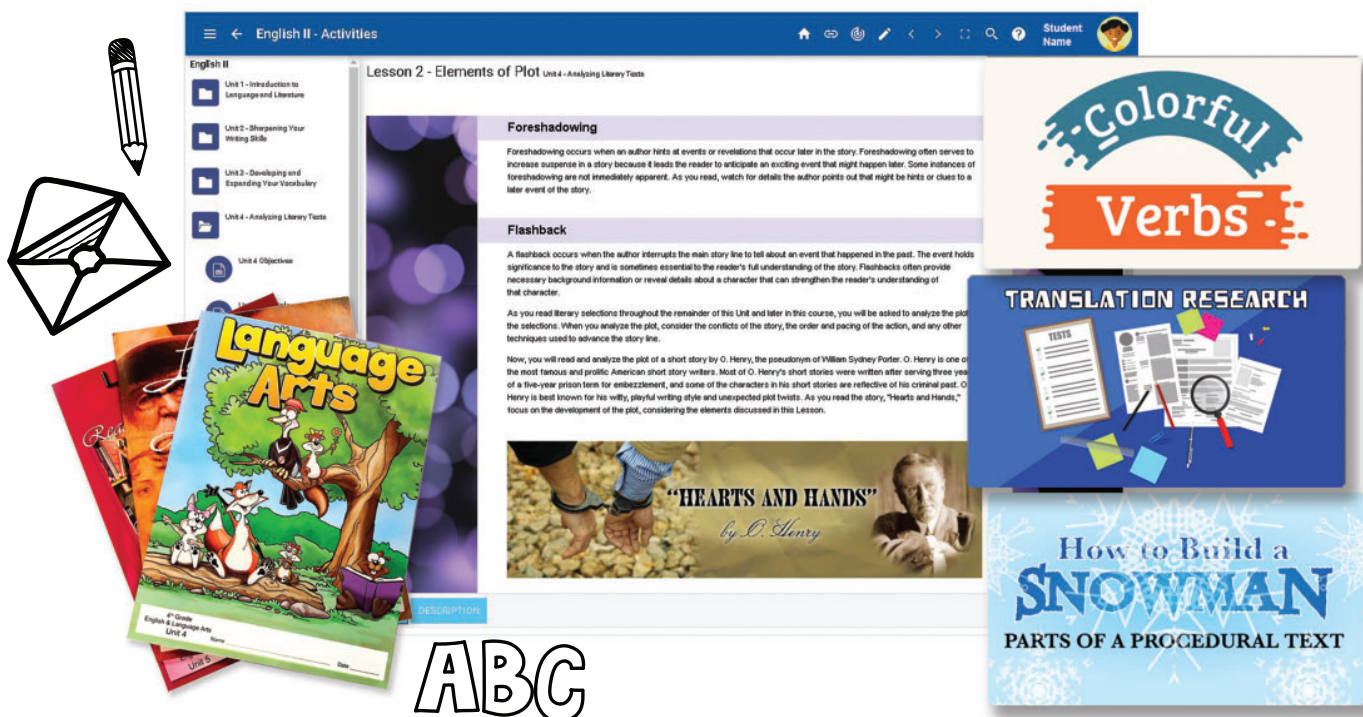


Creative Writing

1 Credit

(paper course only)

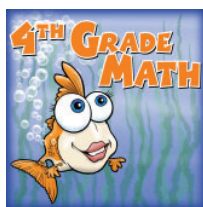
Creative Writing encourages students to write, reason, and relate to the world creatively. By engaging in a wide variety of exercises, students will learn how to express themselves creatively. Students will be writing creatively and reading in a range of domains including reflection, interpretation, evaluation, synthesis, persuasion, controversial issues, and experimentation. Students will demonstrate skills in these forms: fictional writing, short stories, poetry, and drama.





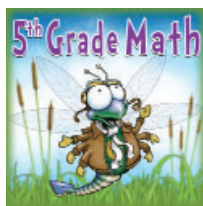
3rd Grade Math

The primary focal areas in 3rd Grade Math are place value, operations of whole numbers, and understanding fractional units. Students will learn the purpose of rounding numbers and learn to identify values on a number line. Students will perform the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They will learn and practice multiplication through 10. They will learn to model division in different ways, including grouping and using arrays. The mathematical strands of algebraic reasoning, geometry and measurement, and data analysis are presented and practiced. The use of tables, graphs, and charts is thoroughly explained, and concepts of financial literacy are also covered.



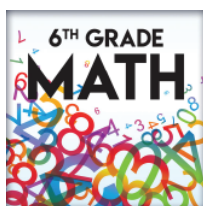
4th Grade Math

The primary focal areas in 4th Grade Math are use of operations, fractions and decimals, and describing and analyzing geometry and measurement. Students will practice multiplication and divide 4-digit numbers by single digit divisors. They will also learn about estimating quotients. Students will learn and practice addition and subtraction of fractions. Algebraic concepts will include working with equations and solving multi-step problems. Perimeter and area problems will also be performed. Financial literacy topics are also covered.



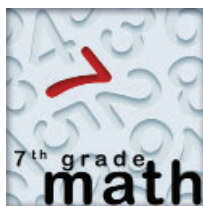
5th Grade Math

5th Grade Math will develop students' mathematical problem-solving skills. Beginning with an overview of place values, students will learn to regroup numbers and estimate sums and differences. Students will learn to multiply and divide numbers with more than one digit. Proficiency will be gained in adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions and whole numbers. Students will solve problems using basic numerical and algebraic expressions. Geometry includes lines, angles, polygons, and polyhedrons. Customary and metric measurements will be used to solve problems. Students will organize and present mathematical data using line graphs, scatterplots, bar graphs, and other visual aids. The course concludes with application of math skills in the study of financial concepts.



6th Grade Math

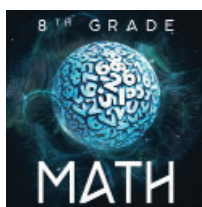
6th Grade Math has a primary focus in the areas of numbers and operations, proportionality, expressions and equations, geometry, and measurement and statistics. Students are exposed to concepts including least common multiple and greatest common factor, ratios, and long division. They learn and practice the geometry principles of area, surface area, and volume. In the algebra area, students learn to balance equations, to handle inequalities, and are exposed to functions. Students are also taught and given the opportunity to practice statistical representations and interpretation of data. Further topics of financial literacy are covered.



7th Grade Math

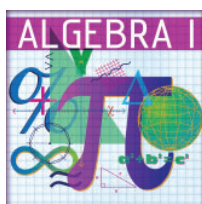
This course reviews many concepts of mathematics, and it introduces new concepts of graphing and financial information. Students work with sets and subsets, rational and irrational numbers, exponents, squares and square roots. Other topics include order of operations, GCF and LCM, fractions, additive inverses, and a thorough treatment of decimals. Algebraic concepts include ratios, rates, proportions, equations, and inequalities. Geometry concepts include triangles, circles, and circumferences. Students are taught graphing concepts such as plotting in different forms. Probability is covered, as are financial topics including interest, taxes, and budgeting.





