



Elementary (K-6) Grade Course Guide 2018-2019

Mission: eDCSD's mission is to effectively utilize World Class methodologies to help students acquire 21st century skills and a strong educational foundation through a personalized approach. Students, in collaboration with a team that targets the needs of the whole student, become responsible citizens who contribute to our society and lead meaningful and productive lives.

Teachers: In addition to content instruction, our teachers offer guidance and support for students and serve as curriculum experts advising on course selection including developing and monitoring an educational plan that fits the needs of each student.

Teachers:

Susan Byrd (K-6 Language Arts and electives, K-4 Homeroom)

Jennifer Bruns (K-6 Social Studies, Math, and Science, 5-6 Homeroom)

Registrar:

Holly Withers

Learning Coach: The learning coach meets with students to provide personalized support for a variety of issues including academic, technical and attendance concerns. The learning coach serves as a progress monitor supporting students on a daily basis.

Learning Coach:

Tiffany Chavez

Virtual Classrooms: All core classes contain synchronous (live) instruction in a virtual classroom provided by one of our Colorado-certified teachers. They provide student to teacher interaction and collaborative learning opportunities. In addition, they administer differentiated instruction and assessments.

Blended Learning: Once a week, students have an opportunity to meet face-to-face with their teachers and peers. During this time, students focus on interactive, experiential learning opportunities. Students learn to use 21st Century Skills and apply their learning in authentic situations. Blended Days are highly encouraged. If students attend blended, they are excused from some of the Virtual Classes.

Study Hall/Interventions (eSTHALLS1/S2): A class for students on a READ Plan and/or students who have been assigned monitored interventions. This course will be assigned by the teacher based on need. No grade is assigned in this course but attendance is taken on a weekly basis.

Consumable Supplies Fees:

Purpose - to cover the cost and provide expendable or consumable supplies and materials for classes.

Field Trip Fees:

Students will be charged a transportation fee, if applicable, and any entrance fees for all field trips.

eDCSD Partners with Pearson



At eDCSD, our teachers are implementing and supporting 21st Century Skills with Pearson Curriculum and teacher developed units.



Transforming Today's Learners into Tomorrow's Leaders

Pearson is working to deliver real results that break through the challenges in education today. We partner with educators to deliver personalized learning through effective, scalable assessment and instructional tools, enabled by technology and supported by services. Together, we're improving learning outcomes and transforming lives.

Standardized Testing Information

All public-school students enrolled in Colorado are required by state law to take a standards-based summative assessment each year in the specified content areas and grade levels. This means that every student; regardless of language background or ability, must be provided with the opportunity to demonstrate their content knowledge.

The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS): Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies is Colorado's standards-based assessment designed to measure the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS).

Students in grades 3-8 will take Language Arts and Math.

Students in grades 4 and 7 will take Social Studies.

Students in grades 5, 8 and 11 will take Science

9th Grade:

PSAT 9 supports all students with early feedback on the skills and knowledge that matter most for college and career readiness and success.

10th Grade:

PSAT: The PSAT/NMSQT (or National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a preliminary version of the SAT. Not only does the PSAT help prepare students to take the SAT or ACT, a great score on the PSAT can also open the door to National Merit Scholarships and other awards.

11th Grade:

SAT: The SAT is a globally recognized college admission test that lets you show colleges what you know and how well you can apply that knowledge. It tests your knowledge of reading, writing and math — subjects that are taught every day in high school classrooms. Most students take the SAT during their junior or senior year of high school, and almost all colleges and universities use the SAT to make admission decisions.

Colorado READ ACT (HBH.B. 12-1238)

Learn more at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy>

The READ Act requires use of an interim assessment to determine whether a student has a significant reading deficiency in grades K through 3. The Colorado READ Act requires diagnostic and summative assessments. Diagnostic assessments are required only for students identified with a significant reading deficiency for the purpose of identifying the child's specific reading deficits(s).

eDCSD: Uses the state approved Dibels and other assessments for diagnostic, interim and summative purposes.

Elementary Grading Policy

Grading Policy Grades K-6:

Students will be assessed on all elements of the Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (GVC) including the state standards, world-class outcomes, 4 Cs and 21st Century Skills using academic performance levels, on a semester basis.

A Scale That Shows Growth (K-6)

Student progress is rated on a 4-part scale of Does not Meet, Approaching, Meets, or Exceeds, based on their proficiency at that time. For more information, visit the district website: <https://www.dcsdk12.org/elementary-progress-report>

Susan Smith - Elementary Progress Report
(52344)

School: Roxborough Primary Year: 2015-16
Teacher: Christine Broadus Attendance: 98%, 5 tardies
Grade: 2nd

Comments to all parents
Here are the comments that the teacher provided to all parents. If no comments are provided this block will not show.

School Expectations | ELA | **Math** | Social Studies | Science | Art | Music | Health | PE | Technology

World Class Outcomes

Comments
Here are comments that the teacher provided about your students progress towards WCOs

Rating is reported for students personalized plan

Outcomes	First Semester	Second Semester
Math - PREC.1.2 Make sense of (interpret, evaluate, summarize, synthesize, etc.) problems and	Meets	Exceeds
Math - PREC.1.2 Evaluate evidence to distinguish relevant and non-relevant information to	Meets	Meets

4Cs & 21st Century Skills

Comments
Here are comments that the teacher provided about your students progress towards 4Cs and 21st Century Skills

4Cs	First Semester	Second Semester
Collaboration	Meets	Meets
Critical Thinking	Meets	Exceeds
Creativity	Approaching	Meets
21st Century Skills		
Problem Solving	Meets	Meets

Content

Comments
Here are comments that the teacher provided about your students progress towards Content Items

Content	First Semester	Second Semester
Patterns, Functions, and Algebraic Structures	Meets	Exceeds
Number Sense, Properties, and Operations	Meets	Meets

Kindergarten Courses

Language Arts (eLA00)

In this course, students build a foundation for successful reading as they explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening practices outlined in national and state standards. Learning activities consist of phonics, listening, comprehension, and vocabulary instruction with daily exposure to books, including literature and informational texts. A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises encourages the development of fine motor skills. Students learn language skills as well as letter formation, and they practice these with drawing, dictating, and writing. By the end of kindergarten, many students will be reading, and all students should be able to recognize consonant as well as long and short vowel sounds. In this course, students build a foundation for successful reading as they explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening practices outlined in national and state standards. Learning activities consist of phonics, listening, comprehension, and vocabulary instruction with daily exposure to books, including literature and informational texts. A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises encourages the development of fine motor skills. Students learn language skills as well as letter formation, and they practice these with drawing, dictating, and writing. By the end of kindergarten, many students will be reading, and all students should be able to recognize consonant as well as long and short vowel sounds.

