

Course Title: K – Communications Art
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 054800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

This course lays the foundation for successful reading, using the primary building blocks of phonemic awareness, listening, comprehension, phonics and vocabulary instruction, and daily exposure to books. Students begin phonics by learning to name letters and to associate letters with sounds. Then students link letter names to words in their personal vocabularies. By the end of the course, students are able to identify consonant sounds at the beginning and end of words and recognize short vowel sounds. Skills are introduced through classic stories and poems. Language skills and handwriting come together as the student composes journal entries and short narratives.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

Look at Us

In this opening unit, your student will read and listen to classic stories such as "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and "Three Little Pigs" as well as contemporary selections so that he may improve his listening, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. As he reads, help him to make predictions, recognize patterns of English language, and identify important details.

This unit also includes a review of the letters of the alphabet. If your student has mastered the alphabet, he may not need to complete all of the Reading Readiness activities in this unit.

Your student will have opportunities to write and draw about the stories and ideas introduced in the lessons. Throughout the unit he will create a word web, make a list, write about his senses, and describe where he lives. Assist your student with these writing assignments as necessary.

Colors All Around

Throughout this unit, your student will read colorful stories such as "In the Big Blue Sea" and "How the Birds Got Their Colors." As she reads she will learn to sequence events, make predictions based on illustrations, and identify main ideas. Your student will practice using color words as she creates a chart, writes a description, and drafts a story. In addition, she will review the names, shapes, and sounds of the letters **s**, **m**, and **r** and will identify words that begin with each sound.

Handwriting is introduced in this unit. Your student will review the proper writing positions and learn about good writing habits.

We're a Family

Throughout this unit, your student will read stories about family members and family relationships. As he reads the selections he will make inferences, draw conclusions, and compare and contrast. The writing assignments included in the unit provide opportunities for him to reflect upon and respond to what he reads. Your student will continue to hone his phonics skills as he reviews the names, shapes, and sounds of the letters **t**, **b**, and **n** and identifies words that begin with each sound. In addition, he will continue to practice handwriting.

Friends Together

As you and your student read the selections included in this unit, such as "Friends at School" and "Aaron and Gayla's Alphabet Book," your student will apply important comprehension and reading skills such as summarizing, retelling, and making connections. Throughout the writing lessons, he will practice using

action words in sentences and describing events. Your student will continue to hone his phonics skills as he reviews the names, shapes, and sounds of the letters **h**, **v**, and **k** and identifies words that begin with each sound. Handwriting activities provided in this unit include reviewing and practicing the four basic strokes.

Let's Count: Part 1

Your student will have the opportunity to apply math as well as reading skills throughout this unit as he reads and listens to stories such as "Counting Noodles" and "Ten Little Puppies," which prompt him to count, order, and add. He will continue to practice comparing and contrasting, summarizing, and sequencing after he reads. As your student listens to stories, he will identify rhyming words and identify words that begin with **p**, **b**, and **f** sounds. In addition, he will continue to practice forming various letters during the handwriting portion of the lessons.

CD/DVD:

Take Me To Your Readers
The Music Break: Disc One
The Music Break: Disc Two

Manual:

Kindergarten Teacher Aids
Communication Arts K A and B Lesson Manual
Letters & Words

Supplies:

Drawing paper (Kindergarten)
Index cards
Paper, handwriting (2 pads)

Trade Book:

Little Big Books (set of 20)
Read Aloud Books (set of 10)

Workbook:

Houghton Mifflin Phonics Library Blackline Masters
Houghton Mifflin Reading Practice Book (Volume 1)
Houghton Mifflin Word and Picture Book
Poems & Prose
Zaner-Bloser Handwriting K

Semester 2 – Units

Let's Count: Part 2

Your student will have the opportunity to apply math as well as reading skills throughout this unit as he reads and listens to stories such as "Peace and Quiet" and "Go Cat!" which prompt him to count, order, and add. He will continue to practice comparing and contrasting, summarizing, and sequencing after he reads. As your student listens to stories, he will identify rhyming words and identify words that begin with **p**, **b**, and **f** sounds. In addition, he will continue to practice forming various letters during the handwriting portion of the lessons.

Sunshine and Raindrops

Some of the selections that you will read with your student in this unit, such as "What Will the Weather Be Like Today" and "The Sun and the Wind" introduce basic science concepts as well as provide text that will allow your student to continue to apply key reading and comprehension strategies. Your student will respond to these stories by participating in shared and independent writing activities. He will also write

a weather report. Your student will practice his listening skills as he identifies words that include l, g, short a, and short i sounds. In addition, he will continue to engage in handwriting activities.

Wheels Go Around

You and your student will read stories about different types of transportation throughout this unit, including the classics "The Wheels on the Bus" and "The Little Engine that Could." As he reads, he will describe cause and effect relationships and match spoken word to print. He will also identify high frequency words such as out, was, and said, and spot words that begin with d and z sounds. Your student will have opportunities to write and draw about the stories he read. He will continue to practice writing various letters of the alphabet.

Down on the Farm

This unit presents realistic and fantastical stories about farm life and farm animals. Your student will compare and make connections among the selections, as well as note important details and draw conclusions about each story. He will respond after he reads by participating in shared and independent writing activities, during which he will build sentences with high-frequency words and use singular and plural naming words. Additionally, your student will continue to engage in handwriting activities.

Spring Is Here

The stories in this unit such as "Spring Is Here" and "Mrs. McNosh Hangs Up Her Wash" celebrate the spring season. As you read these selections, your student will continue to refine his summarizing, comparing, and categorizing skills. He will recognize syllables in spoken words, identify high frequency words, and spot words with initial w and y sounds. Your student will continue to practice handwriting by describing illustrations and writing an invitation.

A World of Animals

Throughout this final unit, you and your student will read popular animal stories, such as "Henny Penny" and "The Tale of the Three Little Pigs," as well as lesser known selections. Encourage your student to continue to predict, infer, compare, make connections, summarize, recognize high-frequency words, and ask questions as he reads and listens. He will respond to the selections by writing a book report. Your student will also map a story and write a list of directions. You will have an opportunity to assess how much your student's handwriting skills have improved throughout the course when he completes the handwriting posttest.

CD/DVD:

The Music Break: Disc One

Manual:

Kindergarten Teacher Aids
Communication Arts K A and B Lesson Manual
Letters & Words

Supplies:

Drawing paper (Kindergarten)
Paper, handwriting (2 pads)

Trade Book:

Little Big Books (set of 20)
Read Aloud Books (set of 10)

Workbook:

Houghton Mifflin Phonics Library Blackline Masters
Houghton Mifflin Reading Practice Book (Volume 1)
Houghton Mifflin Reading Practice Book (Volume 2)

Poems & Prose
Sounds & Symbols/Early Phonics
Zaner-Bloser Handwriting K

Course Title: K – Mathematics
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 115800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

Kindergarten Math introduces students to mathematical thinking and problem solving. Students learn how to identify and write numbers, count through 31, make comparisons between objects, and master basic shapes. Through stories and activities, students are introduced to addition and subtraction, and through hands-on exercises, they learn about money, time, fractions, and measurement.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

Comparing and Classifying

This unit includes several opportunities for fun activities. The comparing and classifying skills learned in this unit go far beyond math. You can choose to declare the day “Larger or Smaller Day,” or name it according to whatever skill is being taught in the lesson. Then you can find opportunities to reinforce the skill as you go about your daily routine. This will help your student apply the skills he is learning. In this unit, there are also two opportunities for problem-solving. These activities reinforce the comparing and classifying skills that your student has learned.

Shapes and Patterns

In this unit, your student will practice comparing and classifying skills while learning the names of shapes. You can choose to declare the day “Sphere and Cube Day” to reinforce that day’s lesson. Look for those shapes as you go about your daily routine. Also, have your student name shapes as part of this activity. Patterns surround us, and being able to describe them is an important skill. Help your student see patterns in her daily life and encourage her to find her own. This unit also has two opportunities for problem-solving. These activities reinforce the shapes and patterns skills your student has learned.

Getting Ready to Count

This unit uses comparison to prepare your student for counting. Your student will begin to see number relationships using the activities in this unit. Sets of objects are compared to each other to check for one-to-one correspondence. These sets also teach the terms “more,” “less,” “most,” and “least.” Knowing these terms and being able to use them is important as your student learns to count. Also in this unit are three opportunities for problem-solving. These activities will help your student make a graph, use logical thinking, and identify needed information.

Numbers 0–5

In this unit, number recognition, writing numbers, and quantifying numbers are the important skills that will be taught. Your student will learn to write the numbers 0 through 5. In addition, she will know how many objects make up a number and know the number that goes with a certain number of objects. You can choose to declare a “Three Day” when you study that number. Look for sets of 3 all day. There are two opportunities for problem-solving in this unit. These activities will help your student use logical thinking and act out a situation to help solve a problem.

Numbers 6–10

In this unit, number recognition, writing numbers, and quantifying numbers are the important skills that will be taught. Your student will learn to write the numbers 6 through 10. In addition, he will learn how many objects make up a number and know the number that goes with a certain number of objects. You can

choose to declare a “Seven Day” when you study that number. Look for sets of 7 all day. There are two opportunities for problem-solving. These activities help your student order numbers.

Measurement and Fractions, Part 1

In this unit, your student will learn that measurement reinforces many of the comparing skills she has already learned. Your student will learn the skills to measure height and length and compare capacities and weights. She will learn the concept of halves being equal parts. Furthermore, this fraction practice also reinforces her shape recognition skills. Also in this unit is an opportunity for problem-solving. Your student will make comparisons about temperature.

Manual:

Math K A and B Lesson Manual

Supplies:

Connecting cubes (3 colors x 20)

Counters

Textbook:

Calvert Math (Light Green Title)

Workbook:

Calvert Practice & Enrichment (Light Green Title)

Semester 2 – Units

Measurement and Fractions, Part 2

In this unit, your student will learn that measurement reinforces many of the comparing skills she has already learned. Your student will learn the skills to measure height and length and compare capacities and weights. She will learn the concept of halves being equal parts. Furthermore, this fraction practice also reinforces her shape recognition skills. Also in this unit is an opportunity for problem-solving. Your student will make comparisons about temperature.

Getting Ready to Add

In this unit, your student will learn that telling stories can help him learn to add. You and your student can use the lessons to come up with stories where one of the actions is combining like objects. Encourage your student to move the pieces on the story mats around to simulate this action. As you move through the unit, tell stories that have addition in them. Use counters to simulate the process of combining objects when they are added. Continue to check your student’s numeral writing as he writes addition sentences. Additionally, there are two opportunities for problem-solving in this unit. Your student will review fractions and practice making a model to represent addition.

Getting Ready to Subtract

In this unit, your student will learn that telling stories can help him learn to subtract. You and your student can use the lessons to come up with stories where one of the actions is taking away like objects. Encourage your student to move the pieces on the story mats around to simulate this action. As you move through the unit, tell stories that have subtraction in them. Use counters to simulate the process of removing objects when they are subtracted. Continue to check your student’s numeral writing as she writes subtraction sentences. Also in this unit are two opportunities for problem-solving. Your student will gather data from a picture and tell number stories.

Greater Numbers

In this unit, number recognition, writing numbers, and quantifying greater numbers will be taught. Your student will learn to write the numbers 11 through 31. In addition, he will learn how many objects make up a number and the number that goes with a certain number of objects. You can choose to declare a day that goes with a lesson where you look for those numbers. You might like to look for examples of 17 and

18 one day. There are two opportunities for problem-solving in this unit. Your student will practice ordering greater numbers and finding extra facts in a story.

Time and Money

In this unit, your student will learn some basics about two concepts we use every day, time and money. Your student will learn to sequence events and fill in the days on a calendar. She will make comparisons between activities, in terms of the amount of time they take, and begin to tell time to the nearest hour. Using money is a good way to practice counting and adding skills. Your student will be introduced to coins in this unit. She will count coins to get a value and combine coins in addition problems. Your student will use money to buy items. There are three opportunities for problem-solving in this unit. Your student will decide if an activity occurs early or late in the day, make an equal amount using coins, and use money to buy school supplies.

Getting Ready for Next Year

In this unit, your student will sample some of what will be covered in next year's Math curriculum. Your student will learn about ordinal numbers and do a fun activity with probability. Then your student will learn how to set up addition and subtraction problems vertically. There are two problem-solving skills taught in this unit: predicting outcomes and drawing a picture.

Manual:

Math K A and B Lesson Manual

Supplies:

Connecting cubes (3 colors x 20)
Counters

Textbook:

Calvert Math (Light Green Title)

Workbook:

Calvert Practice & Enrichment (Light Green Title)

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: K – Science
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 135000
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

Throughout this course, the student will engage in activities designed to stimulate curiosity and highlight the surrounding environment. The course encourages the student to begin to explore two major branches of science by observing, describing, measuring, and questioning the immediate world. The life science units allow the student to examine the living world. The Earth and space science units provide the opportunity for the student to acknowledge patterns on Earth and in the sky. Throughout the course, the student will be recording daily observations about the weather, moon, and everyday habits. In addition, the student will plant seeds, make a rocket, and take part in many other fun scientific activities.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

My Body

What do you do everyday to try to be healthy and happy? In this unit the student will begin to learn about the human body and the changes it goes through. He will examine the different parts of the body, explore healthy habits, investigate the changes associated with growing up, and learn about feelings. The student will create and maintain a "Healthy Habits" chart throughout this unit.

My Senses

People use their senses to discover things about their surroundings and themselves. In this unit the student will explore the five human senses by performing several exciting hands-on activities. They will have the opportunity to make a collage of textured materials, go on a "sniff and taste hunt," and make a tongue map.

The Seasons

Which season do you like best? In this unit the student will explore the characteristics of the four seasons. The student will have the opportunity to make a seasons display during the unit.

The Weather

When you wake up in the morning, how do you know whether or not to wear a jacket? In this unit the student will begin to explore the components and patterns of the weather. The student will also create and maintain a weather chart throughout the unit.

Manual:

Science K A and B Lesson Manual

Supplies:

Beginner pencil (2)
Crayons, jumbo
Drawing paper (Kindergarten)
Paint, watercolor (set of 8 colors)
Tag board (12 X 18)

Workbook:

Science Activity Pages

Semester 2 – Units**Land, Water, and Air**

If you have ever been to the beach and felt the sand between your toes, seen the waves in the ocean, and smelled the salty sea air, you've observed the three most important components of our world. In this unit the student will begin to explore the land, air, and water on Earth. They will have the opportunity to engage in several fun activities such as explore different types of soil, make a waterwheel, and construct a parachute.

Space

Our planet is part of a much bigger system called space, or the solar system. In this unit the student will begin to examine the solar system and space exploration. They will have the opportunity to make their own rocket as well as create a model of a constellation.

Plants

Just like us, a plant needs air, water, and food to survive. In this unit the student will begin to explore the traits and life cycles of plants. They will have the opportunity to observe and document how plants respond to sunlight throughout the unit.

Animals

Although there are many different types of animals, they are all alike in that they eat, grow, move, and reproduce. In this unit the student will begin to investigate the characteristics of animals. In addition, they will learn about the basic life functions of animals.

Caring for Our World

There are so many ways to help protect our environment. In this unit the student will learn why it is important to preserve the Earth as well as ways they can do so, such as recycling, saving energy, and sorting trash. She will create a chart of her energy use.

Review

In this unit your student will review certain concepts presented throughout the year.

Manual:

Science K A and B Lesson Manual

Workbook:

Science Activity Pages

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: K – Social Studies
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 156600
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

In this course the student will be introduced to fundamental social studies skills and content. Through discussion with the Learning Coach, she will investigate the world around her. Specifically, the student will begin to learn about her nation, family, and community. Some topics include major holidays, various jobs, roles of individuals within the community, and famous people. Moreover, she will be introduced to the concept of current events. An introduction to basic chronology and discussion of days, weeks, months, and years is also included as part of this course. Additionally, some basic geography content will be introduced, thus laying the groundwork for future Geography courses. For example, the student will discuss different types of landforms and various methods of transportation. This course provides a valuable opportunity for her and the Learning Coach to begin a dialogue about many different subjects. Additional topics discussed as part of this course include: responsibility, friendship, manners, and goals. Meaningful activities that serve to enrich the student's understanding of the discussion topics accompany many of the lessons.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

Getting Started

Discussions between you and your student provide the basis for this unit. This unit includes a wide range of topics. Life skills are the common thread among all of the topics in this unit. To this end, you and your student will discuss information that is important for a child to know. You and your student will discuss such topics as weather, safety, and words of wisdom (proverbs). Specifically, your student will memorize his phone number and address, learn emergency numbers, develop a fire escape route, determine how weather impacts daily decisions, and interpret the meaning of commonly used sayings. Additionally, you may want to discuss any other information that you think is important for your student to know.

My Family

Discussions between you and your student provide the basis for this unit. This unit includes a wide range of topics. Life skills are the common thread among all of the topics in this unit. To this end, you and your student will discuss information that is important for a child to know. You and your student will discuss such topics as weather, safety, and words of wisdom (proverbs). Specifically, your student will memorize his phone number and address, learn emergency numbers, develop a fire escape route, determine how weather impacts daily decisions, and interpret the meaning of commonly used sayings. Additionally, you may want to discuss any other information that you think is important for your student to know.

My Neighborhood

Discussions between you and your student provide the basis for this unit. This unit includes a wide range of topics. Life skills are the common thread among all of the topics in this unit. To this end, you and your student will discuss information that is important for a child to know. You and your student will discuss such topics as weather, safety, and words of wisdom (proverbs). Specifically, your student will memorize his phone number and address, learn emergency numbers, develop a fire escape route, determine how weather impacts daily decisions, and interpret the meaning of commonly used sayings. Additionally, you may want to discuss any other information that you think is important for your student to know.

Community Helpers: Part I

In this unit your student will learn about various types of jobs. Your student will have an opportunity to examine different types of jobs and their responsibilities. These discussions take place within the context of the community. Your student will gain a sense of how various jobs contribute to the larger community. Your student should understand how her roles and responsibilities—within the family, as a child, and as a student—comprise her “job.” As part of this unit, you may want to discuss your job with your student. Moreover, your student may want to share her career aspirations with you.

Manual:

Social Studies K A and B Lesson Manual

Supplies:

Construction paper (Kindergarten)

Drawing paper (Kindergarten)

Newsprint, pad, (50 sheets)

Semester 2 – Units**Community Helpers: Part II**

In this unit your student will learn about various types of jobs. Your student will have an opportunity to examine different types of jobs and their responsibilities. These discussions take place within the context of the community. Your student will gain a sense of how various jobs contribute to the larger community. Your student should understand how her roles and responsibilities—within the family, as a child, and as a student—comprise her “job.” As part of this unit, you may want to discuss your job with your student. Moreover, your student may want to share her career aspirations with you.

Our Past

In this unit your student will learn about notable figures who contributed to American history. Namely, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and presidents Washington and Lincoln will be studied in this unit. By this age, your student probably has heard of these individuals. Discussing their contributions will help your student gain a sense of our shared American culture and history. Additionally, through learning about these figures, your student will be able to examine the values of honesty, fairness, and hard work. Moreover, your student will be able to make connections between her life and the lives and contributions of these famous Americans. As part of this unit, you may want to discuss other notable people who embody qualities that you think are important.

Places

This unit introduces your student to some basic geography concepts. The lessons in this unit will help your student gain a sense of the larger world around him. First, your student will be introduced to the unique characteristics of rural and urban communities. As part of your discussions, your student will contrast the geography, architecture, and lifestyle differences between the city and the country. Finally, in this unit, you and your student will discuss various types of transportation.

My Year

This unit introduces your student to some basic geography concepts. The lessons in this unit will help your student gain a sense of the larger world around him. First, your student will be introduced to the unique characteristics of rural and urban communities. As part of your discussions, your student will contrast the geography, architecture, and lifestyle differences between the city and the country. Finally, in this unit, you and your student will discuss various types of transportation.