8th Grade Math

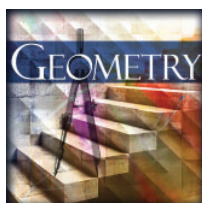
This course emphasizes the application of mathematics to real-life scenarios, helping the student to build skills in problem solving. Its topics include expressions, equations, relationships, proportions, geometric shapes, measurements, and the use of information. Emphasis is given to the interpretation and creation of graphs and charts that express, describe, and apply data. Students are also given instruction in finance, especially in the area of personal financial literacy. This course ensures that students have mastered the basic skills needed to enter high school mathematics courses.



Algebra I

1 Credit

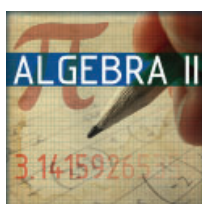
Algebra I is a common starting point for high school math studies. A review of fundamental math skills in unit 1 will ensure students are ready for algebraic concepts. Students' math competence will grow as they learn to solve expressions, functions, and equations by using formulas, ratios, proportions, percentages, and rates. Other concepts include exponents and scientific notation, polynomials and trinomials, multi-step inequalities, slope formulas, and systems of equations and inequalities. Students will solve quadratic functions through various methods including graphing, factoring, square roots, completing the square, and the quadratic equation. Using tables and graphs, students will analyze and organize data and statistics. Students will learn to work and solve exponential, radical, and rational functions and equations. The final unit ties algebraic concepts to the study of geometry.



Geometry

1 Credit

This course, dealing primarily with two-dimensional Euclidean geometry and solid geometry, promotes the development of logical reasoning skills and is useful in many life situations. Beginning with the fundamental concepts of line segments and angles, students will progress to conditional statements, geometric and algebraic proofs, and line relationships. In studying polygons, students will learn the properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles along with geometrical concepts including the Pythagorean Theorem and the relationship of pi (π) to circumference and area in a circle. In the study of solid geometry, students will learn how to determine area and volume for prisms, cylinders, pyramids, cones, and spheres. Students will apply learned geometric skills in working with ratios, similarities, transformations, and symmetry before concluding the course with an inquiry into the fundamentals of trigonometry.



Algebra II

1 Credit

Algebra II will consolidate and build on students' knowledge acquired in Algebra I. After a review of Algebra I concepts, students will take an in-depth look at linear equations, inequalities, and functions. Students will be introduced to matrices, apply Cramer's Rule in solving linear systems, and solve graphs and equations of conic sections. Using graphs, factoring, and the quadratic formula, students will solve quadratic equations, inequalities, and functions. Students will investigate how to graph, factor, invert, and solve polynomials, as well as solve rational expressions, radical expressions, fractional exponents, and rational inequalities. Students will examine the properties, transformations, and applications of exponential and logarithmic functions. Applying probability and data analysis, students will determine probability and model data. The final unit will present trigonometric concepts to prepare students advancing to trigonometry.



1 Credit

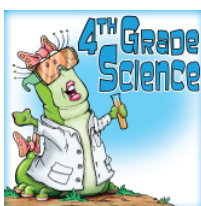


COMPREHEND Science



3rd Grade Science

The study of science in 3rd Grade includes conducting descriptive investigations using scientific methods, analyzing data, and making tables and graphs. Students use tools such as collecting nets, sound recorders, and spring scales to collect, analyze, and record information. In this integrated science course, students explore many scientific concepts and will perform tasks such as measuring physical properties of matter; describing the forms of energy; investigating how forces cause change; describing rapid changes to Earth's surface; comparing different landforms; creating models of the solar system; understanding the structures of living organisms and how they interact with each other and the environment; and comparing life cycles of different plants and animals.



4th Grade Science

The study of science in 4th Grade includes conducting descriptive investigations using scientific methods, analyzing data, and making graphs. Students use tools such as beakers, compasses, and balances to collect, analyze, and record information. In this integrated science course, students explore many scientific concepts and will perform tasks such as measuring physical properties of matter; predicting how matter changes with heating and cooling; describing the forms of energy and its cycles; understanding slow changes to Earth's surface; recognizing weather patterns and using weather maps; understanding the structures and relationships of living organisms and their environment; illustrating and comparing life cycles of different plants and animals; and investigating patterns in the Sun, Earth, Moon system, including shadows and lunar phases.



5th Grade Science

The study of science in 5th Grade includes conducting descriptive and experimental investigations using scientific methods, analyzing data, and making models. Students use tools such as beakers, magnets, and spring scales to collect, analyze, and record information. In this integrated science course, students classify matter by its physical properties; describe the forms of energy and its cycles; investigate how forces cause change; diagram changes to Earth's surface; compare Earth's renewable and nonrenewable resources; understand the structures of living organisms and how they interact with each other and the environment; and recognize patterns in the Sun, Earth, Moon system.



6th Grade Science

6th Grade Science is an integrated course surveying essential concepts in physics, geology, chemistry, astronomy, and biology. Students will investigate elements and compounds, while learning the basics of chemistry. Students will examine different forms of energy and the laws of motion. An investigation of the structure of earth will precede a study of the characteristics and properties of rocks, minerals, and fossils. A study of astronomy, including galaxies, stars, and the solar system will provide a context in which students will consider the history and future of space exploration. The course concludes with an inquiry into cells, classification, and ecology. Throughout the course, there are lab investigations, including video labs, to reinforce science concepts and skills.



7th Grade Science

The 7th Grade Science course will deepen students' understanding of life science. The course begins with the basic building blocks of life—cells. A unit on genetics will challenge students to investigate how DNA, genes, and proteins affect reproduction. Students will learn about different life processes and the importance of the water, nitrogen, and carbon cycles. Students will analyze the effect of climate and weather on life and the environment. An investigation into human body systems, including the skeletal, respiratory, and immune systems, precedes the concluding unit on ecology where students will learn how living things interact with their environments. Throughout the course, there are lab investigations to reinforce science concepts and skills.



8th Grade Science

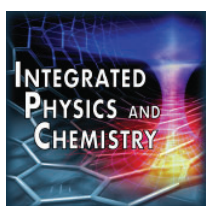
8th Grade Science will challenge students with an integrated study of earth, physical, and biological sciences. Students will analyze the relationship between the Earth, Sun, and Moon. Students will better understand the changing earth as they survey physical processes, such as erosion and weathering and the characteristics of rocks and minerals. A unit on oceanography will introduce students to geological, chemical, and biological aspects of the ocean. Students will consider the fundamentals of matter and energy along with the application of energy, force, and motion in physics. Units on plant and animal biology will introduce students to the importance of habitats and earth cycles in sustaining life. The course concludes with a look at the human impact on earth. Throughout the course, there are lab investigations to reinforce science concepts and skills.



Biology

1 Credit

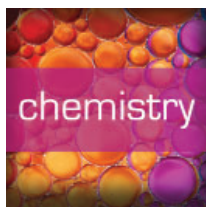
In Biology, students will develop appreciation for the living world. A brief history of biology followed by an investigation of the basic unit of life—the cell—will prepare students for deeper research. Students will explore topics concerning genetics, including meiosis, heredity, and DNA. Students will consider natural selection, origin of life theories, and the mechanics of evolution. An exploration of “little critters” such as bacteria precedes a study of plant structures, processes, and reproduction. Students will inquire into animal behavior and characteristics as they study invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, among others. An inspection of nutrition and disease will lead students to examine human body systems. The course will conclude with an analysis of the interdependence of living things in ecosystems.