Math (eMA00)

In this course, mathematical thinking and problem solving are introduced. Students explore topics and apply mathematical practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. They learn how to identify numbers, write numbers zero to 20, and count to 100 by ones and tens. They also describe, sort, and compare objects and learn basic shapes. Stories and activities introduce addition and subtraction. A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises teaches students about money, time, fractions, and measurement. In this course, mathematical thinking and problem solving are introduced. Students explore topics and apply mathematical practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. They learn how to identify numbers, write numbers zero to 20, and count to 100 by ones and tens. They also describe, sort, and compare objects and learn basic shapes. Stories and activities introduce addition and subtraction. A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises teaches students about money, time, fractions, and measurement.

Social Studies (eSS00)

Students learn the concepts of community, nation, and world in this course. They answer essential questions including: "How do people get what they need?"; "How is culture shared?"; and "How does life change throughout history?" A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises teaches students about personal responsibility, good citizenship, and basic geography. While learning about America's past and important historical figures, students research their personal history and heroes. Students learn the concepts of community, nation, and world in this course. They answer essential questions including: "How do people get what they need?"; "How is culture shared?"; and "How does life change throughout history?" A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises teaches students about personal responsibility, good citizenship, and basic geography. While learning about America's past and important historical figures, students research their personal history and heroes.

Science (eSI00)

In this course, the student will explore the nature of science and how to solve problems, as well as investigate living and nonliving things. The student will learn how to study the surrounding world by observing, collaborating, and sharing with others. Using illustrations and labels, the student will identify the steps used to solve problems and use these steps to plan, design, and test a solution to a problem. Finally, the student will examine, describe, compare, and analyze the characteristics of living and nonliving things in order to complete portfolio assessments. In this course, the student will explore life, Earth, and physical science. The student will learn how to investigate using critical thinking skills. The student will answer questions about the Earth and the sky. In the final chapter, physical science, the student will utilize inquiry methods to explore objects, matter, and mixtures. Throughout this course, the student will enhance skills in language arts, mathematics, and computer literacy. In portfolio assessments, students may choose to chart weather observations over a period of time; observe and collect data on how plants and animals depend on the land, air and water; or observe and compare solids and liquids at room temperature.

First Grade Courses

Language Arts (eLA01)

In first grade, beginning readers work to become fluent readers. In the first semester, the students are taught to attack new words using a variety of decoding and contextual strategies. Students are given daily opportunities to apply these skills to decodable and authentic texts. They are taught to think about what they read through a variety of guided reading strategies. In writing, students create increasingly complex compositions and improve their handwriting. In first grade, beginning readers work to become fluent readers. The second semester course continues to teach students to attack new words using a variety of decoding and contextual strategies. Students are given daily opportunities to apply these skills to decodable and authentic texts. They are taught to think about what they read through a variety of guided reading strategies. In writing, students create increasingly complex compositions and improve their handwriting.

Math (eMA01)

In first-grade math, students will develop an understanding of numbers to 100 using a variety of models. In the first semester, the student is introduced to building strategies for addition and subtraction of whole numbers up to 18, students will also practice problem solving and reasoning skills. Hands-on activities and tools let students practice money and measurement concepts. We also explore geometry topics—shapes, congruence, and symmetry—as well as data analysis with picture graphs, data, and bar graphs. In the second semester, students continue to develop an understanding of numbers to 100 using a variety of models. While building strategies for addition and subtraction of whole numbers up to 18, students will also practice problem solving and reasoning skills. Hands-on activities and tools let students practice money and measurement concepts. We also explore geometry topics—shapes, congruence, and symmetry—as well as data analysis with picture graphs, data, and bar graphs.

Social Studies (eSS01)

In the first semester, students will learn about the ways in which people contribute to their communities and work together to the benefit of all. This course explores the concepts of good citizenship, neighborhoods, and economics. We will also study maps, photos, biographies, illustrations, poetry, and music to help explain the concept of communities and extend the concept of community to the larger world. In the second semester, students continue to learn about the ways in which people contribute to their communities and work together to the benefit of all. This course explores the concepts of good citizenship, neighborhoods, and economics. We will also study maps, photos, biographies, illustrations, poetry, and music to help explain the concept of communities and extend the concept of community to the larger world.

Science (eSI01)

Science encourages students to explore the natural world. In the first semester, students will study Earth, its resources, and how to protect them. We will explore how plants and animals grow and change. We will create a model of a mountain and investigate the way sunlight affects leaves. Students will also learn about the scientific method and explore possible careers in science. Science encourages students to explore the natural world. In the second semester, students continue to study Earth, its resources, and how to protect them. We will explore how plants and animals grow and change. We will create a model of a mountain and investigate the way sunlight affects leaves. Students will also learn about the scientific method and explore possible careers in science.

Technology (eTE01)

In this course, students build on foundational skills while using software to draw, type, and format text, and create presentations to support academic skills. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety and appropriate online behavior.

Choose 1 Elective from the following:

Art (eAR01)	Music (eMUS01)	PE (ePE01)	Exploring Spanish (eWL01)
<p>Students expand their understanding of color, line, and shape. Activities include drawing, cutting, creating designs, and paper construction. The concepts of texture and three-dimensional forms are also introduced.</p>	<p>In this course, students learn what makes music different from everyday "sounds," and also how their body hears and responds to music. Students develop skills that assist them in making music individually and with another person. In Unit 2, students learn to recognize simple rhythms and use their listening skills to move their body in appropriate ways to match the musical patterns. In Unit 3, students use listening skills to identify high, low, soft, and loud sounds and move their body in appropriate ways to symbolize extremes of pitch and dynamic contrast. Students also learn to sing a simple pattern using solfège to connect high and low notes. In the final unit, students identify characteristics and sounds related to a selection of instruments and music from around the world. They begin to consider the way music of their own culture might sound different to a child from another country. This interactive experience was developed by The Juilliard School and Connections Education and aligns with national music education standards.</p>	<p>Physical Education activities include yoga, participating in a team or individual sport, and Connections Academy's own fitness program.</p>	<p>Not Available at this level.</p>

Second Grade Courses

Language Arts (eLA02)

In second grade your student is introduced to all parts of the reading process. In the first semester, student is given the opportunity to apply word attack skills to increasingly complex texts and build their oral and sight vocabularies through daily instruction. While practicing new skills, your student will take part in activities based on books he or she is reading. Your student will apply handwriting and grammar skills to daily journal entries as well as longer and more complex compositions. In second grade your student is introduced to all parts of the reading process. In the second semester course student is given the opportunity to apply word attack skills to increasingly complex texts and build their oral and sight vocabularies through daily instruction. While practicing new skills, your student will take part in activities based on books he or she is reading. Your student will apply handwriting and grammar skills to daily journal entries as well as longer and more complex compositions.

