

HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
PROGRAM OF STUDIES

2024-25

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About our Program of Studies

To our HKIS Families,

Welcome to Haddam-Killingworth Intermediate School! We are proud to present our Program of Studies. This document is designed to help parents and students learn more about the themes and topics that HKIS students will be studying and the opportunities they have to explore their interests outside of the academic and applied academics curriculum.

The first section shows what a school day will be like for your child, then a description of our core academic classes, organized by subject. The following sections explain the special classes for fourth and fifth graders. We are calling them applied academics, which captures their role as complementary to the reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies that are learned within the academic classrooms. It is here where the children learn to practice their communication skills, make healthy decisions, explore and be inspired by the artwork of the people they are learning about in history, and learn the research and technology skills to be used within their other classes and throughout the remainder of their time in RSD 17. Finally, we have included examples of extra-curricular clubs at HKIS.

Eric Larson, HKIS Principal

Schedules

The intermediate school is designed as an upper elementary school for 4th and 5th graders with a unique learning environment to support the developmental needs of students academically, emotionally, socially and physically. Students will spend most of their core instructional time with one teacher and will switch together as a class for subjects with the other teacher(s) within their “duet” or “trio”.

Morning Meeting

Each day students will begin in their classroom with a morning meeting. This time is designed to come together as a class to build community and start the day in a positive way. Generally, this means a friendly greeting, a short, fun activity, and an overview of the day ahead. This may also be a time to share meaningful events going on in the students’ lives.

Grade 4 Schedule

In the 2024-25 school year, fourth grade classes will be grouped into three Duets. Here is an example of the schedule for a student. The times may shift slightly year-to-year, but the students will have two classes with their homeroom teacher, then two classes with the other teacher on the duet.

8:50	School begins: pledge, morning meeting
9:15	Academic with homeroom teacher
10:17	Applied Academics (specials)
11:03	Academic with homeroom teacher
11:48	Lunch
12:18	Recess
12:51	Academic with partner teacher
1:50	Academic with partner teacher
2:31	Personalized Learning Time
3:35	Dismissal

Grade 5 Schedule

In the 2024-25 school year, fifth grade classes will be grouped into three Duets. Here is an example of the schedule for a student. The times may shift slightly year-to-year, but the students will have two classes with their homeroom teacher, then two classes with the other teacher on the duet.

8:50	School begins: pledge, morning meeting
9:15	Academic with homeroom teacher
10:17	Academic with homeroom teacher
11:03	Applied Academics (specials)
11:48	Recess
12:18	Lunch
12:51	Personalized Learning Time
1:51	Academic with partner teacher
2:50	Academic with partner teacher
3:35	Dismissal

Example of Duet Schedules

Duet class with math and social studies/science teacher		Duet class with LA teacher	
8:50	School begins: pledge, announcements, Morning Meeting	8:50	School begins: pledge, announcements, Morning Meeting
9:15	Math with homeroom teacher	9:15	ELA with homeroom teacher
10:17	Science with homeroom teacher	10:17	ELA small group time with homeroom teacher
11:03	Art	11:03	Spanish
11:48	Recess	11:48	Recess
12:18	Lunch	12:18	Lunch
12:51	Personalized Learning Time	12:51	Personalized Learning Time
1:51	ELA with partner teacher	1:51	Math with partner teacher
2:50	ELA small group time with partner teacher	2:50	Science with partner teacher
3:35	Dismissal	3:35	Dismissal

English Language Arts

Overview

The HKIS Language Arts program builds on the knowledge and skills students learned in K-3 of reading, writing, speaking and listening needed for living literate lives. Students read and study award-winning fiction and nonfiction texts, famous works of art, videos, photographs, and more. Our students will learn about compelling topics rooted in science, history and literature such as the heart (literal and figurative), extreme settings and how humans respond to challenges, the American Revolution, Westward Expansion, word play, the Civil War and the influence of sports on individuals and society. Through their work with these topics and texts, students will hone their abilities to read challenging books and to write and speak clearly, logically and effectively. Students will write in response to text and across genres (narrative, opinion, and informational) for a variety of purposes. They will participate in speaking and listening activities such as socratic seminars, turn and talks, small group and partner work, where they will share and grow ideas. Students will build strong knowledge and skills that will transfer across grades and content areas.

Word study, and learning the conventions of academic writing are also part of language arts instruction.

