

Visitation Catholic School
Curriculum Overview
2020-2021



At Visitation Catholic School, we adhere to a belief that regular review and reflection are paramount to good instructional planning. Our curriculum is designed using Diocesan and Missouri Learning Standards. We recognize “a malleable curriculum map encourages a hidden standard - relevancy - to be central in our practice” (Gallagher and Kittle, 2018). Our curriculum review and revision is informed by research-based best practices and, in many grade levels, incorporates Gold Standard project-based learning (Buck Institute for Education), which includes authentic audiences, revision toward creating high-quality work and student-centered instruction.

Teachers use a multitude of resources in their work with students, including Accelerated Reader, iReady, Google Classroom, SeeSaw, Book Flix, Brain Pop, Discovery Education, Flocabulary, Reflex Math, Membean, Peardeck, NoRedInk and Lightspeed.

- For mathematics, teachers use Eureka Math in kindergarten - fifth grade. Math teachers in sixth - eighth grade use a Prentice Hall text.
- For English Language Arts (ELA) second through fourth grades are using *Wit and Wisdom*, an ELA curriculum from Great Minds. Novel sets and Houghton-Mifflin literature books are used by sixth - eighth grade English/Language Arts teachers.
- Beginning in August 2021, science and social studies teachers use online textbooks from Discovery Education in sixth - eighth grades; Social Studies teachers use the *A History of Us* series in fourth - fifth grade.
- Religion teachers in fourth - eighth grade use the *Christ, our Life* series.
- Seventh and eighth grade Spanish students use the *Auténtico* online textbook.

What follows is our current curriculum scope and sequence. Teachers use a variety of learning materials based on the needs of students each year.

Kindergarten

Language Arts and Social Studies

- ✓ Identifies letters
- ✓ Writes letters from memory
- ✓ Identifies rhyming sounds
- ✓ Uses inventive spelling
- ✓ Uses word attack skills and attempts to sound out words
- ✓ Builds sight word vocabulary
- ✓ Reads independently
- ✓ Recites address and phone number
- ✓ Recites age and birthday
- ✓ Knows how to obtain emergency information



Mathematics and Science

- ✓ Identifies numbers to 100
- ✓ Writes numbers to 100
- ✓ Add and subtract numbers to 10
- ✓ Shows an understanding of measurement
- ✓ Identifies shapes
- ✓ Recognizes coins and money value
- ✓ Names time to the hour

Religion

- ✓ Participates in liturgy
- ✓ Recites the Our Father
- ✓ Recites the Hail Mary
- ✓ Recites the Glory Be
- ✓ Makes the Sign of the Cross correctly
- ✓ Expresses prayer in own words

Learning Behaviors

- ✓ Takes turns and shares in discussion
- ✓ Exhibits self-confidence
- ✓ Respects rights and properties of others
- ✓ Observes classroom rules
- ✓ Participates in discussions

Fine Motor Skills

- ✓ Holds scissors correctly
- ✓ Follows line when cutting
- ✓ Holds pencil correctly
- ✓ Draws a complete person

Project-Based Learning:

How can a book also be a bridge?

How can we, as kindergarteners, be stewards of our earth?

1st Grade

First Grade

Language Arts, Science and Social Studies

- ✓ Identifies the elements of a story
- ✓ Retells stories
- ✓ Demonstrates listening comprehension
- ✓ Applies grade level decoding
- ✓ Reads with accuracy and fluency
- ✓ Presents orally
- ✓ Demonstrates writing process skills and conventions
- ✓ Understands the roles of community workers
- ✓ Identifies characteristics of nocturnal animals
- ✓ Understands the impact of climate on certain animals
- ✓ Recognizes the layers of the oceans and their impact on each other
- ✓ Identify insect characteristics

Mathematics

- ✓ Identifies and writes numbers to 120
- ✓ Computes using addition and subtraction within 20
- ✓ Solves word problems
- ✓ Understands place value to 100
- ✓ Identifies money and value
- ✓ Represents and interprets data
- ✓ Identifies shape attributes
- ✓ Tells time to the hour and half hour

Religion

- ✓ Participates in liturgy
- ✓ Recites the Our Father
- ✓ Recites the Hail Mary
- ✓ Recites the Glory Be
- ✓ Makes the Sign of the Cross correctly
- ✓ Expresses prayer in own words

Learning Behaviors

- ✓ Takes turns and shares in discussion
- ✓ Respects rights and properties of others
- ✓ Works cooperatively with others
- ✓ Observes classroom and school rules
- ✓ Puts forth best effort
- ✓ Shows responsibility

Project-Based Learning:

How can we create a safety plan for our house?

