

KNOLLWOOD CURRICULUM UPDATE



4TH GRADE

ELA

- More explicit grammar instruction-Grammar Workshop text
- i-Ready, diagnostic and more targeted instruction
- Close Reading
- Guided reading focus groups

Social Studies

- Social Studies Alive! TCI
- Regions and People of the United States
- 5 Regions: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest and West.
- Map skills: longitude, latitude, rainfall, elevation, population, region maps.
- Integrate Newsela with content and differentiated lexile levels



4TH GRADE

World Language

- Pear Deck for summative and formative assessments. [Pear Deck](#)
- Quizlet for vocabulary practice.
- Storytelling for comprehension of cognates, introductions, ages, origin, family members and 16 useful conversational words.
- Activities and assessments on comprehension.

Science

- FossWeb Science Resources
- Interactive notebook (Table of content, index, vocabulary, investigations and sketches)
- **Energy, Soils, Rocks, Landforms and Environments**
- Identify the parts of the Scientific Method through hands-on investigations.
- Pre-assessments, formal assessments, notebook checks (rubrics)
- Newsela articles on concepts being taught
- Interactive online resources and quizzes from Fossweb



5TH GRADE

ELA

- Dedicated grammar program
- i-Ready reading program focuses on literary and nonfiction comprehension and vocabulary
- i-Ready online reading program helps with creating small groups based on student needs

Social Studies

- World History - Units of Study - 8 Lessons - KIDS DISCOVER
- Read and analyze text - discussion questions
- Engaging summative assessments at the end of each unit



5TH GRADE

World Language

- Continue with unit formative and summative assessments
- Incorporation of curriculum based listening videos/games.
- Quizlets for Internalization of new and recycled Spanish vocabulary/verbs
[Quizlet](#)
- Smart Board activities

Science

- FossWeb Science Resources
- Interactive notebook (Table of content, index, vocabulary, investigations and sketches)
- **Earth and Sun, Mixture and Solutions, and Living Systems**
- Identify the parts of the Scientific Method through hands-on investigations.
- Pre-assessments, formal assessments, notebook checks (rubrics)
- Newsela articles on concepts being taught
- Interactive online resources and quizzes from Fossweb



6TH GRADE

ELA

- Consistent direct grammar instruction
- Sadlier vocabulary program builds vocabulary knowledge and application
- iReady diagnostic test provides data that can be used to create small groups
- Stronger alignment between social studies and literacy curriculum
- Use of Scholastic Scope for weekly assignments
- Shift to teaching class novels
- Specific text sets for nonfiction

Social Studies

- Focusing on early American History meeting NJ social studies standards to grade 8.
- Utilizing DBQ's to introduce primary and secondary analysis and then developing an argument into essay form.
- Emphasizing map skills throughout each chapter.
- Developing study strategies and skills to better prepare for content area assessments.
- Co-teaching cross-curriculum materials in social studies and literacy.



6TH GRADE

World Language

- Implementation of Unit formative and summative assessments
- Incorporation of curriculum based listening videos/games. Quizlets and
- Google Slides for internalization of new and recycled Spanish vocabulary and verbs,
- Smart Board activities and role play scenarios.

Science

- Focus on a Claim Evidence Reasoning format for scientific explanations
- Cross curriculum connections
- Growth in breaking down scientific terms into their root to decipher meaning



7TH GRADE

ELA

- Dedicated vocabulary program - Sadlier
- Weekly specific nonfiction reading /writing
- Focus on class novels
- Explicit grammar and vocabulary instruction
- Weekly nonfiction reading and responses
- Infusion of Social Studies DBQs to promote close reading
- iReady diagnostic to create small groups and baselines
- Specific text sets for nonfiction

Social Studies

- US History content is in line with NJ Social Studies Standards
- DBQ training and implementation with literacy classes prepares students for demands of historical writing in h.s.
- Map skills emphasized throughout each chapter.
- Primary & secondary document analysis help develop critical thinking skills and inferencing techniques
- Co-teaching cross curricular materials in social studies and literacy



7TH GRADE

World Language

- Accelerated readings for the grade, with increasing verbs and vocabulary, including grammar.
- Using a pen-pal system and Pear Deck for vocabulary practice that reinforces the improvements in the domains of writing and reading. Cognates are folded into the text for ease of the transition between languages, making connections easier.
- Listening and speaking are improved through Let's Recap for Storytelling and increases in confidence in the target language. [Let's Recap](#)

Science

Several engineering projects that make use of the concepts learned through the unit to accomplish a specific task.

- In the first project students are given a mixture of materials that have to be separated based on differences in physical properties.
- In the second project students will optimize the design of a hand warmer by completing optimization studies about the quantities of reactants used.

How to create and interpret graphs as well as how to use dimensional analysis to convert units and solve problems.



8TH GRADE

ELA

- Growth in application of vocabulary words/use of context clues to define unknown words
- Allows alignment between Social Studies and Literacy through the context that was selected
- Teachers appreciate the higher expectations that are now set through the use of the curriculum (specifically assessments)
- The curriculum is dynamic and allows teachers to adapt lessons to different learners
- Allows for greater, transparent student accountability
- Better prepares students for the challenges of high school

Social Studies

- Focus on World History better prepares students for Global Studies in h.s.
- DBQ training and implementation with literacy classes prepares students for demands of historical writing in h.s.
- Map skills emphasized throughout each chapter.
- Primary & secondary document analysis help develop critical thinking skills and inferencing techniques



8TH GRADE

World Language

- The curriculum update reflects more demanding readings for the grade as well as the Honors program, with increasing rigor of verbs and adverbs, including reflexive verbs. Students receive intensive review at more frequent intervals.
- Also, while using a pen-pal system and Quizlet for vocabulary practice, improvements are made in the domains of writing and reading.
- Listening and speaking are improved through the techniques of student directed Storytelling.
- Cognates are folded into the texts to assist in the ease of transition between languages and connections.

Science

- Increased Engineering Projects
- Tri-District Articulation with the new changes at RFH
- zSpace
- We continue to incorporate concepts of the NGSS and the NJSLS- S into our curriculum.



DOCUMENT BASED QUESTIONS

- + [DBQ Project Method](#)
- + [DBQ Examples](#)
- + 6th thru 8th Grade Social Studies and Literacy



GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

- + Grammar and vocabulary instruction occurs **daily**: **directly taught** as a mini-lesson, **deliberately practiced** in class, and **followed up** with a nightly homework task, grammar instruction is rooted in each vocabulary unit.
- + 4th and 5th Grade Sadlier Grammar
- + 6th thru 8th Grade Sadlier Vocabulary





THANKS!

Any questions?