Language Arts, Grade 4

The fourth grade literacy program continues the development of skills and strategies necessary for reading and understanding more complex texts independently. Through a program rich in both fiction and nonfiction, as well as a variety of other text types, students continue to build extensive vocabulary, and to grow their content knowledge.

Module 1- A Great Heart: In this module, students examine literal and figurative uses of heart through quotations from individuals including Confucius, Bill Nye (“The Science Guy”), and Helen Keller. Students deepen their understanding of the people behind these quotations about heart as they study biographies of Clara Barton, Helen Keller, and Anne Frank.

Module 2- Extreme Settings: This module is about human responses to challenges presented by nature. Students learn that challenges can be both big and small, can come from within a person or the environment, and that our responses to challenges shape the type of people we become. Students build knowledge about aspects of the environment including land features, living creatures, plants and climate, and see how the environment can be expanded through details to become a key story element in a literary text.

Module 3- The Redcoats are Coming: In this module, students learn the importance of understanding all sides of a story through a study of some of the events of the American Revolution. With a focus on identifying and understanding perspective and its impact on our understanding of events and the decisions people make, students will gain greater skill in the area of critical thinking as both readers and writers.

Language Arts, Grade 5

The fifth grade literacy program develops the skills and strategies necessary for reading, interpreting and analyzing more complex texts independently through wide reading. Through a program rich in reading across genres, students not only build, but apply extensive vocabulary, and integrate a multitude of reading strategies in order to apply higher level thinking skills and form interpretations. Fifth grade readers become increasingly more adept at generating text-related ideas and sharing them with others through writing about text and participating in socratic seminars. Fifth grade students use their knowledge and skills to write narrative, information and opinion across the school year.

In addition, students will continue to strengthen and develop their word work skills, including spelling, vocabulary and grammar.

Module 1 Cultures in Conflict: Throughout the module, as students build knowledge of American westward expansion, learn about Nez Perce culture, and study the conflict between the Nez Perce and the US government, they return over and over to the module’s Essential Question, “How do cultural beliefs and values guide people?”

Module 2 Word Play: This module explores how authors use wordplay to engage audiences, create humor and meaning, and express themes. This study centers on Norton Juster’s classic modern fantasy novel, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, which pulses with clever puns and vibrant wordplay. As students are increasingly called upon to read rich, complex texts, knowledge of how authors use wordplay and figurative language to convey meaning will empower them to unlock meaning, and it will further enrich their experiences of reading, writing.

Module 3 A War Between Us: In his module, students learn about the transformative period of American history- the Civil War. They will examine the impacts of war through various perspectives represented in novels and art they read and study closely. At the end of the module, students will write an opinion essay about the impacts of the civil war using text evidence and knowledge from the module.

Module 4 Breaking Barriers: Students explore how sports influence individuals and societies in order to develop an understanding of the sheer power of sports to bring people together, to challenge injustices, and to provide hope for the future. Students learn how the power of sports has been harnessed throughout history, and in our current day, to leave a positive, lasting impact in the world.

Mathematics

Overview

The goals of the RSD17 Elementary Mathematics Program are to develop skills, strategies and habits to foster life-long problem solvers. Students make sense of mathematics, persevere, make connections, solve problems and communicate thinking. By using the structure and relationship of numbers and operations, students compute, estimate and solve meaningful math problems. In Grades 4 and 5 students continue to develop knowledge and skills from primary grades in numeration, algebraic thinking, measurement, data and geometry. Instruction uses a balanced approach with emphasis on understanding concepts, procedural skill, computational fluency and rigorous application. Problem solving strategies, reasoning and justifying mathematical solutions are prevalent as students make connections among math concepts to develop a deep understanding.

Mathematics, Grade 4

The fourth grade math program continues to develop problem solving in three critical areas: multi-digit multiplication and division, fractions (equivalence, addition and subtraction of fractions with like denominators and multiplication of fractions by whole numbers) and understanding geometric figures based on properties such as parallel or perpendicular sides, particular angle measures and symmetry. Students expand their understanding of the base-ten system to numbers within 1,000,000 including rounding. They develop fluency in computation in all four operations using multi-digit whole numbers both in and out of context. Students connect fraction concepts to decimal notation and explore fractions greater than one. They draw, measure and identify angles and solve problems with angles and classify shapes based on attributes with angles and sides. Throughout the fourth grade experience, students are encouraged to be precise, think flexibly, make connections and explain their thinking orally and in writing using models, tools and accurate vocabulary.