Second Grade

Writing and Handwriting

- ✓ Forms letters correctly
- ✓ Forms complete sentences with correct conventions
- ✓ Writes a paragraph with a main idea, supporting details, and a conclusion
- ✓ Daily writing, drafting, editing, revision and final draft writing
- ✓ Opinion, informative and personal narrative writing



Reading

- ✓ Reads with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension
- ✓ Reads appropriate site words and high-frequency words
- ✓ Uses appropriate decoding skills

Grammar, Phonics and Spelling

- ✓ Identifies subject/predicate, four types of sentences, nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, adverbs, plural nouns, irregular verbs, common and proper nouns, commas, apostrophes, quotations, abbreviations, contractions, prefixes and suffixes.
- ✓ Spells high-frequency words correctly in daily writing.
- ✓ Identifies short/long vowel, common spellings, digraphs, r-controlled, blends, double consonants, -s, -es, -ed, and -ing endings, plurals, homophones, and compound words

Mathematics

- ✓ Recognizes and draws shapes with specific attributes
- ✓ Measures and estimates the length of objects using inches and centimeters with manipulatives
- ✓ Knows the relationship of time, including seconds in a minute, minutes in an hour, hours in a day, days in a week, weeks in a month, months in a year.
- ✓ Tells and writes time from analog and digital clocks to the nearest five minutes, using AM and PM.
- ✓ Solves word problems involving money, using symbols appropriately.
- ✓ Shows measurements and gathers data by making a line plot, picture and bar graph.
- ✓ Understands place value
- ✓ Counts within 1,000; skip counts by 2s, 5s, 10s, 25s and 100s.
- ✓ Uses ordinal numbers to show numeric order
- ✓ Fluently adds and subtracts within 100 with and without regrouping.
- ✓ Mentally adds 10 or 100 to a number
- ✓ Knows addition and subtraction facts 0 – 20
- ✓ Identifies odd and even groups of objects and numbers
- ✓ Creates, extends and identifies number patterns to understand multiples and factors of 0, 1, 2, 5, 10 and 100.

Religion

- ✓ Participates in liturgy
- ✓ Recites the Our Father
- ✓ Recites the Hail Mary
- ✓ Recites the Glory Be
- ✓ Makes the Sign of the Cross correctly
- ✓ Expresses prayer in own words
- ✓ Prepares for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Science and Social Studies

- ✓ Citizenship, democracy and community in the United States
- ✓ Earth's materials
- ✓ Economic concepts in the working world
- ✓ Matter
- ✓ Solar System
- ✓ Simple machines, motion and force

- ✓ Natural resources and energy
- ✓ Landforms, maps and globes
- ✓ Weather and water cycle
- ✓ Plants, animals and life cycles
- ✓ Sound
- ✓ Native Americans

Project-Based Learning:

How can we, as geologists, determine the origins, formation and practical use of rocks?

How can we use economics to bring justice to the world?

Third Grade

English/Language Arts

- ✓ Skills: grammar, daily writing, weekly spelling, listening and speaking
- ✓ Daily writing: sentences, paragraphs, essays
- ✓ Purposes of writing: descriptive, narrative, expository and informative
- ✓ Conventions of writing
- ✓ Reading strategies and skills in various fiction and nonfiction genres
- ✓ Reading fluency skills
- ✓ Word analysis skills and vocabulary
- ✓ Daily in-class independent reading; students need to read 30 minutes every night independently or with a parent
- ✓ Students work toward Accelerated Reader goals



Mathematics

- ✓ Multiplication and division using units of 2 – 9
- ✓ Distributive, commutative and associative property
- ✓ Measurement of time, weight, liquid volume and area in metric units
- ✓ Two and three-digit addition and subtraction in the standard algorithm
- ✓ Understands unit fractions in relation to whole
- ✓ Compares unit fractions, fractions on a number line and equivalent fractions
- ✓ Generates and analyzes data
- ✓ Problem-solves with perimeter of two-dimensional figures
- ✓ Fluency and word problems
- ✓ Automaticity of multiplication and division facts through 100s