Manual:

Social Studies K A and B Lesson Manual

Supplies:

Construction paper (Kindergarten)

Course Title: 1st – Communication Arts
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 054800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

In first grade, beginning readers work to become fluent readers. In this course, the students are taught to attack new words using a variety of decoding and contextual strategies. Students are given daily opportunities to apply these skills to decodable and authentic texts. They are taught to think about what they read through a variety of guided reading strategies. In writing, students create increasingly complex compositions and improve their handwriting.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1

CD/DVD:

Take Me To Your Readers CD

Manual:

Communication Arts 1 A and B Course Guide

Supplies:

Letter Tiles

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 1 (Unit 1)

Scott Foresman Reading Street 1 (Unit 2)

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 1

Trade Book:

Ira Sleeps Over

Workbook:

Scott Foresman Grammar and Writing Practice Book 1

Scott Foresman Practice Book 1 (Volume 1)

SF Phonics and Spelling Practice Book 1

Zaner-Bloser Handwriting 1

Semester 2

Manual:

Communication Arts 1 A and B Course Guide

Supplies:

Letter Tiles

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 1 (Unit 3)

Scott Foresman Reading Street 1 (Unit 4)

Scott Foresman Reading Street 1 (Unit 5)

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 1

Workbook:

Scott Foresman Grammar and Writing Practice Book 1

Scott Foresman Practice Book 1 (Volume 2)

SF Phonics and Spelling Practice Book 1

Zaner-Bloser Handwriting 1

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 1st – Mathematics
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 115800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

In first-grade math, students will develop an understanding of numbers to 100 using a variety of models. In the first semester, the student is introduced to building strategies for addition and subtraction of whole numbers up to 18, students will also practice problem solving and reasoning skills. Hands-on activities and tools let students practice money and measurement concepts. We also explore geometry topics—shapes, congruence, and symmetry—as well as data analysis with picturegraphs, data, and bar graphs.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Manual:

Math 1 A and B Course Guide

Math Kit 1–2:

Base-ten flats, green (1)
Base-ten rods, green (10)
Base-ten units, green (20 cubes)
Clock face (1)
Coins (44)
Connecting cubes (snap cubes) (20)
Counters, 2-color (20)
Dollar bills (40)
Game spinner, blank (1)
Number cubes, blank with 50 labels (2)
Pattern blocks (27)
Tiles, color (20)

Textbook:

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 1

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 1

Workbook:

SF enVisionMATH 1 Interactive Homework Workbook

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 1st – Science
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 135000
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

Science encourages students to explore the natural world. In this course, students will study Earth, its resources, and how to protect them. We will explore how plants and animals grow and change. We will create a model of a mountain and investigate the way sunlight affects leaves. Students will also learn about the scientific method and explore possible careers in science.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Manual:

Science 1 A and B Course Guide

Science Kit:

Dropper
Goggles, safety
Hand lens
Magnet, bar
Modeling clay
Thermometers (2)

Textbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 1

Textbook (online access):

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 1

Workbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: Reading and Writing 1

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 1st – Social Studies
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 156600
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:
None

Course Description:

In this course, students will learn about the ways in which people contribute to their communities and work together to the benefit of all. This course explores the concepts of good citizenship, neighborhoods, and economics. We will also study maps, photos, biographies, illustrations, poetry, and music to help explain the concept of communities and extend the concept of community to the larger world.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

CD/DVD:
SF Digital Learning CD-ROM: All Together

Manual:
Social Studies 1 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:
Scott Foresman Social Studies: All Together

Textbook (online access):
Scott Foresman Social Studies: All Together

Workbook:
Scott Foresman All Together Workbook

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 2nd – Communication Arts
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 054800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

In second grade your student is introduced to all parts of the reading process. In this course, student is given the opportunity to apply word attack skills to increasingly complex texts and build their oral and sight vocabularies through daily instruction. While practicing new skills, your student will take part in activities based on books he or she is reading. Your student will apply handwriting and grammar skills to daily journal entries as well as longer and more complex compositions.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

CD/DVD:

Take Me To Your Readers CD

Manual:

Communication Arts 2 A and B Course Guide

Supplies:

Letter Tiles

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 2 (Volume 1)
Scott Foresman Reading Street 2 (Volume 2)

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 2

Trade Book:

Frog and Toad Are Friends
Amelia Bedelia and the Cat

Workbook:

Scott Foresman Grammar and Writing Practice Book 2
Scott Foresman Practice Book 2 (Volume 1)
Scott Foresman Practice Book 2 (Volume 2)
SF Phonics and Spelling Practice Book 2
Zaner-Bloser Handwriting 2

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 2nd – Mathematics
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 115800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

In second grade, problem solving is emphasized as your student furthers his or her understanding of numbers and operations, learning to add and subtract one- and two-digit numbers. In this course, hands-on activities help students study time, money, geometry, and fractions. Students will connect number concepts to statistics using basic algebraic concepts and simple graphs. Measurement concepts, such as weight, mass, capacity, time, and temperature, are investigated.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Manual:

Math 2 A and B Course Guide

Math Kit 1–2:

Base-ten flats, green (1)
Base-ten rods, green (10)
Base-ten units, green (20 cubes)
Clock face (1)
Coins (44)
Connecting cubes (snap cubes) (20)
Counters, 2-color (20)
Dollar bills (40)
Number cubes, blank with 50 labels (2)
Pattern blocks (27)
Tiles, color (20)

Textbook:

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 2

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 2

Workbook:

SF enVisionMATH 2 Interactive Homework Workbook

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 2nd – Science
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 135000
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

This course will stimulate students' curiosity about the world around them. In this course, we will study clues to Earth's past and learn about an archaeologist's responsibilities. We will also investigate energy and changing states of matter, such as liquid water changing to water vapor, and create a weather chart. Your child will enjoy hands-on activities as he or she investigates the importance of water and vegetation in life science and explores forces in physical science.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Manual:

Science 2 A and B Course Guide

Science Kit:

Battery holder
Goggles, safety
Hand Lens
Lamp holder
Lamp, miniature
Magnet, bar
Modeling clay
Thermometers (3)
Wire

Textbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 2

Textbook (online access):

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 2

Workbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: Reading and Writing 2

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 2nd – Social Studies
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 156600
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

Your child will continue to explore basic concepts of history, geography, economics, and government, while discovering more about world cultures. In this course, students will practice basic map, chart, graph, and thinking skills. We will also introduce your child to ordinary people who showed good citizenship and to famous people who have influenced our country and the world.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

CD/DVD:

SF Digital Learning CD-ROM: People and Places

Manual:

Social Studies 2 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Social Studies: People and Places

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Social Studies: People and Places

Workbook:

Scott Foresman People and Places Workbook

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 3rd – Communication Arts
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 054800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

Building on foundational reading skills, this course focuses on developing critical thinking and analytical skills. Students examine the author's purpose and point of view and practice comprehension and phonics skills through daily reading exercises. Students learn to structure and write complete sentences and then create paragraphs and longer compositions. Throughout the course, students create compositions by moving through the five stages of the writing process: planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Students continue to master the basic skills of writing with instruction in spelling, handwriting, grammar, and language usage.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

Dollars and Sense

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of money's importance in people's lives while learning essential reading and writing skills. The reading selections encompass several genres, including historical fiction, fables, realistic fiction, and articles. Your student will learn and practice reading comprehension skills, such as previewing a text, connecting reading to prior knowledge, understanding sequence and story structure, visualizing, and checking for comprehension. Reading instruction also addresses fluency skills, such as reading with expression, and vocabulary development strategies, such as using context clues and referring to a dictionary. Additionally, your student will learn the steps of the writing process and apply them in weekly writing assignments, which culminate in a narrative paragraph submitted as the first assignment for his writing portfolio. Writing models, graphic organizers, and checklists for drafting and revising are provided as support. Finally, your student will receive weekly spelling instruction, which focuses on understanding vowel and consonant patterns, as well as grammar instruction in using complete sentences and understanding different sentence types.

Smart Solutions

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of how people solve problems effectively, while building on the reading and writing skills introduced in Unit 1. In addition to the selections presented in *Reading Street*, your student will read a short nonfiction book, *Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares*. This unit provides thorough instruction in reading comprehension skills, such as understanding characters, determining the main idea of fiction and nonfiction selections, asking questions while reading, and drawing conclusions. The fluency and vocabulary development strategies taught in Unit 1 are reinforced throughout the unit. Your student will further develop her writing skills by composing in a variety of forms, including a story summary and a problem-solution paragraph submitted as part of her portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses new word patterns and endings, including compound words and words beginning with three-letter blends. Grammar instruction develops your student's understanding of nouns by addressing topics such as common and proper nouns, singular and plural nouns, and possessive nouns.

People and Nature

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of people's relationship to the natural world. He will read a variety of selections, including a short fiction book, *Miss Rumphius*, fables, a play, and nonfiction articles. Reading instruction will help your student to recognize common text structures, such as texts that compare and contrast or that show causes and effects. Your student will also become a more critical reader by learning how to understand an author's purpose and how to make generalizations based on his reading. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills and vocabulary

development strategies. He will gain additional confidence as a writer as he learns to compose longer works, including a descriptive journal entry and a news story submitted as part of the writing portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses contractions, prefixes and suffixes, and silent letters. Grammar instruction focuses on verbs, including action and linking verbs, helping verbs, verb tenses, and subject-verb agreement.

Manual:

Communication Arts 3 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 3 (Volume 1)

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 3

Trade Book:

Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares

Miss Rumphius

Workbook:

Scott Foresman Practice Book 3 (Volume 1)

Scott Foresman The Grammar & Writing Book 3

SF Phonics and Spelling Practice Book 3

Zaner-Bloser Handwriting 3

Semester 2 – Units

One of a Kind

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of uniqueness. She will read a variety of selections, including biographies, fantasy stories, folktales, and expository articles. Reading instruction will further develop your student's understanding of story elements—such as plot and theme—and common text structures, such as texts that compare and contrast, or that show causes and effects. Your student will practice critical reading by learning how to make generalizations, and distinguish between facts and opinions in a text. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills and vocabulary development strategies. Her confidence as a writer will grow as she learns to write in different genres, including poetry and memoirs. She will write a sample of each to be submitted as part of the writing portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses irregular plurals, prefixes and suffixes, and vowel and consonant patterns. Grammar instruction focuses on pronouns, contractions, and prepositions.

Cultures

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of cultures. She will read a variety of selections, including realistic and narrative fiction. Reading instruction will further develop your student's understanding of story elements—such as sequence—and common text structures, such as texts that compare and contrast. Your student will practice critical reading by learning how to draw conclusions, determine the author's purpose, and distinguish between facts and opinions in a text. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills and vocabulary development strategies. Her confidence as a writer will grow as she learns to write in different genres, including an editorial and a story review. She will write an opinion essay to submit as part of the writing portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses syllables, homophones, the vowel sound in *ball*, and suffixes. Grammar instruction focuses on adjectives, adverbs, and conjunctions.

Freedom

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of freedom. He will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction selections, including narrative nonfiction, a photo essay, a fantasy story, and a novel. Reading instruction in the first half of this unit will further develop your student's understanding of story elements, such as plot

and theme, and common text structures, such as texts organized with a main idea and details. Your student will also become a more critical reader by learning how to distinguish between facts and opinions in a text.

In the second half of this unit, your student will read the novel *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary. *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* tells the story of a young mouse named Ralph who lives in a hotel. One day, upon noticing that a boy left his toy motorcycle behind, Ralph decides to take a ride—a decision that leads to many adventures. This exciting story provides your student with the opportunity to apply previously learned reading skills to longer works while also enhancing his understanding of story elements. As your student reads *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*, he will identify literary elements, analyze characters, and use comprehension strategies to make connections and draw conclusions.

Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills and vocabulary development strategies. He will refine his writing skills as he writes in different genres, including an informative and a descriptive paragraph submitted as part of the writing portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses vowel sounds, suffixes, and multisyllabic words. Grammar instruction addresses capitalization, commas, and ways to combine sentences.

Manual:

Communication Arts 3 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 3 (Volume 2)

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 3

Trade Book:

The Mouse and the Motorcycle

Workbook:

Scott Foresman Practice Book 3 (Volume 2)

Scott Foresman The Grammar & Writing Book 3

SF Phonics and Spelling Practice Book 3

Zaner-Bloser Handwriting 3

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 3rd – Mathematics
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 115800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

Third grade Math continues to teach strategies for adding and subtracting numbers with regrouping. Multiplication and division are introduced to provide students with a conceptual understanding of the operations and how they affect numbers. Students will also learn how to add and subtract decimals using money, create graphs, and perform experiments in probability using basic statistics methods. Students also study time, money, geometry, fractions, decimals, measurement, and relationships among patterns.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

Numeration

This unit reinforces a solid comprehension of the base-ten numeration system. Previously, your student used his understanding of place value to read and write two-digit numbers. As your student delves deeper into place value throughout this course, he will extend his ability to read, comprehend, order, and represent larger numbers in a variety of ways. Manipulatives will play a key role in developing your student's understanding of numbers in the hundreds and thousands place values. Proficiency of the concepts presented in this unit will provide your student with the foundation to grasp more complex math concepts. Finally, your student will explore strategies to count money and make change using real-world scenarios. This unit's problem solving strategy is "make an organized list."

Adding Whole Numbers

In this unit, your student will use her knowledge and skills of basic addition facts to add whole numbers of greater value. As your student learns to estimate and compute sums of numbers less than 1,000, she will use her background knowledge of place value to model the process of regrouping in the ones and tens place values. Several properties of addition are introduced to further develop your student's addition strategies. This unit will provide your student with meaningful computational practice through word problems that are presented in authentic contexts. The problem-solving strategy that will be introduced to your student is "draw a picture."

Subtraction Number Sense

In this unit, your student will explore the meaning of subtraction through several types of situations, including taking away and comparing. Fact families, modeling, and mental math are presented to provide your student with multiple strategies in basic facts mastery, estimation, and computing differences. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "reasonableness."

Subtracting Whole Numbers to Solve Problems

In this unit, your student's knowledge and skills in basic facts will support her as she learns to compute differences of whole numbers that are less than 1,000. Your student will use manipulatives and her knowledge of place value to model the process of regrouping in the ones, tens, and hundreds place values. The use of manipulatives is one method for your student to visualize the process of subtraction with regrouping. Your student will also learn the algorithmic process of subtraction with regrouping. Finally, your student will practice her computational skills through word problems that are presented in authentic contexts. The problem-solving strategy that will be introduced to your student is "draw a picture and write a number sentence."

Multiplication Meanings and Facts

In this unit, your student will revisit the concepts of equal groups and skip counting as he equates multiplication to repeated addition. Before your student practices the basic multiplication facts for mastery, it is important that he masters the strategies for knowing how to multiply. Thus, your student will make arrays and use counters to model how multiplication works. In addition, your student will learn to write personal multiplication stories in order to demonstrate a multiplication fact. After your student is introduced to the concept and process of multiplication, he will learn some of the basic multiplication facts. Specifically, the strategies of using patterns and applying properties of multiplication will be used to multiply with the numbers 0, 1, 2, 5, 9, and 10. The problem solving strategies in this unit are “writing to explain” and “two-question problems.”

Multiplication Fact Strategies: Use Known Facts

This unit continues to provide your student with multiple strategies to learn her basic multiplication facts before committing them to memory. Your student will learn to use the “break apart” and “known-facts” strategies for multiplication facts in which the numbers 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12 are factors. Your student will be introduced to the Associative Property of Multiplication and will use the property to multiply numbers with three factors. By the end of this unit, your student will know the basic multiplication facts up to 12. Your student should continue to practice these basic multiplication facts throughout the year to ensure that she mastered the concept. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “multiple-step problems.”

Division Meanings

In this unit, your student will explore two interpretations of division: division as sharing and division as repeated subtraction. Your student will make arrays, use counters, and draw pictures to model division. Your student will encounter remainders in some of the division problems presented in this unit. The use of arrays and counters will enable him to visualize remainders. Your student will learn how to analyze a word problem in order to interpret how the remainder will be displayed in the problem. Finally, your student will learn to write and solve his own division stories. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “use objects and draw a picture.”

Division Facts

In this unit, your student will learn that, like addition and subtraction, multiplication and division have an inverse relationship; this means that their operations undo each other. Subsequently, your student will be able to produce related multiplication and division facts, or fact families. A strong knowledge of basic multiplication facts will lend the use of fact families as an efficient strategy for learning division facts. Other useful strategies that your student will continue to use to explore division concepts are pictures and counters. This unit provides your student with instruction on division facts from zero to nine. Continued practice throughout the year will enhance her memory of the facts. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “draw a picture and write a number sentence.”

Patterns and Relationships

In this unit, your student will learn to identify, describe, extend, and write a rule for a variety of nonnumeric and numeric patterns that repeat in predictable ways. He will also learn that patterns between pairs of numbers exist when they are related by multiplication, addition, or subtraction. Your student will encounter such related numbers in two-column or two-row tables. Given the value of one of the numbers, your student will learn to find the value of the other number by writing a rule for the relationship and thereby extending the table. In addition, your student will use his knowledge of numbers and operation symbols to translate words from a given mathematical scenario into a numerical expression. He will also develop skills in comparing numerical expressions. The problem-solving strategy is “act it out and use reasoning.”

Solids and Shapes

Manual:

Math 3 A and B Course Guide

Math Kit 3–5:

Base-ten flats, green (1 set)
Base-ten rods, green (10)
Base-ten units, green (20 cubes)
Coins (44)
Counters, 2-color (20)
Dollar bills (40)
Tiles, color (20)

Textbook:

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 3

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 3

Workbook:

SF enVisionMATH 3 Interactive Homework Workbook

Semester 2 – Units**Congruence and Symmetry**

This unit will provide your student with opportunities to explore congruence and symmetry of a variety of shapes. As your student investigates whether a shape is congruent, he will ask key questions about each shape, including: “Are the figures the same size?” and “Do they have the same shape?” While studying the three ways a figure can move, he will have opportunities to draw congruent shapes. When your student investigates the symmetry of shapes, he will ask, “Do the parts match exactly?” Eventually, your student will have the opportunity to create figures with one or more lines of symmetry. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “use objects.”

Understanding Fractions

In this unit, your student will use manipulatives to represent fractions of a region and fractions of a set. The use of manipulatives will help your student develop proficiency in understanding how to identify, compare, and order fractions. Your student will also use models, pictures, and fraction strips to find equivalent fractions and to add and subtract fractions. Future math courses will use the basic fraction skills presented in this unit and apply them throughout all branches of mathematics, including measurement, geometry, probability, and statistics. Relating fractions to as many real-life examples will help your student gain familiarity with the concepts presented in this unit. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “make a table and look for a pattern.”

Decimals and Money

In this unit, your student will extend his knowledge of whole number place values to include decimal place values. He will use models to represent tenths, hundredths, equivalent fractions, and decimals. The models will help your student to visualize how fractions and decimals show equal parts of a whole. Your student will also use other manipulative tools, such as bills and coins, to understand decimals. By exploring how a penny is one hundredth of a dollar, your student will recognize the relationships between money, decimal place values, and fractions of a dollar. Your student will build on his knowledge of addition and subtraction with regrouping to solve problems involving money. Throughout this unit, adding and subtracting money serves as a model for adding and subtracting decimals. Your student will learn that the only difference between the processes is to include the dollar sign when he solves a money problem. The problem-solving strategies in this unit are “draw a picture and write a number sentence” and “missing or extra information.”

Customary Measurement

In this unit, your student will learn to estimate, measure, and select appropriate tools and units for length, capacity, and weight in the customary system. At the beginning of this unit, your student will measure length with nonstandard units. This process illustrates to your student the need for standard units of measurement. Then she will measure lengths of objects using standard units of measurement. Once your student has practiced measuring to the nearest inch, she will learn how to measure with greater precision by finding length to the nearest one-half inch and one-fourth inch. Your student will continue her study of measurement by changing customary units of length. Throughout this topic, each unit of measurement is compared to a real-life object. The particular object serves as a benchmark that your student can use to estimate the length, capacity, and length of an object before she measures it. Finally, your student will determine whether her estimate seems reasonable. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "act it out and use reasoning."

Metric Measurement

In this unit, your student will learn to estimate, measure, and select appropriate tools and units for length, capacity, and mass in the metric system. Your student may remember the pattern of the base-ten numeration system when he discovers that the metric system of measurement is based on powers of 10. Your student will also convert metric units of length. When each unit of measurement is introduced throughout this unit, each unit is compared to a real-life object. The object serves as a benchmark that your student can use to estimate the length, capacity, and mass of an object before he measures it. Finally, your student will determine whether his estimate seems reasonable. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "make a table and look for a pattern."

Perimeter, Area, and Volume

In this unit, your student will learn that the distance around a plane shape is its perimeter. She will explore several strategies for calculating perimeter. Your student will investigate how to make a shape with a given perimeter and how different shapes can have the same perimeter. Then your student will explore the concept of area, which is the space inside a plane shape. Your student will solve problems involving area, and represent the answer using square units. She will learn the process of estimating and finding the area of regular and irregular shapes. Next your student will learn about volume, which is the space inside a solid shape. Your student will estimate and solve volume problems and represent the answer using cubic units. The problem-solving strategies in this unit are "try, check, and revise" and "solve a simpler problem."

Time and Temperature

In this unit, your student will solve many real-life problems involving time and temperature. Your student will learn how to tell time to the half hour, quarter hour, and to the minute on both analog and digital clocks. Your student's knowledge of counting by fives and by ones will help your student measure time on an analog clock, while his understanding of fractions will support his comprehension of the terms "half hour" and "quarter hour." Your student will also convert units of time and determine elapsed time. For problems involving temperature, your student will read thermometers and learn the benchmarks for freezing and boiling water in degrees Fahrenheit and degrees Celsius. These benchmarks will help your student connect appropriate temperatures for given real-world activities. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is "work backward."

Multiplying Greater Numbers

This unit extends your student's multiplication skills beyond basic facts. Your student will explore several new strategies to estimate and multiply 2- and 3-digit numbers by a 1-digit number. Some strategies include the use of patterns, rounding rules, breaking large numbers apart, and following an expanded algorithm. Manipulatives, such as place-value blocks, arrays, or counters will continue to serve as physical hands-on learning tools for your student. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is "draw a picture and write a number sentence."

Dividing with 1-Digit Numbers

In this unit, your student will extend his division skills beyond basic facts to solve problems involving multi-digit dividends. Your student will explore multiple strategies to support his comprehension and skill development in this area. Your student will use mental math strategies and make estimates before finding actual quotients in order to ensure reasonable solutions. In addition, your student will explore the division algorithm and use it to divide numbers with a remainder. Manipulatives, such as place-value blocks, arrays, or counters will continue to serve as physical hands-on learning tools for your student. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "multiple-step problems."

Data, Graphs, and Probability**Manual:**

Math 3 A and B Course Guide

Math Kit 3–5:

Base-ten flats, green (1 set)

Base-ten rods, green (10)

Base-ten units, green (20 cubes)

Coins (44)

Counters, 2-color (20)

Dollar bills (40)

Game spinner, blank (1)

Number cubes, blank with 50 labels (2)

Tiles, color (20)

Tiles, fraction (51)

Textbook:

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 3

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 3

Workbook:

SF enVisionMATH 3 Interactive Homework Workbook

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 3rd – Science
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 135000
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description – Semester 1:

Science provides a way for people to actively learn about the world around them. Throughout this course the student will continue to perform hands-on activities to explore organisms, investigate changes, and examine the solar system. The McGraw-Hill textbook, *Science: A Closer Look*, and the science kit are the primary resources for this course. The life science units describe and analyze components of the the living world. The Earth science unit describes Earth's features and the changes it undergoes. The student will also explore different careers in science and the scientific method.