- Our math units include Whole Numbers, Operations, Multi-Digit Operations, Fractions and Decimals and Geometry and Measurement.

Mathematics, Grade 5

The fifth grade math program develops math thinkers in three areas of focus: multiplying and dividing fractions and their relationship to decimals, extending division to 2-digit divisors of whole numbers and decimals and measuring volume by relating it to multiplication and division. Students further their understanding of place value and decimals and discover the importance of the place value system. They work with all four operations with decimals and see the necessity of being able to calculate with them. Students learn the importance of order in math and will persevere through order of operations problems, graphing ordered pairs, writing expressions, and identifying patterns. Grade 5 builds on the foundational understanding of fractions by extending to computation in all operations using fractions. Students add and subtract with unlike denominators, multiply fractions and divide unit fractions. Students work with customary and metric units of measurement and conversions between units. Fifth graders extend their geometric thinking about attributes to categorize 2D shapes and find volume of rectangular prisms. Throughout the fifth grade, students are encouraged to be precise, think flexibly, make connections and explain their thinking orally and in writing using models, tools and accurate vocabulary.

- Our math units include Whole Number Operations and Applications, Decimals and Fractions, More Decimals and Fractions, Measurement/Data/Geometry and Algebraic Thinking and the Coordinate Plane.

Science

Grade 4 Science

Grade 4 science focuses on a developing understanding of a variety of topics. Throughout the year, the emphasis is on the cross-cutting concepts of patterns, cause/effect relationships, energy, matter and systems. Students work on making observations, generating questions, using evidence to explain, designing and conducting investigations, creating models/diagrams and communicating about science using relevant vocabulary and evidence.

Unit Title	Compelling Questions
Unit 1: Natural Disasters and National Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● What are natural resources?● How do natural disasters impact Earth?● In what ways do human interactions impact Earth?● How can water, ice, wind and vegetation change the land?● What patterns are there in the Earth's features?
Unit 2a: Waves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● What are waves and what are some things they can do?● How are waves used to predict results and solve problems?● How do the properties of light allow us to see?● How can we use patterns to make sense of the world?
Unit 2b: Organisms - Structure and Function	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● How do internal and external structures support the survival, growth, behavior and reproduction of plants and animals?● How are organisms structured to support and sustain life?● What is biomimicry and how have human innovations been inspired by observing the natural world?
Unit 3: Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● What is energy and how is it related to motion and collisions?● How is energy transferred?● How can energy be used to solve a problem?

Grade 5 Science

The goals of 5th grade science are to engage students in scientific practices to develop broader understanding and deeper levels of scientific investigation. A heavy emphasis is placed on developing independence, organization and resourcefulness. Grade 5 science focuses on a developing understanding of a variety of topics. Throughout the year, the emphasis is on the cross-cutting concepts of patterns, scale/proportion/quantity, energy, matter and systems and systems. Students work on collecting data, revising models based on evidence, creating models/diagrams and communicating about science using relevant vocabulary and evidence.

Unit Title	Compelling Questions
Unit 1a: Properties of Matter and 1b: Shooting Stars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When matter changes, does its weight change? • Can new substances be created by combining other substances? • How do the structures and properties of matter help us solve real-world problems? • What is the Earth’s place in the universe? • How do predictable patterns of Earth impact our lives? • How do the lengths and directions of shadows or relative lengths of day and night change from day to day? • How does the appearance of some stars change in different seasons?
Unit 2: Ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does matter and energy flow through ecosystems? • Where does the energy in food come from and what is it used for? • How does a change in an ecosystem affect its balance?
Unit 3: Earth’s Water and Interconnected Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much water can be found in different places on Earth? • How do Earth’s major systems interact? • Is there enough freshwater on Earth?

Social Studies

Grade 4 Social Studies

Grade 4 social studies focuses on map reading and the regions of the United States. Throughout the year, the emphasis is on the geographic, historical, economic and civic factors that make each region unique.

