

D3 My Way K-5 Course Descriptions

- **Kindergarten**

- **Language Arts A&B**

This Kindergarten Language Arts course will teach students to identify and write all letters, produce letter sounds and also frequently used phonograms. Students will also master weekly sight words and reading and comprehension strategies to grow as readers. All Common Core K LA standards are met in this course.

- **Science**

- **Semester A:**

In Kindergarten Science, students in this course will use their senses to explore their world. Students experience nature walks, gardening, and imitative games by exploring varying concepts.

- **Semester B:**

Students in this course will continue using their senses to explore their world. Students experience nature walks, gardening, and imitative games by exploring varying concepts.

- **Social Studies**

- **Semester A:**

The course introduces students to their place in the community and the responsibilities of being a member of society. Great figures of U.S. history such as Pocahontas, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln are a focus of learning in this semester. Students will also learn about everyday heroes, the responsibilities of pet ownership, the importance of rules, table manners, and eating well. A skill that students will practice throughout the semester is retelling stories. Students may do this by recording audio, retelling the stories orally, or writing their observations. They will learn how to use details and basics of narratives. Projects will help students think about what pets need and define emotions.

- **Semester B:**

In the second semester, students are introduced to map reading skills. They will be taught to read maps of the U.S. and the world. From learning about location, to how water is represented, to floor plans, students are introduced to map skills that will last a lifetime. Students will also learn about symbols of the U.S. such as the American flag and the eagle. From there students learn about holidays with a particular focus on Thanksgiving. Another focus is on

currency. They will be introduced to what money is, how money can be spent, the power of buying locally, and the difference between wants and needs. Projects will include a piece on distinguishing facts from fiction, buying locally, and focusing on the differences between needs and wants.

- **Math**

- **Semester A:**

During the first semester students will learn foundational math facts. They will learn to count to 12, how to compare sizes, ordinal numbers putting items in order, what a number line is and its uses, basic measurements such as inches and feet, and how to tell time on digital and analog clocks.

Students will have many opportunities to practice these new concepts by interacting with online confirmation exercises and filling out worksheets offline. A special emphasis this semester is for students to have fun with numbers, finding success with concepts such as bigger and smaller and being comfortable in an online environment.

- **Semester B:**

Students learn to count to twenty. They work with comparing objects using the terms tall, longer, and shorter as well as comparing two objects using the terms lighter and heavier. They will continue their exploration of basic geometric shapes such as cones and spheres. They will work with the concept of first, middle, and last. Arranging and sorting receive special emphasis this semester. Students will also work on writing numbers with 3, 4, and 5 given special attention. Students will learn the concepts of left and right. Coins are also a focus as students will count pennies, nickels, and dimes. Finally, the number 7 is studied using the colors of the rainbow. Projects include making paper fingers and thumbs and creating designs with them. They will also make the numbers 1-10 out of dough.

- **1st Grade**

- **Language Arts**

This First Grade Language Arts course will teach students to identify and write all letters, produce letter sounds and also frequently used phonograms. Students will also master weekly sight words and reading and comprehension strategies to grow as readers. All Common Core 1 LA standards are met in this course.

- **Science**

- **Semester A**

- In First Grade Science, students in this course will complete projects that are designed to allow for exploration and discovery. Students observe their surroundings and through observations of the natural world conduct inquiries into topics related to their healthy development.

- **Semester B**

- Students in this course will complete projects that are designed to allow for exploration and discovery. Students observe their surroundings and through observations of the natural world conduct inquiries into topics related to their healthy development.

- **Social Studies**

- **Semester A**

- In this semester, students begin to explore basic fundamentals of social studies including map skills, cardinal directions, and will begin to examine maps of the U.S. and the globe. Students will also be introduced to important figures from American history such as Pocahontas, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Clara Barton. A skill that students will practice throughout the semester is retelling stories. Students may do this by recording audio, retelling the stories orally, or writing their observations. They will learn how to use details and basics of narratives. Students will also make maps of their homes, neighborhoods, as well as a personal timeline.

- **Semester B**

- The second semester has a focus on introductory economics. They will study bartering, goods and services, jobs in the community, and how the marketplace works. Another focus is on positive character traits such as honesty, what the aspects of personal responsibility are, and how to help and respect others. Historic figures such as Clara Barton and characters from fiction and folklore are used as models for teaching positive traits. Students will continue practicing their five finger retelling skill with assignments on Martin Alonso (a sailor with Columbus) and George Washington. Projects will help students think about thoughtful words, showing respect, and being honest. Learners will write, draw, and perform in these projects.