In this course, the student will design an experiment to discover what plants need to survive, make a model of a cave, and delve into many more exciting experiments. The lessons in this course are designed to accommodate a variety of learning styles and to provide a variety of opportunities for the entire family to participate in the student's education. Some lessons, or groups of lessons, in each unit are activity-centered, which allows the student to engage the new concepts through exploration and discovery; others are more traditional, requiring the student to read, research, and reflect on the underlying theory.

Course Syllabus/Outline – Semester 1:

Be a Scientist

In this introductory unit, your student will learn about the scientific method through the actions of two scientists who are studying animals in Madagascar. Your student will learn how these scientists, Chris and Paule, use the scientific method to learn more about the world around them. He will read how the scientific method helps them study animals like the Madagascar chameleon.

Your student will also be introduced to the many inquiry-based skills that he will use throughout this course. He will learn how to form a hypothesis, make observations, analyze data, draw conclusions, and communicate results. Before your student begins the next unit, he will learn about science safety and why it's important for scientists to be safe and responsible when conducting research.

A Look at Living Things

In this unit, your student will explore what living things need to survive. She will learn how to identify living things and nonliving things in an ecosystem and will be introduced to the basic needs of all organisms, including food, water, air, and space.

During this unit, your student will conduct an inquiry-based experiment with plants, which will help her identify what factors influence a plant's ability to survive. She will study plant parts, as well as animal parts, and will learn how to classify plants and animals based on their characteristics.

Living Things Grow and Change

In this unit, your student will explore the life cycles of plants and animals. He will identify the different life stages of organisms. Your student will use the scientific method to develop and test a hypothesis related to plant growth.

During this unit, your student will explore the process of metamorphosis by studying amphibians and insects. He will learn how traits, such as hair and eye color, can be passed on from parents to offspring. By the end of this unit, your student will have a better understanding of where some of her traits may have come from.

Living Things in Ecosystems

In this unit, your student will be introduced to ecosystems and the organisms that inhabit them. She will examine food chains and food webs, then identify roles that different organisms play within their ecosystem. She will learn how to use communication skills to share information about energy within an ecosystem. During this unit, your student will study different types of ecosystems, including deserts, tropical rain forests, temperate forests, oceans, and wetlands. She will learn how plants and animals have specific adaptations—structures or behaviors that help them survive in their environment.

Changes in Ecosystems

In this unit, your student will examine how changes to the environment affect living things. He will learn how organisms compete for food, water, space, and other resources in their environment. Your student will also learn that pollution can have lasting effects on organisms and their habitats.

During this unit, your student will explore the ways in which people can protect the environment. He will learn how to help the environment by following the “Three Rs”—reduce, reuse, and recycle. By the end of this unit, your student will understand how populations of organisms can be affected by drastic changes to the environment, such as fires and floods. He will learn how scientists study fossils to gain information about environmental changes that occurred in the past.

Earth Changes**Manual:**

Science 3 A and B Course Guide

Science Kit:

Hand lens
Modeling clay

Textbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 3

Textbook (online access):

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 3

Workbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: Reading and Writing 3

Course Description – Semester 2:

Science provides a way for people to actively learn about the world around them. Throughout this course the student will continue to perform hands-on activities to explore organisms, investigate changes, and examine the solar system. The McGraw-Hill textbook, *Science: A Closer Look*, and the science kit are the primary resources for this course. The Earth science units detail Earth's composition and the relationships between the Earth, moon, and sun. The physical science unit explores the properties of matter. The student will also explore different careers in science and the scientific method.

In this course, the student will create a model to investigate how simple machines work, investigate why the moon's shape appears to change during the month, and delve into many more exciting experiments. The lessons in this course are designed to accommodate a variety of learning styles and to provide a variety of opportunities for the entire family to participate in the student's education. Some lessons, or groups of lessons, in each unit are activity-centered, which allows the student to engage the new concepts through exploration and discovery; others are more traditional, requiring the student to read, research, and reflect on the underlying theory.

**Course Syllabus/Outline – Semester 2:
Using Earth's Resources**

In this unit, your student will explore Earth's minerals. He will examine mineral properties such as color, streak, luster, and hardness. After studying minerals, your student will learn how minerals combine to form rocks. He will explore the three types of rocks: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic.

In the second part of the unit, your student will learn how to use variables to answer a scientific question. He will do this by conducting an experiment with different types of soil. Your student will then read about fossils and how they form. He will explore Earth's renewable and nonrenewable resources and will read about the ways people can conserve natural resources.

Changes in Weather

In this unit, your student will explore weather. She will learn how different types of weather form in Earth's atmosphere, and she will read about predicting weather. Your student will test her inquiry skills when she completes the lab, "Interpret Data." She will learn how to interpret weather data that was collected throughout a year.

Next, your student will study the water cycle and how it relates to different weather patterns. She will read about evaporation, condensation, and precipitation; and she will examine a detailed diagram in her textbook that illustrates the water cycle. Finally, your student will discover the difference between weather and climate. She will learn how and why climates vary across the world.

Planets, Moons, and Stars

In this unit, your student will investigate the solar system. He will first study the Earth-moon-sun relationship and will learn why there are seasons on Earth and why there are phases of the moon. Next, your student will explore other planets in the solar system. He will compare and contrast the inner and outer planets. When reading about the outer planets, be sure that your student understands that Pluto is now considered a dwarf planet.

At the end of this unit, your student will explore stars. He will learn why stars can only be seen at night and why the Big Dipper is not a constellation. Your student will be able to explain why different stars can be viewed during different seasons. After completing the reading assignments for this unit, your student will have a better understanding of the many features of the solar system.

Observing Matter

In this unit, your student will begin to investigate matter. She will learn how to identify examples of matter and will study several properties of matter, including mass and volume. Your student will learn that matter is composed of elements. Practical examples of elements are pictured in your student's textbook.

After learning what matter is, your student will explore the ways that matter can be measured. She will learn the standard units of measurement for length, volume, and mass. She will also learn how to differentiate between mass and weight. At the end of the unit, your student will explore the three states of matter—solids, liquids, and gases—and how she uses them every day.

Changes in Matter

In this unit, your student will continue learning about matter. He will explore changes to matter's state. Your student will learn what happens to matter when it freezes, melts, condenses, and evaporates. He will conduct an experiment to determine whether salt water freezes faster—or slower—than fresh water.

Your student will also learn how to differentiate between physical changes and chemical changes in matter. He will read how physical changes can be observed, but some chemical changes cannot. Your student will learn that the release of heat and/or gas generally indicates that a chemical change has occurred.

Forces and Motion

In this unit, your student will study the relationship between forces and motion. She will learn how to define factors such as position, distance, and speed. She will also learn how forces change the motion of objects. Your student will learn about magnetic force, and will conduct an experiment to determine how magnetic force is affected by the distance between an object and a magnet.

Your student will go on to study work, energy, and simple machines. She will define kinetic and potential energy, and will be able to explain how energy can change from one form to another. She will explore the six simple machines: levers, pulleys, wheels and axles, inclined planes, screws, and wedges. After your student has completed all of the reading assignments, see if she can identify a compound machine at home.

Forms of Energy

In this final unit, your student will explore the following forms of energy—heat, sound, light, and electricity. He will learn how to differentiate between heat and temperature, and will learn about conductors and insulators in an experiment with three potential insulators. In this unit, your student will learn how sound travels and will learn the difference between volume and pitch.

Your student will also explore properties of light and be able to define opaque, transparent, and translucent. He will learn how different colors are made and how light can be reflected and refracted. At the end of this unit, your student will study electricity. He will gain a basic understanding of static electricity and will explore how electric currents flow through circuits.

Manual:

Science 3 A and B Course Guide

Science Kit:

Dropper
Goggles, safety
Hand lens
Magnet, bar (set of 2)
Modeling clay
Thermometers (2)

Textbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 3

Textbook (online access):

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 3

Workbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: Reading and Writing 3

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 3rd – Social Studies
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 156600
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

This Social Studies course focuses on the theme of community through the study of geography, history, government, and economics. The course text is Scott Foresman's *Communities*. In this course, the student will explore a variety of communities, past and present, from around the world. Short stories, biographies, poetry, case studies, songs, and other resources emphasize the role of the individual in the community, as well as the influence of geography on communities. Multimedia resources including Teachlet[®] tutorials, videos, and interactive Web sites enhance and support the content. The student will learn geographic concepts such as place, location, and human interaction with the environment. Geography skills lessons are incorporated throughout the course. In addition, the student will learn the basic principles that led to the creation of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. The student will learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizens and the three branches of government. In the economics unit, the student will examine basic economic concepts such as money, prices, supply and demand, and taxes. The student will examine factors that contribute to personal economic decisions.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

Our Community

In this unit, your student will understand the meaning of community as a place where people live, work, and have fun. He will recognize the characteristics of rural, suburban, and urban communities. He will also be able to recognize each type of community. Your student will study pictures and stories of different communities in the United States and around the world.

People in Communities

In this unit, your student will learn about those factors that inspired people to travel to America from places around the world. She will understand the experiences immigrants faced as they strived to learn new customs and start new lives. She will also understand the importance of celebrating existing and past cultures of a community.

Where Are Communities?

In this unit, your student will understand how different physical environments distinguish one community from another community. He will learn how each community differs by its climate and the types of resources that are available in that area. Your student will also understand why some communities are able to develop and grow along mountains, water systems, roads, railroads, and air routes.

Semester 2 – Units

History of Communities

In this unit, your student will learn how the history of present-day communities throughout North America was shaped by the migration and exploration of early groups. She will learn about early day Spanish, French, English and Native American settlements. She will also understand how technology changes a community over time through innovations in transportation, communication, and medicine, along with key inventions.

Communities at Work

In this unit, your student will understand how money impacts consumers' choices and decision making regarding their earnings, spending and savings. He will learn how people's actions are influenced by the

ability to distinguish needs from wants. He will also learn how business owners are confronted with decisions and choices regarding production, services, and resources which impact profits.

Governments

In this unit, your student will learn about past government and the impact that present day government has on the rights and responsibilities of today's citizens. She will learn how citizens can become good citizens by using these rights and responsibilities on a community, state and country level. She will also learn about the structure of state government and understand how communities benefit from local government services and community leaders.

CD/DVD:

SF Digital Learning CD-ROM: Communities

Manual:

Social Studies 3 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Social Studies: Communities

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Social Studies: Communities

Workbook:

Scott Foresman Communities Quick Study

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 3rd – Accelerated Communication Arts
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 054800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$200.00

Prerequisites:

Requires a grade of A from previous semester in the same subject.

The deadline to enroll and begin this course is October 1, 2010.

Course Description:

This course is designed to be taken along with the Accelerated Literature Study course for the third grade level.

Connections Academy's Gifted and Talented Communication Arts 3 course provides students opportunities to work at an accelerated pace, while engaging in more complex and challenging instructional activities. Students are provided opportunities for increased student-teacher interaction and discussion, as well as increased interaction with their peers. This course focuses on developing critical thinking and analytical skills. Students also create compositions throughout the course by moving through the five stages of the writing process: planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Students continue to master the basic skills of writing with instruction in spelling, handwriting, grammar, and language usage.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

Dollars and Sense

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of money's importance in people's lives, while also learning essential reading and writing skills. The reading selections encompass several genres, including historical fiction, fables, realistic fiction, and articles. Your student will learn and practice reading comprehension skills such as previewing a text, connecting reading to prior knowledge, understanding sequence and story structure, visualizing, and checking for comprehension. Reading instruction also addresses fluency skills such as reading with expression, and vocabulary development strategies such as using context clues and referring to a dictionary. Additionally, your student will learn the steps of the writing process and apply them in weekly writing assignments, which culminate in a narrative paragraph submitted as the first assignment for his writing portfolio. Writing models, graphic organizers, and checklists for drafting and revising are provided as support. Finally, your student will receive weekly spelling instruction, which focuses on understanding vowel and consonant patterns, as well as grammar instruction in using complete sentences and understanding different sentence types.

Smart Solutions

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of how people solve problems effectively, while building on the reading and writing skills introduced in Unit 1. This unit provides thorough instruction in reading comprehension skills, such as understanding characters, determining the main idea of fiction and nonfiction selections, asking questions while reading, and drawing conclusions. The fluency and vocabulary development strategies taught in Unit 1 are reinforced throughout the unit. Your student will further develop her writing skills by composing in a variety of forms, including a story summary submitted as part of her portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses new word patterns and endings, including compound words and words beginning with three-letter blends. Grammar instruction develops your student's understanding of nouns by addressing topics such as common and proper nouns, singular and plural nouns, and possessive nouns.

People and Nature

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of people’s relationship to the natural world. He will read a variety of selections, including a short fiction book, *Miss Rumphius*; fables; a play; and nonfiction articles. Reading instruction will help your student to recognize common text structures, such as texts that compare and contrast or that show causes and effects. Your student will also become a more critical reader by learning how to understand an author’s purpose and how to make generalizations based on his reading. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills and vocabulary development strategies. He will gain additional confidence as a writer as he learns to compose longer works, including a descriptive journal entry submitted as part of the writing portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses contractions, prefixes and suffixes, and silent letters. Grammar instruction focuses on verbs, including action and linking verbs, helping verbs, verb tenses, and subject-verb agreement.

Manual:

Gifted Communication Arts 3 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 3 (Volume 1)
 Scott Foresman Reading Street 3 (Volume 2)

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 3

Trade Book:

Miss Rumphius

Workbook:

Scott Foresman Practice Book 3 (Volume 1)
 Scott Foresman The Grammar & Writing Book 3
 SF Phonics and Spelling Practice Book 3
 Zaner-Bloser Handwriting 3

Semester 2 – Units

One of a Kind

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of uniqueness. She will read a variety of selections, including biographies, fantasy stories, folktales, and expository articles. Reading instruction will further develop your student’s understanding of story elements—such as plot and theme—and common text structures, such as texts that compare and contrast, or that show causes and effects. Your student will practice critical reading by learning how to make generalizations, and distinguish between facts and opinions in a text. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills and vocabulary development strategies. Her confidence as a writer will grow as she learns to write in different genres, including poetry and memoirs. She will write a sample of each to be submitted as part of the writing portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses irregular plurals, prefixes and suffixes, and vowel and consonant patterns. Grammar instruction focuses on pronouns, contractions, and prepositions.

Cultures

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of cultures. She will read a variety of selections, including realistic and narrative fiction. Reading instruction will further develop your student’s understanding of story elements such as sequence and common text structures, such as text that compare and contrast. Your student will practice critical reading by learning how to draw conclusions, determine the author’s purpose, and distinguish between facts and opinions in a text. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills and vocabulary development strategies. Her confidence as a writer will grow as she learns to write in different genres, including an editorial and story review. She will write an opinion essay to submit as part of the writing portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses syllables, homophones, the vowel sound in *ball*, and suffixes. Grammar instruction focuses on adjectives, adverbs, and conjunctions.

Freedom

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of freedom. He will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction selections, including realistic fiction, a photo essay, and fantasy stories. In addition, students will read *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* written by Beverly Cleary, which tells the story of a young mouse named Ralph who lives in a hotel. Reading instruction will further develop your student's understanding of story elements, such as plot and theme, and common text structures, such as texts organized with a main idea and details or texts that show causes and effects. Your student will also become a more critical reader by learning how to make generalizations and distinguish between facts and opinions in a text. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills and vocabulary development strategies. He will refine his writing skills as he writes in different genres, including an informative and a descriptive paragraph submitted as part of the writing portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses assorted vowel sounds, multisyllabic words, and related words. Grammar instruction addresses capitalization, commas, and ways to combine sentences.

Manual:

Gifted Communication Arts 3 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 3 (Volume 2)

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 3

Trade Book:

If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island
The Mouse and the Motorcycle

Workbook:

Scott Foresman Practice Book 3 (Volume 2)
Scott Foresman The Grammar & Writing Book 3
SF Phonics and Spelling Practice Book 3
Zaner-Bloser Handwriting 3

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 3rd – Accelerated Literature Study
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 054800
Number of Semesters: One
Per Semester Cost: \$200.00

Prerequisites:

Requires a grade of A from previous semester in the same subject.

The deadline to enroll and begin this course is October 1, 2010.

Course Description:

This course is designed to be taken along with the Accelerated Communication Arts first and second semester courses for the third grade level.

The Junior Great Books® program employs the method of interpretive readings and discussion being known as the Shared Inquiry™ method. This distinctive approach to learning enables leaders—the teachers and Learning Coaches—to foster a vibrant environment in which a student acquires the habits and strategies of a self-reliant thinker, reader, and learner. Through their own curiosity and attentive questioning, leaders serve as partners in inquiry with the student, helping him work with other students to discover meaning in a reading selection and to build interpretations. The process reaches its fullest expression in Shared Inquiry discussion, where leaders and students think and talk about an interpretive question that arises from a particular story. Using LiveLesson® sessions, the student will interact with peers twice during each unit for Shared Inquiry and presentation of personal writing. Junior Great Books includes outstanding works of literature by award-winning authors. Praised for their rich language and international range, and chosen carefully for their ability to support multiple interpretations, the stories in Junior Great Books capture students' attention and imagination and engage the best of their thinking. Progressing in reading level, conceptual complexity, and length throughout the series, the stories are the foundation for a thoughtful process of reading, discussion, and writing.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Units:

The Banza

In this unit, your student will read "The Banza," a Haitian folktale. Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he is confused or curious. He will practice his critical thinking skills when he marks the story with questions during his second reading. At the end of the first lesson, your student will participate in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

The Man Whose Trade Was Tricks

In this unit, your student will read "The Man Whose Trade Was Tricks," a Georgian folktale. Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where she has a question. During her second reading, she will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages where a character does something tricky. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

The Fisherman and His Wife

In this unit, your student will read "The Fisherman and His Wife." Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he has a question. During his second reading,

he will also practice his critical thinking skills by marking passages where a character says or does something important. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share his questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

Ooka and the Honest Thief

In this unit, your student will read "Ooka and the Honest Thief," a Japanese folktale. Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where she is making connections to her own experience and knowledge. She will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages to indicate places where the main character is being fair or unfair. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

It's All the Fault of Adam

In this unit, your student will read "It's All the Fault of Adam," a Nigerian folktale. Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he is making connections to his own experience or knowledge. During his second reading, he will also practice his critical thinking skills by marking passages to indicate the main characters motives. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share his questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

The Monster Who Grew Small

In this unit, your student will read "The Monster Who Grew Small." Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where she is making connections to her own experience and knowledge or where she has questions. She will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages to comment on the main character's behavior. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

The Selkie Girl

In this unit, your student will read "The Selkie Girl," a Scottish folktale. Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he is using his senses to visualize the story or places where he has a question. He will also practice his critical thinking skills by marking passages which may have possible multiple meanings. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share his questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

The Mushroom Man

In this unit, your student will read "The Mushroom Man." Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where she is using her senses to visualize the story or places where she has a question. She will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages to comment on the main character's perceived preferences. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story.

At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

The Princess and the Beggar

In this unit, your student will read "The Princess and the Beggar," a Korean folktale. Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he is using his senses to visualize the story or places where he has a question. He will also practice his critical thinking skills by marking passages which give insight into the characters. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share his questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

The Fire on the Mountain

In this unit, your student will read "The Fire on the Mountain," an Ethiopian folktale. Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where she is using her senses to visualize the story or places where she has a question. She will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages to comment on the characters' integrity. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

Textbook:

JGB Series 3 Anthology Book One

Workbook:

JGB Series 3 Reader's Journal Book One

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 3rd – Accelerated Mathematics
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 115800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$360.00

Prerequisites:

Requires a grade of A from previous semester in the same subject.

Course Description:

For qualifying students, this first-semester course reviews strategies for adding and subtracting numbers with regrouping; and introduces a variety of methods for multiplication and division providing students with a conceptual understanding of the operations and how they affect numbers. In addition to the models and algorithms, gifted students examine how the basic operations connect to beginning Algebra skills, building a foundation for later studies. By extending number theory lessons to include larger numbers, additional decimal places, a mental math strategies, students are able to master content beyond the third grade standards. Students study time, money, fractions, decimals, measurement, and relationships among patterns. Students have the opportunity to study geometry concepts, including lines, angles, shapes, perimeter, area, congruence, and similarity. Students are also introduced to equations, statistics using data and graphing techniques, and probability concepts. Differentiating from the core content, students apply the basic math skills to novel situations using a variety of problem solving skills with real world applications.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

Numeration

This unit reinforces a solid comprehension of the base-ten numeration system. Previously, your student used his understanding of place value to read and write two-digit numbers. As your student delves deeper into place value throughout this course, he will extend his ability to read, comprehend, order, and represent larger numbers in a variety of ways. Manipulatives will play a key role in developing your student's understanding of numbers in the hundreds and thousands place values. Proficiency of the concepts presented in this unit will provide your student with the foundation to grasp more complex math concepts. Finally, your student will explore strategies to count money and make change using real-world scenarios. This unit's problem solving strategy is "make an organized list."

Adding Whole Numbers

In this unit, your student will use her knowledge and skills of basic addition facts to add whole numbers of greater value. As your student learns to estimate and compute sums of numbers less than 1,000, she will use her background knowledge of place value to model the process of regrouping in the ones and tens place values. Several properties of addition are introduced to further develop your student's addition strategies. This unit will provide your student with meaningful computational practice through word problems that are presented in authentic contexts. The problem-solving strategy that will be introduced to your student is "draw a picture."

Subtraction Number Sense

In this unit, your student will explore the meaning of subtraction through several types of situations, including taking away and comparing. Fact families, modeling, and mental math are presented to provide your student with multiple strategies in basic facts mastery, estimation, and computing differences. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "reasonableness."

Subtracting Whole Numbers to Solve Problems

In this unit, your student's knowledge and skills in basic facts will support her as she learns to compute differences of whole numbers that are less than 1,000. Your student will use manipulatives and her knowledge of place value to model the process of regrouping in the ones, tens, and hundreds place

values. The use of manipulatives is one method for your student to visualize the process of subtraction with regrouping. Your student will also learn the algorithmic process of subtraction with regrouping. Finally, your student will practice her computational skills through word problems that are presented in authentic contexts. The problem-solving strategy that will be introduced to your student is “draw a picture and write a number sentence.”