Integrated Physics and Chemistry (Physical Science)

1 Credit

In IPC, students will learn many fascinating chemistry and physics concepts. Students have a brief introduction to the scientific method, lab safety, and the metric system. The study of chemistry begins with the atomic theory and the Periodic Table, applying theory to develop chemical formulas and balance equations. The course includes investigations into acids and bases, gas laws, and nuclear chemistry. Students explore Newton's laws of motion and other physics concepts including mass, force, motion, velocity, acceleration, gravity, and energy. A study of electricity and magnetism, simple machines, the laws of thermodynamics, and energy waves rounds out the physics portion of the course. Throughout the course, there are lab investigations, including video labs, to reinforce science concepts and skills.



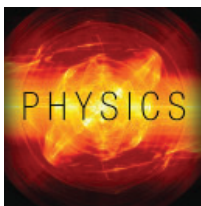
Chemistry

1 Credit

A foundational branch of physical science, the principles and laws of chemistry find many applications in business, technology, health care, and other fields outside traditional scientific areas. Beginning with a look at measurements, calculations, data analysis, and the scientific method, students will investigate the properties of elements, compounds, and mixtures. A survey of the history of theories of atomic structure will lead students to MendeléeV's periodic table and an inspection of periodic law. Next, students will apply atomic theory in the study of molecular and chemical bonding interactions through chemical formulas, reactions, and stoichiometry. Students' knowledge will expand as they learn about the states of matter, gas laws, solutions, acids and bases, thermochemistry and reaction kinetics, and oxidation-reduction reactions. The course concludes with inquiries into organic chemistry, biochemistry, and nuclear chemistry. Throughout the course, there are lab investigations, including video labs, to reinforce science concepts and skills.



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Physics

1 Credit

In this course, students will learn physics concepts, including matter and energy, motion and force, speed, velocity, and acceleration in order to better understand how the universe behaves. A survey of the historical development of physics as a foundational branch of science will lead to recognition of the contributions of Newton, Einstein, Planck, and others. Students will apply physics concepts as they study gravity and acceleration, momentum, motion, and energy. The concepts of work and power will become evident as students learn how machines use torque and force to accomplish work. Students will recognize the roles of each fundamental force as well as investigate electrostatics, thermodynamics, wave forms, particles, and quantum physics. Following an examination of the nucleus, radioactivity, fission, and fusion, the course concludes with the theories of special and general relativity. Throughout the course, there are lab investigations, including video labs, to reinforce science concepts and skills.



Astronomy

1 Credit

(paper course only)

Beginning with a look at astronomy's history, students will recognize the contributions of Ptolemy, Copernicus, Galileo, and Newton to our understanding of the universe. The second unit investigates telescopes and detectors such as radio receivers. An examination of the characteristics and processes of the Sun will be followed by a look at the terrestrial planets: Mercury, Venus, and Mars. After studying the Earth-Moon system, students will explore facts about the minor planets, Jupiter, Saturn, and the outer planets. Moving beyond the solar system, students will learn the characteristics of stars, galaxies, and deep space objects. Students will better appreciate the night sky after learning the constellations and will ponder the origin and fate of the universe with an inquiry into impermanence, special and general relativity, and cosmology.



Aquatic Science

1 Credit

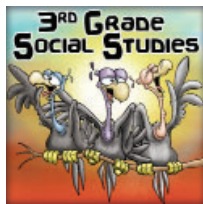
In Aquatic Science students will test, predict, and learn about water and things pertaining to water. The first unit will guide students to think of water as a system. Learning the chemistry and physics of water, students will complete a course project by applying scientific methods to collect and analyze data on a local body of water. A survey of the physical properties of the ocean, including their formation and composition, will precede an inquiry into how the atmosphere and sun interacts with the hydrosphere to create weather. Students will examine the elements and properties of aquatic ecosystems, including aquatic biology and marine and freshwater ecosystems. In the final unit, students will consider the relationship between humans and water, including challenges such as population growth competing for resources with agriculture and industry.



Environmental Systems

1 Credit

In Environmental Systems, students will learn about different Earth systems, how they interact with each other, and how humans impact these systems. Students will look at the scientific basis for land, water, atmosphere, and biosphere systems; discuss several environmental problems; analyze possible solutions; delve into laws already in existence; and discuss any future laws. Critical thinking will be required, as well as the ability to argue points from both sides of an issue. Throughout the course, there are lab investigations, including video labs, to reinforce science concepts and skills.



3rd Grade Social Studies

The theme of 3rd Grade Social Studies is community. Students will compare and contrast different types of communities and discover how cultural diversity adds richness and meaning to life in communities. As the course progresses, students will be introduced to the concept of living in a larger world community. They will learn about heroic men and women who overcame adversity and made their communities better places to live. Students will apply map-reading skills and examine source documents that will help them place communities and events in geographical and historical context. Students will learn that they have a responsibility to improve their communities and will identify ways to participate through nonprofit groups, government, and the free enterprise system.



3rd Grade Oklahoma State History

(online course only)

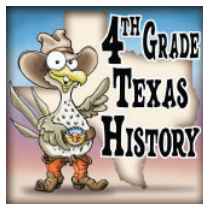
3rd Grade Oklahoma Studies introduces the student to the amazing history and culture of Oklahoma. The course begins with a primer on social studies skills such as reading maps. Students then explore the diverse geographic regions of Oklahoma. Civics and government are the focus of module 2. This is followed by Oklahoma history, beginning with the state's prehistory and early contact between Native Americans and Europeans. Students will learn how the Trail of Tears brought the Five Tribes to Oklahoma and then survey the rapid chain of events that transformed Oklahoma from frontier to statehood. After covering recent historical events, the course concludes with a look at Oklahoma's economic industries and cultural contributions.



4th Grade Social Studies—California State History

(online course only)

California State History is a social science adventure guiding the student through the history of the Golden State. The course begins with a primer on social studies skills such as reading maps. Students then explore the diverse geographic regions of California. Module 2 begins an extended look at California history with an investigation into the culture of Native Americans. Students will then analyze the effect of the arrival of European explorers and Spanish rule. Next, they will follow the transition to Mexican rule and subsequent rapid colonization and statehood driven by the 1849 Gold Rush. After surveying history to the present day, the course concludes with in-depth investigations into California's government, economic structure and industries, and cultural contributions.



4th Grade Social Studies—Texas State History

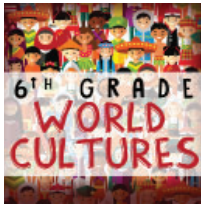
In 4th Grade, students will study the history of Texas. Students will investigate the origins of the first peoples to populate Texas and analyze the effects that European explorers imposed on their way of life. Students will discover facts about the six flags of Texas, beginning with the establishment of Spanish missions in the 17th century to the present-day State of Texas. Students will learn about the spirit of Texas independence and the importance of resisting tyranny during an in-depth examination of the Texas Revolution. The many colorful and resourceful figures in Texas history will entertain and inform students. Students will compare and contrast Texas government with the federal government as established by the U.S. Constitution. Students will learn about the Texas economy and revered holidays.





