

Meridian School Curriculum

Fourth Grade



Subject and Program	Meridian Extension/Enrichment	Learning Methods and Activities
<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Core as foundation • Balanced Literacy Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth study of more than 25 books and numerous articles and poems, determined by quality of literature, rather than grade or reading level • Integrated with core subjects • Students master and teach reading strategies to each other • Meaningful memorization • Multiple genres, e.g., poetry, plays, etc. • Personalized comprehension practice on computer modules • Critiquing emotional interpretation of literature to screen adaptations • Focus on life-long reading habits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular Running Records for fluency • Guided Reading • Individual Reading Response Journals • Individual/Class Poetry Anthologies • Plays/Reader’s Theater/Theater visits • School-wide author guests - Writing Rally • Author spotlight center • Multiple Intelligence Book Reports monthly (visual, musical, dramatized, etc.) • Newbery/Caldecott Challenge • Shakespeare appreciation/Story festivals • Book Clubs/Reading Buddies • Library time and City Library field trips • Parent and Teacher Book Share
<p>Language/Grammar/Speaking/Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Core as foundation • Root Words: Big Words for Little Kids at www.readinglesson.com (4th-7th Grade) • Sadlier-Oxford as supplementary vocabulary program • Shurley grammar as a learning base for fun, engaging grammar activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 grade levels above Common Core • Integrated across the curriculum • Personalized practice on computer modules (computer-mediated learning) • Writer’s Workshop conferencing/editing • Foreign Language comparisons • Practicing creativity and critical thinking skills in communicating meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editing of own work in Editor Groups • Book Reports/Presentations/Listening Center/Socratic Learning Discussions • Fieldtrips to dramatic productions • Producing varied medium • Creative opportunities, e.g., skits, mad-libs, “Meet the Professor”, etc. • Workbook and computer extensions
<p>Spelling and Phonics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Core as foundation • Spelling – individual word lists from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Words Their Way ○ Foundational Spelling ○ Power Spelling ○ Scripps Bee Spelling Words ○ Dr. Elldredge’s 3,500 Graphophonically Misspelled Words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive 1:1 ESL tutoring from teacher to master English phonics and oral fluency • Integrated with other core subjects • Personalized practice on computer modules (computer-mediated learning) • Individualized lists from words used • Pre-test for placement in specific program designed to meet child’s development level and unique learning style 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brain Pattern Connection Activities • Class Spelling Bees • 1/1 and small group learning • Hands-on activities: magnetic letters, salt tray writing, play dough, word games, partner drills, shaving cream, etc. • Writing integration, e.g., spelling stories • Word association games
<p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Core as foundation • Six + Traits of Writing • Writer’s Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing across the curriculum • Writer’s Workshop Cycle • Various forms and genre of writing: opinion, persuasive, informational, narrative, descriptive • 4-5 Professionally published books p/yr 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature Response/Journals • Personal writing of many genre and styles for specific audiences • Writing Rally and Author Sharing • Publishing House field trip • Grandparent Biographies/Interviewing

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- Communication in History themes

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<p>Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Core as foundation • Singapore Math 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 grade levels above Common Core • Integrated with other core subjects • Hands-on activities with manipulatives • Challenging, real-life problems • Finding math in the work place, at home, and in the news • Concrete→pictorial→abstract progression • Visual, bar model method • Computer module personalized practice • Timed math facts class rewards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher instruction: whole class • Teacher instruction: small group and individual board work • Games and brainteasers • Math literature based activities • Concrete practice with manipulatives • Abstract practice-workbooks, worksheets • Mental math activities and games • Illustrate math concepts through art work, 3-D structures, cooking, original literature
<p>Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utah Core: Physical Geography, Human Life, Utah’s History, Civic Life • Core Knowledge – World: Spatial Sense – Maps/Tools, World Mountains/Ranges, Europe in the Middle Ages, Islam and the Holy Wars, Early/Medieval Africa, Chinese Dynasties • Core Knowledge – U.S.: American Revolution, Constitution, Early Presidents/Politics, Reformers, Symbols/Figures • Meridian Western Civilization: The Reformation, Exploration in the Past, Present, and Future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big ideas to connect learning across subjects (art, drama, dance, culture, etc.) • Questioning, content, process skills • Creating products to demonstrate understanding • Current local and global events discussed and debated daily • Global philosophies and cultures explored and celebrated • Then/now comparisons, cause/effect, backing up predictions • Historical timelines to provide context • Mini-course Electives of Choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informational text reading strategies • Historic literature • Pen Pals and ePals • Guest speakers to tell about countries • Documentaries, interactive maps, first person accounts • Multiple Intelligences International reports • Over 20 fieldtrip destinations to bring text to life • Classroom simulation learning • Writing with purpose: debate, persuasion, reporting, evaluation, interviewing, etc. • Personal Projects
<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Core • Computer Supplementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 grade levels above Common Core • Practical experience with the Scientific Method and high level problem solving • Personalized practice on computer modules (computer-mediated learning) • Mini-course Electives of Choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science Fair • Invention Day/Reports • Hands-on experiments, e.g., hearts, brains • K-W-L project work • Personal Projects • Exploration Celebration, e.g., scientists
<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utah Core • “Leader in Me” Program • “Love and Logic” Choices Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygiene and social skill sets • All eleven body systems • Gardner’s Multiple Intelligences • Participate in world health issues • Goal-setting/Personal motivation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service to the community opportunities • Life Explorations classes/Disability Day • Student first aid certification • Jump for Heart and President’s Challenge • Health related skits and puppet plays

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily exercise/Brain Gym movements• Mini-course Electives of Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Projects• Creating lifestyle presentations/products
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*Curriculum is continually improved and developed; subject to change