Math (eMA02)

In second grade, problem solving is emphasized as your student furthers his or her understanding of numbers and operations, learning to add and subtract one- and two-digit numbers. In the first semester, hands-on activities help students study time, money, geometry, and fractions. Students will connect number concepts to statistics using basic algebraic concepts and simple graphs. Measurement concepts, such as weight, mass, capacity, time, and temperature, are investigated. In second grade, problem solving is emphasized as your student furthers his or her understanding of numbers and operations, learning to add and subtract one- and two-digit numbers. In the second semester, the student continues to learn hands-on activities help students study time, money, geometry, and fractions. Students will connect number concepts to statistics using basic algebraic concepts and simple graphs. Measurement concepts, such as weight, mass, capacity, time, and temperature, are investigated.

Social Studies (eSS02)

Your child will continue to explore basic concepts of history, geography, economics, and government, while discovering more about world cultures. In the first semester, students will practice basic map, chart, graph, and thinking skills. We will also introduce your child to ordinary people who showed good citizenship and to famous people who have influenced our country and the world. Your child will continue to explore basic concepts of history, geography, economics, and government, while discovering more about world cultures. In the second semester, students will practice basic map, chart, graph, and thinking skills. We will also introduce your child to ordinary people who showed good citizenship and to famous people who have influenced our country and the world.

Science (eSI02)

This course will stimulate students' curiosity about the world around them. In the first semester, we will study clues to Earth's past and learn about an archaeologist's responsibilities. We will also investigate energy and changing states of matter, such as liquid water changing to water vapor, and create a weather chart. Your child will enjoy hands-on activities as he or she investigates the importance of water and vegetation in life science and explores forces in physical science. This course will stimulate students' curiosity about the world around them. In the second semester, we will study clues to Earth's past and learn about an archaeologist's responsibilities. We will also investigate energy and changing states of matter, such as liquid water changing to water vapor, and create a weather chart. Your child will enjoy hands-on activities as he or she investigates the importance of water and vegetation in life science and explores forces in physical science.

Technology (eTE02)

In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects, and solve problems. Students use software to draw, write, organize, and present information and data. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety and appropriate online behavior.

Second Grade Courses

Choose 1 Elective from the following:

Art (eAR02)	Music (eMUS02)	PE (ePE02)	Exploring Spanish (eWL02)
Students learn how to observe and appreciate art. They continue to learn how to draw, paint, and create three-dimensional artworks.	In this course, students learn what makes music different from everyday "sounds," and also how their body hears and responds to music. Students develop skills that assist them in making music individually and with another person. In Unit 2, students learn to recognize simple rhythms and use their listening skills to move their body in appropriate ways to match the musical patterns. In Unit 3, students use listening skills to identify high, low, soft, and loud sounds and move their body in appropriate ways to symbolize extremes of pitch and dynamic contrast. Students also learn to sing a simple pattern using solfège to connect high and low notes. In the final unit, students identify characteristics and sounds related to a selection of instruments and music from around the world. They begin to consider the way music of their own culture might sound different to a child from another country. This interactive experience was developed by The Juilliard School and Connections Education and aligns with national music education standards.	Physical Education activities include yoga, participating in a team or individual sport, and Connections Academy's own fitness program.	Exploratory Spanish is geared for absolute beginners, introducing many basic words and a few common Spanish expressions in an informal, fun way. Songs and engaging information about Hispanic culture encourage students to develop additional Spanish-speaking skills. This course is designed to prepare students for more structured exploration and mastery of the Spanish language. <i>Please Note: The World Languages courses require a headset and microphone, which is compatible with the computer being used for the course. This equipment is not provided by eDCSD.</i>

Third Grade Courses

Language Arts (eLA03)

Building on foundational reading skills, this course focuses on developing critical thinking and analytical skills. Students examine the author's purpose and point of view and practice comprehension and phonics skills through daily reading exercises. Students learn to structure and write complete sentences and then create paragraphs and longer compositions. Throughout the course, students create compositions by moving through the five stages of the writing process: planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Students continue to master the basic skills of writing with instruction in spelling, handwriting, grammar, and language usage. Building on foundational reading skills, this course focuses on developing critical thinking and analytical skills. Students examine the author's purpose and point of view and practice comprehension and phonics skills through daily reading exercises. Students learn to structure and write complete sentences and then create paragraphs and longer compositions. Throughout the course, students create compositions by moving through the five stages of the writing process: planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Students continue to master the basic skills of writing with instruction in spelling, handwriting, grammar, and language usage.

Math (eMA03)

Third grade Math continues to teach strategies for adding and subtracting numbers with regrouping. Multiplication and division are introduced to provide students with a conceptual understanding of the operations and how they affect numbers. Students will also learn how to add and subtract decimals using money, create graphs, and perform experiments in probability using basic statistics methods. Students also study time, money, geometry, fractions, decimals, measurement, and relationships among patterns. Third grade Math continues to teach strategies for adding and subtracting numbers with regrouping. Multiplication and division are introduced to provide students with a conceptual understanding of the operations and how they affect numbers. Students will also learn how to add and subtract decimals using money, create graphs, and perform experiments in probability using basic statistics methods. Students also study time, money, geometry, fractions, decimals, measurement, and relationships among patterns.

