

Excelsior Academy Curriculum Description

Classical Education

Excelsior Academy presents a broad, classical education by basing its teachings around the Core Knowledge Sequence. In each grade scholars will be exposed to a broad range of historical, scientific, and cultural topics that will build on one another to prepare them for later educational success. The scope of knowledge comprises what a culturally literate individual should know at each grade level. The Core Knowledge Sequence has been aligned with the Utah State Core and meets or exceeds all of the standards put forth by the Utah State Office of Education.

Leveled Learning

Excelsior Academy uses homogenous grouping in Mathematics and Language Arts/Reading. This enables scholars to be taught at their challenge level. Spalding Education International is used as the base of our Language Arts/Reading curriculum, supplemented with grammar from Shurley English. Saxon Mathematics is used in the upper grades and Singapore Mathematics is used in the lower grades.

Club Time

Excelsior Academy develops a life-long love of learning through its unique Club Time. Scholars are allowed to pursue their individual interests by choosing from a variety of clubs. Club Time takes place the last 45 minutes of each full school day.

The following is more detail regarding specific programs of instruction used at Excelsior:

Core Knowledge

The Core Knowledge sequence is a detailed outline of specific content to be taught in history, geography, mathematics, science, language arts, and the fine arts. This is critical because the sequence states a specific core of shared knowledge that children should learn in American schools. The curriculum is integrated across the disciplines.

www.coreknowledge.org

Spalding Education International

Spalding's *Writing Road to Reading*, a total language arts program, integrates essential research-based components, and educational philosophy, and a methodology consisting of time-tested principles of learning and instruction. The instruction is very explicit, sequential, multisensory, and diagnostic. Students learn the purpose for every task and are active participants. There is major emphasis on phonemic awareness, phonics, handwriting, spelling, and writing of high-frequency vocabulary words. This major emphasis helps students unlock the keys to the English language.

www.spalding.org

Shurley English

Excelsior Academy uses the grammar component of Shurley English. The unique features of this program give students the concrete steps necessary to understand sentence structure and develop competent writing skills through definition jingles and question-answer-flow sentence diagramming.

www.shurley.com

Singapore Mathematics

Singapore Mathematics uses a multisensory approach to the instruction of mathematics. Students are initially introduced to mathematical concepts concretely, and then the concept is illustrated pictorially before the algorithmic nature of the concept is discussed. Each concept is taught to mastery to provide scholars with a firm foundation for continuous and unlimited learning in mathematics.

<http://www.singaporemath.com>

Saxon Mathematics (Currently used in 4th-8th)

Saxon Mathematics is one of the nation's most thoroughly researched core mathematics programs for grades K–12. Saxon's incremental approach is based on instruction, practice, and assessment applied in a spiral instructional method.

http://saxonpublishers.hmhco.com/en/sxnm_home.htm