

Read/Write/Think/Speak

Shea focuses on 4 core competencies that we want all students to grow in:

Read - Deliberate encounters with content-rich non-fiction and literature.

We will expose students to a wide variety of reading experiences in language arts, math, social studies, science, and elective courses. Students can expect to read around 60 minutes each school day, and are encouraged to read at home. Teachers engage students in reading with purpose, marking the text, and developing vocabulary. Literacy skills are the #1 predictor of student academic success.

Write - Authentic writing across content grounded in textual evidence.

Students will write consistently in all content areas. Students are expected to utilize the text they are reading to inform their writing. Writing takes the form of short answer response, extended writing, journal writing, etc. Students also utilize [Revision Assistant](#), which allows them immediate feedback on their writing and helps them develop skills in the writing process. Students who can synthesize reading into coherent writing are able to communicate ideas more effectively and understand the content at a greater level.

Think - Making relevant connections to help solve interesting problems.

We live in a world that will require our students to think creatively to solve interesting problems. Math and science classes focus on real-life applications that allow our students to create connections between prior knowledge and new content. Our [problem-based math program](#) encourages a broader conceptual understanding of math and our [hands-on science program](#) gives students practical applications for science knowledge.

Speak - Structured practice in academic discussion that encourages equal participation and individual accountability.

Students need to be taught how to have academic conversations about content and have those conversations modeled for them. We purposefully teach structures to give students the skills to be more articulate in presenting their viewpoints. These collaborative structures are more engaging for students, and allow multiple viewpoints to contribute to their knowledge.