

Millard Core Knowledge Program at Cather

OVERVIEW

- E.D. Hirsh's Core Knowledge Sequence forms the basis for curriculum including literature, world and American history, geography, science/health, music, physical education, and art.
- The major portion of instructional time is on the three core academic areas - reading, writing and math.
- Experienced teachers with additional training on the Core Knowledge Sequence, Spalding Phonics, and Shurley Grammar.
- Classroom activities are directed by the teacher.
- Classrooms are self-contained with four walls, which include individual desks in rows facing the teacher.
- High expectations are established for teachers and students.
- Rules of respect, responsibility, courtesy and resourcefulness are followed consistently.
- Students and parents acknowledge school expectations and their responsibilities are acknowledged by parent, student, and teacher through the signing of a compact.
- Homework is assigned on a regular basis.
- Students participate in all district assessments and Core Knowledge assessments.
- Parents are responsible for student transportation.
- Kindergarten through 5th grade

CURRICULUM

History and Geography-The E.D. Hirsch Core Knowledge Geography and History Sequence introduces and develops a spatial and physical sense of the world while providing a basic understanding of events and ideas in history. Geographical studies encompass physical processes, human and environmental interactions, cultural and location relationships, and region and cultural characteristics. The history studies expose students to early, ancient, and modern civilizations while they gain an appreciation of the important leaders, events, and history of our country. These combined studies provide a firm foundation of pertinent factual knowledge, which equip students with information to become critical thinkers and citizens.

Science and Health-E.D. Hirsch's science and health includes physical, earth, and life sciences. Student 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.

Art-The E.D. Hirsch Core Knowledge sequence helps children develop awareness of the history of art, elements of design, and techniques used in drawing and painting.

Reading and Language Arts-Spalding phonics is the foundation of the reading, spelling, and writing program to be used in the Core Knowledge Program at Disney. The *Writing Road to Reading* by Romalda Spalding serves as a general guide for this program. A multi-sensory approach (see it, hear it, say it, and write it) is used 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 Core Knowledge Language Arts Program and Imagine It[®] are part of the literature component for the reading program. Classics and other books with wholesome ideas will be used. Teachers read to their students' daily. E.D. Hirsch's recommended literature selections and common sayings are incorporated.

The Shurley Method, a multi-sensory 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.

Math-The Saxon Mathematics program provides emphasis on standard mathematical functions, as well as story problems. The students are taught to be mathematical problem solvers. Frequent drills on math facts ensure familiarity through practice. The Saxon program is supplemented to ensure mastery of district and state standards and indicators.

Music/Physical Education-Music and P.E. are taught on a daily rotation basis using the district curriculum frameworks.

Technology-Although academic skills are the critical components of the Core Knowledge Program, technology devices are used when appropriate to enhance learning and provide multiple ways for students to express the content and skills that they have gained.

For more information please contact:

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Insert school web link