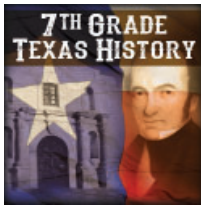
5th Grade Social Studies—United States History

The 5th Grade Social Studies students will engage in a broad survey of U.S. history. Beginning with the discovery of the Western Hemisphere during the Age of Discovery, students will follow the transformation of the United States from a wilderness in the 17th century to a world power during the 20th century. Students will examine founding documents and analyze how government, political parties, and the free enterprise system have shaped the development of the United States. Geographical skills will be tested as students memorize the location of all 50 states and the names of their capitals. In addition, students will examine their rights and duties as citizens and analyze the impact of technology and culture on the lives of Americans.



6th Grade Social Studies—World Cultures

The World Cultures course seeks to expand the knowledge of students beyond their local community to appreciate the diversity of the world at large. The course begins with a survey of ancient civilizations and the development of the Middle East's three major religions. In unit 2, students will study the classical foundations of Western civilization and survey European nations. Unit 3 surveys American history, culture, and the role of citizens. The remainder of the course takes students on a whirlwind tour of dozens of many nations around the world, exploring the history, geography, governmental systems, customs, and cuisine of each.



7th Grade Social Studies—Texas History

Students will appreciate their Texas heritage by exploring the state's fascinating history. The course begins with an investigation of Native American culture. Students will discover how three centuries under Spanish control continues to influence the state today. In unit 4, the action kicks into high gear with the arrival of Anglo colonists led by Stephen F. Austin and other empresarios. Students will analyze the causes of conflict with Mexico and survey events including the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto that led to Texas Independence. Next, the events of the Republic of Texas lead to annexation and a critical role as part of the Confederate States during the Civil War. The course concludes by surveying the growth of Texas through the 20th century and into the 21st century.



7th Grade Social Studies—Ancient World History

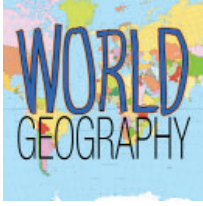
(online course only)

This course introduces students to basic geography of the continents, including boundaries, rivers, and landforms. Students are introduced to the early history of people groups, including civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and China, and the foundations of western civilization: ancient Greece and Rome. The languages, art, literature, societies, and way of life of these cultures are covered. The rise and fall of world kingdoms is discussed, ending with the fall of Rome in 476. Further studies into subsequent civilizations include the Byzantine Empire, rise of nations, and events in the world through the Renaissance and Reformation. Information is presented concerning the rise of many different world cultures.



8th Grade Social Studies—United States History to 1877

This course employs an integrative approach to the teaching of U.S. history with an emphasis on geography, government, economics, culture, science, and technology. Students will learn how early explorations and development of the first colonies led to the union of 13 states as one nation. Students will examine and analyze important founding documents including the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. A survey of the events will reveal how Americans embraced the idea of Manifest Destiny and expanded the nation across North America. Students will follow and analyze the complex issues leading up to the American Civil War. The course concludes with a look at post-war issues.



World Geography

1 Credit

In World Geography, students will learn the six essentials of geography: spatial terms, places and regions, physical systems, human systems, environment and society, and uses of geography. After a broad survey of Earth's structure, hydrosphere, and climates, the focus of each unit narrows to a particular region of the world. By examining the physical geography of each region, including water resources, climate, vegetation, and natural resources, students will understand the influence of geography on economic activities, human culture, and history. In addition, students will investigate the impact of human activity on the environment, including pollution and development, and consider the implications.



World History

1 Credit

World History is a survey of the development of civilizations from prehistoric times to the present. The journey begins with ancient civilizations including Mesopotamia, Egypt, and China, and the foundations of western civilization: ancient Greece and Rome. Students will analyze developments in Africa, Asia, and Europe during the Middle Ages, including the Crusades. Students will understand how the Renaissance and Reformation provided a springboard for the Age of Reason and the Scientific Revolution. An inquiry into events such as the American War of Independence and French Revolution will prepare students to consider the great advances and social upheaval sparked by the Industrial Revolution. Students will probe the causes, events, and consequences of the two world wars and the rise and fall of Communism. The course concludes with a look at developments shaping current events.



United States History Since 1877

1 Credit

U.S. History Since 1877 details the American story from Reconstruction to the present day. Beginning with western expansion, students will analyze the impact of events including the rise of cities and capitalism, the Alaska Purchase, and the Spanish-American War. Students will understand how technological advances including the assembly line and harnessing electricity, as well as the Progressive agenda of societal reform, influenced American prosperity. Students will consider America's rise to a world power during World War I before probing events leading up to World War II, including the Great Depression. Students will examine the momentous war and its consequences, including the Cold War and Korean War and investigate latter 20th century events, including the Reagan era and the Persian Gulf War. The course concludes with a look at recent events, including the War on Terrorism.



Economics

½ Credit

Recommended: Senior year

The Economics course begins with a survey of the basic principles concerning production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services within the free enterprise system. Students will examine the rights and responsibilities of consumers and businesses, analyze the interaction of supply, demand, and price, and study the role of financial institutions. Types of business ownership, market structures, and basic concepts of consumer economics will be surveyed. The impact of a variety of factors including geography, government intervention, economic philosophies, historic documents, societal values, scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the national economy, and economic policy will be an integral part of the course. Students will apply critical-thinking skills to create economic models and to evaluate economic activity patterns. Students will also examine the knowledge and skills necessary as self-supporting adults to make critical decisions relating to personal financial matters such as seeking college financial aid, using credit wisely, and balancing financial accounts.



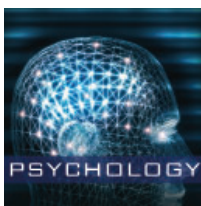


United States Government

½ Credit

Recommended: Senior year

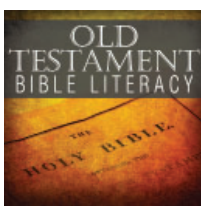
U.S. Government commences its examination of American democracy with a general overview of the purpose, types, origin, and formation of governments. Students will explore how colonial self-rule, English law, and weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation influenced the formation of the U.S. Constitution. Students will investigate the principles of the Constitution and the federal system. The purpose, powers, and relationships among the American institutions of self-government—Congress, Presidency, and the Judiciary—will be examined as well as federal, state, and local governments. Students will become aware of their civic responsibility to vote and participate in the governmental process as they gain understanding of the functions and organization of political parties, the evolution of the two-party system, and the influence of public opinion and political ideology on government decisions.



Psychology

½ Credit

The Psychology course begins with a look at basic social science skills including ethical decision-making and statistical evaluation. After a brief survey of careers in psychology, the student will explore the physical processes of the brain and body systems that shape sense and perception. The student will then study theories of development, personality, and conditioning. Next, students will explore mental processes behind thinking and memory, language acquisition, motivation, and emotions. Students will investigate the levels of consciousness and disorders leading to abnormal behavior. The course concludes with an examination of the individual and social behavior. Students will learn about stress, attitude formation, conflict resolution, conformity and obedience, altruism, and morality.