Social Studies (eSS03)

This Social Studies course focuses on the theme of community through the study of geography, history, government, and economics. The course text is Scott Foresman's *Communities*. In this course, the student will explore a variety of communities, past and present, from around the world. Short stories, biographies, poetry, case studies, songs, and other resources emphasize the role of the individual in the community, as well as the influence of geography on communities. Multimedia resources including Teachlet@tutorials, videos, and interactive websites enhance and support the content. The student will learn geographic concepts such as place, location, and human interaction with the environment. Geography skills lessons are incorporated throughout the course. In addition, the student will learn the basic principles that led to the creation of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. The student will learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizens and the three branches of government. In the economics unit, the student will examine basic economic concepts such as money, prices, supply and demand, and taxes. The student will examine factors that contribute to personal economic decisions. This Social Studies course focuses on the theme of community through the study of geography, history, government, and economics. The course text is Scott Foresman's *Communities*. In this course, the student will explore a variety of communities, past and present, from around the world. Short stories, biographies, poetry, case studies, songs, and other resources emphasize the role of the individual in the community, as well as the influence of geography on communities. Multimedia resources including Teachlet@tutorials, videos, and interactive websites enhance and support the content. The student will learn geographic concepts such as place, location, and human interaction with the environment. Geography skills lessons are incorporated throughout the course. In addition, the student will learn the basic principles that led to the creation of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. The student will learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizens and the three branches of government. In the economics unit, the student will examine basic economic concepts such as money, prices, supply and demand, and taxes. The student will examine factors that contribute to personal economic decisions.

Science (eSCI03)

Science provides a way for people to actively learn about the world around them. Throughout this course the student will continue to perform hands-on activities to explore organisms, investigate changes, and examine the solar system. The McGraw-Hill textbook, *Science: A Closer Look*, and the science kit are the primary resources for this course. The life science units describe and analyze components of the living world. The Earth science unit describes Earth's features and the changes it undergoes. The student will also explore different careers in science and the scientific method.

In this course, the student will design an experiment to discover what plants need to survive, make a model of a cave, and delve into many more exciting experiments. The lessons in this course are designed to accommodate a variety of learning styles and to provide a variety of opportunities for the entire family to participate in the student's education. Some lessons, or groups of lessons, in each unit are activity-centered, which allows the student to engage the new concepts through exploration and discovery; others are more traditional, requiring the student to read, research, and reflect on the underlying theory. Science provides a way for people to actively learn about the world around them. Throughout this course the student will continue to perform hands-on activities to explore organisms, investigate changes, and examine the solar system. The McGraw-Hill textbook, *Science: A Closer Look*, and the science kit are the primary resources for this course. The Earth science units' detail Earth's composition and the relationships between the Earth, moon, and sun. The physical science unit explores the properties of matter. The student will also explore different careers in science and the scientific method.

In this course, the student will create a model to investigate how simple machines work, investigate why the moon's shape appears to change during the month, and delve into many more exciting experiments. The lessons in this course are designed to accommodate a variety of learning styles and to provide a variety of opportunities for the entire family to participate in the student's education. Some lessons, or groups of lessons, in each unit are activity-centered, which allows the student to engage the new concepts through exploration and discovery; others are more traditional, requiring the student to read, research, and reflect on the underlying theory.

Technology (eTE03)

In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects, manage information, and solve problems. Students use software to write, organize, analyze, and present information and data. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety and appropriate online behavior.

Choose 1 Elective from the following:

Art (eAR03)	Music (eMUS03)	PE (ePE03)	Exploring Spanish (eWL03)
Our theme is "The Four Seasons," featuring arts and crafts based on the characteristics of each season. Art history and art criticism are introduced, and students study the arts of various cultures. Your child will also use various media to create two- and three-dimensional projects.	Designed for students in grades 3–5, this course teaches students fundamental musicianship skills from a Western-Classical approach, while aligning to national music education standards. The course challenges students to improve their listening, notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies provided by both The Juilliard School and Connections Education, the course provides a unique and advanced learning experience for students in these grades.	Students enhance their personal fitness through daily participation in a variety of fitness plans, including yoga, an individual or team sport, or Connections Academy's fitness plan.	Elementary Spanish I is an introductory-level course that will introduce the student to Spanish. The units are designed to introduce the student to Spanish language and culture through familiar topics such as family and friends, my home, and food. Culture is presented throughout the course to help the student make connections between his culture and the culture of people in the Spanish-speaking world. Please Note: The World Languages courses require a headset and microphone, which is compatible with the computer being used for the course. This equipment is not provided by eDCSD.

Fourth Grade Courses

Language Arts (eLA04)

Throughout the course, students are exposed to a wide array of fiction and nonfiction as they develop and apply their comprehension skills. They develop the tools to understand vocabulary presented through a variety of reading material and have the opportunity to read independently, as well as to create projects in response to self-selected books. After reviewing the five stages of the writing process, students create well-organized compositions aided by effective planning tools. The basic skills of writing are reinforced with instruction in spelling, handwriting, grammar, and language usage. Daily spelling activities give students opportunities to use spelling words in context. Throughout the course, students are exposed to a wide array of fiction and nonfiction as they develop and apply their comprehension skills. They develop the tools to understand vocabulary presented through a variety of reading material and have the opportunity to read independently, as well as to create projects in response to self-selected books. After reviewing the five stages of the writing process, students create well-organized compositions aided by effective planning tools. The basic skills of writing are reinforced with instruction in spelling, handwriting, grammar, and language usage. Daily spelling activities give students opportunities to use spelling words in context.

Math (eMA04)

Students expand their math skills in all four operations. They practice their addition and subtraction skills with six-digit numbers, multiplication skills with two-digit numbers, and division facts with one-digit numbers. With these skills in hand, students perform operations with fractions and decimals. Measurement is a hands-on unit that covers both customary and metric units of length, capacity, and weight. Students have the opportunity to study geometry concepts, including lines, angles, shapes, perimeter, area, congruence, and similarity. Students are also introduced to equations, statistics using data and graphing techniques, and probability concepts. Students expand their math skills in all four operations. They practice their addition and subtraction skills with six-digit numbers, multiplication skills with two-digit numbers, and division facts with one-digit numbers. With these skills in hand, students perform operations with fractions and decimals. Measurement is a hands-on unit that covers both customary and metric units of length, capacity, and weight. Students have the opportunity to study geometry concepts, including lines, angles, shapes, perimeter, area, congruence, and similarity. Students are also introduced to equations, statistics using data and graphing techniques, and probability concepts.

Social Studies (eSS04)

In this course, students are introduced to state history and use a regional approach to examine the geography and history of the United States. The course also looks at the state's people, economy, resources, and geography, and students study the structure and functions of local and state governments. In addition to learning state history, students learn how to integrate different types and uses of maps and apply geographic skills and concepts. In this course, students are introduced to state history and use a regional approach to examine the geography and history of the United States. The course also looks at the state's people, economy, resources, and geography, and students study the structure and functions of local and state governments. In addition to learning state history, students learn how to integrate different types and uses of maps and apply geographic skills and concepts.

