



PAVVIRTUAL

CHARTER SCHOOL

Course Descriptions

Fifth Grade

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Language Arts

This course provides structured lessons on reading comprehension, analysis, composition, vocabulary, and grammar, usage, and mechanics. Through emphasis on spelling, students learn relationships between sounds and spellings in words and affixes. Targeted vocabulary instruction develops students' ability to identify, clarify, and expand on the meanings of grade level-appropriate and domain-specific words. Lessons are designed to develop comprehension, build vocabulary, and help students become more independent and thoughtful readers. Students practice writing as they write a memoir, an editorial, a research paper, a business letter, and more. They learn about parts of speech, punctuation, and research skills. Students study literature in a variety of genres, including fiction, poetry, nonfiction, drama, and novels. This course addresses current thinking in assessment standards.

Math

This research-based course focuses on computational fluency, conceptual understanding, and problem solving. This engaging course features new graphics, learning tools, and games; adaptive activities that help struggling students master concepts and skills before moving on; and more support for Learning Coaches to guide their students to success. This course builds on student understanding of numbers and operations by making connections between place value, decimals, and fractions; introducing multiplication and division of decimal numbers; and extending understanding of fraction operations. The course focuses on computational fluency in multiplication and division of whole numbers through the use of standard algorithms. The course enhances fluency of operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals through application in the solving of measurement, geometry, and data-analysis problems using mathematical problem solving techniques. Students continue to develop algebraic thinking as they work with variables and formulas to solve multistep word problems, further study patterns and rules, and are introduced to representing problems graphically using the coordinate plane. They extend their knowledge of geometry through the use of the classification of shapes into hierarchies based on their attributes, the introduction of three-dimensional figures and volume, and connecting geometric concepts to measurement and problem solving. This course includes standards-based tasks, digital literacy skills, and assessment questions.

Science

Students perform experiments, develop scientific reasoning, and recognize science in the world around them. They build a model of a watershed, test how cell membranes function, track a hurricane, and analyze the effects of gravity. Students will explore topics such as water resources (aquifers, watersheds, and wetlands), the oceans (currents, waves, tides, and the ocean floor), Earth's atmosphere (weather patterns, maps, forecasts, and fronts), motion and forces (pushes or pulls, position and speed, and gravity), chemistry (structure of atoms, elements and compounds), cells and cell processes, taxonomy of plants and animals, and animal physiology.

American History

The first half of a detailed two-year survey of the history of the United States, this course takes students from the arrival of the first people in North America through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Lessons integrate topics in geography, civics, and economics. Building on the award-winning series *A History of US*, the course guides students through critical episodes in the story of America. Students investigate Native American civilizations; follow the path of European exploration and colonization; assess the causes and consequences of the American Revolution; examine the Constitution and the growth of the new nation; and analyze what led to the Civil War and its aftermath.

Art

Intermediate Art: American A includes an introduction to the artists, cultures, and great works of art and architecture of North America, from pre-Columbian times through 1877. Students will study and create various works, both realistic and abstract, including sketches, masks, architectural models, prints, and paintings; investigate the art of the American Indians, and Colonial and Federal America; and create artworks inspired by works they learn about, using many materials and techniques. For example, after studying John James Audubon's extraordinary paintings of birds, students make bird paintings with realistic color and texture.

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.