United States Regions

Unit Title	Compelling Question(s)
Unit 1: Map Reading Skills	<p><u>How does where you live influence your lives?</u></p> <p>What would a map illustrating the variation and distribution of various resources reveal?</p> <p>What can be learned from maps showing the migration of people within the United States of America?</p> <p>What can be learned from a topographical map of the United States of America?</p>
<u>United States Regions</u>	<u>What are the geographical, historical, economic and civic factors that make each region unique?</u>
Unit 2: Northeast Region	<p>Why was proximity to water so important for settlement?</p> <p>What was the impact of rivers and waterways on colonial and post-colonial trade?</p>

	Why have people moved to and from the Northeast from colonial times to present day?
Unit 3: Mid-Atlantic Region	What geographic features have caused peoples to migrate to this region? What are reasons for the development of large cities in this region? How have the developments of canals and waterways affected the economic growth of this region?
Unit 4: Southeast Region	How has the geography and climate affected the development of economic and social institutions of this region? What historical events were a result of geography and climate on the region? How have the essential characteristics of the region changed during the Civil Rights Era?
Unit 5: Midwest Region	What are the reasons and results of the development of major urban centers in this region? What is the relationship between people of the Midwest and the Great Lakes and major rivers of the region? How has the immigration of different ethnic groups affected the region?
Unit 6: Southwest Region	How has the geography and climate affected the development of economic and social institutions of this region? How has the relationship between the people of the region and the Mexican neighbors evolved? How has the migration of peoples into the Southwest region affected the political and social characteristics of the region?
Unit 7: West Region	How has the geography and climate affected the development of economic and social institutions of this region? How have the economic and social features of the West attracted people to this region? What are the geographic and climatic challenges that the people of this region face?

Grade 5 Social Studies

Early United States History

Unit Title	Compelling Question(s)
Unit 1: Indigenous Peoples of North America	What makes a society thrive?
Unit 2: Europe in the 1400s and 1500s	Did the printing press preserve the past or invent the future?
Unit 3: Early Settlements and Relationships with Indigenous Peoples	What leads people to explore and leave their homeland? How did the English and the Wampanoag move from contact to cooperation to conflict? How do modern historians determine the “real story” in the past? Why do stories from the past differ?
Unit 4: The Colonies	Would you have come to the colonies? What drew people to certain colonies? What made people stay?
Unit 5: French and Indian War	Did the French lose out in North America?

Applied Academics at HKIS

Grade 4	Grade 5
Physical Education	Physical Education
Imaginations in Art	Early American Art
Roots of American Music	Musical Traditions of the World
World Language: Cultural Awareness	World Language: Spanish or French
Skill Rotation: Health/Research and Digital Citizenship	Health
Creation Rotation: Coding/Design Build	Life Skills: Practical Arts

Physical Education, Health and Practical Arts

Overview

The HKIS physical education program is designed to encourage students to develop not only physically, but also socially and emotionally, as they progress through our curriculum into responsible, respectful and physically literate young adults. Students reach these objectives through a variety of individual and group activities that stress concepts, strategies, skills, wellness theories, and lifetime activities.

In addition to the health concepts described below, students will engage in weekly Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons to learn proactively about what it is to be empathetic, how to self-regulate to achieve success socially and academically in school, how to manage feelings, how to calm-down, and to successfully manage conflict.

Health, Grade 4

Students in 4th grade health will be introduced to a variety of concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention. Students will learn through various lectures, games, activities, and projects. The course will consist of three units of study:

- Making the Right Food Choice (Decision Making & Nutrition)
- Why Do I Feel This Way? (Influences & Mental Emotional Health)
- How To Stay Healthy (Self-Management & Optimal Wellness (Hygiene))

Health, Grade 5

Students in Grade 5 health will begin to take a more hands-on approach to their health during this course. Students will learn through various lectures, games, and activities with project based learning taking the lead during two of the three units of study. The course will consist of the following units of study:

- Dangers of ANOD (Decision Making around Alcohol, Nicotine & Other Drugs)
- Talking About Puberty (Communication & Puberty - this is NOT Sex Ed) Students will be separated into gender specific groups to discuss gender specific body changes, such as menstruation.
- Injury Prevention (Accessing valid Information concerning Injuries & prevention)

Practical Arts

Practical arts is a program that creates an individual and cooperative learning environment to challenge all students to develop and hone life skills. Themes, skills, and concepts that we will be developing are listening and following directions, non-verbal and verbal communications, public speaking, budgeting money, and community connections. Through differing instructional strategies, the students will be active learners in subjects that will aid them in becoming young adults.

Visual Arts

Overview

Art in HKIS is an introduction to basic methods and practices. The curriculum incorporates the National Standards for Visual Art Education and has a strong focus on the elements of art. Students apply the elements to create observational drawings, paintings, and clay. Student's individual strengths and talents will be cultivated in a supportive and respectful environment. As a result of participating, students will:

- Differentiate between a variety of media, techniques and processes.