Science (eSCI04)

Science is an adventure in which everyone can take part! In this first semester course, the student will be participating in scientific investigations of many different forms including simple observations and experiments. Results from these investigations will provide information about the surrounding world. The McGraw-Hill textbook, *Science: A Closer Look*, and the science kit are the primary resources for this course.

The opening unit examines volcano exploration and reviews the scientific method. The life science units examine the commonalities and differences among organisms. The Earth Science units provide an opportunity for the student to investigate the different land features on Earth, as well as how to care for Earth. In this course the student will observe seed growth, explore the effects of flooding on a riverbank, and much, much more! The lessons in this course are designed to accommodate a variety of learning styles, and to provide a variety of opportunities for the entire family to participate in the student's education. Some lessons, or groups of lessons, in each unit are activity-centered, which allows the student to engage the new concepts he encounters through exploration and discovery; others are more traditional, requiring the student to read, research, and reflect on the underlying theory. Science is an adventure in which everyone can take part! In this second semester course, the student will be participating in scientific investigations of many different forms including simple observations and experiments. Results from these investigations will provide information about the surrounding world. The McGraw-Hill textbook, *Science: A Closer Look*, and the science kit are the primary resources for this course. The Earth Science units provide an opportunity for the student to investigate the solar system and the effects of different climates on Earth. The Physical Science units enable the student to explore the composition and use of different forms of energy. In this course the student will analyze the effect of warmed air on weather, explore chemical reactions, create a compound machine, and much, much more!

Technology (eTE04)

In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects, manage information, and solve problems. Students use software to write, organize, analyze, and present information and data. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety, appropriate online behavior, and effective search and website evaluation strategies.

Choose 1 Elective from the following:

Art (eAR04)	Music (eMUS04)	PE (ePER04)	Exploring Spanish (eWL04)
<p>Art history and art criticism are introduced, and students study the arts of various cultures. Your child will also use various media to create two- and three-dimensional projects.</p>	<p>Designed for students in grades 3–5, this course teaches students fundamental musicianship skills from a Western-Classical approach, while aligning to national music education standards. The course challenges students to improve their listening, notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies provided by both The Juilliard School and Connections Education, the course provides a unique and advanced learning experience for students in these grades.</p>	<p>Students participate in a variety of activities that are designed to enhance personal fitness. Students choose from a variety of fitness plans including yoga, participating in an individual or team sport, or Connections Academy's fitness plan. Students track their participation and progress through an Activity Tracker.</p>	<p>Description: Elementary Spanish I is an introductory-level course that will introduce the student to Spanish. The units are designed to introduce the student to Spanish language and culture through familiar topics such as family and friends, my home, and food. Culture is presented throughout the course to help the student make connections between his culture and the culture of people in the Spanish-speaking world.</p> <p>Please Note: The World Languages courses require a headset and microphone, which is compatible with the computer being used for the course. This equipment is not provided by eDCSD.</p>

Fifth Grade Courses

Language Arts (eLA05)

Students continue to develop their reading skills as they are introduced to novels and poetry. Critical thinking skills are intertwined with activities using novels in order to sharpen students' analytical abilities. Reading comprehension instruction allows students to practice identifying main ideas and themes in any given reading passage. Students continue to develop their writing skills by focusing on structure, format, and grammar, with a concentration on crafting quality sentences, organizing paragraphs, writing summaries, and adding detail to writing. Grammar is included in this course to provide yearlong exposure to the parts of speech and their functions. Students continue to develop their reading skills as they are introduced to novels and poetry. Critical thinking skills are intertwined with activities using novels in order to sharpen students' analytical abilities. Reading comprehension instruction allows students to practice identifying main ideas and themes in any given reading passage. Students continue to develop their writing skills by focusing on structure, format, and grammar, with a concentration on crafting quality sentences, organizing paragraphs, writing summaries, and adding detail to writing. Grammar is included in this course to provide yearlong exposure to the parts of speech and their functions.

Math (eMA05)

While further refining their skills of the four mathematical operations, students are introduced to more complex activities, such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals, fractions, and fractions with mixed numbers. Students are introduced to the order of operations and learn how to solve and write equations and inequalities. The study of geometry becomes more involved as students learn about polygons and solid figures. Students also extend their knowledge of graphing and probability to include circle graphs and using statistics to make predictions. While further refining their skills of the four mathematical operations, students are introduced to more complex activities, such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals, fractions, and fractions with mixed numbers. Students are introduced to the order of operations and learn how to solve and write equations and inequalities. The study of geometry becomes more involved as students learn about polygons and solid figures. Students also extend their knowledge of graphing and probability to include circle graphs and using statistics to make predictions.

Social Studies (eSS05)

Using a thematic and chronological approach to United States history, this course allows students to trace the nation's history from the time of the earliest Americans through the 21st century. Students practice map skills as they learn about the growth of the United States, and develop their abilities to interpret sources, compare, and sequence. Students also learn about geography's influence on culture and historical events. Using a thematic and chronological approach to United States history, this course allows students to trace the nation's history from the time of the earliest Americans through the 21st century. Students practice map skills as they learn about the growth of the United States, and develop their abilities to interpret sources, compare, and sequence. Students also learn about geography's influence on culture and historical events.

Science (eSCI05)

Science is an ongoing process that constantly renders new discoveries! In this first semester course, the student will be sharpening his investigative skills and expanding upon his existing knowledge in order to make his own new discoveries. The McGraw-Hill textbook, *Science: A Closer Look*, and the science kit are the primary resources for the course. The opening unit explores the role of scientists and the scientific method. The life science units explore cells and heredity. The Earth science units provide an opportunity for the student to design experiments to investigate Earth's composition and the factors that affect its composition.

The lessons in this course are designed to accommodate many learning styles, and to provide a variety of opportunities for the entire family to participate in the student's education. Some lessons, or groups of lessons, in each unit are activity-centered, which allow the student to engage the new concepts he encounters through exploration and discovery; others are more traditional, requiring the student to read, research, and reflect on the underlying theory. Students sharpen their investigative skills and expand their scientific knowledge in order to make new discoveries. They learn about the living world in the life science units. The physical science units examine the characteristics of matter, sound, and light. The Earth science units provide an opportunity for students to investigate Earth's composition and the factors that shape its surface. Students continue to explore the scientific method and science careers.

Technology (eTE05)

In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects, manage information, and solve problems. Students use software to write, organize, analyze, and present information and data. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible communicators and users of technology as they learn about intellectual property, Internet safety, and effective search and evaluation strategies.