Old Testament

½ Credit

The Old Testament (OT) course will equip students with a basic literacy of the Hebrew scriptures. The course begins with an examination of the major divisions, authorship, and translations of the OT before surveying each individual book. The second unit examines the impact of the OT on worldview, society and morals, family, human fallibility, modern science, and the value of human life. Students will recognize the impact of Hebrew scriptures on important events and historical documents including the Reformation, the Magna Carta, and the U.S. Constitution. Students will next probe the influence of the OT on language, culture, and literature, including idioms, Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Handel's *Messiah*, Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*, and spirituals. The course will conclude by introducing students to the influence of OT on artworks including *The Creation of Adam* by Michelangelo.



New Testament

½ Credit

The New Testament (NT) course will equip students with a basic literacy of the NT scriptures. To begin, students will explore the history and characteristics of the NT, survey each book, and recognize the centrality of Jesus of Nazareth. An inquiry into the Christian era will inform students of the NT impact on children, slavery, women, marriage, and education. Students will investigate the profound influence of the NT on politics, limited government, and the concept of justice as seen in important American events including the American Revolution and the U.S. Constitution. Students will understand the effect of the NT on literature after reading selections from *Great Expectations*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and other literature. The course concludes with an examination of artwork related to NT events including the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Logic I

½ Credit

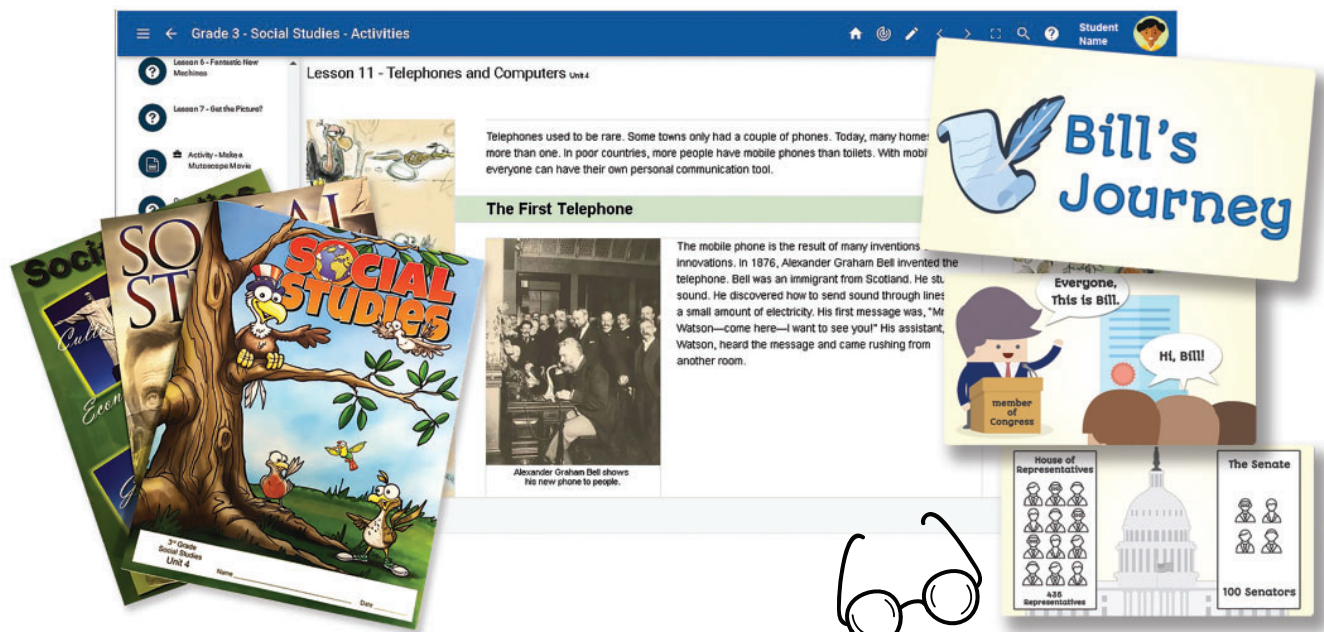
The Logic I course will improve the critical thinking skills of students through the study of informal logic. The course will challenge students to evaluate whether humans are rational or emotional beings. The majority of the course explores occurrences of faulty reasoning known as logical fallacies. Students will learn to recognize and expose fallacies when evaluating and critiquing arguments. Fallacies covered include appeal to fear, irrelevant thesis, straw man, false analogy, red herring, and misuse of statistics. Students will apply the study of types, components, and principles of argumentative dialogue in preparing a dialogue of their own. During the course, students will consider and analyze *Aesop's Fables* and "The Cave" by Plato. The course concludes with a comprehensive review of fallacies and a preview of formal logic.



Logic II

½ Credit

Logic II introduces the student to the world of Aristotelian formal logic. Students will use classical tools, including the Porphyrian tree and Euler's circles to translate arguments into propositions organized within the categorical form. Students will also learn to analyze the validity of arguments using the square of opposition, terminological rules, Venn diagrams, and the *Barbara, Celarent, Darii, Ferio* mnemonic. The course concludes with an evaluation of presuppositional disputes and a survey of hypothetical syllogisms.



COMPREHEND Fine Arts




3rd Grade Art

(online course only)

The study of art in 3rd Grade begins by exploring the basics of art including the elements of art and principles of design. In this integrated art course, students explore the many ideas and themes found throughout art history. Each module advances the student's art skills by requiring hands-on projects utilizing the skills studied and gained in each lesson. The student utilizes multiple art tools and technologies to produce a variety of mediums. Projects include creating drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures, ceramics, mixed media, installation art, digital art, and photography. The course concludes with an exploration in available art and career opportunities along with the creation of a professional art portfolio showcasing the work created throughout the course.



3rd Grade Health

(online course only)

The 3rd Grade Health course builds on the knowledge and skills learned in the second grade. In this course, the student acquires the health information and skills necessary to become healthy adults and learn about behaviors in which they should and should not participate. Skills are taught in seeking guidance in the area of health from parents, how personal behaviors can increase or reduce health risks throughout the lifespan, how health is influenced in a variety of factors, and how to recognize health information and products. Beyond physical health, this course helps students learn personal/interpersonal skills needed to promote individual, family, and community health. Several projects help the student expand health thinking and practice skills learned in the course.



3rd Grade Music

(online course only)

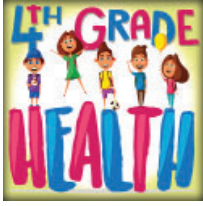
The study of music in 3rd Grade focuses on basic sight reading skills, performing folk dances, and learning the history of folk music in America. Students will learn to play songs in 2/4 and 4/4 time signatures on the soprano recorder. Virtual games teach students to listen for changes in dynamics, count the number of beats, and recognize where measures start and end. By the end of the year, students will know how to read music and play the recorder. They will also know how to clog-dance and how to behave during a formal music concert. The goal of the 3rd Grade Music course is to learn musical performance, active listening skills, and mindfulness in a fun and relaxed environment.