- Use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, feelings, experiences, and stories.
- Use art media and tools in a safe and responsible manner.
- Discuss a variety of sources for art content.
- Create artwork that demonstrates how history or culture can influence visual art.
- Identify various purposes for creating works of art.
- Recognize there are different responses to specific works of art.
- Identify possible improvements in the process of creating their own work.

Imaginations in Art, Grade 4

This course emphasizes elements of art with an introduction to the principles of design. Students will explore a variety of artists, art processes, and make connections to art history and different cultures, especially within the various regions of the United States. They will experiment with 2- and 3-dimensional art forms such as drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and ceramics. They will have a creative, hands-on experience, while building art knowledge and developing their skills.

Early American Art, Grade 5

Art in fifth grade will focus on the functional three dimensional art of America's first peoples and the visual arts and crafts of Colonial America and early United States. Students will explore functional art such as pottery and create artwork that demonstrates how history, culture and function influence the artwork. Through a critical look at the paintings of early America and creating their own using similar techniques, students will discover how the choices that an artist makes in subject and style can capture the attitudes and mores of the time.

Music

Overview

The music programs at the intermediate school will foster creativity and provide an outlet for self-expression. Through rigorous and meaningful experiences in music and collaboration with peers, students will expand upon their elementary school singing and instrumental skills. Through the Intermediate School Music Curriculum, students:

- Experience musical traditions from America and around the world through singing, playing global classroom instruments, and dancing.
- Foster growth in self-regulation, leadership, and determination by playing and singing within ensembles.
- Connect to others from different backgrounds by exploring, analyzing, and understanding the role of music in various cultures.
- Improve musicianship and expand upon musical knowledge.
- Learn to express themselves through singing, playing, composing, and listening to music.

Roots of American Music, Grade 4

Fourth grade students will learn about American music through singing, dancing, playing instruments, composition, and experiencing music from different historical periods and regions of the country. Through this course, students will:

- Create and perform music and dances in small and large groups.
- Improve upon the foundational musicianship built in primary grades.
- Learn 21st century skills through collaboration and leadership.
- Use higher-level thinking to compare and contrast musical styles (folk songs, work songs, jazz, etc.)

Musical Traditions of the World, Grade 5

Fifth grade students will get a unique view of cultures from all over the world. They will experience music and traditions from different areas of the globe while learning to sing, perform, dance or play repertoire from these cultures. During this course, students will:

- Make connections to people in other countries.
- Compose music representing the styles they learn about.
- Continue to build and expand upon musicianship skills.
- Use higher-level thinking to explore differences and similarities in cultural style.

Band

Intermediate school students also have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument. Playing an instrument in band offers many benefits: musical self-expression, individual levels of challenge, small group instruction, and improved concentration and learning skills. In addition, participating in a musical ensemble is an incredibly valuable way for your child to learn 21st century skills that he/she will be able to carry throughout life, such as teamwork and responsibility. Band and small group lessons will take place during Personalized Learning Time.

Chorus

This is an opportunity available to all 4th and 5th grade students. The chorus is designed for students who enjoy singing and would like to further their musical skills and experiences. This group will perform in concerts and may provide other performance opportunities throughout the school year. Chorus will meet weekly during PLT time.

Technology and Research

Design Build

Using the resources of the Maker Space during this course, students will:

- Explore and practice how a design process works to generate ideas, consider solutions, plan to solve a problem or create innovative products that are shared with others
- Use digital and non-digital tools to plan and manage a design process
- Engage in a cyclical design process to develop prototypes and reflect on the role that trial and error plays
- Demonstrate perseverance when working on open-ended problems

Coding

During this course, students will:

- Learn problem solving skills, communication skills, computer programming, and coding
- Engage in solving puzzles, challenges, and real-world scenarios
- Code using algorithms, loops, conditionals, events and functions
- Design and create a project to share with their class

Digital Citizenship and Research

During this course, students will:

- Learn to recognize and value the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living and learning in an interconnected digital world
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role an online identity plays in the digital world and the permanence of their decisions when acting online
- Practice and encourage others in safe, legal, and ethical behavior when using technology and interacting online
- Learn about, demonstrate, and encourage respect for intellectual property
- Demonstrate an understanding of what personal data is, how to keep it private, and how it might be shared online
- Critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts, and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others
- Collaborate with a teacher to employ appropriate research techniques to locate print and digital resources that will help them in the learning process
- Learn how to evaluate sources for accuracy, perspective, credibility and relevance
- Organize information and make meaningful connections among resources
- Explore real world problems and issues and collaborate with others to find answers or solutions

World Languages: Spanish and French

Overview

The HKIS/MS world language department provides students the opportunity to learn French or Spanish with the goal of speaking, reading, and writing in the target language. Fifth grade students have the opportunity to choose French or Spanish to learn over the next four years. Students will complete French I or Spanish I by the end of sixth grade and French II or Spanish II by the end of eighth grade.