Multiplication Meanings and Facts

In this unit, your student will revisit the concepts of equal groups and skip counting as he equates multiplication to repeated addition. Before your student practices the basic multiplication facts for mastery, it is important that he masters the strategies for knowing how to multiply. Thus, your student will make arrays and use counters to model how multiplication works. In addition, your student will learn to write personal multiplication stories in order to demonstrate a multiplication fact. After your student is introduced to the concept and process of multiplication, he will learn some of the basic multiplication facts. Specifically, the strategies of using patterns and applying properties of multiplication will be used to multiply with the numbers 0, 1, 2, 5, 9, and 10. The problem solving strategies in this unit are “writing to explain” and “two-question problems.”

Multiplication Fact Strategies: Use Known Facts

This unit continues to provide your student with multiple strategies to learn her basic multiplication facts before committing them to memory. Your student will learn to use the “break apart” and “known-facts” strategies for multiplication facts in which the numbers 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12 are factors. Your student will be introduced to the Associative Property of Multiplication and will use the property to multiply numbers with three factors. By the end of this unit, your student will know the basic multiplication facts up to 12. Your student should continue to practice these basic multiplication facts throughout the year to ensure that she mastered the concept. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “multiple-step problems.”

Division Meanings

In this unit, your student will explore two interpretations of division: division as sharing and division as repeated subtraction. Your student will make arrays, use counters, and draw pictures to model division. Your student will encounter remainders in some of the division problems presented in this unit. The use of arrays and counters will enable him to visualize remainders. Your student will learn how to analyze a word problem in order to interpret how the remainder will be displayed in the problem. Finally, your student will learn to write and solve his own division stories. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “use objects and draw a picture.”

Division Facts

In this unit, your student will learn that, like addition and subtraction, multiplication and division have an inverse relationship; this means that their operations undo each other. Subsequently, your student will be able to produce related multiplication and division facts, or fact families. A strong knowledge of basic multiplication facts will lend the use of fact families as an efficient strategy for learning division facts. Other useful strategies that your student will continue to use to explore division concepts are pictures and counters. This unit provides your student with instruction on division facts from zero to nine. Continued practice throughout the year will enhance her memory of the facts. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “draw a picture and write a number sentence.”

Patterns and Relationships

In this unit, your student will learn to identify, describe, extend, and write a rule for a variety of nonnumeric and numeric patterns that repeat in predictable ways. He will also learn that patterns between pairs of numbers exist when they are related by multiplication, addition, or subtraction. Your student will encounter such related numbers in two-column or two-row tables. Given the value of one of the numbers, your student will learn to find the value of the other number by writing a rule for the relationship and thereby extending the table. In addition, your student will use his knowledge of numbers and operation symbols to translate words from a given mathematical scenario into a numerical expression. He will also

develop skills in comparing numerical expressions. The problem-solving strategy is “act it out and use reasoning.”

Solids and Shapes

In this unit, your student will learn to identify, describe, and classify two-dimensional objects, referred to as shapes or polygons, and three-dimensional objects, or solid figures, based on the similarities and differences between their attributes. Your student will also learn about points and lines, the building blocks used to describe polygons and solid figures. She will recognize that while a point has no size, a set of points that extend in opposite directions form a straight line and two lines joined at a point result in an angle. Relationships between these building blocks result in the formation of several types of lines and angles. These lines and angles help constitute polygons and solid figures in unique ways. This unit is rich in mathematical terminology. Relating the vocabulary to as many real-life examples will help your student gain familiarity with the terms. The problem-solving strategy for this unit is “make and test generalizations.”

Transformations, Congruence and Symmetry

This unit will provide your student with opportunities to explore congruence and symmetry of a variety of shapes. As your student investigates whether a shape is congruent, he will ask key questions about each shape, including: “Are the figures the same size?” and “Do they have the same shape?” While studying the three ways a figure can move, he will have opportunities to draw congruent shapes. When your student investigates the symmetry of shapes, he will ask, “Do the parts match exactly?” Eventually, your student will have the opportunity to create figures with one or more lines of symmetry. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “use objects.”

Manual:

Gifted and Talented Math 3 A and B Course Guide

Math Kit 3–5:

Base-ten flats, green (1 set)
 Base-ten rods, green (10)
 Base-ten units, green (20 cubes)
 Coins (44)
 Counters, 2-color (20)
 Dollar bills (40)
 Tiles, color (20)

Textbook:

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 3

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 3
 Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 4

Workbook:

SF enVisionMATH 3 Interactive Homework Workbook
 SF enVisionMATH 4 Interactive Homework Workbook

Semester 2 – Units

Understanding Fractions

In this unit, your student will use manipulatives to represent fractions of a region and fractions of a set. The use of manipulatives will help your student develop proficiency in understanding how to identify, compare, and order fractions. Your student will also use models, pictures, and fraction strips to find equivalent fractions and to add and subtract fractions. Future math courses will use the basic fraction skills presented in this unit and apply them throughout all branches of mathematics, including

measurement, geometry, probability, and statistics. Relating fractions to as many real-life examples will help your student gain familiarity with the concepts presented in this unit. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “make a table and look for a pattern.”

Decimals and Money

In this unit, your student will extend his knowledge of whole number place values to include decimal place values. He will use models to represent tenths, hundredths, equivalent fractions, and decimals. The models will help your student to visualize how fractions and decimals show equal parts of a whole. Your student will also use other manipulative tools, such as bills and coins, to understand decimals. By exploring how a penny is one hundredth of a dollar, your student will recognize the relationships between money, decimal place values, and fractions of a dollar. Your student will build on his knowledge of addition and subtraction with regrouping to solve problems involving money. Throughout this unit, adding and subtracting money serves as a model for adding and subtracting decimals. Your student will learn that the only difference between the processes is to include the dollar sign when he solves a money problem. The problem-solving strategies in this unit are “draw a picture and write a number sentence” and “missing or extra information.”

Understanding Decimals

In this unit, your student will read and write decimals to the hundredths place in expanded, standard, and word form. Models of hundredths and place-value charts will help your student to understand the value that is represented by a decimal, which will allow her to compare and order decimals. Your student will learn to write decimals and fractions interchangeably and graph them on a number line. Additionally, your student will learn to write decimals and mixed numbers interchangeably and graph them on a number line. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “draw a table.”

Customary Measurement

In this unit, your student will learn to estimate, measure, and select appropriate tools and units for length, capacity, and weight in the customary system. At the beginning of this unit, your student will measure length with nonstandard units. This process illustrates to your student the need for standard units of measurement. Then your student will measure lengths of objects using standard units of measurement. Once your student has practiced measuring to the nearest inch, she will learn how to measure with greater precision by finding length to the nearest one-half inch and one-fourth inch. Your student will continue her study of measurement by changing customary units of length. Throughout this topic, each unit of measurement is compared to a real-life object. The particular object serves as a benchmark that your student can use to estimate the length, capacity, and length of an object before she measures it. Finally, your student will determine whether her estimate seems reasonable. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “act it out and use reasoning.”

Metric Measurement

In this unit, your student will learn to estimate, measure, and select appropriate tools and units for length, capacity, and mass in the metric system. Your student may remember the pattern of the base ten numeration system when he discovers that the metric system of measurement is based on powers of 10. Your student will also convert metric units of length. When each unit of measurement is introduced throughout this unit, each unit is compared to a real-life object. The object serves as a benchmark that your student can use to estimate the length, capacity, and length of an object before he measures it. Finally, your student will determine whether his estimate seems reasonable. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “make a table and look for a pattern.”

Perimeter, Area, and Volume

In this unit, your student will learn that the distance around a plane shape is its perimeter. She will explore several strategies for calculating perimeter. Your student will investigate how to make a shape with a given perimeter and how different shapes can have the same perimeter. Then your student will explore the concept of area, which is the space inside a plane shape. Your student will solve problems involving area, and represent the answer using square units. She will learn the process of estimating and finding

the area of regular and irregular shapes. Next your student will learn about volume, which is the space inside a solid shape. Your student will estimate and solve volume problems and represent the answer using cubic units. The problem-solving strategies in this unit are “try, check, and revise” and “solve a simpler problem.”

Time and Temperature

In this unit, your student will solve many real-life problems involving time and temperature. Your student will learn how to tell time to the half hour, quarter hour, and to the minute on both analog and digital clocks. Your student’s knowledge of counting by fives and by ones will help your student measure time on an analog clock, while his understanding of fractions will support his comprehension of the terms “half hour” and “quarter hour.” Your student will also convert units of time and determine elapsed time. For problems involving temperature, your student will read thermometers and learn the benchmarks for freezing and boiling water in degrees Fahrenheit and degrees Celsius. These benchmarks will help your student connect appropriate temperatures for given real-world activities. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “work backward.”

Multiplying Greater Numbers

This unit extends your student’s multiplication skills beyond basic facts. Your student will explore several new strategies to estimate and multiply 2- and 3-digit numbers by a 1-digit number. Some strategies include the use of patterns, rounding rules, breaking large numbers apart, and following an expanded algorithm. Manipulatives, such as place-value blocks, arrays, or counters will continue to serve as physical hands-on learning tools for your student. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “draw a picture and write a number sentence.”

Dividing with 1-Digit Numbers

In this unit, your student will extend his division skills beyond basic facts to solve problems involving multi-digit dividends. Your student will explore multiple strategies to support his comprehension and skill development in this area. Your student will use mental math strategies and make estimates before finding actual quotients in order to ensure reasonable solutions. In addition, your student will explore the division algorithm and use it to divide numbers with a remainder. Manipulatives, such as place-value blocks, arrays, or counters will continue to serve as physical hands-on learning tools for your student. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “multiple-step problems.”

Data, Graphs, and Probability

In this unit, your student will collect, organize, display, analyze, and interpret real-world data. Your student will collect data in an organized way by using a tally chart. Once the data has been gathered, your student will display the data in pictographs and bar graphs in order to read and interpret the information. Your student will also read and use line graphs. While pictographs and bar graphs compare data, your student will determine that line graphs show how data changes over time. The next part of this unit focuses on probability. Your student will engage in experiments, list possible outcomes for an event, describe the likelihood of an event, and make predictions about an experiment. The line plot will be introduced as a way to display comparisons between data and as a tool to predict future results. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “use tables and graphs to draw conclusions.”

Manual:

Gifted and Talented Math 3 A and B Course Guide

Math Kit 3–5:

Base-ten flats, green (1 set)
Base-ten rods, green (10)
Base-ten units, green (20 cubes)
Coins (44)
Counters, 2-color (20)
Dollar bills (40)

Textbook:

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 3

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 3

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 4

Workbook:

SF enVisionMATH 3 Interactive Homework Workbook

SF enVisionMATH 4 Interactive Homework Workbook

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 3rd – Accelerated Science
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 135000
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$360.00

Prerequisites:

Requires a grade of A from previous semester in the same subject.

Course Description – Semester 1:

This course introduces science as an adventure in learning about the world around us. Through hands-on activities, student-designed experiments, research, and guided readings, students begin exploring the life and Earth sciences. In the Earth science unit, students learn about the Earth and its changing features. In life science, they explore the living world and its organisms. Designed to accommodate a variety of learning styles, the lessons encourage students to apply new concepts through activity-centered learning, reading, and traditional research and instruction methods. Students also explore the scientific method and various careers in science.

Course Syllabus/Outline – Semester 1:

Manual:

Gifted and Talented Science 3 A and B Course Guide

Science Kit:

Hand lens
 Modeling clay

Textbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 3

Textbook (online access):

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 3

Workbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: Activity Lab Book 3
 McGraw-Hill Science: Reading and Writing 3

Course Description – Semester 2:

In this course, students explore the fascinating worlds of Earth and matter. In the Earth science unit, students study the earth's composition in detail as well as the relationships between the Earth, moon, and sun. In the physical science unit, they study the properties of matter. Lessons are designed to engage the student's natural curiosity, from building a model for investigating how simple machines work to studying why the moon's shape appears to change throughout the month. The course accommodates a range of learning styles with activity-centered learning as well as readings, research, and traditional instruction. Students also explore the scientific method and various careers in science.

Course Syllabus/Outline – Semester 2:

Manual:

Gifted and Talented Science 3 A and B Course Guide

Science Kit:

Dropper
 Goggles, safety
 Hand lens
 Modeling clay
 Thermometers (2)

Textbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 3

Textbook (online access):

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 3

Workbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: Activity Lab Book 3

McGraw-Hill Science: Reading and Writing 3

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 4th – Communication Arts
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 054800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

Throughout the course, students are exposed to a wide array of fiction and nonfiction as they develop and apply their comprehension skills. They develop the tools to understand vocabulary presented through a variety of reading material and have the opportunity to read independently, as well as to create projects in response to self-selected books. After reviewing the five stages of the writing process, students create well-organized compositions aided by effective planning tools. The basic skills of writing are reinforced with instruction in spelling, handwriting, grammar, and language usage. Daily spelling activities give students opportunities to use spelling words in context.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1

This Land is Your Land

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of diversity in the United States while learning essential reading and writing skills. The reading selections encompass several genres, including historical fiction, a modern fairy tale, realistic fiction, and articles. Your student will learn and practice reading comprehension skills, such as previewing a text, connecting reading to prior knowledge, finding the author's purpose and main idea, understanding sequence and story structure. Reading instruction also addresses fluency skills, such as reading with correct phrasing and volume, and vocabulary development strategies, such as understanding word structure, using context clues, and referring to a dictionary. Additionally, your student will learn the steps of the writing process and apply them in weekly writing assignments, which culminate in a narrative that is submitted as the first assignment for his writing portfolio. Writing models, graphic organizers, and checklists for drafting and revising are provided as support. Finally, your student will receive weekly spelling instruction, which focuses on understanding long and short vowel patterns, as well as grammar instruction in using complete sentences and understanding different sentence types.

Work and Play

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of work and play, while building on the reading and writing skills introduced in Unit 1. This unit provides thorough instruction in reading comprehension skills, such as understanding causes and effects, drawing conclusions, distinguishing between facts and opinions, asking questions while reading, and monitoring one's own understanding. The fluency and vocabulary development strategies taught in Unit 1 are reinforced throughout the unit. Your student will further develop her writing skills by composing in a variety of forms, including a news story and a job description submitted as part of her portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses new word patterns and endings, including regular and irregular plurals, and words with *r*-controlled vowels. Grammar instruction develops your student's understanding of nouns by addressing topics such as common and proper nouns, singular and plural nouns, and possessive nouns.

Patterns in Nature

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of patterns in nature. He will read a variety of selections, including a short fiction book, *Into the Sea*, a fantasy story and a myth, and nonfiction articles. Reading instruction will help your student understand causes and effects, make generalizations, and use graphic sources of information. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills, as well as vocabulary development strategies such as using context clues and understanding word structure. Your student will gain additional confidence as a writer as he learns to compose longer works, including a

friendly letter and a problem-and-solution essay submitted as part of his writing portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses a variety of topics, including homophones, compound words, and possessives. Grammar instruction focuses on verbs, including action and linking verbs, helping verbs, verb tenses, and subject-verb agreement.

Manual:

Communication Arts 4 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 4

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 4

Trade Book:

Into the Sea

Workbook:

Scott Foresman Practice Book 4

Scott Foresman The Grammar & Writing Book 4

SF Word Study and Spelling Practice Book 4

Semester 2**Puzzles and Mysteries**

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of puzzles and mysteries, while building on the reading and writing skills introduced in Language Arts 4 A. Your student will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction selections, including a play, a biography, realistic fiction, and a novel. Reading instruction in the first half of this unit develops comprehension skills such as understanding characters and setting, using graphic sources, asking questions while reading, and monitoring one's own understanding.

In the second half of this unit, your student will read award-winning author E. L. Konigsburg's novel *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. The novel tells the story of a bright but unhappy sixth grader, Claudia Kincaid, who is bored with her life in suburban Connecticut. When Claudia runs away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, she is confronted with an intriguing mystery to solve. This exciting story provides your student with the opportunity to apply previously learned reading skills to longer works while also enhancing her understanding of story elements. As your student follows Claudia's adventures, she will identify literary elements, analyze characters, and use comprehension strategies to make connections and draw conclusions.

Throughout the unit, fluency and vocabulary development strategies are reinforced. Fluency is monitored and evaluated. Your student will further develop her writing skills by composing in a variety of forms, including a travel brochure and a business letter submitted as part of her portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses final sounds, consonant sounds, and words with prefixes. Grammar instruction develops your student's understanding of pronouns and antecedents, possessive pronouns, contractions, and negatives.

Adventures by Land, Air, and Water

This unit focuses on the theme of adventure while continuing to build on the reading and writing skills introduced in earlier units. Your student will revisit core reading comprehension skills such as understanding the author's purpose, visualizing, identifying the main idea of a selection, and drawing conclusions. Additionally, this unit provides instruction in understanding story structure and text structures. Fluency and vocabulary development strategies taught in previous units are reinforced throughout the unit. Writing instruction in this unit will develop your student's ability to write persuasively as she composes in various forms, including a story review and an opinion essay submitted as part of her writing portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses new word study concepts, including Greek and Latin word

parts. Grammar instruction develops your student's understanding of modifiers, including adjectives and adverbs, comparative and superlative forms, and prepositional phrases.

Reaching for Goals

In this unit, your student will read various selections that focus on the theme of reaching a goal, including a trade book, *Mieko and the Fifth Treasure*. He will also continue to build on the reading skills introduced in earlier units, such as understanding cause-effect relationships, distinguishing between fact and opinion, generalizing, using graphic sources of information, and understanding character development and theme. This unit focuses primarily on nonfiction selections, particularly biographies. Fluency and vocabulary development strategies taught in previous units are reinforced throughout the unit. Writing instruction in this unit will develop your student's ability to understand and create informational texts. In addition to learning how to take notes and create an outline, your student will write a character sketch and an informational article submitted as part of his writing portfolio. Spelling instruction focuses on prefixes and suffixes as well as words that include silent consonants and the schwa sound. Grammar instruction develops your student's understanding of writing conventions, including conventions for capitalization, comma usage, quotation marks, and titles.

Manual:

Communication Arts 4 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 4

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 4

Trade Book:

From the Mixed-Up Files of ...
Mieko and the Fifth Treasure

Workbook:

Scott Foresman Practice Book 4
Scott Foresman The Grammar & Writing Book 4
SF Word Study and Spelling Practice Book 4

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 4th – Mathematics
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 115800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

Students expand their math skills in all four operations. They practice their addition and subtraction skills with six-digit numbers, multiplication skills with two-digit numbers, and division facts with one-digit numbers. With these skills in hand, students perform operations with fractions and decimals. Measurement is a hands-on unit that covers both customary and metric units of length, capacity, and weight. Students have the opportunity to study geometry concepts, including lines, angles, shapes, perimeter, area, congruence, and similarity. Students are also introduced to equations, statistics using data and graphing techniques, and probability concepts.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

Numeration

This unit reinforces a solid comprehension of the base ten numeration system. Previously, your student used his understanding of place value to read and write numbers in the hundreds and thousands. As your student delves deeper into place value throughout this course, he will extend his ability to read, order, compare, round, and represent larger numbers in a variety of ways. Manipulatives will play a key role in developing your student's understanding of numbers in the thousands and millions place values.

Proficiency of the concepts presented in this unit will provide your student with the foundation to grasp more complex math concepts. Finally, your student will read, write, and compare decimal values as he counts money and makes change to solve problems using real-world scenarios. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "make an organized list."

Adding and Subtracting Whole Numbers

In this unit, your student will apply her knowledge and skills of basic addition and subtraction facts to solve addition and subtraction problems involving whole numbers of greater value. As your student learns to estimate and compute sums of numbers less than 100,000, she will use her background knowledge of place value to model the process of adding and subtracting numbers in the thousands period, with and without regrouping. Several properties of addition and the breaking-apart strategy are introduced to further develop your student's addition strategies. This unit will provide your student with meaningful computational practice through word problems that are presented in authentic contexts. The problem-solving strategies that will be introduced to your student are "missing or extra information" and "draw a picture and write an equation."

Multiplication Meanings and Facts

In this unit, your student will revisit the concepts of equal groups and skip counting as he equates multiplication to repeated addition. Your student will use arrays and counters to model how multiplication works. In addition, your student will use patterns and apply properties of multiplication to multiply with the numbers 0, 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, 11, and 12. By mastering these basic multiplication facts, your student will develop his ability to solve multi-digit multiplication problems and division problems. The problem solving strategy in this unit is "draw a picture and write an equation."

Division Meanings and Facts

In this unit, your student will explore two interpretations of division: division as sharing and division as repeated subtraction. Your student will use arrays, counters, number lines, and pictures to model division. She will investigate special division rules that involve dividing by the numbers 0 and 1. Finally, your

student will practice her skills to relate a multiplication fact to a division fact. She will learn that, like addition and subtraction, multiplication and division have an inverse relationship; this means that their operations undo each other. Subsequently, your student will be able to produce related multiplication and division facts, or fact families. A strong knowledge of basic multiplication facts will lend the use of fact families as an efficient strategy for solving division facts. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “draw a picture and write an equation.”

Multiplying by 1-Digit Numbers

In this unit, your student’s knowledge of basic facts and number patterns will support him as he learns to multiply single-digit numbers by multiples of 10 and 100. Your student will use strategies, such as compatible numbers and rounding, to estimate products. This unit will also engage your student in 2-digit by 1-digit and 3-digit by 1-digit multiplication problems. The standard algorithm, expanded algorithm, and break apart strategies are some strategies that your student will employ to solve these multiplication problems. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “draw a picture and write an equation.”

