



PAVIRTUAL

CHARTER SCHOOL

Course Descriptions

Third Grade

3

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Language Arts

In this course, students receive structured lessons in the language arts, a discipline which includes literature and comprehension, writing skills, vocabulary, spelling, and handwriting. The purpose of these lessons is to increase reading comprehension, develop fundamental skills in oral and written communication, build vocabulary, and promote a lifelong interest in reading. This course addresses current thinking in assessment standards.

- **Literature and Comprehension:** Within this program, students will read a variety of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. The reading selections in each unit share a common theme, topic, or genre. The accompanying lessons will develop students' literal and inferential comprehension skills. Students will read selections from the provided materials and then work online to analyze and examine the selections in more depth. They will work offline to further evaluate the work, make connections among works and the broader world, and apply the skills that they have learned in written assignments and creative projects. Students will also select books that they want to read from a list that is provided and analyze those works. In Critical Skills Practice units, students will practice important test-taking skills by reading passages and answering multiple-choice questions about what they have read. These questions are similar to those found on common standardized assessments and state tests.
- **Spelling:** There are 36 units in K12 Spelling. Each unit contains five lessons. The first lesson of a unit introduces new spelling words. In the second and third lessons, you and your students work together to practice the spelling words introduced in the first lesson. These first three lessons are offline. The fourth lesson in each unit is an online review activity. Finally, the fifth lesson consists of an offline Unit Checkpoint that checks students' mastery of the spelling words. Each lesson is designed to take approximately 15 minutes. Students will master the spelling skills needed to read and write proficiently.
- **Vocabulary:** K12 Vocabulary exposes students to a wide variety of words. Students will learn, review, and practice words online. K12 Vocabulary is made up of 18 units of 10 lessons each. Lessons are entirely online. Each lesson should take about 10 minutes. In the first eight (8) lessons of each unit, students will study three (3) sets of related words. Lesson 9 of each unit is a review of all the words. Lesson 10 is always a Unit Checkpoint, testing students on all the words they studied.

• **Writing Skills:** Writing Skills units combine online and offline activities to teach students about grammar, usage, and mechanics, as well as how to plan, write, revise, proofread, and publish various forms of writing. For example, in Unit 4, students will learn about combining sentences and strategies for writing a personal story. Most units end with an assessment on language skills, along with rubrics and sample papers to help evaluate students' writing. There are also Critical Skills Practice units that help students apply their knowledge of language, vocabulary, spelling, and writing strategies to answer questions, similar to those on standardized tests, including planning and writing a response to a prompt.

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 emphasizes conceptual understanding of the mathematical operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Students make connections between the operations, as well as practice through problem solving, to achieve fluency. The use of problem solving and representing problem situations with equations, which include symbols for unknown values, introduces algebraic thinking. The course addresses fractions through multiple representations, as well as solving real-world problems, which gives students the ability to connect the use of fractions with problem situations in a way that makes sense and creates deeper understanding. The course addresses geometry and measurement through introductory work on perimeter, area, and attributes of two-dimensional geometric figures, and applying measuring techniques to solving problems involving time, length, capacity, and mass. Throughout the course, problem solving connects individual mathematical skills and concepts in a useful and in-depth way. This course includes standards-based tasks, digital literacy skills, and assessment questions.

Science

Students learn to observe and analyze through hands-on experiments and gain further insight into how scientists understand our world. They observe and chart the phases of the moon, determine the properties of insulators and conductors, and make a three-dimensional model of a bone. Students will explore topics such as weather (air pressure, precipitation, clouds, humidity, fronts, and forecasting), vertebrates (features of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals), ecosystems (climate zones, tundra, forests, desert, grasslands, freshwater, and marine ecosystems), matter (phase changes, volume, mass, atoms), the human body, energy, light, and astronomy.

History

History 3 continues 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 Renaissance through the American Revolution. Supplementary lessons focus on concepts in economics and citizenship.



Art

Following the timeline of K¹² History, Art 3 lessons include an introduction to the art and architecture of the Renaissance throughout Europe, including Italy, Russia, and northern Europe. Students also investigate artworks from Asia, Africa, and the Americas created during the same time period. Students will extend their knowledge of elements of art and principles of design—such as form, texture, and symmetry—and draw, paint, and sculpt a variety of works, including self-portraits, landscapes, and still life paintings. For example, after studying da Vinci’s Mona Lisa, students will use shading in their own drawings and make prints showing the features and symmetry of the Taj Mahal.

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.