4th Grade Art

(online course only)

The study of art in 4th Grade begins by exploring the basics of art including the elements of art and principles of design. In this integrated art course, students explore the many ideas and themes found throughout art history. Each module advances the student's art skills by requiring hands-on projects utilizing the skills studied and gained in each lesson. The student utilizes multiple art tools and technologies to produce a variety of mediums. Projects include creating drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures, ceramics, mixed media, installation art, digital art, and photography. The course concludes with an exploration in available art and career opportunities along with the creation of a professional art portfolio showcasing the work created throughout the course.



4th Grade Health

(online course only)

In 4th Grade Health, the student acquires the health information and skills necessary to become healthy adults and learn about behaviors in which they should and should not participate. Skills are taught in seeking guidance in the area of health from parents, how personal behaviors can increase or reduce health risks throughout the lifespan, how health is influenced in a variety of factors, and how to recognize health information and products. In addition to learning age-specific health information on a variety of health topics, students learn how their behaviors affect their body systems. Students are taught the consequences of unsafe behaviors while using social skills to deal with peer pressure and communicate effectively.



4th Grade Music

(online course only)

The study of music in 4th Grade opens the gateway into exciting development. Building upon the basics covered in 3rd Grade (while still teaching these basics in order to function as a stand-alone course), 4th Grade music allows students the opportunity to learn how music recording and distribution has changed over the years. Students will learn to conduct and play music on the recorder in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 time signatures while also learning different musical forms. 4th Grade music has a focus on Texas heritage, noting the influence of Mexican-American, African-American, and European immigrant culture on the music and dancing of the state. Students will listen to great examples of music from a variety of instruments, historical recordings, and cultures as their understanding and respect for different varieties of music increase.



5th Grade Art

(online course only)

The study of art in 4th Grade begins by exploring the basics of art including the elements of art and principles of design. In this integrated art course, students explore the many ideas and themes found throughout art history. Each module advances the student's art skills by requiring hands-on projects utilizing the skills studied and gained in each lesson. The student utilizes multiple art tools and technologies to produce a variety of mediums. Projects include creating drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures, ceramics, mixed media, installation art, digital art, and photography. The course concludes with an exploration in available art and career opportunities along with the creation of a professional art portfolio showcasing the work created throughout the course.



5th Grade Health

(online course only)

In 5th Grade Health, the student acquires the health information and skills necessary to become healthy adults and learn about behaviors in which they should and should not participate. Skills are taught in seeking guidance in the area of health from parents, how personal behaviors can increase or reduce health risks throughout the lifespan, how health is influenced in a variety of factors, and how to recognize health information and products. Beyond physical health, students are taught about the human body and the changes that come with puberty. Students are taught how to maintain healthy body systems and prevent disease. Students also learn how technology and the media influence personal health and how to apply problem-solving skills to improve or protect their health.



5th Grade Music

(online course only)

The study of music in 5th Grade integrates singing into the student's musical experience. The 5th Grade course enhances sight singing skills by adding in new examples with different key signatures and compound time signatures. Musical form is taught through activities that allow students to express themselves and talk freely about the music and films they prefer, while also providing the critical vocabulary needed to describe this music in a more polished manner. Cultural representation is a key factor in 5th Grade Music, with African-American, Native-American, American Sign Language, and European immigrant representation. Students will finish the 5th Grade Music course with a greater understanding and appreciation for the music of the different cultures around them.



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Middle School Art

(online course only)

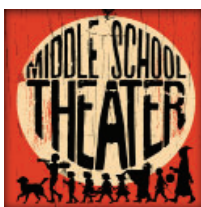
The study of Middle School Art integrates visual literacy skills using critical thinking, imagination, and the senses to explore the world through the use of elements of art and principles of design. The student explores ideas from life experiences about self, peers, family, and community and uses the imagination to integrate them into original works of art. Creative expression is emphasized throughout the course as numerous works of art will be created using several art mediums such as drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures, modeled forms, fiber works, mixed media, installation work, digital art, and photography. Historical and cultural relevance in art is explored while analyzing styles, historical periods, and a variety of cultures. The course explores critical evaluation and response to artworks of the student and others. The course concludes with an exploration in available art and career opportunities along with the creation of a professional art portfolio showcasing the work created throughout the course.



Middle School Music

(online course only)

Taking a more classical approach, the study of music in middle school teaches students the instruments of the orchestra and the classical voice ranges with exemplary performance examples. Students will also learn how to notate musical scores, sight read using solfège and Curwen hand signs, and critically compare art music performances. Students enrolled in the middle school music course will understand the difference between a genre and a style and the parts of sonata form. The middle school music course also introduces a more expansive world view of music with entertaining and interactive tools for learning.



Middle School Theater

(online course only)

In Middle School Theater, students incorporate the study of theater, dialog, music, and dance to offer unique experiences that help students explore realities, relationships, and ideas. The foundations of theater include inquiry and understanding, creative expression, historical and cultural relevance, and critical evaluation and response. Through these foundations, students develop a perception of self, human relationships, and the world using elements of drama and conventions of theater. Through projects and exercises, students communicate in a dramatic form, engage in artistic thinking, build positive self-concepts, relate interpersonally, and integrate knowledge with other content areas in a relevant manner. Through study of historical and cultural relevance, students increase their understanding of heritage and traditions in theater and the diversity of world cultures as expressed in theater. Through critical evaluation and response, students develop the ability to appreciate and evaluate live theater.



Art History

1 Credit

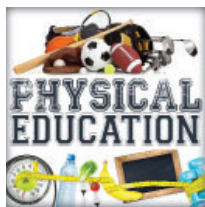
What is art? Art History will help students develop skills to recognize and appreciate the diversity of art. The course begins with prehistoric and ancient art before introducing students to the classical art of the Greeks and Romans. Students will survey medieval art before exploring the glory days of art and architecture, the Renaissance. The use of light and shadow to evoke emotion during the Baroque period will impress students as will the whimsical style of the Rococo period. Students will contrast the Neoclassical return to idealized subjects with the Romantic era's imagination. Appreciation of art will grow as students study Impressionist and Post-Impressionist artists such as Monet and Van Gogh. The course concludes with students tracing modern art movements including expressionism, minimalism, and conceptual art and artists, including Rodin, Picasso, Mondrian, and O'Keeffe.



Music Appreciation

1 Credit

This course is designed to help the non-musician understand music basics, including such topics as reading a musical score, melody and harmony, rhythm, music history (styles by period), music theory, musical genres, instruments, orchestration, and arrangement. The course even covers the creation of musical scores using popular music arrangement software. Other topics include the science of musical sound, health and wellness for performers, and classical symphony concerts and opera performances and etiquette when attending. The course strives to help non-musicians gain an understanding of the world of music and to become well-rounded individuals.



Foundations of Personal Fitness

1 Credit

(online course only)

In this one-year course, students learn how to create fitness plans to improve their own health and wellbeing. Students log physical fitness hours each week to demonstrate a variety of activities to improve overall fitness. Other topics include: social development; rules and etiquette in sports; physiological and biomechanical principles in exercise; importance of safety, hydration and avoidance of banned substances; how to analyze marketing of sports drugs and equipment; and proper nutrition.