Choose 1 Elective from the following:

Art (eAR05)	Music (eMUS05)	PE (ePE05)	Exploring Spanish (eWL05)
<p>Art elements, principles, and criticism are introduced, and students study the arts across time. Your child will also use various media to create two- and three-dimensional projects.</p>	<p>Designed for students in grades 3–5, this course teaches students fundamental musicianship skills from a Western-Classical approach, while aligning to national music education standards. The course challenges students to improve their listening, notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies provided by both The Juilliard School and Connections Education, the course provides a unique and advanced learning experience for students in these grades.</p>	<p>Students participate in a variety of activities that are designed to enhance personal fitness. Students choose from a variety of fitness plans including yoga, participating in an individual or team sport, or Connections Academy’s fitness plan. Students track their participation and progress through an Activity Tracker.</p>	<p>Elementary Spanish I is an introductory-level course that will introduce the student to Spanish. The units are designed to introduce the student to Spanish language and culture through familiar topics such as family and friends, my home, and food. Culture is presented throughout the course to help the student make connections between his culture and the culture of people in the Spanish-speaking world.</p> <p><i>Please Note: The World Languages courses require a headset and microphone, which is compatible with the computer being used for the course. This equipment is not provided by eDCSD.</i></p>

6th Grade Required Courses

Language Arts (eLA06)

In Language Arts 6 A, each unit focuses on a central question; the student will read, analyze, and interpret a variety of literature that informs his perspective about questions such as: What brings out the best in you? What's fair and what's not? and what makes you who you are? The student will develop his reading skills and expand his vocabulary while reading across the genres of nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and drama. The student will also self select literature for independent reading and choose either *The Cay* or *Island of the Blue Dolphins* as his novel unit. The student will strengthen his mastery of the writing process and the six traits of writing as he composes personal, creative, and persuasive writing. In Language Arts 6 B, the student will continue to explore central questions in each unit. As he reads, analyzes, and interprets a variety of literature, he will ponder answers to questions such as: What makes a hero? What can I learn from my mistakes? and what makes a friend? The student will further develop his reading skills and expand his vocabulary while reading across the genres of nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and drama. The student will also self select literature for independent reading and choose either *Walk Two Moons* or *Esperanza Rising* as his novel unit. The student will strengthen his mastery of the writing process and the six traits of writing as he composes expository, creative, and research writing.

Math (eMA06S)

In this course, the student will use the four operations with decimals, fractions, and integers. The student will study patterns and variables as a precursor to solving equations and inequalities. The study of number theory will help the student understand divisibility, prime numbers, factors, and multiples. The student will learn about ratios, proportions, and percent's and apply them in scale drawings.

Throughout the course, the student will engage in many problem-solving strategies, make real-world connections, and participate in mathematical discussions with peers. In this course, the student will explore the foundations of geometry, such as classifying polygons, and use measurement skills to find the perimeter, area, and volume of geometric figures. Then the student will study basic probability and explore permutations. By the end of the course, the student will work with integers using all four operations, solve equations and inequalities, and solve problems using the Pythagorean Theorem.

Social Studies (eSS06)

Ancient civilizations are the main focus in sixth grade Social Studies. Students begin the course by examining the role of a historian and analyzing the tools (timelines, geography, and evaluation of multiple sources) a historian uses to analyze historical events. Then, students learn about the agrarian revolution as societies moved from hunting and gathering to farming. Students trace the development of various ancient civilizations, including China, India, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Students practice critical thinking by interpreting primary sources and studying history through eyewitness accounts.

standards, the sequence of content will vary by state.

Science 6 (SCI06)

Welcome to Science 6, an innovative course based on the framework for the Next Generation Science standards (NGSS). NGSS focuses on science and engineering practices; Earth, life and physical science core ideas; and fundamental crosscutting concepts vital to relating the various fields of science and developing a scientific worldview. The course provides the student opportunities to engage in inquiry-based investigations, STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) projects, and other dynamic activities. Hands-on and online activities encourage the student to make connections, collaborate, and reflect on his or her learning. Because the course is designed to meet both national and state-based standards, the sequence of content will vary by state.

Tip: Links to Pearson® student *interactive SCIENCE* online textbooks have been added to the Backpack in the Web Links section. These textbooks are intended as supplemental resources as they are organized differently than this course. Welcome to Science 6, an innovative course based on the framework for the Next Generation Science standards (NGSS). NGSS focuses on science and engineering practices; Earth, life and physical science core ideas; and fundamental crosscutting concepts vital to relating the various fields of science and developing a scientific worldview.

Technology (eTE06)

Student's progress to more sophisticated work in this course, including the use of electronic media and software to apply academic concepts in the creation of meaningful organizers, projects and presentations. Students locate, retrieve and evaluate data in order to construct and analyze databases. Students produce presentations on Internet safety, online predators, and cyber bullying. At the end of the course, students become effective communicators and collaborators as they plan, evaluate and synthesize research emphasizing current issues with technology

Choose 1 Elective from the following:

Art (eAR06)	Music (eMUS06)	PE (ePE06)	Exploring Spanish (eWL06)
<p>This course focuses on how students can identify art in everyday life and in their surroundings. Students discover art forms from the items they find on their person, in their home, and in the community. They complete art history, art criticism, and art production activities with an American art focus. Through a variety of media, students create two- and three-dimensional art projects, emphasizing drawing, design, and functionality.</p>	<p>This course is designed to teach students fundamental musicianship skills approached from a Western classical style, while aligning to national music education standards. The course challenges students to improve their listening, notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies provided by both The Juilliard School and Connections Education, the course provides a unique and advanced learning experience for students in grades 6–8.</p>	<p>Students who want to be fit but don't know where to start are invited to join a diverse group of virtual classmates who help with exploring and understanding fitness and health. With the support of these virtual friends, students determine current personal fitness levels and learn to improve those levels. Students will also learn safety rules for exercise, how to create equipment from household items, how different activities target different body parts, how to set and reach a goal, and how to be good sports.</p> <p>Students will keep a log of physical fitness activities while exploring topics that include diversity in sports, nutrition, peer pressure, and making good choices. Coach Cardio helps measure growing fitness levels while students complete their projects. Each PE project leads to improved student understanding of personal skills and the environments in which activities are played.</p>	<p>Middle Spanish I is an introductory-level course that will introduce the student to Spanish. The units are designed to introduce the student to Spanish language and culture through familiar topics such as my family, my week, and food. Culture is presented throughout the course to help the student make connections between his culture and the culture of people in the Spanish-speaking world.</p> <p><i>Please Note: The World Languages courses require a headset and microphone, which is compatible with the computer being used for the course. This equipment is not provided by eDCSD.</i></p>

Gifted and Talented Programing Options (Grades 3-6)

Student must qualify for an Advanced Learning Plan through the District and/or already have this type of accommodation in place upon enrolling in these courses

3rd Grade

Language Arts	<p>Connections Academy’s Gifted and Talented Language Arts 3 course provides students opportunities to work at an accelerated pace; while engaging in more complex and challenging instructional activities. Students are provided opportunities for increased student-teacher interaction and discussion, as well as increased interaction with their peers. This course focuses on developing critical thinking and analytical skills. Students also create compositions throughout the course by moving through the five stages of the writing process: planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Students continue to master the basic skills of writing with instruction in spelling, handwriting, grammar, and language usage. The Junior Great Books® program employs the method of interpretive readings and discussion being known as the Shared Inquiry™ method. This distinctive approach to learning enables leaders—the teachers and Learning Coaches—to foster a vibrant environment in which a student acquires the habits and strategies of a self-reliant thinker, reader, and learner. Through their own curiosity and attentive questioning, leaders serve as partners in inquiry with the student, helping him work with other students to discover meaning in a reading selection and to build interpretations. The process reaches its fullest expression in Shared Inquiry discussion, where leaders and students think and talk about an interpretive question that arises from a particular story. Using LiveLesson® sessions, the student will interact with peers twice during each unit for Shared Inquiry and presentation of personal writing. Junior Great Books includes outstanding works of literature by award-winning authors. Praised for their rich language and international range, and chosen carefully for their ability to support multiple interpretations, the stories in Junior Great Books capture students’ attention and imagination and engage the best of their thinking. Progressing in reading level, conceptual complexity, and length throughout the series, the stories are the foundation for a thoughtful process of reading, discussion, and writing.</p>
Math	<p>Third grade Math continues to teach strategies for adding and subtracting numbers with regrouping. Multiplication and division are introduced to provide students with a conceptual understanding of the operations and how they affect numbers. Students will also learn how to add and subtract decimals using money, create graphs, and perform experiments in probability using basic statistics methods. Students also study time, money, geometry, fractions, decimals, measurement, and relationships among patterns. Third grade Math continues to teach strategies for adding and subtracting numbers with regrouping. Multiplication and division are introduced to provide students with a conceptual understanding of the operations and how they affect numbers. Students will also learn how to add and subtract decimals using money, create graphs, and perform experiments in probability using basic statistics methods. Students also study time, money, geometry, fractions, decimals, measurement, and relationships among patterns.</p>
Science	<p>This course introduces science as an adventure in learning about the world around us. Through hands-on activities, student-designed experiments, research, and guided readings, students begin exploring the life and Earth sciences. In the Earth science unit, students learn about the Earth and its changing features. In life science, they explore the living world and its organisms. Designed to accommodate a variety of learning styles, the lessons encourage students to apply new concepts through activity-centered learning, reading, and traditional research and instruction methods. Students also explore the scientific method and various careers in science. In this course, students explore the fascinating worlds of Earth and matter. In the Earth science unit, students study the earth’s composition in detail as well as the relationships between the Earth, moon, and sun. In the physical science unit, they study the properties of matter. Lessons are designed to engage the student’s natural curiosity, from building a model for investigating how simple machines work to studying why the moon’s shape appears to change throughout the month. The course accommodates a range of learning styles with activity-centered learning as well as readings, research, and traditional instruction. Students also explore the scientific method and various careers in science.</p>

4th Grade

Language Arts	<p>Connections Academy's Gifted and Talented Language Arts 4 course provides students opportunities to work at an accelerated pace; while engaging in more complex and challenging instructional activities. Students are provided opportunities for increased student-teacher interaction and discussion, as well as increased interaction with their peers. Oral language skills are developed with instruction in oral compositions, interviews, and discussion. Writing skills are reinforced with instruction in spelling, handwriting, grammar, and language usage. Classic and award-winning children's literature carries students across oceans and through centuries as tales of adventure unfold. The Junior Great Books® program employs the method of interpretive readings and discussion being known as the Shared Inquiry™ method. This distinctive approach to learning enables leaders—the teachers and Learning Coaches—to foster a vibrant environment in which a student acquires the habits and strategies of a self-reliant thinker, reader, and learner. Through their own curiosity and attentive questioning, leaders serve as partners in inquiry with the student, helping him work with other students to discover meaning in a reading selection and to build interpretations. The process reaches its fullest expression in Shared Inquiry discussion, where leaders and students think and talk about an interpretive question that arises from a particular story. Using LiveLesson® sessions, the student will interact with peers twice during each unit for Shared Inquiry and presentation of personal writing. Junior Great Books includes outstanding works of literature by award-winning authors. Praised for their rich language and international range, and chosen carefully for their ability to support multiple interpretations, the stories in Junior Great Books capture students' attention and imagination and engage the best of their thinking. Progressing in reading level, conceptual complexity, and length throughout the series, the stories are the foundation for a thoughtful process of reading, discussion, and writing.</p>
Math	<p>This course further refines students' skills of the four mathematical operations while students are introduced to more complex activities, such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals, fractions, and fractions with mixed numbers. Students are introduced to the order of operations and learn how to solve and write equations and inequalities. The study of geometry becomes more involved as students learn about polygons and solid figures. Students also extend their knowledge of graphing and probability to include circle graphs and using statistics to make prediction. Solving problems with multiple steps, increased emphasis on Algebra skills, and appropriate pacing keep gifted math students engaged in this above level content. This course further refines students' skills of the four mathematical operations while students are introduced to more complex activities, such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals, fractions, and fractions with mixed numbers. Students are introduced to the order of operations and learn how to solve and write equations and inequalities. The study of geometry becomes more involved as students learn about polygons and solid figures. Students also extend their knowledge of graphing and probability to include circle graphs and using statistics to make prediction. Solving problems with multiple steps, increased emphasis on Algebra skills, and appropriate pacing keep gifted math students engaged in this above level content.</p> <p>Your student will have access to DimensionU™, which includes online math games that support your student's understanding of lesson concepts. You will find the link to DimensionU™ on your student's home page. Follow the directions to download the necessary software first. Once installed, DimensionU™ allows your student to access DimensionM™ to practice grades 3–7 and pre-algebra math skills in a gaming environment.</p>
Science	<p>This course deepens the student's understanding of the life and Earth sciences through observation, research, and experimentation. Our life science unit explores the differences and commonalities between organisms. The Earth science unit investigates the Earth's different land features and how to care for the Earth in the 21st century. Students become engaged while observing seed growth, exploring the effects of flooding on a riverbank, and conducting a variety of experiments. Students become investigators in this course where they use a variety of techniques to collect information about the world around them. In Earth science, our investigators study the effects of different climates on Earth and begin exploring the solar system. In our physical science unit, they study the composition and use of different forms of energy. Through a range of hands-on experiments and observation, they analyze the effect of warmed air on weather, explore chemical reactions, and create a compound machine. Students deepen their understanding of the material through a long-term science project chosen from an approved list and shared at the semester's end with fellow students.</p>

