



AMERICAN ACADEMY
EDUCATE | INNOVATE | EXPLORE

Curriculum Policy

This policy was approved by the Board of Directors on June 7, 2011.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to clearly lay out the curriculum used at American Academy as part of the vision and mission of the school.

Standards

The school shall meet or exceed all federal, state, and district standards for each grade. In addition, the school shall meet the standards set by the programs specified in this policy. Progress against standards shall be measured and reported to the BOD as specified in the school Assessment Plan.

Requirements

Base Curriculum

The school shall implement *Core Knowledge* as the base curriculum for History and English/Language Arts. The school shall cover 80% or more of the *Core Knowledge* curriculum for each grade, as defined in the *Core Knowledge Scope and Sequence*.

Mathematics

The school shall implement *Saxon Math* as the primary mathematics program; Other programs will be used for Algebra and Geometry as needed for high achieving middle school students. Each student shall complete at least one level/course of *math* each school year, unless the retention policy applies.

Language Arts

The school shall implement *Spalding Reading Road to Writing and Step Up to Writing* as the primary Language Arts programs for elementary students. The middle school will use the *Core Knowledge* literature program and the *Holt English Handbook*. *Shurley Grammar* will be implemented in grades K-5.

Flexible Grouping

For all grades, the school shall use flexible grouping for mathematics and reading, at a minimum. Flexible grouping is defined as grouping children at their appropriate skill level based on results from frequent assessments.

Character Education

For all grades, the school shall teach the *Core Virtues* program combined with *The Essential 55* for character development.

Technology Integration

For all grades, the school shall integrate technology into the curriculum following the ISTE standards for 21st Century Learning.

Science

The school shall implement a comprehensive science curriculum that covers the *Core Knowledge Science Curriculum and Pearson Prentice Hall* as the primary program for grades K – 5, *Holt Science* for grades 6-8 and *Glencoe Conceptual Physics* as needed.

Supplemental Programs

The implementation of supplemental curriculum or programs is at the discretion of the Head of School (HOS), or his/her designee provided that all of the above Requirements are met.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Program

A minimum of three STEM units shall be delivered per grade per year.

POLICY HISTORY

- Original:* approved by the BOD on November 7, 2005
- Revision 1:* approved by the BOD on April 3, 2006
- Revision 2:* approved by the BOD on May 15, 2007
- Revision 5:* approved by the BOD on July 15, 2010
- Revision 6:* approved by the BOD on May 17, 2011

SUMMARY OF REVISION 1

- 1) Added Character Education and Technology Integration.

SUMMARY OF REVISION 2

- 1) Added Shurley Grammar.

Summary of REVISION 3

- 1) Added Riggs Phonics
- 2) Added middle school Holt English
- 3) Added science curriculum

Summary of REVISION 4

- 1) Added Science

Summary of REVISION 5

- 1) Updated Language Arts and Science

Summary of REVISION 6

- 1) Added the STEM Program
- 2) Retention clarification