Students regularly access at or above grade-level texts during direct instruction. Students closely read and interact with the grade-appropriate text around which instruction is centered. Students read a variety of nonfiction or informational texts, and fiction or literary texts. Students acquire and use grade-level vocabulary.

The foundation of language or word study is embedded and ongoing in balanced literacy instruction. In grades K-5, students are learning to become fluent and proficient readers and receive explicit instruction in phonics, spelling, and vocabulary. These foundational skills are reinforced and further developed in grades 6-12.

**Reading Foundational Skills**

**Reading Foundational Skills**

**RAISING QUESTIONS & PLANNING INQUIRIES**

Students craft meaningful questions and plan inquiries addressing enduring issues in history, civics, economics, and geography. Students question the world around them, driving the inquiry process. Students explore the relationship between individuals and society and investigate important issues and events that are relevant to their lives.

**EVALUATING DISCIPLINARY TOOLS & THINKING**

Students understand what it means to think like a social scientist. Students exercise historical thinking, civic mindedness, economic decision making, and geopolitical reasoning to solve inquiries.

Students construct arguments, explanations, and/or public presentations that convey ideas to a wide array of appropriate audiences.

Students evaluate solutions, select appropriate strategies, and take informed action. Students promote positive change in their communities to impact real-world decisions.

Students collaborate. They organize their arguments and explanations of others, paying attention to credibility and relevance.

**Writing**

Writing occurs as the result of what students read and discuss. Students respond to the texts they read through writing. Students write and use evidence from multiple texts or sources to inform, explain, or make an argument. Students compose narratives, detail real or imagined experiences. Students choose topics and compose writing pieces that are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. Students demonstrate a command of Standard English grammar when writing in context.

**Mathematics Foundational Skills**

**K-12 Balanced Mathematics Instruction**

Students use manipulatives, software, and technology to investigate and discover mathematical concepts. Students understand concepts through models, simulations, and relevant real world examples. Students represent the mathematics through drawings, pictures, graphics, tables, numbers, symbols. Students are given purposeful skills and practice to strengthen computation. Students engage in explanatory writing to justify their thinking. Students become fluent by applying strategies and procedures efficiently and accurately.

**Social Studies Foundational Skills**

**K-12 Balanced Social Studies Instruction**

Students make careful observations of scientific phenomena and authentic problems in the local and global community. Students craft meaningful questions or define problems based upon their observations. Students develop and use models to aid their thinking about phenomena and problems.

**Crosscutting Concepts**

- **Patterns**: Students observe patterns in nature that guide organization and prompt questions.
- **Cause and Effect**: Students investigate how causal relationships are central to science.
- **Scale and Proportion**: Students analyze the importance of scale, proportion, and quantity.
- **Systems**: Students define the system(s) under study as a tool for understanding and testing ideas.
- **Energy and Matter**: Students track the transfer of matter and energy within systems under study.

Science centers on the investigation of our natural and engineered world through careful observation, data collection, and controlled experimentation. Students use knowledge of key scientific principles while building systematic inquiry skills such as creating, collecting, and analyzing data. Finally, students demonstrate their understanding by constructing explanations, engaging in argument, and engineering solutions to practical problems.