Religion

- ✓ Holy Heroes Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
Mission Statement: The third grade Visitation students, with Jesus as our role model, promise to be loving members of our community by solving problems using our talents, treasures and time.
- ✓ Study and reflection of weekly gospels
- ✓ Participates in school and classroom liturgies
- ✓ Recite and memorize prayers

Science

- ✓ Identifies, classifies and categorizes plants and animals
- ✓ Life cycles of plants and animals
- ✓ Illustrates water cycle
- ✓ Collects and interprets weather data

Social Studies

- ✓ Principles and purposes of government
- ✓ Understanding economic concepts
- ✓ Missouri History

Project-Based Learning:

How can we help wildlife by improving habitat on our school site?

Fourth Grade

English/Language Arts

- ✓ Skills: grammar, parts of speech, sentence structure, punctuation, speaking
- ✓ Writing process: integrated into all subject areas
- ✓ Fiction and nonfiction reading
- ✓ Decoding (roots, prefixes, suffixes)
- ✓ Nonfiction text features
- ✓ Reading fluency
- ✓ Independent Reading
- ✓ Spelling
- ✓ Novel Studies

4th Grade

Mathematics

- ✓ Place value
- ✓ Estimation
- ✓ Inverse operations
- ✓ Multi-digit addition and subtraction
- ✓ Two-dimensional geometry
- ✓ Word and expanded form
- ✓ Metric and customary measurement
- ✓ Fractions
- ✓ Multiplication (including two-digit multiplication) and division (including long division)
- ✓ Word problems

Religion

- ✓ Books of the Bible
- ✓ The Mass
- ✓ The Ten Commandments
- ✓ The Beatitudes
- ✓ Lives of the Saints
- ✓ Stewardship
- ✓ Personal Prayer

Science

- ✓ Scientific Method
- ✓ Force and Motion - laws of motion, friction
- ✓ Simple machines
- ✓ Matter
- ✓ Forms of energy
- ✓ Electricity and magnetism

Social Studies

- ✓ Reading a map
- ✓ Latitude and longitude
- ✓ Regions of the United States
- ✓ States and Capitals
- ✓ American History: Age of Exploration, Native Americans, Colonial America, Revolutionary War, Constitution, Early America, Civil War

Project-Based Learning:

How can we plan an engaging field trip for the entire fourth grade?

Fifth Grade

English/Language Arts

- ✓ Skills covered: grammar, spelling, sentence structure
- ✓ Narrative writing, persuasive writing, creative writing, journal writing
- ✓ Writing instruction involves prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, publishing
- ✓ Nonfiction and fiction reading, short stories and novel studies
- ✓ Various reading strategies such as summarizing, sequencing, comparing, inference, predicting



Mathematics

- ✓ Place value, decimals and fractions
- ✓ Multi-digit whole numbers and decimal fraction operations
- ✓ Addition and subtraction of fractions
- ✓ Multiplication and division of fractions
- ✓ Addition and multiplication with volume and area
- ✓ Problem-solving with the coordinate plane

Religion

- ✓ Understanding of worship through prayer, scripture and service.
- ✓ Community - Catholic community of believers, worship, New Testament scripture
- ✓ Sacraments - review of sacraments of initiation, healing and service of communion
- ✓ Rites of Mass - familiarity of rituals helps in the development of Catholic identity
- ✓ Commandments applied to daily living
- ✓ Prayer - enhancing our faith life
- ✓ Family Life

Science

- ✓ Scientific inquiry
- ✓ Earth Systems
- ✓ Ecology
- ✓ Universe

Social Studies

- ✓ Tracing the history of the United States from 1750 - 1900
- ✓ Establishing roots: founding documents, economic principles
- ✓ Growing pains: governance at the local, state and national level
- ✓ Movement: territorial expansion, immigration

Project-Based Learning:

How can we, as fifth graders, learn about and create a fundraiser to help children in need in our community?

Sixth Grade

English/Language Arts

Overall goal: Establish a life-long interest in reading a variety of genres and communicating original, accurate and thoughtful ideas. Students are expected to read an on-level novel every two weeks.