Patterns and Expressions

In this unit, your student will investigate how variables are used as a symbolic representation of unknown quantities in algebraic expressions that involve addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division. Given a range of values for the variable in an algebraic expression, your student will determine corresponding solutions to the algebraic expression. Likewise, if your student is given several values for a variable, as well as their corresponding solutions, she will generate the expression or rule that shows the relationship between the variable’s values and its matching solutions. Through these exercises, your student will strengthen her skills in identifying, describing, extending, and writing a rule for patterns that repeat in predictable ways. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “use objects and reasoning.”

Multiplying by 2-Digit Numbers

In this unit, your student will multiply with multiples of 10 and 100, round factors, and use compatible numbers to estimate products. Your student will use several strategies, including arrays, tables, the traditional algorithm, and the expanded algorithm, to solve 2-digit by 2-digit multiplication problems. Your student will practice his mental math skills by multiplying greater numbers. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “two-question problems.”

Dividing by 1-Digit Divisors

In this unit, your student will estimate quotients and divide 2- and 3-digit dividends by single-digit divisors. Your student will encounter remainders in some of the division problems presented in this unit. She will use arrays and counters to visualize remainders. Your student will also analyze word problems to determine how to interpret and use remainders. Your student’s knowledge of place-value, related multiplication and division facts, and estimation will allow her to understand and use a standard algorithm when dividing with larger numbers. The standard algorithm will help your student to split the calculation into simpler steps. Finally, your student will learn how to factor a whole number. She will find that prime numbers have only two factors, while composite numbers have more than two factors. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “multiple-step problems.”

Lines, Angles, and Shapes

In this unit, your student will learn about points, lines, and planes, which are the building blocks to other geometric figures. Your student will study how the relationships between these building blocks result in the formation of several types of lines, angles, and polygons. Using a protractor, your student will measure and draw angles of varying degrees. Polygons are named by the number of sides and angles they possess, and your student will learn to identify and describe different polygons based on such attributes. While taking a closer look at triangles, your student will find that triangles are classified based on the length of their sides and by the size of their angles. Your student will also investigate the classification system of quadrilaterals. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “make and test generalizations.”

Understanding Fractions

In this unit, your student will use fraction circles, fraction strips, and other models to represent, compare, order, and estimate fractions. Your student will identify fractional parts of a whole region, whole object, and whole set. Throughout this unit, your student will explore equivalent fractions, express fractions in simplest form, and write mixed numbers and improper fractions interchangeably. Your student will use the skills that she learns in this unit in future math courses as well as in everyday tasks. Relating fractions to as many real-life examples as possible will help your student gain familiarity with the concepts presented in this unit. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “writing to explain.”

Manual:

Math 4 A and B Course Guide

Math Kit 3–5:

Base-ten flats, green (1 set)

Base-ten rods, green (10)

Base-ten units, green (20 cubes)

Coins (44)

Counters, 2-color (20)

Dollar bills (40)

Textbook:

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 4

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 4

Workbook:

SF enVisionMATH 4 Interactive Homework Workbook

Semester 2 – Units**Adding and Subtracting Fractions**

In this unit, your student will use fraction models to add and subtract fractions with like and unlike denominators. Your student will also generate equivalent fractions to determine a common denominator between two unlike fractions before he adds and subtracts the fractions. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “draw a picture and write an equation.”

Understanding Decimals

In this unit, your student will read and write decimals to the hundredths place in expanded, standard, and word form. Models of hundredths and place-value charts will help your student to understand the value that is represented by a decimal, which will allow her to compare and order decimals. Your student will learn to write decimals and fractions interchangeably and graph them on a number line. Additionally, your student will learn to write decimals and mixed numbers interchangeably and graph them on a number line. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “draw a table.”

Operations with Decimals

In this unit, your student will use models of tenths and hundredths and his knowledge of addition and subtraction basic facts to estimate and compute decimal sums and differences involving decimals through hundredths. Your student will also learn to multiply and divide a decimal by a whole number. Using standard algorithms for multiplication and division, your student will find that computing products and quotients of decimals is very similar to that of whole numbers. Your student will find that the main difference is in placing the decimal when computing products and quotients with decimal numbers. The problem-solving strategy is “try, check, and revise.”

Area and Perimeter

In this unit, your student will explore strategies for finding area and perimeter. Using centimeter grid paper, your student will determine the area of regular and irregular figures by counting the number of square units that cover the interior of the figure. Your student will also use formulas to find the area of squares, rectangles, parallelograms and triangles and to find the perimeter of polygons. Additionally, your student will explore concepts that relate area and perimeter, such as whether or not rectangles can have the same perimeter but different areas or if it is possible for rectangles to have the same area but different perimeters. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "solve a simpler problem and make a table."

Solids

This unit provides your student with opportunities to examine solids. Your student will learn to describe and classify solids based on the number of faces, edges, and vertices that comprise the solid figures. The shape of a solid's face is another attribute that your student will investigate. Your student will recognize that the two-dimensional shape, forming the faces on a solid figure, is used to represent the three-dimensional solid when the solid is opened-up as a net. Next your student will view solid figures from top, front, and side perspectives to discover that the number of unit blocks that are shown can differ, depending on the view that is taken. Volume is another concept that is included in this unit. Your student will learn to find volume of a solid figure by counting the number of cubic units that are used to fill the figure and by using a formula for volume. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is "look for a pattern."

Measurement, Time, and Temperature

In this unit, your student will learn to select appropriate tools and units to estimate and measure length, capacity, and weight in the customary system; and length, capacity, and mass in the metric system. Using a table of units, multiplication, and division, your student will convert units of measure within the same system. Next your student will study elapsed time, start time, and end time, and use computations to solve problems involving several different units of time. Your student will also learn to measure temperature and calculate changes in temperature in both degrees Fahrenheit and degrees Celsius. The use of real measuring tools, such as thermometers, scales, and clocks, as well as real items, such as cups and daily schedules, will add meaning to your student's study of measurement. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "work backward."

Data and Graphs

In this unit, your student will encounter real-world problems that require collecting, organizing, displaying, analyzing, and interpreting data. Your student will learn how to collect data in an organized way by using a tally chart. He will learn how to use different displays for different types of data, including bar graphs, line plots, line graphs, stem-and-leaf plots, and circle graphs. Your student will interpret the data that is displayed and calculate the mean, median, mode, and range. Another concept that is covered in this unit is ordered pairs. Your student will identify the ordered pair for a given point on a coordinate plane. He will also name the point, given an ordered pair. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is "make a graph."

Equations

In this unit, your student will study equations. She will determine if two equations are equal or not equal to each other. The equations presented in this unit also include variables. Your student will solve for the variable in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division equations by using the inverse operation to undo the operation of the equation. Finally, your student will develop her understanding of inequalities as she learns to find all the solutions to an inequality and to graph the solutions on a number line. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is "work backward."

Transformations, Congruence, and Symmetry

This unit will allow your student to explore how a figure can undergo three types of transformations: translation, reflection, and rotation. Your student will also examine translations, reflections, and rotations to determine the congruency of two figures. Line symmetry and rotational symmetry are also concepts that are studied in this unit. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "draw a picture."

Probability

This unit focuses your student on probability. Using objects and pictures, your student will learn to find all the possible combinations of data in a problem. Your student will use a tree diagram or multiplication to determine all the possible outcomes for a given situation. Next your student will describe the probability of an event using terms such as *certain*, *likely*, *unlikely*, and *impossible*. She will learn that the probability of an event is written as a fraction. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “use reasoning.”

Manual:

Math 4 A and B Course Guide

Math Kit 3–5:

Base-ten rods, green (10)

Base-ten units, green (20 cubes)

Counters, 2-color (20)

Game spinner, blank (1)

Number cubes, blank with 50 labels (2)

Tiles, color (20)

Tiles, fraction (51)

Textbook:

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 4

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 4

Workbook:

SF enVisionMATH 4 Interactive Homework Workbook

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 4th – Science
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 135000
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description – Semester 1:

Science is an adventure in which everyone can take part! In this first semester course, the student will be participating in scientific investigations of many different forms including simple observations and experiments. Results from these investigations will provide information about the surrounding world. The McGraw-Hill textbook, *Science: A Closer Look*, and the science kit are the primary resources for this course.

The opening unit examines volcano exploration and reviews the scientific method. The life science units examine the commonalities and differences among organisms. The Earth Science units provide an opportunity for the student to investigate the different land features on Earth, as well as how to care for Earth. In this course the student will observe seed growth, explore the effects of flooding on a riverbank, and much, much more!

The lessons in this course are designed to accommodate a variety of learning styles, and to provide a variety of opportunities for the entire family to participate in the student's education. Some lessons, or groups of lessons, in each unit are activity-centered, which allows the student to engage the new concepts he encounters through exploration and discovery; others are more traditional, requiring the student to read, research, and reflect on the underlying theory.

Course Syllabus/Outline – Semester 1:

Be a Scientist

In this introductory unit, your student will learn about the scientific method through the actions of two scientists who are studying volcanoes in Indonesia. Your student will learn how geologists Jim and Francesca use the steps of the scientific method to explore the nature of volcanic eruptions. He will read how this process helps them study the relationship between explosive volcanic eruptions and the element chlorine.

Your student will also be introduced to the many inquiry-based skills that he will use throughout this course. He will learn how to form a hypothesis, make observations, analyze data, draw conclusions, and communicate results. Before your student begins the next unit, he will learn about science safety and why it's important for scientists to be safe when conducting scientific research.

Kingdoms of Life

In this unit, your student will investigate living things. She will learn that living things have specific needs, including food, water, shelter, and oxygen. Your student will compare and contrast plant and animal cells; and she will learn how cells combine to form tissues, organs, and organ systems within organisms.

During the unit, your student will conduct an observation-based experiment with plants, which will help her understand that, like animals, plants have special organ systems that perform certain jobs. She will learn how scientists classify living things into six kingdoms and will take an in-depth look into the plant kingdom. By the end of the unit, your student will have a better understanding of plant parts and how different plants reproduce.

The Animal Kingdom

In this unit, your student will explore the animal kingdom. He will identify vertebrates and invertebrates and will study seven organ systems in animals. Your student will use the scientific method to form and test a hypothesis related to animal adaptations.

During the unit, your student will define the terms *life cycle*, *life span*, and *metamorphosis*. He will study animal reproduction and will learn how traits are passed on from parents to offspring. By the end of the unit, your student will have a better understanding of the different ways in which animals reproduce.

Exploring Ecosystems

In this unit, your student will study ecosystems, communities, and populations, and she will learn how to identify biotic and abiotic factors within an ecosystem. In addition, your student will be introduced to Earth's six major biomes: deciduous forest, tropical rain forest, grassland, desert, tundra, and taiga.

The latter part of the unit focuses on relationships among organisms in an ecosystem. Your student will define the terms *producer*, *consumer*, and *decomposer*; she will learn where these different types of organisms can be found in a food chain and in a food web. Your student will discover how organisms compete for vital resources in their ecosystems and how all organisms seek energy from food.

Surviving in Ecosystems

In this unit, your student will learn how organisms adapt to their surroundings. He will complete a reading assignment that provides examples of how certain animal species survive in desert ecosystems. Your student will also learn how some animals have body parts that are adaptations, such as a porcupine's sharp quills.

During the unit, your student will also study plant adaptations, such as a cactus' ability to store water. He will learn how an environmental change, such as a drought, can have a dramatic effect on plants in an ecosystem. By the end of the unit, your student will be able to provide examples of species that are *endangered* or *extinct*.

Shaping Earth

In this unit, your student will explore Earth's structure, along with the processes that change the shape of Earth's surface. She will learn how to identify landforms on Earth's continents as well as physical structures on the ocean floor. Your student will conduct an experiment that will help her understand how landslides can dramatically change landscapes.

Towards the end of the unit, your student will discover how mountains, earthquakes, and volcanoes form. She will define *folds* and *faults* and will learn what people can do to protect themselves in case of an earthquake. Finally, your student will study how weather-related phenomena, such as floods, forest fires, tornadoes, and hurricanes, can cause dramatic changes to Earth's surface.

Saving Earth's Resources

In this unit, your student will complete reading assignments on minerals, rocks, soil, and fossils. Your student's knowledge of natural resources will increase as he explores how fossil fuels are used and as he identifies *renewable resources* and *nonrenewable resources*.

Your student will also study Earth's supply of saltwater and freshwater. He will explore how water is used and how water can become polluted. The unit will introduce your student to conservation. Your student will read about ways he can conserve resources at home.

Manual:

Science 4 A and B Course Guide

Science Kit:

Goggles, safety
Graduated cylinder
Hand lens
Modeling clay

Textbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 4

Textbook (online access):

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 4

Workbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: Reading and Writing 4

Course Description – Semester 2:

Science is an adventure in which everyone can take part! In this second semester course, the student will be participating in scientific investigations of many different forms including simple observations and experiments. Results from these investigations will provide information about the surrounding world. The McGraw-Hill textbook, *Science: A Closer Look*, and the science kit are the primary resources for this course.

The Earth Science units provide an opportunity for the student to investigate the solar system and the effects of different climates on Earth. The Physical Science units enable the student to explore the composition and use of different forms of energy. In this course the student will analyze the effect of warmed air on weather, explore chemical reactions, create a compound machine, and much, much more!

The lessons in this course are designed to accommodate a variety of learning styles, and to provide a variety of opportunities for the entire family to participate in the student's education. Some lessons, or groups of lessons, in each unit are activity-centered, which allows the student to engage the new concepts he encounters through exploration and discovery; others are more traditional, requiring the student to read, research, and reflect on the underlying theory.

Course Syllabus/Outline – Semester 2:**Weather and Climate**

In the beginning of this unit, your student will be introduced to different types of *weather*. By studying the water cycle, your student will be able to explain how water moves on Earth's surface and through its atmosphere. She will read about various forms of precipitation and will learn how different types of weather, such as hurricanes and tornadoes, form.

In the latter part of the unit, your student will explore *climate*. She will learn that climates differ on Earth; some regions have cold and dry climates, while others have warm, humid, and rainy climates. Your student will complete the unit by conducting an experiment to investigate how large masses of warm air can affect regional climates.

The Solar System and Beyond

In this unit, your student will explore the many wonders of the universe. He will complete reading assignments that focus on Earth, the moon and sun, the inner and outer planets, and stars and constellations. Your student will practice the inquiry skill of data interpretation as he investigates a record of the moon's phases.

During the unit, your student will learn that *gravity* is the force of attraction between the sun and planets in the solar system. He will learn how scientists use telescopes to study the rocky planets and the gas giants. By the end of the unit, your student will have a greater understanding of the universe and its phenomena, including constellations.

Properties of Matter

In this unit, your student will investigate matter and how it can be measured and classified. Her reading assignments will cover the states of matter, properties of matter, and the system of measurement that scientists use to measure matter—the metric system. Your student will focus on length, width, area, volume, mass, and density.

In addition to measurement, your student will study classification. She will define the terms *element*, *atom*, *metal*, *nonmetal*, and *metalloid*; and she will learn how the elements are organized in the periodic table. By the end of the unit, your student will be prepared to study how matter can change states.

Matter and Its Changes

In this unit, your student will continue to learn about different types of matter. He will learn how to differentiate between a physical change and a chemical change and will discover that mixtures are simply combinations of matter.

In the beginning of the unit, your student will conduct an experiment that will allow him to practice using variables. He will determine how heat affects a liquid's evaporation rate. Towards the end of the unit, your student will conduct another experiment to determine if lemon juice can prevent fruit from turning brown.

Forces

Throughout this unit, your student will study forces and motion. She will define *motion*, *speed*, *velocity*, and *acceleration*, and she will learn how they are all related. Your student will watch movies that explain work, energy, and simple machines. She will discover how simple machines are used in every day life.

By the end of the unit, your student will have a better understanding of how balanced forces and unbalanced forces affect an object's motion. She will be able to explain potential energy and kinetic energy, and she will also be able to describe the following forms of energy: chemical, electrical, light, mechanical, thermal, and nuclear. Your student will read how energy can be transferred and transformed.

Energy

In this final unit, your student's knowledge of energy will increase as he studies heat, sound, light, electricity, and magnetism. The first reading assignment in the unit will help your student understand the following terms: *conduction*, *convection*, *radiation*, *insulator*, and *conductor*. Your student will go on to learn how sound is produced and how sound can travel through a medium such as air or water.

Finally, your student will explore light, electricity, and magnetism. He will learn about the electromagnetic spectrum and will discover that although light is made up of waves, it travels in a straight line. Your student will investigate positive and negative particles and how they cause an object to become electrically charged. He will end the unit by studying magnetic particles, poles, and fields.

Manual:

Science 4 A and B Course Guide

Science Kit:

Battery holder
Bell wire
Goggles, safety
Graduated cylinder
Lamp holder (2)
Lamp, miniature (2)
Magnet, bar (set of 2)
Modeling clay
Thermometer

Textbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 4

Textbook (online access):

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 4

Workbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: Reading and Writing 4

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 4th – Social Studies (MO History)
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 156600
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description – Semester 1:

This Social Studies course focuses on the study of five unique geographic regions of the United States: the Northeast, the Southeast, the Midwest, the Southwest, and the West. The course text is Scott Foresman's *Regions*. In this course, the student will explore each region in depth in order to understand the distinctive features of the regions, as well as the common threads that unite the country. The student will explore the people, land, and events that shaped the history of each region. Short stories, biographies, poetry, case studies, songs, and other resources emphasize the role of the individual in the community, as well as the concept of change over time. Multimedia resources including Teachlet[®] tutorials, videos, and interactive Web sites enhance and support the content. The student will learn geographic concepts such as place, location, and human interaction with the environment. Geography skills lessons are incorporated throughout the course.

Course Syllabus/Outline – Semester 1:

Quick Study Activities

The Quick Study book provides summaries and review activities for students. If your student has trouble with remembering and understanding the content in each lesson, it may be useful to start with the Quick Study summaries and then skim through the textbook assignment for details to help with retention and comprehension. Quick Study activities are designed to provide extra review of main ideas and details. They are never graded. Completed Quick Study activities may be used as review guides for quizzes and unit tests.

Extension Activities

There are a variety of optional extension activities. Choose the activities that best support your student's individual needs. Review assignments help to build skills and comprehension. Enrichment activities provide opportunities for students who need additional challenges to research topics in greater depth.

Activities

The Learning Coach documents feature Teach and Discuss questions for most textbook reading assignments. These questions support essential skills such as identifying main ideas, applying knowledge, making predictions, and analyzing information. Depending on your student's needs you may want to use some or all of the questions.

Portfolios

Each unit requires your student to complete one portfolio assignment to demonstrate learning. Portfolio assignments highlight creative expression and writing skills. It is recommended that you review the requirements prior to the day it is due. Some portfolio assignments are completed over more than one lesson. Look for the lessons with the portfolio icons to prepare for the assignments.

Note: Due to the dynamic nature of the online learning environment, changes may occur within a course. The online version represents the most current content for each course.

Units

1. Living in the United States
2. The Northeast
3. The Southeast
4. The Midwest

Course Description – Semester 2:

This Social Studies course focuses on the study of five unique geographic regions of the United States: the Northeast, the Southeast, the Midwest, the Southwest, and the West. The course text is Scott Foresman's *Regions*. In this course, the student will explore each region in depth in order to understand the distinctive features of the regions, as well as the common threads that unite the country. The student will explore the people, land, and events that shaped the history of each region. Short stories, biographies, poetry, case studies, songs, and other resources emphasize the role of the individual in the community, as well as the concept of change over time. Multimedia resources including Teachlet® tutorials, videos, and interactive Web sites enhance and support the content. The student will learn geographic concepts such as place, location, and human interaction with the environment. Geography skills lessons are incorporated throughout the course.

This course also offers an introduction to Missouri state history. The student will trace the state's history from the early history of Native Americans up through the 20th century. The course focuses on the state's people, government, economy, resources, and geography. The course introduces analytical skills such as recognizing change and continuity over time and identifying cause and effect. Grolier's *America the Beautiful* series is the course text.

Course Syllabus/Outline – Semester 2:**Assessments**

Quick Checks provide a review of the lesson contents. Quick checks are never graded.

Quizzes are graded assessments.

Portfolio Assignments are graded assessments. Please refer to the Missouri State History Portfolio Project guidelines for more complete details about portfolio requirements.

Discussion questions are provided as informal assessments to help the Learning Coach check for understanding.

Enrichment Activities and extension opportunities are provided throughout the course. Please help your student to choose the activities that best suit his needs.

The main resource for Unit 4 is Grolier Online®. Hyperlinks within the lessons will take students to specific sections within the Web site. This course also contains numerous links to other Internet resources. Connections Academy has made every effort to verify the content of these Web sites, but due to the constantly changing nature of the Internet, we cannot guarantee that these sites are still active and appropriate. If you find a link that is inactive, incorrect, or no longer appropriate, please contact your teacher. Always use discretion when accessing Internet-based activities; preview the Web site prior to student use to be sure that the site is appropriate for your student.

Units

1. The Midwest: Part II
2. The Southwest
3. The West
4. Missouri State History

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 4th – Accelerated Communication Arts
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 054800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$200.00

Prerequisites:

Requires a grade of A from previous semester in the same subject.

The deadline to enroll and begin this course is October 1, 2010.

Course Description:

The course is designed to be taken along with the Accelerated Literature Study course for the fourth grade level.

Connections Academy's Gifted and Talented Communication Arts 4 course provides students opportunities to work at an accelerated pace, while engaging in more complex and challenging instructional activities. Students are provided opportunities for increased student-teacher interaction and discussion, as well as increased interaction with their peers. Oral language skills are developed with instruction in oral compositions, interviews, and discussion. Writing skills are reinforced with instruction in spelling, handwriting, grammar, and language usage. Classic and award-winning children's literature carries students across oceans and through centuries as tales of adventure unfold.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

This Land is Your Land

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of diversity in the United States while learning essential reading and writing skills. The reading selections encompass several genres, including historical fiction, a modern fairy tale, realistic fiction, and articles. Your student will learn and practice reading comprehension skills such as previewing a text, connecting reading to prior knowledge, finding the author's purpose and main idea, and understanding sequence and story structure. Reading instruction also addresses fluency skills such as reading with correct phrasing and volume, and vocabulary development strategies such as understanding word structure, using context clues, and referring to a dictionary. Additionally, your student will learn the steps of the writing process and apply them in weekly writing assignments, which culminate in a narrative that is submitted as the first assignment for his writing portfolio. Writing models, graphic organizers, and checklists for drafting and revising are provided as support. Finally, your student will receive weekly spelling instruction, which focuses on understanding long and short vowel patterns, as well as grammar instruction in using complete sentences and understanding different sentence types.