- **Math**

- **Semester A**

- During the first semester students will build fluency with basic math facts. They will learn to count to 100, basic addition and subtraction facts, and how

to add double-digit numbers. Students will be introduced to such new concepts as word problems, Venn diagrams, and basic geometric concepts. There is an emphasis on learning practical skills such as reading thermometers, looking at maps, and understanding the value of coins. Students will have multiple opportunities to practice new skills and knowledge through using integrated online practice problems.

Semester B

During the second semester students will begin counting by twos, fives, and tens. They will learn both vertical addition and subtraction. Students are introduced to multiplication and division and the signs used in those operations. They will also study even and odd numbers. Students continue their exploration of geometric shapes through drawing and apply what they learn about shapes by sorting various figures in Venn diagrams. They will also use a balance beam to understand the concept of weight – lighter versus heavier. As in semester A, students will have multiple opportunities to practice new skills and knowledge through using integrated online practice problems.

- **2nd Grade**

- **Language Arts**

The 2nd Grade Language Arts course will teach students to spell and write vocabulary, read more fluently, apply grammar concepts, and participate in handwriting and writing activities through thematic units. Students will also continue to master weekly sight words and reading and comprehension strategies to grow as readers. All Common Core 2 LA standards are met in this course.

- **Science**

- **Semester A**

Second Grade Science introduces students to the process of observation and how important it is to the study of science. Learners will identify their five senses and why they are critical to observation. Students will use these observation skills throughout the course as they examine many different types of animals and their environments. Students begin by observing ants in their own environments and continue onto learning the different types of birds. Students will come to understand plant and animal rhythms and will perform small experiments with plants. Stories will be used to teach the

students about nature and interactions that humans have with nature. They will continue to learn about animals and their characteristics, habitats, and their needs. Students will learn through video, audio stories, hands-on participation and observation with nature. The teachers will conduct live assessments for the topics that have been covered throughout the week's lessons. Grade 2 Science provides students with the opportunity to expand their minds and see for themselves the way that animals and nature are a part of their everyday lives.

Semester B

Semester B of Second Grade Science begins with the students learning the characteristics of the Weaverbird and Swiftlet bird. Learners will come to understand the different groupings of animals including those with vertebrates, invertebrates and warm and cold blooded animals, carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. Learners will be asked to recall the five senses that they discussed at the beginning of the course and compare them to the senses of animals. They will also learn how animals communicate and the relationship between animals and humans. The course ends with the students taking a closer look at the characteristics of reptiles, insects, birds of prey, and fish. At the close of the course students will have a deeper understanding and appreciation of animals and their habitats.

- **Social Studies**

Semester A

In second grade, students in this course will begin to explore the basic fundamentals of social studies including culture, geography, and economics. Students will explore the Ancient Cultures of China, Africa, and the Celts. Students will explore these cultures through ancient folk tales and fables. Learners will create a photo book that describes the significant events in their own life. They will also examine the importance of geography and direction. Students will learn how to locate boundaries while using a world map. Students will identify the places that were discussed in the previous lessons including Africa, China, and the British Isles. They will develop a rudimentary understanding of map symbols as they locate continents, the equator, and oceans. Students will also learn to identify on a road map where they live, rivers, mountain ranges and lakes nearby their homes. Learners will follow a step-by-step approach for successfully completing each lesson, which includes storytelling, repetition, projects, arts and crafts, and videos.

Semester B

The second semester begins by introducing learners to economics and the role that money plays in every civilization. They will take a closer look at the

economy of the Celtic people. Students learn the difference between natural, human, and capital resources. Learners will begin to understand the exchange of money for goods and services. They will gain a basic understanding of what scarcity is and why it is good that we do not always get everything that we want. Students will understand these concepts by drawing upon their understanding of the desires/wishes in their own lives. Students will also learn about desirable human qualities through the use of fables such as "The Boy Who Cried Wolf." Learners will look at individuals who have made a difference in the greater community. Students will learn about Rosa Parks and Susan B. Anthony through short stories. The end of the course asks learners to examine the diversity of the community they live in. They will be asked to recognize the different types of people around them. Students should gain an appreciation for the differences around them and how having respect for others and being honest will contribute to society as a whole. Learners will follow a step-by-step approach for successfully completing each lesson, which includes storytelling, repetition, projects, arts and crafts, and videos.

- **Math**

- **Semester A**

During the first semester students will build fluency with basic math facts and add and subtract within 100 to solve word problems using strategic methods. Students will also manipulate numbers to 1000 using knowledge of hundreds, tens, and ones. Lastly, students will demonstrate arrays with repeated addition.

- **Semester B**

During the second semester students will use place value to add and subtract within 1000. They will use place value to estimate and solve word problems to demonstrate skills. Students will measure and compare length and represent it on a number line. They will work with money and time to compare value. Students will collect data and represent it on graphs to discuss it. Lastly, they will recognize common 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes by specific characteristics.

- **3rd Grade**

- **Language Arts**

During the first semester students will continue to build their vocabulary through the study of folktales, fables, myths, informational text, dramas, poems, and stories. They will recount stories and ask and answer questions to demonstrate their knowledge of text. They will compare and contrast themes, setting and plots and distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of the text. Students will also gain information from illustrations and describe logical connections between sentences and paragraphs. They will also be introduced to writing in cursive. During the second semester students will continue to apply phonics and grammar concepts with a focus on special vowel sounds, prefixes, and suffixes. Students will continue to build writing skills by responding to reading and utilizing a broadened vocabulary in authentic writing activities where they compare and contrast stories and use process writing to compose original work. They will read with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension as they solidify their understanding within the context of the stories they read. By the end of the year, our third-grade student will read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts independently and proficiently. Students will report on a topic using descriptive details and speaking clearly and in complete sentences.

- **Science**

- **Semester A**

Third grade science introduces students to experimentation as they journey through the earth and its many miracles. They will begin by learning about the earth, the sun and the moon. By participating in simple experiments students will explore the water cycle, gravity, the weather and its patterns, various types of terrain, and the role of plants in the production of oxygen and their importance to human survival. Learners will expand their knowledge through video, pictures, short readings, projects, and hands on experiments. Learners will understand that experiments require the use of instruments, observation, recording, and drawing evidence based conclusions. Grade 3 science provides students with the opportunity to expand their minds and see for themselves the way that science is a part of their everyday lives.

- **Semester B**

Semester B of third grade science begins with the students writing a poem about the seasonal cycles. The learners continue with root formation, the interdependence of plants and humans, biomes of land and sea, extreme

weather, rocks, vertebrates and invertebrates, as well as extinction. All of these lessons are taught using video, projects, and experimentation. Semester B asks learners to look a bit deeper into things they encounter such as the ocean and weather.

- **Social Studies**

- Semester A**

- In third grade, social studies students will begin to explore the basic fundamentals of social studies including geography, civics, and economics. Learners will begin by looking at the beginning of civilization and examining the ancient Hebrew civilization, the Phoenicians, and the Kush tribe of ancient Africa. They will then move on to examining the Native American tribes of the Cherokee, Sioux, and Hopi. Students will also look at the first explorers of the Americas and learn about the beginning of the United States. In the first semester students will learn important geographical factors in the ancient civilizations, Native American tribes and in the developing United States. Students will increase their skills by creating maps and looking at the landscapes. They will take a close look at their own personal heritage by mapping their ancestry. Learners will follow a step-by-step approach for successfully completing each lesson, which includes storytelling, repetition, projects, arts and crafts, and videos.

- Semester B**

- The second semester begins with introducing learners to economics and the role that money plays in every civilization. Students learn the difference between natural, human, and capital resources. They also examine the production of goods, trade, specialization, and interdependence, and come to understand the importance that each individual plays in a society's economy. Learners are introduced to Civics by discussing the governmental structure of the Ancient Hebrews and Phoenicians. The purpose and importance of laws and how they are enacted as well as the establishment of government are shown through stories of the Ancient Phoenicians and Native Americans. The course ends by discussing the purpose and nature of government as it relates to the United States.

- **Math**

- Semester A**

- During the first semester, students will build flexibility with numbers as they master addition and subtraction facts as well as multiplication and division facts. Students will understand relationships between addition and subtraction, multiplication and addition and multiplication and division as

they learn to borrow, carry, and regroup in order to find sums and differences of two whole numbers up to 10,000. Students will also comprehend the place value of base ten numbers up to 1,000,000 in order to find patterns and make estimations. Lastly, they will implement a 4-step approach to solving problems and express numbers differently including translating them into Roman Numerals or expressing them as ordinal numbers.

Semester B

During the second semester, students will explore concepts of measurement including linear measurement, weight, volume, temperature, and time. They will also recognize, compare, and convert fractions. Students will write amounts of money and make change using as few coins as possible. Lastly, students will examine lines, polygons, and solid figures as they are introduced to basic concepts of geometry.

- **4th Grade**

- **Language Arts**

- **Semester A**

The 4th grade Language Arts curriculum integrates reading, writing, speaking, listening, and the study of vocabulary and grammar in a way that engages today's learners and supports them in building a broad and diverse set of literacy skills. Students study classic literature as well as more contemporary forms, including media and multimedia products. Writing assignments in semester A focus on narrative and persuasive modes and emphasize the use of reasoning and details to support opinions. Each writing assignment spans several lessons and guides students through a writing process that begins with prewriting and ends by emphasizing one or more aspects of conventions of standard written English. Students also learn how to participate in collaborative discussion and peer review sessions. In each lesson, engaging and relevant models and step-by-step instruction guide students toward mastery and appreciation of 21st century communication in all its forms and functions.

- **Semester B**

Like semester A, semester B provides an integrated curriculum. Whereas the first semester focuses on skills needed to read fiction and other literary prose, semester B teaches specific skills for reading poetry, drama, informational text. In the second semester of the course, students learn how informational text differs from literary text and how different forms of information text differ from each other. Writing assignments emphasize expository writing and guide students through research projects. Near the end of the semester, students learn how to present information orally, and using multimedia.

- **Science**

- **Semester A**

- Grade 4 Science includes the three main domains of science which are physical, life, and earth and space science. Learners will use various kinds of experimenting, including field studies, systematic observations, models, and controlled experiences. The course begins with the explanation of the scientific method which the students continue to use and build upon throughout the course. The big picture of the earth is examined as students review the life on planet earth, salt and freshwater, and fast and slow changes that occur on the planet. Students go beyond planet earth, though, as they study galaxies, the solar system and other planets. Students examine the ways that forces and motion can be measured and the concept that a single kind of matter can exist as a solid, liquid or gas. Grade 4 science uses many modes of instruction including video presentations, enrichment activities, and hands-on experimentation.

- **Semester B**

- Semester B of Grade 4 Science focuses on the relationship between heat, light, sound, and electrical energy and the way they can be transferred between each other. Learners distinguish between natural objects and objects made by humans as they examine technology and the role it plays in science. Students also look at life cycles of animals, plants, and humans and how they interact with each other. The course ends by looking at the ways that humans interact with the environment. Students will use research skills, watch videos, and get their hands dirty as they complete projects that require them to dig through dirt and trash in order to learn broader lessons that have to do with helping the environment.

- **Social Studies**

- **Semester A**

- In Semester A of Social Studies 4, students will explore the early development of the United States. Students will explore the early Native Americans and interactions with early European Settlers and the establishment of the American colonies and early American government. Students will learn about important documents in the founding of the United States and the establishment of rules and laws that has led to the formation of the federal and state governments as we know them today. Students will have the opportunity to explore their own state government and learn more about the rules and regulations that govern where they live.

- **Semester B**

- In Semester B of Social Studies 4, students will expand on their learning from Semester B, and work their way through American History to post-WWII, and science and inventions that started shaping the modern-day United States. Various concepts including economics, the environment, and American geography will be explored to give students a better idea of all the facets that shape American lives today.

- **Math**

- **Semester A**

- Grade 4 math uses a varied amount of instructional material to reinforce and teach new math skills to the 4th grade learners. Instruction includes creative videos, mathematical storytelling, practical math applications and repetition to reinforce skills throughout the course. Three areas are focused on and students will finish the course with a strong knowledge in these content areas. The first is developing an understanding and fluency with multi-digit multiplication, and developing the understanding of dividing to find quotients involving multi-digit dividends. The second is developing an understanding of fraction equivalence, addition and subtraction of fractions with like denominators, and multiplication of fractions with whole numbers. The third will be addressed in semester B.

- **Semester B**

- Semester B of grade 4 math has learners continuing to work with fractions. They will learn to multiply fractions and convert them to decimals. Students will also begin to learn equivalent measurements of length, weight, mass, and capacity. They will also learn helpful skills in understanding time, distance, and money. Students will develop an understanding that geometric figures can be analyzed and classified based on their properties, such as having parallel sides, perpendicular sides, particular angle measures, and symmetry. Lessons on rectangles, line plots, angles, figure drawing, polygons, and symmetry will be taught. Semester B continues to use varied forms of instruction that allow students to learn these skills in a practical manner.

