



Thematic Units of Study

The curriculum is an integrated program which includes student proficiencies in the areas of critical thinking, creative thinking, spoken and written communication, study skills and personal growth. The proficiencies within these strands are realized through the use of theme study. Selected themes align with topics covered in the general education classroom curricula of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and/ or Social Studies for each grade level.

The program is arranged for a two year theme cycle (Year A and Year B). Grade levels are serviced as follows: grades 1 and 2; grades 3 and 4; grades 5 and 6; and grades 7 and 8. Suggested themes for each year are listed below and may be adapted or modified to meet the individual needs of the students:

	Grades 1 & 2	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8
Year A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Folk Tales● Fairy Tales	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Oceanography● Solar System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Logical Reasoning● Environmental Science
Year B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dinosaurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Archaeology● Logical Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Inventions● CIPHERING/CODING

Program Goals

The goals stated below are designed to apply to each unit taught by the program teachers. The units in this curriculum are aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) for all appropriate grades and curriculum areas. This program is in line with N.J.A.C.6A: 8, Standards and Assessment for Student Achievement, which sets forth the requirements for gifted programs in the State of New Jersey.

Grades 1 and 2:

GOALS

- Distinguish between facts and inferences.
- Analyze data and formulate theories based on given or discovered principles
- Generate many possible solutions for a given or self-determined problem
- Utilize differing or alternate perspectives to organize ideas or data, solutions to a problem, or creation of an original product
- Use expressive language to communicate thought and information
- Compose an original short story about a given or self-selected topic
- Select a topic or area of study to investigate thoroughly
- Demonstrate an interest in a commitment to a topic or area of study
- Keep accurate notes and/or records during research activities or experiments
- Show competence in selecting and using appropriate study tools: Internet, dictionary, computer search, resource persons, etc.
- Understand and accept personal strengths and limitations
- Demonstrate self-reliance while working
- Practice cooperation in group activities
- Recognize relationships between concepts and information
- Acquire knowledge from a variety of sources to devise solutions for a given or discovered problem
- Offer multiple perspectives to approach the organization of ideas or data, solutions to a problem, or creation of an original product
- Articulate ideas and data in clear, concise language
- Model expressive language to communicate thoughts and information
- Enhance skills involving time management and organization of materials.

Grades 3 and 4:

- Apply knowledge from various areas to find solutions to given problems
- Analyze data and formulate theories based on given or discovered principles
- Support given or discovered ideas or facts by presenting evidence
- Evaluate ideas, data, or products based on a given or self-made criterion
- Develop a receptive attitude toward innovative and unique ideas
- Expand given or discovered ideas or products
- Extend given or discovered ideas or products
- Present to a group to share feelings, facts, or influence opinions
- Articulate ideas and information in a clear, concise manner
- Model expressive language to communicate thoughts and information
- Write an original short story about a given or self-select topic
- Select a topic or area of study to investigate thoroughly
- Develop goal setting skills for independent work
- Increase skills for organizing time and materials
- Selecting and using appropriate study tools: Atlas, dictionary, and computer search, resource persons, Internet, etc.
- Demonstrate self-reliance in working independently
- Practice cooperation during team activities
- Exhibit increased acceptance, tolerance, and appreciation of differences among people
- Develop attitudes and values toward ideas, causes, and social issues

Grades 5 and 6:

- Evaluate relationships between concepts and information
- Analyze data and formulate theories based on given or discovered ideas or facts by supporting with evidence
- Support given or discovered ideas or facts by presenting evidence
- Evaluate ideas, data, or products based on a given or self-made criterion
- Offer multiple perspectives to approach: organizing ideas or data, solutions of a problem, or the creation of an original product
- Articulate ideas and information in a clear, concise manner
- Present findings, opinions, hypotheses, facts, or influence opinions to a whole group
- Write an original short story about a given or self-selected topic
- Select a topic or area of study to investigate thoroughly
- Demonstrate an interest in a commitment to a topic of study
- Show competence in selecting and using appropriate study aids: atlas, encyclopedia, dictionary, computer search, resource persons, Internet, etc.
- Practice cooperation in group activities
- Apply information from various sources to find solutions to a given or discovered

problem

- Generate many possible solutions for a given or self-made criterion
- Formulate innovative and unique ideas
- Expand given or discovered ideas or products
- Establish goals for working independently
- Build skills for organizing time and materials
- Demonstrate self-reliance when working independently

Grades 7 and 8:

- Analyze data and formulate theories based on given or discovered information
- Support given or discovered ideas and/or facts by presenting evidence
- Formulate ideas or data, based on given or self made criterion
- Evaluate one's own or peer products, by using given or self-generated standards
- Generate many possible solutions for a given problem
- Provide multiple perspectives to approach: the organization of ideas or data, solutions to a problem, or creation of an original product
- Alter the direction of an inquiry when faced with insufficient data
- Exhibit expressive language to communicate orally his/her thought and ideas
- Articulate ideas and information in a clear, concise manner
- Develop a receptive attitude toward innovative and unique ideas
- Present to a group to share opinions, facts, or ideas.
- Compose an original short story about a given or self-selected topic
- Select a topic or area of study to investigate thoroughly
- Demonstrate interest and commitment to a topic of study
- Display competence in selecting and using appropriate study tools: atlas, dictionary, Internet, etc.
- Assess self-reliance in working independently
- Demonstrate cooperation during group activities
- Recognize relationships between concepts and information
- Analyze a set of standards to assess the value of ideas, data, or products
- Generate innovative and unique ideas