Work and Play

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of work and play, while building on the reading and writing skills introduced in Unit 1. This unit provides thorough instruction in reading comprehension skills such as understanding causes and effects, drawing conclusions, distinguishing between facts and opinions, asking questions while reading, and monitoring one's own understanding. The fluency and vocabulary development strategies taught in Unit 1 are reinforced throughout the unit. Your student will further develop her writing skills by composing in a variety of forms, including a job description submitted as part of her portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses new word patterns and endings, including regular and irregular plurals, and words with *r*-controlled vowels. Grammar instruction develops your student's understanding of nouns by addressing topics such as common and proper nouns, singular and plural nouns, and possessive nouns.

Patterns in Nature

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of patterns in nature. He will read a variety of selections, including a short biography, *What Are You Figuring Now?*, a fantasy story, a myth, and nonfiction articles. Reading instruction will help your student understand causes and effects, make generalizations, and use graphic sources of information. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills, as well as vocabulary development strategies such as using context clues and understanding word structure. Your student will gain additional confidence as a writer as he learns to compose longer works, including a friendly letter and a problem-and-solution essay submitted as part of his writing portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses a variety of topics, including homophones, compound words, and possessives. Grammar instruction focuses on verbs, including action and linking verbs, helping verbs, verb tenses, and subject-verb agreement.

Manual:

Gifted Communication Arts 4 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 4

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 4

Trade Book:

What Are You Figuring Now?: Benjamin Banneker

Workbook:

Scott Foresman Practice Book 4

Scott Foresman The Grammar & Writing Book 4

SF Word Study and Spelling Practice Book 4

Semester 2 – Units

Puzzles and Mysteries

In this unit, your student will explore puzzles and mysteries while wondering about the question, "Is there an explanation for everything?" She will be exposed to various works of both fiction and nonfiction including historical fiction, realistic fiction, biographies, a play, and expository nonfiction. In addition, your student will read *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg, the story of Claudia Kincaid and her younger brother, Jamie, who decide to run away to the Museum of Art in New York City. Comprehension skills focus on writing traits such as compare and contrast, character and setting, graphic sources, and plot. Your student will also visualize, ask questions, and use prior knowledge to better understand text. Fluency skills will be modeled through the Read Aloud. The grammar skills stressed in this unit are the use of pronouns, contractions and negatives. Your student will also practice the following writing traits, sentences, focus/ideas, voice, conventions, and organization. In addition, your student will study spelling patterns, prefixes, contractions, and the consonant sounds /j/, /ks/, and /kw/. Finally, your student will use the traits and strategies from this unit to create a business letter.

Adventure by Land, Air and Water

In this unit, your student will explore adventures by land, air, and water. Through the readings of both fiction and nonfiction, she will develop her own ideas about what makes an adventure. Focused reading skills include sequence, drawing conclusions, main idea, author's purpose and compare and contrast. Your student will also review the concept of this unit, which is theme. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to learn vocabulary strategies such as using context clues and analyzing word structure. Fluency skills when reading are also highlighted. Your student will practice the writing traits of voice, word choice and focus/ideas, and she will also use adverbs, adjectives, and prepositions in writing. Spelling instruction addresses multisyllabic words, the V/CV and VC/V pattern, Greek word parts, Latin roots and

related words. Finally, your student will use the traits and strategies from this unit to create an opinion essay.

Reaching for Goals

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of reaching for goals. The stories in this unit connect to science and social studies. He will read several biographies and realistic fiction stories, as well as works of nonfiction. Comprehension skills focus on cause and effect, fact and opinion, character and theme, generalizing, and using graphic sources. Vocabulary strategies include analyzing word structure, using context clues, and using resources such as a dictionary or glossary to learn the meaning of new words. Throughout the unit, fluency rules will be modeled. Your student will explore punctuation and capitalization rules and he will practice the writing traits of organization, sentences, conventions, and focus/ideas. Spelling instruction addresses various prefixes and suffixes as well as words with silent consonants and schwa. Finally, your student will use the traits and strategies from this unit to create an informational article.

Manual:

Gifted Communication Arts 4 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 4

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 4

Trade Book:

From the Mixed-Up Files of ...
Into the Sea

Workbook:

Scott Foresman The Grammar & Writing Book 4
SF Word Study and Spelling Practice Book 4

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 4th – Accelerated Literature Study
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 054800
Number of Semesters: One
Per Semester Cost: \$200.00

Prerequisites:

Requires a grade of A from previous semester in the same subject.

The deadline to enroll and begin this course is October 1, 2010.

Course Description:

This course is designed to be taken along with the Accelerated Communication Arts first and second semester courses for the fourth grade level.

The Junior Great Books® program employs the method of interpretive readings and discussion being known as the Shared Inquiry™ method. This distinctive approach to learning enables leaders—the teachers and Learning Coaches—to foster a vibrant environment in which a student acquires the habits and strategies of a self-reliant thinker, reader, and learner. Through their own curiosity and attentive questioning, leaders serve as partners in inquiry with the student, helping him work with other students to discover meaning in a reading selection and to build interpretations. The process reaches its fullest expression in Shared Inquiry discussion, where leaders and students think and talk about an interpretive question that arises from a particular story. Using LiveLesson® sessions, the student will interact with peers twice during each unit for Shared Inquiry and presentation of personal writing. Junior Great Books includes outstanding works of literature by award-winning authors. Praised for their rich language and international range, and chosen carefully for their ability to support multiple interpretations, the stories in Junior Great Books capture students' attention and imagination and engage the best of their thinking. Progressing in reading level, conceptual complexity, and length throughout the series, the stories are the foundation for a thoughtful process of reading, discussion, and writing.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Units:

Thank You, M'am

In this unit, your student will read "Thank You, M'am." Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he has a question. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share his questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

The Gold Coin

In this unit, your student will read "The Gold Coin." Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where she has a question. She will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages to indicate places where the main character changes. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

Tuesday of the Other June

In this unit, your student will read "Tuesday of the Other June." Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he has a question. He will also practice his critical thinking skills by marking passages to comment on the main character's behavior. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share his questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during

a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

Prot and Krot

In this unit, your student will read “Prot and Krot,” a Polish folktale. Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate where she is connecting the story to her own experience or knowledge, or to indicate where she has a question. She will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages to comment on the main character’s decisions. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

Chin Yu Min and the Ginger Cat

In this unit, your student will read “Chin Yu Min and the Ginger Cat.” Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he is connecting the story to his own experience or knowledge, or to indicate where he has a question. He will also practice his critical thinking skills by marking passages to comment on the main character’s decisions. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share his questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

The Nightingale

In this unit, your student will read “Nightingale.” Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate where she is connecting the story to her own experience or knowledge, or to indicate where she has a question. She will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages to comment on the main character’s emotional transparency. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

Fresh

In this unit, your student will read “Fresh.” Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he is using his senses to visualize the story, or to indicate where he has a question. He will also practice his critical thinking skills by marking passages to comment on the main character’s preferences. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share his questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

Thunder, Elephant, and Dorobo

In this unit, your student will read “Thunder, Elephant, and Dorobo,” an African folktale. Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate where she is using her senses to visualize the story, or to indicate where she has a question. She will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages that may have more than one meaning. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the

story. At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

All Summer in a Day

In this unit, your student will read “All Summer in a Day.” Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he is using his senses to visualize the story, or to indicate where he has a question. He will also practice his critical thinking skills by marking passages that offer insight into the characters. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share his questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

Beauty and the Beast

In this unit, your student will read “Beauty and the Beast.” Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate where she visualize the story, connecting to the story, or to indicate where she has a question. She will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages to indicate the main character’s feelings. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

Textbook:

JGB Series 4 Anthology Book One

Workbook:

JGB Series 4 Reader’s Journal Book One

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 4th – Accelerated Mathematics
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 115800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$360.00

Prerequisites:

Requires a grade of A from previous semester in the same subject.

Course Description:

This course further refines students' skills of the four mathematical operations while students are introduced to more complex activities, such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals, fractions, and fractions with mixed numbers. Students are introduced to the order of operations and learn how to solve and write equations and inequalities. The study of geometry becomes more involved as students learn about polygons and solid figures. Students also extend their knowledge of graphing and probability to include circle graphs and using statistics to make prediction. Solving problems with multiple steps, increased emphasis on Algebra skills, and appropriate pacing keep gifted math students engaged in this above level content.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

Numeration

This unit reinforces a solid comprehension of the base ten numeration system. As your student delves deeper into place value throughout this course, he will extend his ability to read, order, compare, round, and represent numbers to the billions and the thousandths place values. Proficiency of the concepts presented in this unit will provide your student with the foundation to grasp more complex math concepts. This unit's problem solving strategy is "look for a pattern."

Adding and Subtracting Whole Numbers and Decimals

In this unit, your student will apply her knowledge of addition and subtraction to solve addition and subtraction problems involving whole numbers through millions and decimals through thousandths. As your student learns to estimate and compute whole number and decimal sums, she will use her background knowledge of place value to model the process of adding and subtracting with and without regrouping. Several properties of addition and the Compatible numbers strategy are used to further develop your student's addition skills. This unit will provide your student with meaningful computational practice through word problems that are presented in authentic contexts. The problem-solving strategies that will be introduced to your student is "draw a picture and write an equation" and "multiple-step problems."

Multiplying Whole Numbers

In this unit, your student will use place-value patterns and four properties of multiplication to multiply whole numbers of greater value. Your student will learn to simplify multiplication, especially when multiplying with multiples of 10, 100, and 1,000. Your student's prior mastery of basic multiplication facts will allow him to focus on new concepts, such as partial products and the traditional algorithm, to solve multi-digit multiplication problems. The problem solving strategy in this unit is "draw a picture and write an equation."

Dividing by 1-Digit Divisors

In this unit, your student will estimate and divide up to four-digit dividends by single-digit divisors. Your student will learn to simplify division, especially when dividing with a dividend that is a multiple of 10 and 100. Since relating multiplication to division serves as an efficient strategy for solving division problems, your student should be fluent with her multiplication facts. In doing so, your student will be able to concentrate on learning new skills, such as dividing within the context of money, dividing with zeros in the quotient, and dividing to find factors of whole numbers. Your student will also study the concepts of prime

and composite numbers. The problem-solving strategies in this unit are “reasonableness” and “draw a picture and write an equation.”

Dividing by 2-Digit Divisors

In this unit, your student estimates quotients and divides up to five-digit dividends with two-digit divisors. The solutions to these division problems include one-digit and two-digit quotients, as well as quotients with a remainder. Basic multiplication facts will help your student find the quotient to division problems whose dividends and divisors are multiples of 10. This unit’s problem-solving strategies are “multiple-step problems” and “missing or extra information.”

Variables and Expressions

In this unit, your student will estimate quotients and divide up to five-digit dividends with two-digit divisors. The solutions to these division problems include one-digit and two-digit quotients, as well as quotients with a remainder. Basic multiplication facts will help your student find the quotient to division problems whose dividends and divisors are multiples of 10. This unit’s problem-solving strategies are “multiple-step problems” and “missing or extra information.”

Multiplying and Dividing Decimals

In this unit, your student will use mental math strategies to estimate products and quotients of problems involving decimals. Your student will apply the standard algorithm to multiply a decimal by a whole number and to multiply a decimal by another decimal. The steps for dividing decimals, using the standard algorithm, will also be taught to divide a decimal by a whole number and to divide a decimal by another decimal. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “multiple-step problems.”

Shapes

In this unit, your student will learn about points, lines, and planes, the building blocks used to describe other geometric figures. Your student will recognize the appropriate labels that are needed in drawings of lines and rays. Also, your student will examine how to say specific lines and rays and how to write them with proper notation. Using a protractor, your student will measure and draw angles of varying degrees. Polygons are named by the number of sides and angles they possess, and your student will learn to identify and describe different polygons based on such attributes. While taking a closer look at triangles, your student will find that triangles fall into classifications according to the length of their sides or by the size of their angles. Your student will also investigate the classification system of quadrilaterals. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “make and test generalizations.”

Fractions and Decimals

In this unit, your student will identify fractional parts of a whole region and whole set. Your student will learn how division relates to fractions through the process of dividing a whole into equal parts. This unit will explain how to show equivalent fractions, express fractions in simplest form, and write mixed numbers and improper fractions interchangeably. Your student will also learn how to write tenths, hundredths, and thousandths as decimals and fractions interchangeably. Determining greatest common factor and comparing and ordering on a number line are other concepts and skills included in this unit. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “writing to explain.”

Adding and Subtracting Fractions and Mixed Numbers

In this unit, your student will use fraction models and computation skills to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers with like and unlike denominators. Your student will study the process of finding the least common multiple of two numbers in order to change unlike denominators into like denominators for addition and subtraction purposes. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “try, check, and revise.”

Manual:

Gifted and Talented Math 4 A and B Course Guide

Math Kit 3–5:

Base-ten flats, green (1 set)
Base-ten rods, green (10)
Base-ten units, green (20 cubes)
Coins (44)
Counters, 2-color (20)
Dollar bills (40)
Number cubes, blank with 50 labels (2)
Tiles, color (20)

Textbook:

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 5

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 5

Workbook:

SF enVisionMATH 5 Interactive Homework Workbook

Semester 2 – Units:**Multiplying Fractions and Mixed Numbers**

In this unit, your student will learn to multiply a fraction by a whole number and by another fraction. Multiplication of mixed numbers is another concept that is presented in this unit. Several methods, such as using repeated addition, drawing a picture, and computing products, are used to develop the concepts of multiplying with fractions and multiplying with mixed numbers. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “draw a picture and write a number sentence.”

Perimeter and Area

In this unit, your student will learn to select appropriate tools and units to measure length in the customary and metric systems. Your student will measure with greater precision by finding length to the nearest inch, half inch, quarter inch, and eighth inch in the customary system and to the nearest centimeter and millimeter in the metric system. Using formulas, your student will find the perimeter of polygons, area of squares, rectangles, and triangles, and circumference of circles. Additionally, your student will use a formula to find the area of a parallelogram and to determine the side-lengths of a parallelogram, given the area and the length of one side. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “draw a picture and make an organized list.”

Solids

This unit allows your student to examine solids in greater detail. To begin, your student will name the attributes of solid figures by their faces, edges, and vertices. Your student will identify two-dimensional shapes that constitute solid figures, as he examines nets that form solid figures upon folding. Also, your student will explore the views of solids from the various perspectives of looking from the top, front, and side. Determining surface area in square units and volume in cubic units are concepts that are studied in this unit. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “use objects and solve a simpler problem.”

Measurement Units, Time, and Temperature

In this unit, your student will learn to select appropriate tools and units to measure capacity and weight in the customary system and volume and mass in the metric system. Using multiplication and division, your student will convert units of measure within the same system. Next your student will study elapsed time, start time, and end time, and use models and computations to solve problems involving minutes, hours, days, and weeks. Your student will also study temperature changes in both degrees Fahrenheit and degrees Celsius. The use of real measuring tools, such as thermometers, scales, and clocks, as well as real items, such as cups and daily schedules, will add meaning to your student’s study of measurement. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “make a table.”

Solving and Writing Equations and Inequalities

This unit provides your student further practice with variables. The variables in this unit are used in equations that involve addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division. Your student will learn to isolate the variable in an equation in order to solve for the unknown number. Variables will also be used in inequalities. Your student will learn to solve for the variable and represent the solutions on a number line. Finally, your student will identify and write an equation for the pattern or relationship that exists between pairs of numbers that are recorded within a table. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "draw a picture and write an equation."

Ratio and Percent

In this unit, your student will learn how to read and write ratios and percents. Your student may recall her work with equivalent fractions as she studies equal ratios. The study of percents will acquaint your student with various real-world contexts that involve percentages. Additionally, your student will develop understanding and skill in writing fractions, decimals, and percents interchangeably and in determining a given percent of a whole number. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is "make a table and look for a pattern."

Equations and Graphs

In this unit, your student will study integers. A number line will give your student a visual of the sequence of positive and negative numbers and develop his understanding of integer values. Your student will use number lines on a coordinate plane to graph ordered pairs of integers. The study of integers will also include determining the distance between two integers and generating a list of ordered pairs, given the values of one variable in a given equation. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is "work backward."

Graphs and Data

In this unit, your student will encounter real-world problems that require collecting, organizing, displaying, analyzing, and interpreting data. Your student will learn how to collect data in an organized way by using frequency tables. She will learn how to display the different types of data, using bar graphs, picture graphs, line graphs, stem-and-leaf plots, histograms, and circle graphs. Next, your student will interpret the data that is displayed and describe the data by finding the mean, median, mode, and range. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is "make a graph."

Transformations, Congruence, and Symmetry

This unit will allow your student to explore translations, reflections, and rotations of figures on a coordinate plane. By drawing and describing the movements on a coordinate plane, your student will see how the ordered pairs of the original figure change, depending on the type of movement that occurs. Your student will also examine congruent figures that have translated, reflected, and/or rotated. Symmetry is another concept that is studied in this unit. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "use objects."

Probability

In this unit, your student will encounter various experiments as she studies probability. Your student will use a tree diagram or multiplication to list possible outcomes for an event. Theoretical and experimental probabilities will be represented in fractional form, from which your student will make predictions about an event. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "solve a simpler problem."

Manual:

Gifted and Talented Math 4 A and B Course Guide

Math Kit 3–5:

Base-ten units, green (20 cubes)

Counters, 2-color (20)

Textbook:

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 5

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 5

Workbook:

SF enVisionMATH 5 Interactive Homework Workbook

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 4th – Accelerated Science
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 135000
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$360.00

Prerequisites:

Requires a grade of A from previous semester in the same subject.

Course Description – Semester 1:

This course deepens the student’s understanding of the life and Earth sciences through observation, research, and experimentation. Our life science unit explores the differences and commonalities between organisms. The Earth science unit investigates the Earth’s different land features and how to care for the Earth in the 21st century. Students become engaged while observing seed growth, exploring the effects of flooding on a riverbank, and conducting a variety of experiments.

Course Syllabus/Outline – Semester 1:

Manual:

Gifted and Talented Science 4 A and B Course Guide

Science Kit:

Goggles, safety
Graduated cylinder
Hand lens
Modeling clay

Textbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 4

Textbook (online access):

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 4

Workbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: Activity Lab Book 4
McGraw-Hill Science: Reading and Writing 4

Course Description – Semester 2:

Students become investigators in this course where they use a variety of techniques to collect information about the world around them. In Earth science, our investigators study the effects of different climates on Earth and begin exploring the solar system. In our physical science unit, they study the composition and use of different forms of energy. Through a range of hands-on experiments and observation, they analyze the effect of warmed air on weather, explore chemical reactions, and create a compound machine. Students deepen their understanding of the material through a long-term science project chosen from an approved list and shared at the semester’s end with fellow students.

Course Syllabus/Outline – Semester 2:

Manual:

Gifted and Talented Science 4 A and B Course Guide

Science Kit:

Battery holder
Bell wire
Goggles, safety
Graduated cylinder
Lamp holder (2)

Lamp, miniature (2)
Magnet, bar (set of 2)
Modeling clay
Thermometer

Textbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 4

Textbook (online access):

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 4

Workbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: Activity Lab Book 4

McGraw-Hill Science: Reading and Writing 4

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 5th – Communication Arts
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 054800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

Students continue to develop their reading skills as they are introduced to novels and poetry. Critical thinking skills are intertwined with activities using novels in order to sharpen students' analytical abilities. Reading comprehension instruction allows students to practice identifying main ideas and themes in any given reading passage. Students continue to develop their writing skills by focusing on structure, format, and grammar, with a concentration on crafting quality sentences, organizing paragraphs, writing summaries, and adding detail to writing. Grammar is included in this course to provide year-long exposure to the parts of speech and their functions.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

Meeting Challenges

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of meeting challenges while learning essential reading and writing skills. The reading selections encompass several genres, including humorous fiction and tall tales, historical fiction, biography, and expository nonfiction. Additionally, your student will explore the unit theme by reading *Childtimes*, a family memoir spanning three generations. Your student will learn and practice reading comprehension skills, such as understanding plot, characterization, setting, and theme; understanding sequence; and understanding causes and effects. Reading instruction also addresses fluency skills, such as reading with correct phrasing and tone, and vocabulary development strategies, such as understanding word structure, using context clues, and referring to a dictionary. Additionally, your student will learn the steps of the writing process and apply them in weekly writing assignments, which culminate in a personal narrative submitted as the first assignment for his writing portfolio. Writing models, graphic organizers, and checklists for drafting and revising are provided as support. Finally, your student will receive weekly spelling instruction, which focuses on understanding letter patterns and word structure, as well as grammar instruction in using complete sentences and understanding different sentence types.

Doing the Right Thing

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of doing what is right, while building on the reading and writing skills introduced in Unit 1. This unit provides thorough instruction in reading comprehension skills, such as comparing and contrasting, understanding the author's purpose, understanding causes and effects, and distinguishing between facts and opinions. The fluency and vocabulary development strategies taught in Unit 1 are reinforced throughout the unit. Your student will further develop her writing skills by composing in a variety of forms, including a summary and a news story submitted as part of her portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses word patterns and endings, including irregular plurals and words with r-controlled vowels. Grammar instruction develops your student's understanding of nouns and verbs by addressing topics such as regular and irregular plural nouns, action and linking verbs, and subject-verb agreement.