- **5th Grade**

- **Language Arts**

- The 5th grade Language Arts curriculum integrates reading, writing, speaking, listening, and the study of vocabulary and grammar in a way that engages today's learners and supports them in building a broad and diverse set of literacy skills. Students study classic literature as well as more contemporary forms, including media and multimedia products. Writing assignments in semester A focus on narrative and persuasive modes and emphasize the use of reasoning and details to support opinions. Each writing assignment spans several lessons and guides students through a writing process that begins with prewriting and ends by emphasizing one or more aspects of conventions of standard written English. Students also learn how to participate in collaborative discussion and peer review sessions. In each lesson, engaging and relevant models and step-by-step instruction guide students toward mastery and appreciation of 21st century communication in all its forms and functions.

- **Semester B**

Like semester A, semester B provides an integrated curriculum. Whereas the first semester focuses on skills needed for literary text, semester B focuses on skills for reading and analyzing informational text. In the second semester of the course, students learn how informational text differs from literary text and how different forms of information text differ from each other. Writing assignments emphasize expository writing and guide students through research projects. Near the end of the semester, students learn how to present information orally, and using multimedia.

- **Science**

- **Semester A**

- Grade 5 Science continues to build on the science skills that have been obtained in years previous. There will be an emphasis on earth and space science, life science, and physical science. Students will begin the course by focusing on earth and space science by looking at the solar system and planets. Students will come to an understanding of the concept of the earth as a sphere and the earth's place in the solar system. The course continues with a focus on physical science and the different tools that can measure force, time, and distance. They will also grow in their understanding of how light and sound travel and interact with each other as well as the different types of energy. The semester concludes with a look into life science and the ways that organisms are interconnected. Instruction will include real life application, hands-on projects and assessments, and video and short research projects.

- **Semester B**

- Semester B puts great emphasis on life science and begins by focusing on the many ecosystems of the earth and the way that all parts of ecosystems depend on each other. Students will learn the different types of ecosystems that exist. They will learn that ecosystems change and how the changes affect their ability to support their populations. Learners will examine plants; that they have different structures and how those structures allow them to respond to different needs. Students will also grow in their understanding of the importance of good nutrition to all living organisms. The course concludes with a look into the scientific process and the importance of investigations and conclusions in the study of science. Instruction will include real life application, hands-on projects and assessments, and video and short research projects.

- **Social Studies**

- **Semester A**

- Grade 5 Social Studies combines the study of United States History through the Civil War with a geographical exploration of the United States and what it has to offer. Students will use their understanding of social studies skills and concepts as they study the development of the United States. The first semester begins with early settlements of North America and allows learners to take an in-depth look into what life was like for colonists and Native

Americans. Students will come to understand the causes of the Revolutionary War and the people that played a significant role in it. The semester ends with students examining the new nation and what life was like for European immigrants and those on the frontier. Students will learn through the use of video, journaling, and varied types of creative instruction.

Semester B

Semester B begins with an exploration of the west and what life was like for those looking to find gold. Learners will then look at slavery and what led to the Civil War. The course then takes a departure from American history and takes a more in-depth look into cultures, people, and the geography of the United States from past to present. Learners will have the opportunity to explore the country region by region and come to appreciate all that it has to offer. Students will conclude the course by planning and describing a trip they would like to take to a particular place within the 50 United States. Students will take a hands-on approach as they get to know the geography, climate and culture of their country. Video, creative projects involving technology, journaling, and varied assessments will be used throughout the course.

- **Math**

Students will learn math topics outlined in this course drawing from a variety of sources, including hands-on activities, interactive lessons, and practical math applications. Students will focus on several critical areas including but not limited to developing fluency with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions. They will also learn to extend division to 2-digit divisors, integrate decimal fractions into the place value system, and increase an understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths. They will develop a fluency with whole numbers and decimal operations. The semester begins with operations and expressions, moves into decimals and money, and ends with more work on fractions. Learners will gain valuable skills as they carry out activities that model real life situations like grocery shopping throughout the semester.

Semester B

Semester B begins with students continuing to work with fractions. The first lesson focuses on ratios and challenges students to solve word problems using fractions and ratios in practical life situations. Learners continue to strengthen their math skills by studying mixed and fraction products, and fraction application, models, and division. The third critical area that students will focus on in Grade 5 Math is volume. Students will receive lessons in measurement of length, weight, and volume. They will end the course with a focus on geometry. Varied types of instruction are used to enhance their learning, including video and real life applications, activities, and creative projects.

Electives

- Keyboarding

The keyboarding course is appropriate for elementary students. The curriculum introduces new keys by rows where students first learn the middle row, then the top row and the bottom row of the keyboard. The content is designed with a strong focus on sight and high frequency words. This course assumes no keyboarding experience and will guide them through the keyboard.

*****Elementary students at D3 My Way will also participate in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) activities throughout the school year both virtually and in-person to supplement elective offerings.**