Literature

- ✓ Critically reads, understands and enjoys sophisticated texts across genres
- ✓ Whole class novels
- ✓ Student-driven book clubs with multi-genre book choices
- ✓ Myths, fables and legends
- ✓ Weekly non-fiction reading
- ✓ Focus on narrative nonfiction and biographies



Writing and Word Work

- ✓ Writes for a variety of purposes and audiences using available technology to research, collaborate and present
- ✓ Explores narrative, expository, descriptive and persuasive writing
- ✓ Masters the eight most common parts of speech
- ✓ Expands vocabulary and understanding of spelling techniques through the study of Greek and Latin roots

Mathematics

Overall Goal: To develop a mathematical understanding through daily routines, skill-building practice and frequent assessment of progress.

- ✓ Fractions and decimals
- ✓ Ratios, proportions, per cents
- ✓ Operations with integers
- ✓ Exponents, roots and order of operations
- ✓ 1D and 2D geometry
- ✓ Statistics and data interpretation
- ✓ Algebraic expressions

Religion

Students will be able to understand how to interpret Old Testament scriptures to trace God's plan for salvation.

- ✓ Revelation
- ✓ Patriarchs
- ✓ Exodus
- ✓ Judges/Kings
- ✓ Prophets
- ✓ That's Not Fair Social Justice Program
- ✓ Family Life

Science

The course will focus on Earth Science, and the major units of study will be:

- ✓ Earth's history as told through fossils
- ✓ Earth's resources
- ✓ Plate tectonics
- ✓ Weather and Climate
- ✓ Global Warming

Social Studies

Students will be able to trace the history of the world through the study of ancient civilizations, their culture and influence on today's society.

- ✓ Early humans
- ✓ Mesopotamia/Fertile Crescent
- ✓ Egypt
- ✓ India
- ✓ China
- ✓ Greece
- ✓ Rome

Project-Based Learning:

Seventh Grade

English/Language Arts

Students will focus on interpreting complex texts using a multitude of comprehension strategies including annotation and layered reading to acquire meaning. They will apply these strategies to personal books as well. Students will read and write concurrently, answering text-dependent questions, summarizing and revising. Complex reading choices include:

- ✓ *The Outsiders*
- ✓ Edgar Allen Poe stories
- ✓ *A Christmas Carol*
- ✓ *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*
- ✓ Revolutionary War book selections
- ✓ Civil Rights era book selections



Mathematics

- ✓ Rational numbers and equations
- ✓ Proportions and similarity
- ✓ Linear functions
- ✓ Two- and three-dimensional space
- ✓ Data sets
- ✓ Simplifying algebraic expressions
- ✓ Integers
- ✓ Using formulas
- ✓ Transformations on the coordinate plane
- ✓ Properties

Religion

Students play a vital role in our community as students, servants of God and leaders of stewardship. Special focus is given to the gospels. Other key components include:

- ✓ The Twelve Articles of Faith
- ✓ Theology of the Body
- ✓ Personal Reflections
- ✓ Strengthening relationships with God
- ✓ The Cardinal Virtues
- ✓ Identifying essential elements of the Bible

Science

Life Science is the study of living organisms such as plants, animals, ecosystems and humans. The class uses an interdisciplinary approach using biology, chemistry and math.

- ✓ Scientific inquiry
- ✓ Lab safety
- ✓ Cells
- ✓ Genetics
- ✓ Simple organisms
- ✓ Plants
- ✓ Body systems
- ✓ Ecology

Social Studies

World Geography and Early American History

Is geography destiny? How do elements of culture affect regions of the world? Topics explored include:

- ✓ Economic, social, political and environmental factors that influence geography
- ✓ Map skills
- ✓ Regional study of North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa
- ✓ History is in the telling! What does it mean to be an American? How do we grapple with our shared past?

Project-Based Learning:

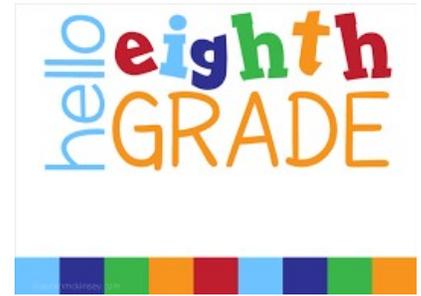
Eighth Grade

English Language Arts

Better readers make better writers and better writers make better thinkers. Rich literary selections are covered not only for critical analysis, but also for enjoyment, and writing topics cover the gamut from creative pieces to informational pieces to real-world issues. Both literature and writing components explore questions that invite inquiry and reflection such as:

- ✓ Is truth the same for everyone?
- ✓ Can all conflicts be resolved?
- ✓ How much information is enough?
- ✓ What is the secret to reaching someone through words?
- ✓ Is it our differences or similarities that matter most?
- ✓ Are yesterday's heroes important today?

