

Summit Schools Curriculum Overview



brilliant beginnings,
bright future

All grade levels, learning pods,
and exploratory classes

2025

PreK Curriculum Overview

Reading

- Knowledge of parts of a book
- Recognize that spoken words are represented in written language
- Retell familiar stories
- Identify characters and events in a story
- Answer questions about details in a text
- Recognize common types of text (storybooks, poems, information text)
- Participate in group reading activities

Phonics

IMSE-Orton-Gillingham Phonics

Letterland Phonics

- Exposure to letter names and sounds
- Recognize and produce rhymes
- Segment words
- Identify words with same beginning, middle, and ending sounds

Social Studies

- Understand what it means to be a member of a community
- Develop an awareness of the self and his or her uniqueness
- Explore geography in the child's environment, and where people live, work, and play
- Role play different types of work and workers
- Take action to address local and global problems

Writing

- Correct grip of writing tool
- Exposure to printed letter formation
- Write words phonetically
- Draw pictures to express ideas
- Writing personal narrative, informative, and opinion
- Participate in shared writing projects

Math

i-Ready Math

- One to one correspondence of objects
- Match, sort, classify, and compare groups of objects by color, shape, texture, size, and weight
- Identify and creating patterns
- Count on and counting backwards
- Identify two and three dimensional shapes
- Compare sets of objects and numbers using "fewer", "more", "less than", "more than", and "equal to"
- Add to and subtract within 10
- Recognize time: day and night

Science

Open SciEd

- Exploration of science tools
- Experience the world through gardening, nature walks, and other explorations
- Investigate animals, habitats, diets, and nutrition
- Use data from observations to describe the world, including patterns, cause and effect relationships and predictions

Kindergarten Curriculum Overview

Reading

- Follow words from left to right, top to bottom, and page by page
- Retell familiar stories
- Identify characters, setting, and major events in a story
- Name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each
- Ask and answer questions about a text

Phonics

IMSE-Orton-Gillingham Phonics

- Recognize and identify upper and lower case letters and their sounds
- Beginning, middle, and ending sounds
- Count, segment, and blend syllables in a word
- Correct printed letter formation of all upper and lower case letters

Social Studies

- My family and pets
- Children long ago and today
- Rules and responsibilities
- Self-Identity
- How do people work together to make decisions?
- Financial Literacy

Writing

- Write words phonetically
- Use a combination of drawing, dictation, and writing to express ideas
- Writing personal narrative, informative, and opinion, and "How to" writing
- Participate in shared research and writing projects

Math

i-Ready Math

- Sort, classify, categorize, and graph data
- Identify directions: Left and right
- Count to 100
- Write numbers to 20: Numeric
- Ordinal numbers
- Identify and compare two and three dimensional shapes
- Compare height, weight, length, and capacity
- Number bonds, addition, and subtraction within 10

Science

Open SciEd

- Energy: Sunlight
- Weather
- Forces and Motion
- Ecosystems: Plants, Animals, and their environment

1st Grade Curriculum Overview

Reading

- Identify nouns, verbs, adjectives, conjunctions
- Recognize features of a sentence (first word capitalization, ending punctuation)
- Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson
- Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information
- Identify and use text features (table of contents, headings, glossary, etc.)

Phonics/Language

IMSE-Orton-Gillingham Phonics

- Recognize base words in multisyllabic words
- Identify syllable types and how to use them in reading and writing
- Spelling rules

Social Studies

- Our community helpers and jobs
- Schools long ago and today, and schools in other countries
- Makers Market/Money
- What is culture?
- Trade and movement of goods
- Financial Literacy

Writing

- Correct printed letter formation of all letters
- Introduce a topic, provide appropriate supporting details, appropriately sequence events, use temporal words, and bring closure to writing piece
- Receive and respond to peer and adult feedback to strengthen writing
- Participate in shared research and writing projects
- Writing personal narrative, informative, and opinion

Math

i-Ready Math

- Number Bonds
- Addition and subtraction within 20
- Order and compare numbers to 100
- Place Value: Tens and Ones
- Write addition and subtraction story problems
- Compare lengths with units and measurement tools
- Fractions: Halves and fourths
- Sort, classify, categorize, and graph data
- Tell time to the hour, half hour, and 5 minute
- Identify coins and bills, counting money, and using money when shopping

Science

Open SciEd

- Waves: light
- Waves: sounds
- Space: sky patterns
- Animal and plant traits

2nd Grade Curriculum Overview

Reading

- Schema and inference
- Fact and opinion
- Main idea and detail
- Summarize beginning, middle, and end
- Acknowledge different points of view between characters
- Experience multiple forms of literature, including fiction and non-fiction, and poetry
- Use context to confirm or correct word recognition

Phonics/Language

IMSE-Orton-Gillingham Phonics

- Develop phonemic awareness
- Develop phonological awareness
- Identify six syllable types with multisyllabic words and how to use them in reading and writing
- Syllable division rules to read and write multisyllabic words
- Spelling rules when adding suffixes

Social Studies

- Financial literacy
- Purpose of the government
- Primary and secondary sources
- Continents—Cultures, geography, etc.

Writing

- Cursive instruction
- Compose detailed sentences to form a paragraph
- Introduce a topic, providing appropriate supporting details, appropriately sequence events, use temporal words, and bring closure to writing piece
- Use peer and adult feedback to strengthen writing
- Participate in shared research and writing projects
- Writing personal narrative, informative, and opinion

Math

i-Ready Math

- Place value: Hundreds, Tens, and Ones
- Addition and subtraction with and without regrouping
- Use mental math to add and subtract within 100
- Estimating and measuring length (cm, m, in, and ft) and weight (g, kg, and lbs.)
- Solve addition and subtraction story problems
- Add and subtract money, making \$1, and making change
- Time intervals and A.M./P.M.
- Polygons, straight and curved sides, and three dimensional shapes

Science

Open SciEd

- Land Changing Shape
- Plants
- Habitats and Biodiversity
- Structure and Properties of Matter

3rd Grade Curriculum Overview

Reading

- Main idea and supporting details
- Inferencing
- Summarizing
- Figurative language
- Point of view
- Compare and contrast
- Differentiate own opinion from those of the narrators or characters
- Cause and effect
- Identify nonfiction text features
- Refer back to the text when answering questions
- Read orally with appropriate expression

Phonics/Language

IMSE-Orton-Gillingham Phonics
Orton-Gillingham Advanced Language

- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonological Awareness
- Introduction to Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes
- Identify and divide words by the syllable types in order to read and write multisyllabic words
- Spelling rules

Social Studies

- Immigration and movement of people
- Financial literacy
- Compare and contrast historical perspectives

Writing

- Cursive and keyboarding instruction
- Introduce a topic, provide supporting details, sequence events, use temporal words, and bring closure to writing piece
- Introduce a narrator and implement dialogue
- Use peer and adult feedback to strengthen writing
- Writing a 5 sentence paragraph
- Writing personal narrative, informative, and opinion
- Use technology to publish writing

Math

i-Ready Math

- Place value to the ten-thousands place
- Addition and subtraction with and without regrouping
- Use mental math to add and subtract within 1,000
- Estimate sums and differences
- Multiply with and without regrouping
- Divide with and without remainders
- Compare, simplify, add and subtract, and find equivalent fractions
- Measure, add, and subtract length and capacity
- Properties of plane shapes and angles
- Measure area and perimeter

Science

Open SciEd

- Forces and Interactions
- Weather and Hazards
- Trait Variations
- Ecosystem Change and Survival

4th Grade Curriculum Overview

Reading

- Summarizing
- Figurative language/Parts of Speech
- Main idea and detail
- Use text evidence to support inferences
- Differentiate own opinion from those of the narrators or characters
- Theme in a story, drama, or poem
- Structure of poetry and dramas
- Identify differences between poems, dramas, and prose
- Compare and contrast point of view, theme, and patterns of events in stories
- Refer back to the text when answering questions
- Read at an appropriate rate with expression and fluency

Language

IMSE-Orton-Gillingham Advanced Language

- Develop knowledge and application of Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes
- Introduction to Greek roots, prefixes, and suffixes
- Identify and divide words by the six syllable types in order to read and write multisyllabic words

Social Studies

- Great Depression
- Railroads and westward expansion
- Iowa agriculture and farming history
- Financial literacy
- Civic virtue and democratic principles

Writing

- Cursive and keyboarding instruction
- Introduce a topic, provide supporting details, sequence events, use temporal words, and bring closure to writing piece
- Appropriately use quotations with correct citation
- Introduce a narrator and implement dialogue
- Multi-Paragraph writing pieces organized for audience
- Writing personal narrative, informative, and opinion
- Independent research and writing projects

Math

i-Ready Math

- Place value to the millions place
- Round five and six digit numbers
- Multiples, factors, and prime and composite numbers
- Multiply two digit numbers
- Estimate and divide four digit numbers
- Improper fractions and mixed numbers
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and whole numbers
- Line graphs and line plots
- Place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and rounding of decimals
- Measure, add, and subtract angles
- Perpendicular and parallel lines

Science

Open SciEd

- Energy Transfer: Collisions
- Energy Transfer: Electricity
- Earth Processes
- Structure and Function

5th Grade Curriculum Overview

Reading

- Read across genres
- Use informational text to problem solve
- Research using multiple sources
- Use text evidence to support inferences
- Identify the structure of a story, drama, and poem
- Cite text evidence to support an argument
- Identify the theme and provide supporting textual evidence
- Determine author's purpose
- Describe how narrator's point of view influences how events in the story are described
- Compare and contrast text forms and genres in terms of similar themes or topics
- Compare and contrast one author's description of events with another

Language

IMSE-Orton-Gillingham Advanced Language

- Continue developing knowledge and application of Greek and Latin prefixes, roots, and suffixes
- Identify and divide words by the syllable types in order to read and write multisyllabic words

Social Studies

- American historical documents
- World religions and cultures
- Financial literacy
- U.S. geography
- American History/Famous People

Writing

- Application of Cursive Writing and Keyboarding Skills
- Grammar and Mechanics
- Writing narrative, informative, and persuasive
- Descriptive writing
- Poetry
- Produce and share research

Math

i-Ready Math

- Multiply and divide fractions with decimals
- Find common ratios, proportions and unit rates
- Use number systems to express exponents, negative numbers, decimals and absolute values
- Use equations to show like quantities
- Represent relationships as inequalities
- Find surface area, volume of shapes
- Graph on the coordinate plane
- Compare data using mean, median and mode
- Create and read graphs, histograms and pie charts

Science

OpenSciEd

- Ecosystems and Matter Cycling
- Matter Properties
- Earth Systems
- Earth and the Universe

6th Grade Curriculum Overview

Reading

- Read across genres
- Use informational text to problem solve
- Research using multiple sources
- Use text evidence to support inferences
- Identify the structure of a story, drama, and poem
- Cite text evidence to support an argument
- Identify the theme and provide supporting textual evidence
- Determine author's purpose
- Describe how narrator's point of view influences how events in the story are described
- Compare and contrast text forms and genres in terms of similar themes or topics
- Compare and contrast one author's description of events with another

Language

IMSE-Orton-Gillingham Advanced Language

- Continue developing knowledge and application of Greek and Latin prefixes, roots, and suffixes
- Identify and divide words by the six syllable types in order to read and write multisyllabic words

Social Studies

- American historical documents
- World religions and cultures
- Financial literacy
- U.S. geography
- American History
- Social issues and community involvement

Writing

- Application of Cursive Writing and Keyboarding Skills
- Grammar and Mechanics
- Writing narrative, informative, and persuasive
- Descriptive writing
- Poetry
- Produce and share research

Math

i-Ready Math

- Multiply and divide fractions with decimals
- Find common ratios, proportions and unit rates
- Use number systems to express exponents, negative numbers, decimals and absolute values
- Use equations to show like quantities
- Represent relationships as inequalities
- Find surface area, volume of shapes
- Graph on the coordinate plane
- Compare data using mean, median and mode
- Create and read graphs, histograms and pie charts

Science

OpenSciEd

- Light + Matter
- Thermal Energy
- Weather, Climate and Water Cycling
- Plate Tectonics
- Natural Hazards
- Cells + Systems

7th/8th Grade Curriculum Overview

Reading

- Novel Studies
- Cite text evidence to support an argument
- Determine how the theme develops over the course of a text
- Examine the meaning of words and phrases, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings
- Analyze how a drama or poem's form or structure contributes to its meaning
- Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and how the meaning and style are influenced by its structure
- Analyze word choice on meaning and tone
- Evaluate arguments and claims in a text
- Analyze interactions and conflicting viewpoints in a text
- Interpret information to engage in discussion

Language

IMSE-Orton-Gillingham Advanced Language

- Continue developing knowledge and application of Greek and Latin prefixes, roots, and suffixes
- Identify and divide words by the six syllable types in order to read and write multisyllabic words

Social Studies

- Contemporary global current events
- Civics & government
- World geography
- U.S. history
- Social issues and community involvement

Writing

- Application of cursive writing and keyboarding
- Poetry
- Speech and persuasive writing
- Evaluate the use of different mediums (print or digital text, audio, visual, or multimedia) to present ideas

Math

i-Ready Math

- Compare ratios, proportions and percentages
- Draw and calculate to scale, rotations, translations and reflections
- Measure circles, circumference, radius and diameter
- Use shapes to find missing angles and equivalent measures
- Solve equations and inequalities
- Use sample sizes and probability to find solutions
- Find linear equations and slope
- Use the Pythagorean Theorem and irrational numbers
- Express scientific notation for very large or small numbers
- Algebra is offered

Science

OpenSciEd

- Physical Science
- Earth and Space
- Life Science

Music Curriculum Overview

Early Childhood

- Musical characteristics (fast vs. slow, loud vs. quiet, short vs. long)
- Steady beat
- Match pitch and singing on pitch
- Music as storytelling
- Differentiate between rhythm and beat
- Identify songs based on familiar rhythm

Intermediate

- So, mi, la, do, re pitches
- Three pitch compositions using formal notation
- Basic rhythmic compositions and improvisations
- Group dancing songs
- Composer study
- Ukulele or recorder

Middle School

Primary

- Define terms for musical characteristics and dynamics (forte and piano)
- Quarter, eighth, half, and whole notes and rests
- Introduce so, mi, and la pitches
- Composing song to selected poems

- Minimalist Music
- Syncopation
- Music style
- Pentatonic scale and compositions
- GarageBand Compositions
- Major and minor Scales
- Composer study
- Keyboard
- Ukulele or recorder

Ongoing Skills

- Music literacy skills- Read and write music
- Proper singing technique
- Performance skills
- Composition- Creating music
- Mindful listening

Art Curriculum Overview

Units of Study



National Core Arts Standards

- Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
- Analyze, interpret and select artistic work for presentation.
- Develop and refine artistic work for presentation.
- Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.
- Refine and complete artistic work.
- Perceive and analyze artistic work.
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.
- Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

P.E. Curriculum Overview

Early Childhood/Primary

- Fundamental locomotor patterns (skip, gallop, run, hop, and jump)
- Jump and land with balance
- Throw and catch soft objects
- Partner passing
- Tag games
- Small-sided sports
- Recognize the relationship between physical activity, and a fast heartbeat and breathing

Intermediate

- Use fundamental locomotor patterns in small-sided physical tasks
- Demonstrate variation in running patterns and speeds
- Balance on different bases of support
- Throw and catching objects with accuracy
- Demonstrate control over moving objects
- Develop climbing skills
- Jump rope
- Disc golf
- Roller skating
- Hockey
- Student-lead warm ups

Middle School

- Throw objects for appropriate distance or power
- Implement combinations of locomotor patterns with speed and competency
- Demonstrate offensive and defensive skills
- Student-lead warm ups
- Roller skating
- Ultimate frisbee
- Weightlifting
- Spike ball
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Soccer

Ongoing Skills

- Form daily physical activity routines
- Warm up techniques
- Stretching
- Mindfulness
- Share equipment
- Learn through play
- Sportsmanship
- Body weight strengthening
- Collaborative games
- Walking and running
- Yoga
- Gymnastics
- Fishing

Health Curriculum Overview

Early Childhood/Primary

- Developing healthy habits and routines
- Differentiate between healthy and unhealthy foods
- Recognize that food provides energy for physical activity
- Identify components of good health
- Environmental preservation
- Personal hygiene practices
- Family life and relationships
- Outdoor safety

Intermediate

- Recognize the balance of nutrition and physical activity for good health
- Identify foods that are beneficial for before and after physical activity
- Understand the importance of hydration
- Identify and seek to minimize barriers related to maintaining a physically active lifestyle
- Illness and disease prevention
- Anatomy and physiology
- Outdoor safety and survival skills
- Reading nutrition labels and making healthy food choices

Middle School

- The effects of alcohol, tobacco, drugs and poisons on the human body
- Self-esteem, stress management and interpersonal relationships
- Characteristics of communicable diseases, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome.
- Exploration of employment opportunities
- Experience in career decision making
- Integration of work values and skills into daily life
- Understand the connections between fitness and overall physical and mental health

Ongoing Skills

- The impact of exercise on our ability to learn
- Exercise influences our mood and self confidence
- Planting and growing seedlings
- Building and maintaining a garden bed
- Harvesting fruits and vegetables
- Food preparation
- Kitchen safety
- Healthy recipes

Spanish Curriculum Overview

Overall Program Goals

This program is designed for personal and relationship development through the experience of language learning.

Classes are conducted mostly in Spanish, using high frequency words to prepare students for continued interaction in a variety of situations, prepare for continued accelerated study of Spanish in high school and beyond, and to enjoy the process of language learning.

Early Childhood/Primary

- Comprehension of Frequently Used Words
- Greet others and introduce self
- Respond to commands
- Answer yes-or-no questions about personal experiences
- Indicate answers to questions by pointing to a picture (Where is the dog? Who is feeling happy?)
- Identify primary colors
- Say the days of the week and months of the year in order
- Count to 10

Intermediate

- Speaking in and comprehension of short sentences
- Follow commands in Spanish
- Identify common objects encountered in daily life situations
- Say the date, including day, month, and year
- Follow classroom directions in Spanish
- Count and identify numbers 1-100
- Ask and answer questions about personal preferences, wants and needs, emotions

Middle School

- Speaking in and comprehension of longer narratives.
- Ask and answer questions about quantities of objects
- Order a meal in an imagined restaurant
- Use first, second, and third person in spoken and written narratives
- Provide detailed answers/responses beyond short sentences

Pod 1 Essential Skills Overview

Project Based Learning

- Students will use reading, writing, and research skills to collectively work to solve problems in their communities.
- Students will use mathematical and scientific concepts and processes to engage in real world problem solving with their peers.
- Students will communicate and collaborate with each other, staff, and community experts in order to solve real world problems in their community.
- Students will learn to be reflective thinkers, use creativity in new ways, and engage with each other.

Computer Science

- How to care for an iPad and Ben Q
- Independently navigate apps to enhance learning and support instruction
- Gather information for research
- Understand safe participation in online platforms
- Understand when to seek adult assistance for technology problems
- Choose an appropriate technology tool to accomplish a task
- Use technology to communicate ideas and share information

Social, Emotional, and Character Building

Character Strong

- Listening
- Following directions
- Identifying emotions
- Friendship
- Focusing
- Emotional awareness

Communication Skills

- Manners: "Please", "Thank you", "Excuse me"
- Express ideas orally and in written form
- Use "I Messages" (ex. "I feel happy when...")
- Listen and reflect
- Respect others ideas
- Ask and answer questions
- Use technology to communicate and share ideas with others
- Accept constructive feedback



Pod 2 Essential Skills Overview

Project Based Learning

- Students will use reading, writing, and research skills to collectively work to solve problems in their communities.
- Students will use mathematical and scientific concepts and processes to engage in real world problem solving with their peers.
- Students will communicate and collaborate with each other, staff, and community experts in order to solve real world problems in their community.
- Students will learn to be reflective thinkers, use creativity in new ways, and engage with each other.

Computer Science

- Implement resources to accommodate personal learning differences
- Understand and use social online platforms for learning purposes
- Know how to use online platforms safely
- Create and share ideas virtually
- Access and evaluate information from online resources
- Recognize positive values of technology as a learning tool
- Implement troubleshooting processes independently
- Plagiarism

Social, Emotional, and Character

Building Skills

Character Strong

- Underneath conflict-resolution
- Engagement
- Emotion regulation
- Perspective-taking
- Flexible thinking
- Emotion advocacy
- Practicing conflict-resolution
- Organizing
- Positive self-talk

Communication Skills

- Actively listen to the ideas of others
- Assist in managing and resolving peer conflict
- Accept and implement constructive feedback
- Provide feedback to peers
- Understand the importance of compromise
- Demonstrate questioning skills
- Advocate for personal needs
- Use technology and online platforms to communicate and collaborate with teachers and classmates
- Actively participate in group tasks and discussions

Pod 3 Essential Skills Overview

Project Based Learning

- Students will use reading, writing, and research skills to collectively work to solve problems in their communities.
- Students will use mathematical and scientific concepts and processes to engage in real world problem solving with their peers.
- Students will communicate and collaborate with each other, staff, and community experts in order to solve real world problems in their community.
- Students will learn to be reflective thinkers, use creativity in new ways, and engage with each other.

Computer Science

- Implement resources to accommodate personal learning differences
- Access and evaluate information from online resources
- Understand and use social online platforms for learning purposes
- Understand how to use social media safely and respectfully
- Design, develop, create, test, and present digital products
- Implement troubleshooting processes independently
- Plagiarism

Social, Emotional, and Character Building Skills

Character Strong

- Bullying/bystanding
- Values and character habits
- Understanding emotions and emotional regulation
- Respect and the power of language
- Understanding stress and coping with it
- Social awareness
- Building empathy
- Mental health and well being
- Assertiveness
- Conflict resolution
- Growth mindset

Communication Skills

- Use technology and online platforms to communicate and collaborate with teachers, classmates, and community
- Provide feedback to peers
- Advocate for personal needs
- Communicate empathy and respect for self and others
- Assist in managing and resolving peer conflict