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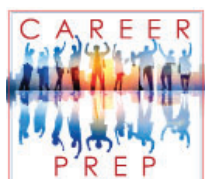
Career Development



Investigating Careers (Middle School)

(paper only)

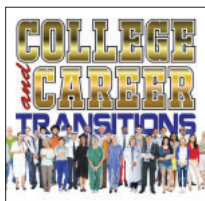
In this course, students are introduced to various aspects of the workplace and are given guidance in career preparation. This includes guidance toward becoming work-ready, for job acquisition skills, for continued training for job advancement, and life-work balance. Topics include self-evaluation for career choice, the labor market, personal and professional development, getting a first job, personal characteristics for work, and decision making. The importance of teamwork and leadership are a main emphasis in the course. The course includes instruction on using online tools to review and assess interest in various careers.



Career Prep

1 Credit

In Career Prep, students are given tools to be successful in future careers. The career clusters and their associated career paths are the focus of the course. Students will learn how to survey the job market, fill out paperwork, and thrive in the workplace. Students will create an electronic portfolio throughout the course. The portfolio includes letters of interest to employers, resumés and cover letters, interview preparation documents, a career plan, as well as other reports. The course is designed for students who are currently working and can leverage real-life experience into their course projects.



College and Career Transitions

½–1 Credit

(paper only)

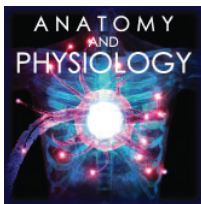
This course is designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to be active and successful learners, both in high school and in college. Students examine numerous research-based learning strategies that are proven to lead to academic success such as goal setting, effective time management, handling stress, note taking, active reading, test-taking strategies, and conducting research. In the College and Career Transitions course, students will research financial scholarships and grant opportunities, complete applications, and explore technical schools, colleges, and universities. With the increased emphasis on career and college readiness and post-secondary education, students need a course that will provide opportunities to meet these post-secondary opportunities in grades 9–12.



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Career and Technology Education



Anatomy and Physiology

1 Credit

Anatomy and Physiology introduces students to the structures and functions of the amazing human body. Students will learn about different organ systems and how they work together to maintain life. Some of these organ systems include the circulatory, digestive, skin, reproductive, and respiratory systems. Students will examine different diseases that affect these systems and the treatments (both traditional and new) used to fight the diseases. The development and effects of aging on the different organ systems are explored throughout Anatomy and Physiology.



Business Management

1 Credit

Business Management is an integral part of the Business, Marketing, and Finance Career and Technical Education clusters. Students will examine evolving views of management with an emphasis on leadership. Next, students will consider ethical case studies and analyze the strengths and weaknesses of various organizational structures. In units 4 through 6, students will analyze the decision-making process as it applies to management issues, such as quality control and improving communication. Beginning with unit 7, students will investigate employee compensation and legal matters concerning hiring and firing. The course concludes with a presentation of practical tools to build one's personal habits and to nurture team building.



Child Development

1 Credit

Recommended Prerequisite: Principles of Human Services

Child Development prepares students to understand the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth and development of children. The course is designed to help young people acquire knowledge and skills essential to the care and guidance of children as a parent or caregiver. Emphasis is on helping students create an environment for children that will promote optimum development. Students also investigate careers in child development.



Entrepreneurship

1 Credit

The Entrepreneurship course is designed to grow the student's passion for starting, growing, and excelling in business ventures. The student will explore the basics of starting a business, from brainstorming great concepts, to execution and profitability. Entrepreneurship includes more than just starting businesses, but explores the ventures of product development, marketing, distribution, and sales. The student will expand his or her knowledge in the areas of proper product and service pricing, financial planning and growth, accounting and bookkeeping, fundraising, marketing research, and business law. The course asks the student to practice the knowledge and skills he or she has gained by developing and writing a business plan for their very own business venture. The student will gain a complete understanding of what it takes to make a business a success and possibly gain a desire to actually start a company from scratch.



Principles of Human Services

1 Credit

This course enables students to investigate careers in the human services including counseling, mental health, early childhood development, family and community, and personal care services. Each student is expected to complete the knowledge and skills essential for success in high-skill, high-wage, or high-demand careers.



Medical Microbiology

1 Credit

Medical Microbiology explores the world of tiny (micro) organisms that are responsible for making people sick. Students learn about the common bacteria, viruses, and protists that cause sickness and disease in humans. Medical Microbiology delves into different ways these germs and diseases can spread from person to person, throughout a community, and eventually around the globe while discussing the best practices for stopping them from spreading. Students look into different medications and how they work to kill or slow the growth of different microorganisms. Students will also research why some antibiotic medications are no longer effective against the bacteria that cause disease. Medical microbiology also teaches laboratory skills in how to effectively grow and isolate different colonies of microorganisms in petri dishes.



Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance

1 Credit

The Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance course will expand the student's knowledge in the many areas of business and free enterprise. The majority of the course takes a comprehensive look at business disciplines such as analyzing goods versus services, economics, financial management, principles of personal finance, marketing, the global economy, and government in business. The student will gain soft skills such as understanding business ethics, leadership, and the management of employees. The student will gain hard skills such as product management, finances, marketing campaigns, and sales. The course then takes a practical look at career opportunities in business and the professional skills needed to excel within the industry. The student will finish the course with a broad grasp on the principles of starting, operating, and managing a successful company.



Principles of Health Science

1 Credit

This CTE course is designed to help prepare students for a career in the health science field. It covers healthcare systems and the roles of team members within these institutions. The course has many opportunities for students to explore the various careers within the healthcare field. It emphasizes the personal and professional skills required to succeed in this arena, including personal character qualities, teamwork, and leadership. Coverage includes the science of healthcare, including measurement, SI system, anatomy and physiology, and safety practices. It covers topics of healthcare at various life stages, from birth to death. Laws and regulations, best practices, and professional ethics are discussed, as well. Because this course has a careers emphasis, other topics covered include career preparation, the role of student and professional organizations, and the state of the health-care career field.



Virtual Business

½ Credit

The Virtual Business course guides students through the basics of starting, operating, and managing an online company. This course is designed for students interested in starting a virtual business by creating a web presence, conducting online and offline marketing, examining and creating business contracts for online business, and exploring project-management systems. The student will also explore bookkeeping processes, applicable legal company business structures, managing telecommuting employees, maintaining business records, as well as entrepreneurship. Virtual Business also guides the student through potential online career pathways by conducting various personality and career pathway assessments. The student will conclude the course by applying learned skills to create a company, including a business plan, branding the business, and creating a website using common website builder tools.



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STAAR® Study Guides



5th Grade Science STAAR® Study Guide

In the 5th Grade Science STAAR® Study Guide, students review science content TEKS in the following STAAR®-tested reporting categories. The Study Guide also includes two STAAR®-like practice tests. The tests are the same length as the STAAR® test with the corresponding number of questions for each category. When scoring the test, each question is associated with a category. Students and teachers can determine if they are struggling or excelling in certain categories and redo the questions in the Study Guide for a particular category.