Inventors and Artists

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of how inventors and artists have made an impact on the world. He will read a variety of selections, focusing primarily on biography and other expository nonfiction selections. Reading instruction will help your student to understand main ideas and details, identify facts and opinions, and use graphic sources of information. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills, as well as vocabulary development strategies such as understanding word roots,

context clues, and word structure. He will gain additional confidence as a writer as he learns to compose longer works, including a skit and a comparison/contrast essay submitted as part of the writing portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses a variety of topics. Grammar instruction focuses on verb forms and prepositions.

Manual:

Communication Arts 5 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 5

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 5

Trade Book:

Childtimes

Workbook:

Scott Foresman Practice Book 5

Scott Foresman The Grammar & Writing Book 5

SF Word Study and Spelling Practice Book 5

Semester 2 – Units

Adapting

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of how people and animals adapt to new and challenging situations. She will read a variety of selections including prose, drama, and nonfiction selections. Reading instruction will help your student draw conclusions, generalize, and use graphic sources of information. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills, as well as vocabulary development strategies such as understanding word roots, context clues, and word structure. She will gain additional confidence as a writer as she learns to compose longer works, including an e-mail, journal entry, narrative story, play, and descriptive piece. Spelling instruction addresses a variety of topics. Grammar instruction focuses on pronouns and antecedents.

Adventurers

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of how people seek and experience adventures. She will read a variety of selections including humorous and science fiction, narrative and expository nonfiction, as well as an interview. Reading instruction will help your student use graphic sources, recognize character, plot, and author's purpose as well as cause and effect. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills, as well as vocabulary development strategies, such as using a dictionary or glossary, context clues, and word structure. She will gain additional confidence as a writer as she learns to compose longer works, including an editorial, biographical sketch, and advertisement. Spelling instruction addresses a variety of topics. Grammar instruction includes contractions, negatives, adverbs, and adjectives.

The Unexpected

In this unit, your student will read various selections that explore the theme of what we can learn from encounters with the unexpected. The unit includes a wide range of reading selections, from expository nonfiction to myth, and concludes with Louise Fitzhugh's classic novel *Harriet the Spy*. Reading instruction in the first half of this unit builds on the reading skills introduced in earlier units, such as comparing and contrasting, distinguishing between fact and opinion, and understanding sequence. Fluency and vocabulary development strategies taught in previous units are reinforced throughout the unit.

In the second half of this unit, your student will read Louise Fitzhugh's novel *Harriet the Spy*.

The novel tells the story of a young girl named Harriet M. Welsch, who considers herself a spy and takes her “job” very seriously. Harriet is a sharp observer of her friends, family members, and neighbors, and spends much of her time taking detailed notes about their habits and personality quirks. When Harriet's classmates find and read her notebook, she faces harsh consequences and must struggle to repair the friendships that she holds dear. As your student follows Harriet's intriguing story, he will identify literary elements, analyze characters, and use comprehension strategies to make connections and draw conclusions. Writing instruction in this unit will develop your student's ability to understand and create informational texts. In addition to learning how to take notes and create an outline, your student will write a humorous poem and an informational article submitted as part of his writing portfolio. Spelling instruction focuses on compound words, words with *ei* and *ie*, and easily confused words. Grammar instruction develops your student's understanding of writing conventions for punctuation, including commas and quotation marks.

Manual:

Communication Arts 5 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 5

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 5

Trade Book:

Harriet the Spy

The Search for Poison-Dart Frogs

Workbook:

Scott Foresman Practice Book 5

Scott Foresman The Grammar & Writing Book 5

SF Word Study and Spelling Practice Book 5

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 5th – Mathematics
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 115800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

While further refining their skills of the four mathematical operations, students are introduced to more complex activities, such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals, fractions, and fractions with mixed numbers. Students are introduced to the order of operations and learn how to solve and write equations and inequalities. The study of geometry becomes more involved as students learn about polygons and solid figures. Students also extend their knowledge of graphing and probability to include circle graphs and using statistics to make predictions.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

Numeration

This unit reinforces a solid comprehension of the base ten numeration system. As your student delves deeper into place value throughout this course, he will extend his ability to read, order, compare, round, and represent numbers to the billions and the thousandths place values. Proficiency of the concepts presented in this unit will provide your student with the foundation to grasp more complex math concepts. This unit's problem solving strategy is "look for a pattern."

Adding and Subtracting Whole Numbers and Decimals

In this unit, your student will apply her knowledge of basic addition and subtraction facts to solve addition and subtraction problems involving whole numbers and decimals. As your student learns to estimate and compute whole number and decimal sums, she will use her background knowledge of place value to model the process of adding and subtracting with and without regrouping. Several properties of addition and the Compatible numbers strategy are used to further develop your student's addition skills. This unit will provide your student with meaningful computational practice through word problems that are presented in authentic contexts. The problem-solving strategies that will be introduced to your student is "draw a picture and write an equation" and "multiple-step problems."

Multiplying Whole Numbers

In this unit, your student will use place-value patterns and four properties of multiplication to multiply whole numbers of greater value. Your student will learn to simplify multiplication, especially when multiplying with multiples of 10, 100, and 1,000. Your student's prior mastery of basic multiplication facts will allow him to focus on new concepts, such as partial products and the traditional algorithm, to solve multi-digit multiplication problems. The problem solving strategy in this unit is "draw a picture and write an equation."

Dividing by 1-Digit Divisors

In this unit, your student will estimate and divide up to four-digit dividends by single-digit divisors. Your student will learn to simplify division, especially when dividing with a dividend that is a multiple of 10 and 100. Since relating multiplication to division serves as an efficient strategy for solving division problems, your student should be fluent with her multiplication facts. In doing so, your student will be able to concentrate on learning new skills, such as dividing within the context of money, dividing with zeros in the quotient, and dividing to find factors of whole numbers. Your student will also study the concepts of prime and composite numbers. The problem-solving strategies in this unit are "reasonableness" and "draw a picture and write an equation."

Dividing by 2-Digit Divisors

In this unit, your student estimate quotients and divide up to five-digit dividends with two-digit divisors. The solutions to these division problems include one-digit and two-digit quotients, as well as quotients with a remainder. Basic multiplication facts will help your student find the quotient to division problems whose dividends and divisors are multiples of 10. This unit's problem-solving strategies are "multiple-step problems" and "missing or extra information."

Variables and Expressions

In this unit, your student will estimate quotients and divide up to five-digit dividends with two-digit divisors. The solutions to these division problems include one-digit and two-digit quotients, as well as quotients with a remainder. Basic multiplication facts will help your student find the quotient to division problems whose dividends and divisors are multiples of 10. This unit's problem-solving strategies are "multiple-step problems" and "missing or extra information."

Multiplying and Dividing Decimals

In this unit, your student will use mental math strategies to estimate products and quotients of problems involving decimals. Your student will apply the standard algorithm to multiply a decimal by a whole number and to multiply a decimal by another decimal. The steps for dividing decimals, using the standard algorithm, will also be taught to divide a decimal by a whole number and to divide a decimal by another decimal. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "multiple-step problems."

Shapes

In this unit, your student will learn about points, lines, and planes, the building blocks used to describe other geometric figures. Your student will recognize the appropriate labels that are needed in drawings of lines and rays. Also, your student will examine how to say specific lines and rays and how to write them with proper notation. Using a protractor, your student will measure and draw angles of varying degrees. Polygons are named by the number of sides and angles they possess, and your student will learn to identify and describe different polygons based on such attributes. While taking a closer look at triangles, your student will find that triangles fall into classifications according to the length of their sides or by the size of their angles. Your student will also investigate the classification system of quadrilaterals. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "make and test generalizations."

Fractions and Decimals

In this unit, your student will identify fractional parts of a whole region and whole set. Your student will learn how division relates to fractions through the process of dividing a whole into equal parts. This unit will explain how to show equivalent fractions, express fractions in simplest form, and write mixed numbers and improper fractions interchangeably. Your student will also learn how to write tenths, hundredths, and thousandths as decimals and fractions interchangeably. Determining greatest common factor and comparing and ordering on a number line are other concepts and skills included in this unit. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is "writing to explain."

Adding and Subtracting Fractions and Mixed Numbers

In this unit, your student will use fraction models and computation skills to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers with like and unlike denominators. Your student will study the process of finding the least common multiple of two numbers in order to change unlike denominators into like denominators for addition and subtraction purposes. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is "try, check, and revise."

Manual:

Math 5 A and B Course Guide

Math Kit 3–5:

Base-ten flats, green (1 set)

Base-ten rods, green (10)

Base-ten units, green (20 cubes)

Coins (44)
Counters, 2-color (20)
Dollar bills (40)
Number cubes, blank with 50 labels (2)
Tiles, color (20)

Textbook:

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 5

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 5

Workbook:

SF enVisionMATH 5 Interactive Homework Workbook

Semester 2 – Units**Multiplying Fractions and Mixed Numbers**

In this unit, your student will learn to multiply a fraction by a whole number and by another fraction. Multiplication of mixed numbers is another concept that is presented in this unit. Several methods, such as using repeated addition, drawing a picture, and computing products, are used to develop the concepts of multiplying with fractions and multiplying with mixed numbers. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “draw a picture and write a number sentence.”

Perimeter and Area

In this unit, your student will learn to select appropriate tools and units to measure length in the customary and metric systems. Your student will measure with greater precision by finding length to the nearest inch, half inch, quarter inch, and eighth inch in the customary system and to the nearest centimeter and millimeter in the metric system. Using formulas, your student will find the perimeter of polygons, area of squares, rectangles, and triangles, and circumference of circles. Additionally, your student will use a formula to find the area of a parallelogram and to determine the side-lengths of a parallelogram, given the area and the length of one side. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “draw a picture and make an organized list.”

Solids

This unit allows your student to examine solids in greater detail. To begin, your student will name the attributes of solid figures by their faces, edges, and vertices. Your student will identify two-dimensional shapes that constitute solid figures, as he examines nets that form solid figures upon folding. Also, your student will explore the views of solids from the various perspectives of looking from the top, front, and side. Determining surface area in square units and volume in cubic units are concepts that are studied in this unit. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is “use objects and solve a simpler problem.”

Measurement Units, Time, and Temperature

In this unit, your student will learn to select appropriate tools and units to measure capacity and weight in the customary system and volume and mass in the metric system. Using multiplication and division, your student will convert units of measure within the same system. Next your student will study elapsed time, start time, and end time, and use models and computations to solve problems involving minutes, hours, days, and weeks. Your student will also study temperature changes in both degrees Fahrenheit and degrees Celsius. The use of real measuring tools, such as thermometers, scales, and clocks, as well as real items, such as cups and daily schedules, will add meaning to your student’s study of measurement. This unit’s problem-solving strategy is “make a table.”

Solving and Writing Equations and Inequalities

This unit provides your student further practice with variables. The variables in this unit are used in equations that involve addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division. Your student will learn to isolate the

variable in an equation in order to solve for the unknown number. Variables will also be used in inequalities. Your student will learn to solve for the variable and represent the solutions on a number line. Finally, your student will identify and write an equation for the pattern or relationship that exists between pairs of numbers that are recorded within a table. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "draw a picture and write an equation."

Ratio and Percent

In this unit, your student will learn how to read and write ratios and percents. Your student may recall her work with equivalent fractions as she studies equal ratios. The study of percents will acquaint your student with various real-world contexts that involve percentages. Additionally, your student will develop understanding and skill in writing fractions, decimals, and percents interchangeably and in determining a given percent of a whole number. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is "make a table and look for a pattern."

Equations and Graphs

In this unit, your student will study integers. A number line will give your student a visual of the sequence of positive and negative numbers and develop his understanding of integer values. Your student will use number lines on a coordinate plane to graph ordered pairs of integers. The study of integers will also include determining the distance between two integers and generating a list of ordered pairs, given the values of one variable in a given equation. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is "work backward."

Graphs and Data

In this unit, your student will encounter real-world problems that require collecting, organizing, displaying, analyzing, and interpreting data. Your student will learn how to collect data in an organized way by using frequency tables. She will learn how to display the different types of data, using bar graphs, picture graphs, line graphs, stem-and-leaf plots, histograms, and circle graphs. Next your student will interpret the data that is displayed and describe the data by finding the mean, median, mode, and range. The problem-solving strategy in this unit is "make a graph."

Transformations, Congruence, and Symmetry

This unit will allow your student to explore translations, reflections, and rotations of figures on a coordinate plane. By drawing and describing the movements on a coordinate plane, your student will see how the ordered pairs of the original figure change, depending on the type of movement that occurs. Your student will also examine congruent figures that have been translated, reflected, and/or rotated. Symmetry is another concept that is studied in this unit.

Probability

In this unit your student will encounter various experiments as she studies probability. Your student will use a tree diagram or multiplication to list possible outcomes for an event. Theoretical and experimental probabilities will be represented in fractional form, from which your student will make predictions about an event. This unit's problem-solving strategy is "solve a simpler problem."

Manual:

Math 5 A and B Course Guide

Math Kit 3–5:

Base-ten units, green (20 cubes)

Counters, 2-color (20)

Dollar bills (40)

Tiles, color (20)

Textbook:

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 5

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman enVisionMATH 5

Workbook:

SF enVisionMATH 5 Interactive Homework Workbook

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 5th – Science
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 135000
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description – Semester 1:

Science is an ongoing process that constantly renders new discoveries! In this first semester course, the student will be sharpening his investigative skills and expanding upon his existing knowledge in order to make his own new discoveries. The McGraw-Hill textbook, *Science: A Closer Look*, and the science kit are the primary resources for the course. The opening unit explores the role of scientists and the scientific method. The life science units explore cells and heredity. The Earth science units provide an opportunity for the student to design experiments to investigate Earth's composition and the factors that affect its composition.

The lessons in this course are designed to accommodate many learning styles, and to provide a variety of opportunities for the entire family to participate in the student's education. Some lessons, or groups of lessons, in each unit are activity-centered, which allow the student to engage the new concepts he encounters through exploration and discovery; others are more traditional, requiring the student to read, research, and reflect on the underlying theory.

Course Syllabus/Outline – Semester 1:

Units:

Be a Scientist

In this introductory unit, your student will learn about the scientific method through the actions of two scientists who work for the American Museum of Natural History. Your student will learn how biologists Liliana and Susan use the steps of the scientific method to explore how diseases affect organisms. He will read how this process helps them study the parasite that causes a particular disease called malaria.

During this unit, your student will be introduced to several skills that he will use throughout this course. He will learn how to test a hypothesis and how to analyze data and form conclusions. Your student will also learn about science safety and why it's important to follow safety rules in any science laboratory.

Cells and Kingdoms

In this unit, your student will explore different forms of life on Earth. She will carefully study plant and animal cells and will identify unicellular and multicellular organisms. Your student will delve deeper into the subject of organ systems; she will learn about the specific functions of organs within a system and will conduct an experiment on the heart.

During the unit, your student will review how organisms are classified into the following groups: kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species. She will differentiate between animals that are vertebrates and invertebrates, and plants that are vascular and nonvascular. Your student will also take a closer look at bacteria and viruses. By the end of the unit, your student will have studied plant and animal classification in great detail.

Parents and Offspring

In this unit, your student will explore plant and animal life cycles. He will review the parts of a flower and will differentiate between perfect and imperfect flowers. He will also review the stages of complete metamorphosis and will learn how fertilization occurs in animals. Your student will study sexual and asexual reproduction and will learn why organisms reproduce in different ways.

During the unit, your student will learn about heredity, or the passing of traits from parents to offspring. Your student will learn about inherited traits and will explore the difference between dominant and recessive traits. By the end of this unit, your student should be able to explain how an organism can inherit a gene for a specific trait, such as blue eye color.

Interactions in Ecosystems

In this unit, your student will explore connections between organisms in an ecosystem. She will learn where producers, consumers, and decomposers fall within a food chain and will identify examples of herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores. Your student will explore how energy flows through each layer of an ecosystem—how it moves from the bottom to the top of a food pyramid.

During the unit, your student will learn how some organisms compete with each other for resources, while other organisms do things to help each other survive. Your student will learn about the following symbiotic relationships: mutualism, commensalism, and parasitism. She will also learn how organisms develop structural and/or behavioral adaptations so they can survive in a changing environment.

Ecosystems and Biomes

In this unit, your student will explore ecosystems and biomes. He will study cycles in ecosystems, including the water cycle, the carbon cycle, and the nitrogen cycle—and will be able to explain why they are important. Your student will also study changes in ecosystems and how drastic changes can cause extinction.

During the unit, your student will read about the following biomes: desert, tundra, taiga, tropical rain forest, temperate rain forest, deciduous forest, and grassland. He will also explore ecosystems that are composed of fresh water, salt water, or a mixture of both. Your student will gain a clear understanding of different environments on Earth.

Our Dynamic Earth

In this unit, your student will learn about Earth's structure. She will explore features on Earth's surface and on the ocean floor, and will define the following terms: *atmosphere*, *hydrosphere*, *lithosphere*, *asthenosphere*, and *biosphere*. Your student will also explore topography and she will make a model of a topographic map.

During the unit, your student will learn how plate tectonics is related to mountain formation, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes. She will watch several movies that explain this relationship in detail. Finally, your student will study weathering and erosion. She will be able to differentiate between chemical and physical weathering, and explain the processes of erosion and deposition.

Protecting Earth's Resources

In this unit, your student will investigate Earth's natural resources, including minerals, coal, oil, natural gas, water, and air. He will explore how fossil fuels formed and how fossils help scientists determine the age of rock layers. Your student will also learn how fossil fuels are used and will define renewable and nonrenewable resources.

During the unit, your student will conduct an experiment that will take several days to complete. He will determine what kind of soil is best for plant growth. Your student will finish the unit by reading and watching videos on air and water. He will learn why air and water are considered resources and how pollution affects them.

Manual:

Science 5 A and B Course Guide

Science Kit:

Goggles, safety

Hand lens
Modeling clay
Rock and mineral kit, basic
Streak plate

Textbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 5

Textbook (online access):

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 5

Workbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: Reading and Writing 5

Course Description – Semester 2:

Students sharpen their investigative skills and expand their scientific knowledge in order to make new discoveries. They learn about the living world in the life science units. The physical science units examine the characteristics of matter, sound, and light. The Earth science units provide an opportunity for students to investigate Earth's composition and the factors that shape its surface. Students continue to explore the scientific method and science careers.

Course Syllabus/Outline – Semester 2:**Units:****Weather Patterns**

In this unit, your student will explore weather patterns. She will learn how clouds form and why certain types of severe storms occur in specific locations. From the layers of the atmosphere to global climates, your student will explore the diverse nature of weather on Earth.

During the unit, your student will complete two labs. The first lab will require her to use the scientific inquiry skill of communication to investigate balloons. The second lab will give her the opportunity to form a hypothesis and conduct a hands-on experiment to determine if water vapor is in the air.

The Universe

In this unit, your student will read and watch movies about various aspects of the universe. He will learn about the solar system, as a whole—and will then explore the relationship between the Earth, moon, and sun. Your student will read about human exploration and the solar system.

During the unit, your student will study stars. He will learn about the colors and sizes of stars, and will be able to explain the life cycle of a star in detail. Your student will also complete a hands-on experiment to determine how craters form on planets and their moons. By the end of the unit, your student will have a better understanding of the universe.

Comparing Kinds of Matter

In this unit, your student will begin to explore matter and its properties. Your student will study the periodic table and will read about different types of elements, including metals and nonmetals. She will also explore electrical conductivity with relation to metals and nonmetals.

During the unit, your student will learn about the structure of matter and will be able to identify the parts of an atom. She will learn how to compare different kinds of matter and will explore matter in its different states. Finally, your student will learn how to make a scientific inference by completing the Inquiry Skill activity, Infer.

Physical and Chemical Changes

In this unit, your student will focus on learning about physical and chemical changes in matter. He will explore how mixtures form and will investigate whether or not a mixture can be separated into its parts. He will also investigate what temperature of water freezes the fastest—hot, warm, cool, or cold.

During the unit, your student will complete reading assignments about chemical changes, and acids and bases. He will learn how to determine whether a reaction is a chemical reaction or a physical reaction. He will also learn how salts are formed.

Using Forces

In this unit, your student will learn about forces and motion. She will complete labs that will require her to measure the acceleration of a model car and measure the effect of friction on the energy of an object. Your student will also investigate the six different types of simple machines.

During the unit, your student will learn how motion is affected by the force of gravity. She will define balanced and unbalanced forces and will explore Newton's three laws of motion. Finally, your student will learn how energy is related to work.

Using Energy

In this final unit, your student will explore various types of energy: heat, sound, light, electricity, and magnetism. He will complete three labs that will require him to develop a hypothesis about heat flow, explore the pitch of a sound, and examine the polarity of a magnet.

During the unit, your student will learn how to differentiate between heat and energy. He will also learn how light travels and how colors are made. By the end of this unit, your student will have a better understanding of different forms of energy and how energy is used.

Manual:

Science 5 A and B Course Guide

Science Kit:

Battery holder (2)
Bell wire
Cobalt chloride paper
Compass
Goggles, safety
Graduated cylinder
Lamp holder (2)
Lamp, miniature (2)
Litmus paper
Magnet, bar (set of 2)
Spring scale
Switch (2)
Thermometers (2)

Textbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 5

Textbook (online access):

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 5

Workbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: Reading and Writing 5

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 5th – Social Studies
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 156600
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$325.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

Using a thematic and chronological approach to United States history, this course allows students to trace the nation's history from the time of the earliest Americans through the 21st century. Students practice map skills as they learn about the growth of the United States, and develop their abilities to interpret sources, compare, and sequence. Students also learn about geography's influence on culture and historical events.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

Early Life, East and West

In this unit, your student will learn about the migration of large groups of people many years ago. He will focus on how past Native American and European groups moved to and settled in different regions throughout the Americas. He will also understand those factors that encouraged Europeans to travel to unknown, distant places, far from Europe.