Also, considerable time is devoted to the basic skills of grammar, word choice, and reading information in preparation for the High School Placement Test (HSPT).



Mathematics

- ✓ Order of operations
- ✓ Variables and expressions
- ✓ Logical reasoning
- ✓ Graphs and functions
- ✓ Rational numbers on the number line
- ✓ All operations with rational numbers
- ✓ Displaying and analyzing data
- ✓ Simple probability
- ✓ Square roots and real numbers
- ✓ Simplifying algebraic equations

Religion

Our students serve as the hands and feet of Christ not only in our school, but also well beyond Visitation. Special focus is given to the Church's past and our part in its present and future. Key components of the class include:

- ✓ The Mystery of the Church
- ✓ The Marks of the Church
- ✓ The History of the Church
- ✓ The Witness of the Church
- ✓ Theology of the Body
- ✓ R.I.G.H.T. Start
- ✓ Spiritual Adoption

Science

- ✓ Scientific inquiry
- ✓ Lab safety
- ✓ Basic Chemistry
- ✓ Newton's Laws
- ✓ Simple Machines
- ✓ Electric and Magnetic Forces
- ✓ Matter, Molecules and Extended Structures
- ✓ Force and motion
- ✓ Waves

Social Studies

History is in the telling! What does it mean to be an American? How do we grapple with our shared past?

- ✓ Principles and processes of governance
- ✓ Civic duties and how to participate in government
- ✓ Expansion into the West
- ✓ Causes and consequences of the Civil War, Reconstruction, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War and the War on Terror
- ✓ The Great Depression and New Deal
- ✓ Civil and Equal Rights
- ✓ Participation in National History Day competition

Project-Based Learning:

Did desegregation solve racism in Kansas City?

Specials

Music

Kindergarten - Third Grade

- ✓ Keeping a steady beat
- ✓ Distinguishing opposites
- ✓ Developing tuneful singing
- ✓ Playing instruments
- ✓ Following conductor's cues
- ✓ Reading and notating music

Fourth - Sixth Grade

- ✓ Master the recorder
- ✓ Read, notate and compose music
- ✓ Perform quality music in an ensemble
- ✓ Expand repertoire
- ✓ Appreciate music of many different genres and styles

Seventh and Eighth Grade

- ✓ Read, notate and compose music
- ✓ Perform quality music in an ensemble
- ✓ Analyze and respond to music of many different genres and styles
- ✓ Play instruments or sing while applying musical terms



Project-Based Learning:

How can we, as songwriters, create a musical composition for a contest?

Physical Education

All students participate and work on individual movement education that enhances overall lifelong fitness. Both gross and fine motor skills are explored for physical development, including locomotor skills, flexibility, balance, dance, spatial awareness, muscular strength and endurance.

Students in fifth through eighth grade participate in five separate modules of the President's Council on Physical Fitness Core Fitness Battery.

Tests include shuttle run, sit ups, push ups, jump rope speed and mile run.

Students participate in a rotation of individual and team sports from year to year. Some of the units of study include: basketball, volleyball, soccer, football, tennis, golf, badminton, track and field and ultimate and disc golf. Units are designed for age-appropriate participation with an emphasis on sport-specific skill acquisition.