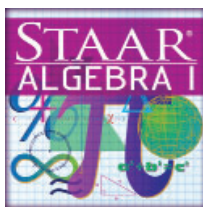
8th Grade Science STAAR® Study Guide

In the 8th Grade Science STAAR® Study Guide, students review science content TEKS in the STAAR®-tested reporting categories. The Study Guide also includes two STAAR®-like practice tests. The tests are the same length as the STAAR® test with the corresponding number of questions for each category. When scoring the test, each question is associated with a category. Students and teachers can determine if they are struggling or excelling in certain categories and redo the questions in the Study Guide for a particular category.



8th Grade United States History STAAR® Study Guide

In the 8th Grade United States History STAAR® Study Guide, students review U.S. History (up to 1877) content TEKS in the STAAR®-tested reporting categories. The Study Guide also includes a STAAR®-like practice test. The test is the same length as the STAAR® test with the corresponding number of questions for each category. When scoring the test, each question is associated with a category. Students and teachers can determine if they are struggling or excelling in certain categories and redo the questions in the Study Guide for a particular category.



Algebra I STAAR® Study Guide

In the Algebra I STAAR® Study Guide, students review all content TEKS in the STAAR®-tested reporting categories. The Study Guide also includes three STAAR®-like practice tests. The tests are the same length as the STAAR® test with the corresponding number of questions for each category. When scoring the tests, each question is associated with a category. Students and teachers can determine if they are struggling or excelling in certain categories and redo the questions in the Study Guide for a particular category.



Biology STAAR® Study Guide

In the STAAR® Biology Study Guide, students review all Biology content TEKS in the STAAR®-tested reporting categories. The Study Guide also includes three STAAR®-like practice tests. The tests are the same length as the STAAR® test with the corresponding number of questions for each category. When scoring the tests, each question is associated with a category. Students and teachers can determine if they are struggling or excelling in certain categories and redo the questions in the Study Guide for a particular category.



English I STAAR® Study Guide

In the English I STAAR® Study Guide, students review English I TEKS in the STAAR®-tested reporting categories. The Study Guide also includes a STAAR®-like practice test. The practice test consists of a reading and writing section. In the reading section, students read passages and answer multiple-choice questions about the passages. There are also two short-answer questions about the passages. In the writing section, students answer multiple-choice questions that require students to revise and edit selections. Students also write an expository essay. When scoring the tests, each question is associated with a category and a standard. Students and teachers can determine if they are struggling or excelling in certain categories and redo the questions in the Study Guide for a particular category.



English II STAAR® Study Guide

In the English II STAAR® Study Guide, students review English II TEKS in the STAAR®-tested reporting categories. The Study Guide also includes a STAAR®-like practice test. The practice test consists of a reading and writing section. In the reading section, students read passages and answer multiple-choice questions about the passages. There are also two short-answer questions about the passages. In the writing section, students answer multiple-choice questions that require students to revise and edit selections. Students also write a persuasive essay. When scoring the tests, each question is associated with a category and a standard. Students and teachers can determine if they are struggling or excelling in certain categories and redo the questions in the Study Guide for a particular category.



United States History STAAR® Study Guide

In the STAAR® United States History Study Guide, students review all U.S. History (since 1877) content TEKS in the STAAR®-tested reporting categories. The Study Guide also includes a STAAR®-like practice test. The test is the same length as the STAAR® test with the corresponding number of questions for each category. When scoring the test, each question is associated with a category. Students and teachers can determine if they are struggling or excelling in certain categories and redo the questions in the Study Guide for a particular category.

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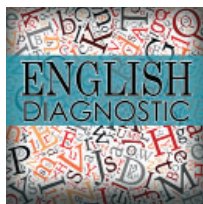
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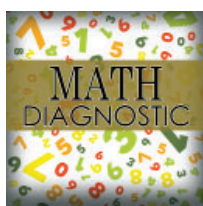
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Diagnostics



English Diagnostic (Freshmen)

The English Diagnostic is designed for students who are entering the 9th Grade. The purpose of the Diagnostic is to assess if the student is ready for high school material as well as to provide remediation for areas as needed. The Diagnostic consists of several English language categories. In each category, there is a pretest, remediation, and posttest. If students pass the pretest, they will immediately go on to the next category pretest. If students do not pass the pretest, they will complete remediation, and then complete a posttest. If the posttest is passed, they will go on to the next category of pretest.



Math Diagnostic (Freshmen)

The Math Diagnostic is designed for students who are entering the 9th Grade. The purpose of the Diagnostic is to assess if the student is ready for high school material as well as to provide remediation for areas as needed. The Diagnostic consists of several math categories. In each category, there is a pretest, remediation, and posttest. If students pass the pretest, they will immediately go on to the next category pretest. If students do not pass the pretest, they will complete the remediation coursework. Once remediation has been completed, students will take a posttest. If the posttest is passed, they will go on to the next category of pretest.

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2nd Grade Literature and Writing

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Medical Terminology1 Credit



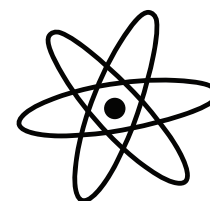
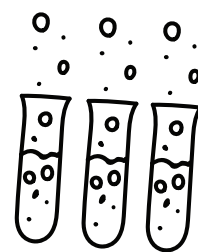
FLEXIBILITY OF USE

The administrators may allow teachers to add content, modify courses, provide supplemental materials, projects, and discussions for collaborative learning. There is a robust digital library of standards-aligned material where teachers may provide differentiated instruction to the course, and lesson extensions can be inserted.



THE PEDAGOGY OF A UNIT

- At the beginning of each unit, there is an objectives list. Students know what is expected and assume the responsibility for their own learning.
- Throughout each unit, the introduction of new vocabulary words are controlled so that no new vocabulary word is used without the student first learning its meaning and pronunciation. These words are repeated to ensure mastery.
- Character education stories or examples are embedded throughout the unit.
- Explanations, examples, illustrations, and interactive media add engagement to each lesson.
- In each lesson, learning activities and questions are in bite-sized segments to reinforce the material for deeper learning. Lesson assessment questions cover different levels of learning. Projects and labs are also included where appropriate. Students are introduced to new concepts, and some concepts are spiraled for reinforcement.
- A typical unit contains two or three sections. Each section has two or three lessons. At the end of each section is a quiz. If mastery in an area is not achieved, the quiz will reveal that weak area. Students can then take the time necessary to review and learn those concepts before proceeding to the next section.
- Upon completion of the lesson activities and quizzes, students prepare to take the practice test. Here, students evaluate themselves, and a teacher determines readiness for the final unit test. When the practice test is successfully completed, the student may be allowed to take the unit test. The unit test measures student mastery of the material. No new concepts are introduced on the unit test. By the time students reach the unit test, they will have seen a concept in the 1) lesson, 2) the lesson activity questions, 3) the quiz, and 4) the practice test. Each of these reinforces concept mastery.



STANDARDS ALIGNMENTS

The Comprehend courses are aligned to the state standards and to the Common Core State Standards. Every course is built with the relevant standards and provides resources in all phases of development. The standards and the digital library may be used together to provide intervention for students' learning.





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