Connections Across Continents

In this unit, your student will learn how European exploration led to settlements along North America's east coast. She will first learn how Christopher Columbus's journeys led to the establishment of Spanish colonies in the Americas with settlements by the English, French and Dutch to soon follow. She will also understand how European settlement affected Native Americans and the worldwide impact of the Columbian exchange.

Colonial Life in North America

In this unit, your student will learn how resources in the Southern, Middle, and Northern colonies helped each region prosper. He will recognize the colonists' desire to seek additional opportunities by moving to the lands west of the colonies. He will also study the causes and effects of the French and Indian War.

The American Revolution

In this unit, your student will learn how British rule resulted in conflict with the colonists. She will learn about the political and economic issues between Great Britain and the colonies that ultimately led to the American Revolution. She will trace the course of the war and its impact on the colonies.

Life in a New Nation

In this unit, your student will examine some of the political accomplishments of the new nation. He will learn how representatives from all states met in Philadelphia to adopt a new constitution. He will also learn about the birth of political parties, various efforts taken to expand the political boundaries of the nation westward, and the War of 1812.

CD/DVD:

SF Digital Learning CD-ROM: The United States

Manual:

Social Studies 5 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Social Studies: The United States

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Social Studies: The United States

Workbook:

Scott Foresman The United States Workbook

Semester 2 – Units

A Growing Nation

In this unit, your student will learn how the nineteenth century was marked as a time of change in the United States. She will learn how changes occurred in government, technology, and civil rights. She will also learn how the southern and western regions of the United States changed by the migration of people moving to those regions.

War Divides the Nation

In this unit, your student will examine the differences between the Northern and Southern states. He will study how these differences created tension and conflict between the two regions of the country. He will learn how such tension led to the secession of many Southern states. Your student will also understand how constant, ongoing tension escalated to the U.S. Civil War.

Expansion and Change

In this unit, your student will learn how change impacted human population. She will understand how innovations in transportation influenced settlement of the Western region of the United States, but also created tension between Native Americans and settlers. Your student will also learn how new technologies brought changes to society, including new jobs, cultural change, and immigration.

The United States and the World

In this unit, your student will learn how the United States increased its involvement in foreign affairs. He will focus on America's involvement and participation in World War I and World War II. He will also explore the reasons behind the Cold War, and your student will focus on the United States' involvement during the Cold War era. He will complete an independent research project on one of the major events of the 20th century.

CD/DVD:

SF Digital Learning CD-ROM: The United States

Manual:

Social Studies 5 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Social Studies: The United States

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Social Studies: The United States

Workbook:

Scott Foresman The United States Workbook

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 5th – Accelerated Communication Arts
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 054800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$200.00

Prerequisites:

Requires a grade of A from previous semester in the same subject.

The deadline to enroll and begin this course is October 1, 2010.

Course Description:

This course is designed to be taken along with the Accelerated Literature Study course for the fifth grade level.

Connections Academy's Gifted and Talented Communication Arts 5 course provides students opportunities to work at an accelerated pace, while engaging in more complex and challenging instructional activities. Students are provided opportunities for increased student-teacher discussion, as well as increased interaction with their peers. Critical thinking skills are intertwined with novel activities in order to sharpen students' analytical abilities. Reading comprehension instruction allowing students to practice identifying main ideas and themes in any given reading passage. The writing content throughout the course concentrates on crafting quality sentences, organizing paragraphs, summary writing, and adding detail to writing.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units

Meeting Challenges

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of meeting challenges while learning essential reading and writing skills. The reading selections encompass several genres, including humorous fiction and tall tales, historical fiction, biography, and expository nonfiction. Additionally, your student will explore the unit theme by reading *Childdtimes*, a family memoir spanning three generations. Your student will learn and practice reading comprehension skills, such as understanding plot, characterization, setting, and theme; understanding sequence; and understanding causes and effects. Reading instruction also addresses fluency skills, such as reading with correct phrasing and tone, and vocabulary development strategies, such as understanding word structure, using context clues, and referring to a dictionary. Additionally, your student will learn the steps of the writing process and apply them in weekly writing assignments, which culminate in a personal narrative submitted as the first assignment for his writing portfolio. Writing models, graphic organizers, and checklists for drafting and revising are provided as support. Finally, your student will receive weekly spelling instruction, which focuses on understanding letter patterns and word structure, as well as grammar instruction in using complete sentences and understanding different sentence types.

Doing the Right Thing

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of doing what is right, while building on the reading and writing skills introduced in Unit 1. This unit provides thorough instruction in reading comprehension skills, such as comparing and contrasting, understanding the author's purpose, understanding causes and effects, and distinguishing between facts and opinions. The fluency and vocabulary development strategies taught in Unit 1 are reinforced throughout the unit. Your student will further develop her writing skills by composing in a variety of forms, including a summary and a news story submitted as part of her portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses word patterns and endings, including irregular plurals and words with r-controlled vowels. Grammar instruction develops your student's understanding of nouns and verbs by addressing topics such as regular and irregular plural nouns, action and linking verbs, and subject-verb agreement.

Inventors and Artists

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of how inventors and artists have made an impact on the world. He will read a variety of selections, focusing primarily on biography and other expository nonfiction selections. Reading instruction will help your student to understand main ideas and details, identify facts and opinions, and use graphic sources of information. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills, as well as vocabulary development strategies such as understanding word roots, context clues, and word structure. He will gain additional confidence as a writer as he learns to compose longer works, including a skit and a comparison/contrast essay submitted as part of the writing portfolio. Spelling instruction addresses a variety of topics. Grammar instruction focuses on verb forms and prepositions.

Manual:

Gifted Communication Arts 5 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 5

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 5

Trade Book:

Childtimes

Workbook:

Scott Foresman Practice Book 5

Scott Foresman The Grammar & Writing Book 5

SF Word Study and Spelling Practice Book 5

Semester 2 – Units

Adapting

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of how people and animals adapt to new and challenging situations. She will read a variety of selections including prose, drama, and nonfiction selections. Reading instruction will help your student draw conclusions, generalize, and use graphic sources of information. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills, as well as vocabulary development strategies such as understanding word roots, context clues, and word structure. She will gain additional confidence as a writer as she learns to compose longer works, including an e-mail, journal entry, narrative story, play, and descriptive piece. Spelling instruction addresses a variety of topics. Grammar instruction focuses on pronouns and antecedents.

Adventurers

In this unit, your student will explore the theme of how people seek and experience adventures. She will read a variety of selections including humorous and science fiction, narrative and expository nonfiction as well as an interview. Reading instruction will help your student use graphic sources, recognize character, plot, author's purpose as well as cause and effect. Throughout the unit, your student will continue to practice fluency skills, as well as vocabulary development strategies such as using a dictionary or glossary, context clues, and word structure. She will gain additional confidence as a writer as she learns to compose longer works, including an editorial, biographical sketch, and advertisement. Spelling instruction addresses a variety of topics. Grammar instruction includes contractions, negatives, adverbs, and adjectives.

The Unexpected

In this unit, your student will read various selections that focus on the theme of what we can learn from encounters with the unexpected. He will also continue to build on the reading skills introduced in earlier units, such as drawing conclusions, finding the main idea, understanding comparing and contrasting, distinguishing between fact and opinion, and understanding sequence. This unit contains a wide range of

reading selections, from expository nonfiction to myth. In addition, your student will read, *A Wrinkle in Time*, a science fiction novel by Madeleine L'Engle, which describes the adventures of three children through space and time. Fluency and vocabulary development strategies taught in previous units are reinforced throughout the unit. Writing instruction in this unit will develop your student's ability to understand and create informational texts. In addition to learning how to take notes and create an outline, your student will write a humorous poem and an informational article submitted as part of his writing portfolio. Spelling instruction focuses on suffixes and final syllables as well as compound words and words that include *ei* and *ie*. Grammar instruction develops your student's understanding of writing conventions, including conventions for modifiers, conjunctions, commas, quotations and quotations marks, and punctuation.

Manual:

Gifted Communication Arts 5 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Scott Foresman Reading Street 5

Textbook (online access):

Scott Foresman Reading Street 5

Trade Book:

A Wrinkle in Time
Immigrant Kids

Workbook:

Scott Foresman The Grammar & Writing Book 5
SF Word Study and Spelling Practice Book 5

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 5th – Accelerated Literature Study
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 054800
Number of Semesters: One
Per Semester Cost: \$200.00

Prerequisites:

Requires a grade of A from previous semester in the same subject.

The deadline to enroll and begin this course is October 1, 2010.

Course Description:

This course is designed to be taken along with the Accelerated Communication Arts first and second semester courses for the fifth grade level.

The Junior Great Books® program employs the method of interpretive readings and discussion being known as the Shared Inquiry™ method. This distinctive approach to learning enables leaders—the teachers and Learning Coaches—to foster a vibrant environment in which a student acquires the habits and strategies of a self-reliant thinker, reader, and learner. Through their own curiosity and attentive questioning, leaders serve as partners in inquiry with the student, helping him work with other students to discover meaning in a reading selection and to build interpretations. The process reaches its fullest expression in Shared Inquiry discussion, where leaders and students think and talk about an interpretive question that arises from a particular story. Using LiveLesson® sessions, the student will interact with peers twice during each unit for Shared Inquiry and presentation of personal writing. Junior Great Books includes outstanding works of literature by award-winning authors. Praised for their rich language and international range, and chosen carefully for their ability to support multiple interpretations, the stories in Junior Great Books capture students' attention and imagination and engage the best of their thinking. Progressing in reading level, conceptual complexity, and length throughout the series, the stories are the foundation for a thoughtful process of reading, discussion, and writing.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Units:

The No-Guitar Blues

In this unit, your student will read "The No-Guitar Blues." Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he has a question. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share his questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

Kaddo's Wall

In this unit, your student will read "Kaddo's Wall," a West African folktale. Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate where she has a question. She will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages to indicate contrasting ideas in the story. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

Turquoise Horse

In this unit, your student will read "Turquoise Horse." Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he has a question. He will also practice his critical thinking skills by marking passages to indicate contrasting ideas in the story. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share his questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson®

session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

A Game of Catch

In this unit, your student will read “A Game of Catch.” Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate where she has a question. She will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages to indicate contrasting ideas in the story. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

Oliver Hyde's Dishcloth Concert

In this unit, your student will read “Oliver Hyde's Dishcloth Concert.” Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he has a question. He will also practice his critical thinking skills by marking passages to indicate contrasting ideas in the story. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share his questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

The Hundred-Dollar Bill

In this unit, your student will read “The Hundred-Dollar Bill.” Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate where she has a question. She will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages to indicate contrasting ideas in the story. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

The Invisible Child

In this unit, your student will read “The Invisible Child.” Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he has a question. He will also practice his critical thinking skills by marking passages to indicate contrasting ideas in the story. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share his questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

In the Time of the Drums

In this unit, your student will read “In the Time of the Drums,” a Gullah folktale. Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate where she has a question. She will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages to indicate magical events in the story. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

Learning the Game

In this unit, your student will read “Learning the Game.” Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate places where he has a question. He will also practice his critical

thinking skills by marking passages to indicate contrasting ideas in the story. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share his questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share his writing with his teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

The Bat-Poet

In this unit, your student will read “The Bat-Poet.” Your student will practice active reading by marking passages with notes to indicate where she has a question. She will also practice her critical thinking skills by marking passages to indicate contrasting ideas in the story. At the end of the first lesson, your student will share her questions in a Shared Inquiry™ discussion of the story during a LiveLesson® session. In the second lesson, your student will choose a writing assignment to complete that is connected to the story. At the end of the unit, your student will share her writing with her teacher and the other students during another LiveLesson session.

Textbook:

JGB Series 5 Anthology Book One

Workbook:

JGB Series 5 Reader’s Journal Book One

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 5th – Accelerated Mathematics
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 115800
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$360.00

Prerequisites:

Requires a grade of A from previous semester in the same subject.

Course Description:

For qualifying students, this course reinforces students' understanding of mathematical concepts in preparation for higher level courses. Students learn to create, analyze, and interpret graphs in their study of statistics. Geometry continues to be explored, with students classifying polygons and using measurement skills to find the perimeter, area, and volume of geometric figures. In addition to learning basic probability and permutations, students begin their algebra studies with solving equations and inequalities.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Semester 1 – Units:

Decimals and Integers

In this unit, you will learn to describe arithmetic and geometric sequences and use them to make predictions. You will graph quadratic and absolute value functions as well as use tables, rules, and graphs to model exponential growth and decay. You will identify and evaluate polynomials, and then add and subtract polynomials by using models and by combining like terms. You will also use an area model to multiply polynomials. Finally, you will use the Distributive Property to multiply two binomials and write a polynomial as the product of a monomial (GCF) and a polynomial.

Equations and Inequalities

In this unit, you will examine algebraic expressions and you will write and solve many types, including one-step and two-step equations. You will use your knowledge of expressions to help you understand inequalities and how to manipulate them. Finally, you will graph and write inequalities, as well as use multiplication and division to solve inequalities.

Exponents, Factors, and Fractions

In this unit, you will expand your knowledge of the order of operations with the inclusion of exponents. Scientific notation will be used to express unmanageable numbers. You will continue to work with fractions, simplifying, and changing fractions into mixed numbers and improper fractions. Finally, you will be introduced to rational numbers and the relationships between them, as well as fractions and decimals.

Operations With Fractions

In this unit, you will use your knowledge of fractions more extensively. You will add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers. You will practice multiplying and dividing fractions and problem solving using the Try, Check, and Revise method. Finally, you will explore the concept of precision.

Ratios, Rates, and Proportions

In this unit, you will examine equal ratios and determine whether they, or other ratios, can form proportions. Then, you will be introduced to the concept of using proportions to solve problems involving scale. Using your knowledge of proportions, you will learn to solve problems in new ways.

Percents

In this unit, you will be introduced to percents. You will discover the relationships between decimals, fractions, and percents, including percents less than 1 and greater than 100. You will then incorporate your knowledge of proportions and equations with percents to solve problems involving percents. At the end of the unit, you will examine applications of percents, as well as percents of change.

Manual:

Gifted and Talented Math 5 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Prentice Hall Mathematics: Course 2

Textbook (online access):

Prentice Hall Mathematics: Course 2

Workbook:

PH Course 2 Study Guide and Practice Workbook

Semester 2 – Units**Geometry**

In this unit, you will explore plane geometry, including lines and angles that will become very important as you begin to study geometry. You will begin measuring angles, and classifying them according to their measures. Once you grasp the concept of the figures, you will learn about bisectors and how these lines can become shapes and polygons. Finally, you will discover congruent figures and the many dimensions of circles and circle graphs.

Geometry and Measurement

In this unit, you will use your knowledge about geometry to estimate and find the area of shapes. The previous unit covered how to identify the parts of a circle and now you will use this knowledge to find the area. You will also learn how to determine surface area and volume of various figures. Finally, you will examine squares and square roots.

Patterns and Rules

In this unit, you will take a detailed look at sequences, patterns, and functions and decide what information is valuable for your purpose. Then, you will examine tables, graphs, and formulas to solve problems. Finally, you will solve problems that involve simple and compound interest.

Graphing in the Coordinate Plane

In this unit, you will use your knowledge of graphing and expand it to understand how to find the slope of a line. You will work within the coordinate plane to determine the relationships between lines and points in all of the quadrants. Finally, you will explore nonlinear relationships and the different ways that shapes can move on a plane: reflection, rotation, and symmetry.

Displaying and Analyzing Data

In this unit, you will use different visual applications to graph and display data. Some applications include frequency tables, box-and whisker plots, scatter plots, stem-and-leaf plots, histograms, and spreadsheets. You will read about sampling and random surveys to collect information.

Using Probability

In this unit, you will work with both theoretical and experimental probability. You will be given various circumstances in which to use probability and understand that it is an important aspect of mental math. Finally, permutations and combinations will be used to help you master the complexity of geometry.

Manual:

Gifted and Talented Math 5 A and B Course Guide

Textbook:

Prentice Hall Mathematics: Course 2

Textbook (online access):

Prentice Hall Mathematics: Course 2

Workbook:

PH Course 2 Study Guide and Practice Workbook

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: 5th – Accelerated Science
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 135000
Number of Semesters: Two
Per Semester Cost: \$360.00

Prerequisites:

Requires a grade of A from previous semester in the same subject.

Course Description – Semester 1:

This exciting course encourages students to see themselves as scientists by empowering them to make their own discoveries. Students begin by studying the roles of scientists and the scientific method and then explore the Earth and life sciences in the context of the discoverer. In life science, they study cells and heredity. In Earth science, students design their own experiments for investigating the earth's composition and the factors affecting that composition. A range of activity-based learning and traditional instruction engages students of diverse learning styles.

Course Syllabus/Outline – Semester 1:

Manual:

Gifted and Talented Science 5 A and B Course Guide

Science Kit:

Goggles, safety
Hand lens
Modeling clay
Rock and mineral kit, basic

Textbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 5

Textbook (online access):

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 5

Workbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: Activity Lab Book 5
McGraw-Hill Science: Reading and Writing 5

Course Description – Semester 2:

Students continue their journeys as scientific explorers, studying the living world in life science and the characteristics of matter, sound, and light in our physical science unit. In the Earth science unit, students investigate the Earth's composition and the forces shaping its surface. Students continue to explore the scientific method and careers in science.

Course Syllabus/Outline – Semester 2:

Manual:

Gifted and Talented Science 5 A and B Course Guide

Science Kit:

Battery holder (2)
Bell wire
Cobalt chloride paper
Compass
Goggles, safety
Graduated cylinder
Lamp holder (2)

Lamp, miniature (2)
Litmus paper
Magnet, bar (set of 2)
Spring scale
Switch (2)
Thermometers (2)

Textbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 5

Textbook (online access):

McGraw-Hill Science: A Closer Look 5

Workbook:

McGraw-Hill Science: Activity Lab Book 5

McGraw-Hill Science: Reading and Writing 5

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: French 1
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 064900
Number of Semesters: One
Per Semester Cost: \$225.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

The Children's French I course introduces students to the French language through activities such as singing, acting, drawing, and telling stories. Interactive games allow students to master vocabulary from adventure-based stories. The differentiated activities in this course help the students to express themselves in French and gain a general understanding of French grammar.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: French II
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 064900
Number of Semesters: One
Per Semester Cost: \$225.00

Prerequisites:

Successful completion of Children's French I

Course Description:

Children's French II employs a unique approach to building French fluency quickly and effortlessly. The stories are first introduced in English and then retold a number of times with progressively more French. Although the course focuses on the oral aspect of the language, there is more exposure to reading and writing than in the previous level.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: French III
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 064900
Number of Semesters: One
Per Semester Cost: \$225.00

Prerequisites:

Successful completion of Children's French II.

Course Description:

This course engages students through the use of storytelling and solving puzzles, allowing students the opportunity to be active participants. The vocabulary learned in Children's French II will help students adapt to the faster pace of this course. The Children's French III course encourages the development of language skills by incorporating more French into the adventure-based stories. By the end of the course, students are able to read and understand passages written entirely in the target language.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: Spanish I
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 066300
Number of Semesters: One
Per Semester Cost: \$225.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

The Children's Spanish I course uses a series of creative stories and games to build motivation for learning the language. Through these adventure-based stories, students gain new vocabulary and start to understand sentence structure. The stories are first introduced in English and then retold a number of times with progressively more Spanish. Eventually, it becomes an all-Spanish story, and students are prepared to understand and retell the stories in Spanish.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: Spanish II
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 066300
Number of Semesters: One
Per Semester Cost: \$225.00

Prerequisites:

Successful completion of Children's Spanish I

Course Description:

Children's Spanish II employs a unique approach to building Spanish fluency quickly and effortlessly. The stories are first introduced in English and then retold a number of times with progressively more Spanish. Although the course focuses on the oral aspect of the language, there is more exposure to reading and writing than in the previous level. Fascinating information on Hispanic culture is gracefully interwoven into the captivating adventure stories.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: Spanish III
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 066300
Number of Semesters: One
Per Semester Cost: \$225.00

Prerequisites:

Successful completion of Children's Spanish II.

Course Description:

This course engages students through the use of storytelling and solving puzzles, allowing students the opportunity to be active participants. The vocabulary learned in Children's Spanish II will help students adapt to the faster pace of this course. The Children's Spanish III course encourages the development of language skills by incorporating more Spanish into the adventure-based stories. By the end of the course, students are able to read and understand passages written entirely in Spanish.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Special notes from evaluation team:

Course Title: Sign Language (American) – Elem
Course Provider: Connections Academy
DESE code #: 0620000
Number of Semesters: One
Per Semester Cost: \$225.00

Prerequisites:

None

Course Description:

In this course, students are introduced to the fundamental concepts of American Sign Language. Students explore vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills using basic signing and fingerspelling techniques.

Course Syllabus/Outline:

Units:

Intro

In this unit, your student will be introduced to American Sign Language, or ASL. He will study the history of ASL and learn how it became the standard language for deaf and hard of hearing people in North America. He will also learn about some of the accepted rules of etiquette in Deaf culture. This introductory unit also teaches your student how to sign the letters of the alphabet and the mechanics of fingerspelling.

Numbers

This unit introduces the signing of numbers. Your student will learn how to sign numbers 1–100, as well as the signs for dollars and cents. A variety of fun activities give your student a chance to practice using ASL to discuss counting and using money.

Time

In this unit, your student will study various aspects of time. Not only will he learn how to communicate time using ASL, he will also learn the signs for the 7 days of the week and the 12 months of the year. The signs for various holidays as well as the four seasons are also taught in this unit.

Nouns

Your student will learn the signs for some commonly used nouns. The categories of family, places, food, colors, and animals are explored as your student practices these signs to add to her growing library of American Sign Language knowledge.

Descriptions

The lessons in this unit will teach your student how to sign various descriptions using American Sign Language. He will learn how to sign descriptive words that express feelings, sizes, possessions, and locations. In addition, he will combine some previously taught signs for numbers, time, and nouns, with descriptive signs taught in this unit.

Special notes from evaluation team: