

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Millard Core Knowledge program provides cultural literacy through a sequential and challenging curriculum rooted in the E.D. Hirsch [Core Knowledge Sequence](#) and philosophy. The Core Knowledge Sequence consists of a body of widely used knowledge placed into the curriculum in a coherent and sequential design. The program develops rich reading and writing skills through the use of the Spalding Method, Shurley English, and phonics. This spiral also includes history and geography, science and health, music, visual arts, and language arts (poetry, idioms, reading, writing, and grammar). The teacher-directed environment establishes high expectations through whole-group learning, and fosters analytical thinking. Students are challenged through an in-depth and swiftly-paced curriculum which develops higher-level thinking skills and establishes a solid foundation to build upon.



CURRICULUM

PHONETIC FOUNDATIONS

The Writing Road to Reading (Spalding, 2003), is the basis for phonics, spelling and handwriting. Spalding-based methods utilize the multi-sensory approach (see it, hear it, say it, and write it) for explicit, intensive, systematic phonics instruction. Proper handwriting, correct spelling, and use of spelling rules, as well as vocabulary, comprehension skills, listening skills, and reading are stressed. The students learn seventy phonograms (sound/symbol relationships) for the forty-five sounds in English speech. Kindergarten students are taught to spell, write, and read.



LITERATURE

Core Knowledge language arts is part of the literature component for the reading program. Classics and other books with wholesome ideas will also be used. Teachers read to their students daily. E. D. Hirsch's recommended literature and common sayings are incorporated.

ENGLISH GRAMMAR

The Shurley Method, a multi-sensory see it, hear it, say it, do it approach, includes practice and skills in fundamental grammar, usage, English rules, and composition. Writing and poetry are an integral part of the program. Students also learn proper delivery for oral presentation through poetry or prose recitations.

MATHEMATICS

The Saxon Mathematics program provides emphasis on standard mathematical functions, as well as story problems, and teaches the students to be mathematical problem solvers. Frequent drills on math facts ensure familiarity through practice. The Saxon program is supplemented to ensure mastery of the District's essential learner outcomes.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

The Core Knowledge sequence assures that students gain familiarity with the main history and geography content. World and American civilizations are explored in history. Geography studies include the continents, larger countries, and cities, and major physical features. These combined studies provide a firm foundation of pertinent factual knowledge that equips students with information to become critical thinkers. Students will become familiar with early, ancient, and modern civilizations and will gain an appreciation of the important leaders, events, and history of our country. A variety of media, including true stories, factual information, songs, reference books and additional sources, are also used.



SCIENCE AND HEALTH

E. D. Hirsch's science and health includes physical, earth, and life sciences. The students' knowledge of the life sciences is learned through observation, experience, and the use of the scientific method. Through this process students will learn to read for information and synthesize their thoughts in writing.