5th Grade

Language Arts	<p>Connections Academy's Gifted and Talented Language Arts 5 course provides students opportunities to work at an accelerated pace; while engaging in more complex and challenging instructional activities. Students are provided opportunities for increased student-teacher discussion, as well as increased interaction with their peers. Critical thinking skills are intertwined with novel activities in order to sharpen students' analytical abilities. Reading comprehension instruction allowing students to practice identifying main ideas and themes in any given reading passage. The writing content throughout the course concentrates on crafting quality sentences, organizing paragraphs, summary writing, and adding detail to writing. The Junior Great Books® program employs the method of interpretive readings and discussion being known as the Shared Inquiry™ method. This distinctive approach to learning enables leaders—the teachers and Learning Coaches—to foster a vibrant environment in which a student acquires the habits and strategies of a self-reliant thinker, reader, and learner. Through their own curiosity and attentive questioning, leaders serve as partners in inquiry with the student, helping him work with other students to discover meaning in a reading selection and to build interpretations. The process reaches its fullest expression in Shared Inquiry discussion, where leaders and students think and talk about an interpretive question that arises from a particular story. Using LiveLesson® sessions, the student will interact with peers twice during each unit for Shared Inquiry and presentation of personal writing. Junior Great Books includes outstanding works of literature by award-winning authors. Praised for their rich language and international range, and chosen carefully for their ability to support multiple interpretations, the stories in Junior Great Books capture students' attention and imagination and engage the best of their thinking. Progressing in reading level, conceptual complexity, and length throughout the series, the stories are the foundation for a thoughtful process of reading, discussion, and writing.</p>
Math	<p>For qualifying students, this first-semester course reinforces students' understanding of mathematical concepts in preparation for higher-level courses. Students learn to create, analyze, and interpret graphs in their study of statistics. Geometry continues to be explored, with students classifying polygons and using measurement skills to find the perimeter, area, and volume of geometric figures. In addition to learning basic probability and permutations, students begin their algebra studies with solving equations and inequalities. For qualifying students, this second-semester course reinforces students' understanding of mathematical concepts in preparation for higher-level courses. Students learn to create, analyze, and interpret graphs in their study of statistics. Geometry continues to be explored, with students classifying polygons and using measurement skills to find the perimeter, area, and volume of geometric figures. In addition to learning basic probability and permutations, students begin their algebra studies with solving equations and inequalities.</p>
Science	<p>This exciting course encourages students to see themselves as scientists by empowering them to make their own discoveries. Students begin by studying the roles of scientists and the scientific method and then explore the Earth and life sciences in the context of the discoverer. In life science, they study cells and heredity. In Earth science, students design their own experiments for investigating the earth's composition and the factors affecting that composition. A range of activity-based learning and traditional instruction engages students of diverse learning styles.</p>

6th Grade

Language Arts	<p>In Gifted and Talented Language Arts 6 A, the student works at an accelerated pace, while engaging in more complex and challenging instructional activities. Each unit focuses on a central question; the student will read, analyze, and interpret a variety of literature that informs his perspective about questions such as: What brings out the best in you? What's fair and what's not? and what makes you who you are? The student will develop his reading skills and expand his vocabulary while reading across the genres of nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and drama. The student will also self select literature for independent reading and choose either <i>Journey to Topaz</i> or <i>Travels with Charley</i> as his novel unit. The student will strengthen his mastery of the writing process and the six traits of writing as he composes personal, creative, and persuasive writing. The Junior Great Books® program employs the method of interpretive readings and discussion being known as the Shared Inquiry™ method. This distinctive approach to learning enables leaders—the teachers and Learning Coaches—to foster a vibrant environment in which a student acquires the habits and strategies of a self-reliant thinker, reader, and learner. Through their own curiosity and attentive questioning, leaders serve as partners in inquiry with the student, helping him work with other students to discover meaning in a reading selection and to build interpretations. The process reaches its fullest expression in Shared Inquiry discussion, where leaders and students think and talk about an interpretive question that arises from a particular story. Using LiveLesson® sessions, the student will interact with peers twice during each unit for Shared Inquiry and presentation of personal writing. The Junior Great Books program includes outstanding works of literature by award-winning authors. Praised for their rich language and international range, and chosen carefully for their ability to support multiple interpretations, the stories in Junior Great Books capture students' attention and imagination and engage the best of their thinking. Progressing in reading level, conceptual complexity, and length throughout the series, the stories are the foundation for a thoughtful process of reading, discussion, and writing.</p>
Math	<p>In this course, the student will be introduced to basic algebraic principles. The student will review properties of expressions and integers. The student will solve one-step equations and inequalities with positive and negative integers, decimals, fractions, and exponents. Then the student will explore problems involving operations of fractions and will apply knowledge of algebra to solve real-world ratio, proportion, and percentage problems. Finally, the student will examine and evaluate two-step and multi-step equations and inequalities. In this course, the student will explore basic algebraic principles. The student will examine and evaluate two-step and multi-step equations and inequalities and then explore and use graphs to solve linear relations and functions. Next, the student will explore basic concepts of geometry including angle relationships, parallel lines, polygons, circles, and transformations. Next, the student will apply knowledge of geometry and algebra to solve area and volume problems. Then the student will explore nonlinear functions and polynomials. Finally, the student will examine properties of right triangles, data analysis, and probability.</p>
Science	<p>The Middle School Gifted and Talented program consists of stand-alone, project-based, semester-long courses. The theme-based courses have simultaneous threads to develop skills for proposing, creating, and presenting projects as well as to explore scientific topics related to the course theme. Students will get involved with people in their community as they complete their projects and set a goal for making a difference and having a positive impact in their hometown. The second semester of each course will give students a chance to delve further into the course theme, their specific project, or both. The sixth-grade theme is Supporting Sustainability. Students will focus on such topics as renewable resources, human impact on the environment, and finding a sustainable balance between supply and demand.</p>