Kindergarten - Second Grade

- ✓ Movement education, with an emphasis on locomotor skills
- ✓ Games, repetitive movements to build muscle memory

Third - Fourth Grade

- ✓ Gross and fine motor development to prepare for individual and team sports
- ✓ Individual fitness testing

Fifth - Eighth Grade

- ✓ President's Council of Fitness Battery Test
- ✓ Team sport, individual sport and lifetime leisure units of study



Art

Kindergarten - Third

- ✓ Engage in imaginative play with materials, as an individual as well as collaboratively
- ✓ Apply knowledge of available resources and technologies to investigate personal ideas through the art-making process
- ✓ Use art vocabulary
- ✓ Build skills in various media and approaches to art-making
- ✓ Demonstrate safe and proper procedures for using material
- ✓ Identify uses of art in one's environment
- ✓ Interpret art by analyzing use of media to create subject matter and characteristics of form
- ✓ Create works of art that reflect community cultural traditions



Fourth - Sixth Grade

- ✓ Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches
- ✓ Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods and approaches in making works of art
- ✓ Demonstrate quality craftsmanship through care and use of materials, tools and equipment
- ✓ Create artistic statements using art vocabulary to describe personal choices in art making
- ✓ Combine concepts collaboratively to generate innovative ideas for creating art
- ✓ Identify works of art that reveal how people live around the world and what they value
- ✓ Recognize differences when evaluating art depending on styles, genres or cultural contexts
- ✓ Identify how art is used to inform or change beliefs, values or behaviors of an individual or society

Seventh and Eighth Grade

- ✓ Demonstrate persistence in developing skills with various materials, methods and approaches in creating works of art and design
- ✓ Apply visual organization strategies to design and produce a work of art, design or media that clearly communicates information or ideas
- ✓ Explain how the method of display, location and experience of an artwork influence how it is perceived and valued
- ✓ Based on criteria, analyze and evaluate methods for preparing and presenting art
- ✓ Make art collaboratively to reflect on and reinforce positive aspects of group identity
- ✓ Apply methods to overcome creative obstacles

Computer Science

Fourth - Sixth Grade

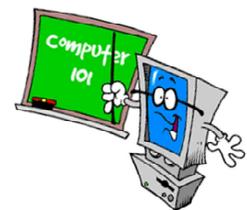
- ✓ Current trends in computing
- ✓ Identification of computer systems, including parts of the computer and peripherals
- ✓ Input device skills development including typing and mouse usage
- ✓ Privacy, online safety, and ethical issues related to technology use
- ✓ Use of technology productivity tools such as multimedia creation software, data management, drawing software and word processing
- ✓ Use of technology research tools

Seventh and Eighth Grade

Course content may include:

Introduction to Web Design

- ✓ Website planning
- ✓ Web design apps like Blogs, Google sites, WordPress
- ✓ Website design coding
- ✓ Exploring design elements like Banners, Digital Images and Podcasting



Introduction to Computer Programming

- ✓ Developing visual programming skills with Scratch
- ✓ Exploring text-based programming with Python
- ✓ Designing Algorithms
- ✓ Making Flowcharts
- ✓ Designing Animations
- ✓ Collecting and analyzing data
- ✓ Digital Citizenship (Common to both Classes)
- ✓ Evaluating websites
- ✓ Internet safety
- ✓ Copyright images, video and audio



Library

Our schedule allows children the opportunity to spend an hour in the library every six school days. The students use class time looking for books, reading silently and taking Accelerated Reader quizzes. Students are read aloud books in kindergarten - fourth grade. Students in fifth – sixth grade are encouraged to play Shamrock Bingo as a tool to look up, locate and read books of different genres. Sixth graders create book trailers, short iMovie videos, to promote books they enjoy to the younger grades.

Spanish

Kindergarten - Sixth Grade

- ✓ Basic vocabulary: greetings, weather, calendar, numbers, colors, ABC's, feelings, favorite things, telling time, sports, school supplies, clothing
- ✓ Animals and yoga
- ✓ Bilingual literature and songs
- ✓ Names and my family and friends
- ✓ Ask and answer questions
- ✓ Who Am I?
- ✓ Family tree and descriptions
- ✓ Short stories
- ✓ Holidays around the world and feast days



Academic Enrichment

Students are involved in the enrichment program based on standardized test scores or math pre-assessment. At the beginning of each math unit or module in second - sixth grade, teachers administer a pre-assessment to determine the extent to which students have already mastered the skills yet to be taught. Students with a score of 90% or better receive math enrichment.

In addition to math enrichment, students can qualify for general enrichment based on test scores. The model for this enrichment is PBL, or project-based learning. Kindergarten students are referred based on teacher recommendation. Students in first - third grade are selected based on iReady scores; students in fourth - sixth grade are selected based on iReady scores and Iowa Assessment scores.