Cultural Awareness

This class uses CT World Language Framework *CONTENT STANDARD 8: Comparisons Among Cultures* to help students begin to explore the differences between and among French and Spanish speaking countries around the world and reflect on the cultural differences and similarities to their own experiences. Students in this 25 lesson class will learn about Spanish and French speaking cultures across Europe, North and South America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. In addition to helping the HKIS student to reflect on his or her own cultural experiences, the student will explore how many countries assimilate aspects of other cultures while keeping distinct traditions. This course will provide students with a foundation of knowledge about the varied French and Spanish speaking cultures around the world which will allow the students to make a more educated decision regarding their preferences to learn Spanish or French starting in fifth grade.

Spanish, Grade 5

This course is designed to introduce students to Spanish culture and language. The first half of Spanish I emphasizes culture through authentic and adapted sources of art, music, media, customs, history and geography of Spanish-speaking people. Basic grammar and syntax, simple vocabulary, and the spoken accent are introduced so that students can read, write, speak, and understand the language at a basic level.

French, Grade 5

This course is designed to introduce students to French culture and language. The first half of French I emphasizes culture through authentic and adapted sources of art, music, media, customs, history and geography of French-speaking people. Basic grammar and syntax, simple vocabulary, and the spoken accent are introduced so that students can read, write, speak, and understand the language at a basic level.

Personalized Learning Time

We have set aside time every day to meet the individual needs of every child in our school. This Personalized Learning Time is when students can receive their instrument lessons, access extra instruction in an academic area, and participate in special education support or counseling.

Personalized Learning Time is also a time when students explore their own interests. They can visit the Maker Space to puzzle through an idea, work with our library staff to research new learning, continue to practice coding, or work on other projects using the resources and staff of the intermediate school. As the year develops, students will take more ownership for this time, developing their weekly schedule. Below are some of the more formal activities that may go on during this time:

LEAP

Students who qualify for the L.E.A.P. (Learning Enrichment for All People) program will work in a small group setting, completing projects that will expect them to apply evaluative criteria, identify personal learning styles, and communicate with others socially and academically. Projects and assignments vary in topic and nature, and are usually chosen by the students based on their interests, mostly in the areas of mathematics and language arts. Students problem solve, make decisions, and investigate challenging and complex problems over an extended period of time. These projects are student-driven and provide students with 21st century skills such as communication, independent thinking, and research. Critical and analytical thinking are integrated into many of the assignments. Non-project based tasks include logic problems, philosophical reasoning, and short critical thinking assignments in the areas of mathematics, reading, and writing.

Math Support

The math support program is designed for students who need additional help in mastering math skills and to support grade level math learning. Our goal is to provide high-quality instruction and practice of skills that are differentiated according to the students' needs. The program offers both small group and/or individualized instruction. The topics are individualized for each student enrolled to promote success in their primary math class. Enrollment in math support is based on performance in class and assessments.

Reading Support

Students who need targeted reading instruction beyond the extra help provided by their teacher are included in the reading support program. It is designed to provide additional individualized and explicit reading instruction beyond grade level language arts classes. Instruction is designed to meet the specific needs of each student, in order to improve decoding (reading), encoding (spelling), fluency and/or reading comprehension skills. Reading instruction often includes vocabulary building activities through the teaching of the most common prefixes, suffixes and roots.

Special Education

Students with Individual Education Plans that require support outside of the classroom will also use the Personalized Learning Time for this purpose. The primary purpose of this time is for the special education teacher to utilize specialized instruction to address specific goals and objectives for each student and to provide the students with tools needed to be independent, self-directed learners. Remediation of skills and classroom support will be provided.

Counseling and other Student Supports

The students of HKIS are served by a school counselor and a school psychologist. The team works together to ensure the social, emotional and academic success of our students. Our student support staff meets with individual students and groups as well as continuing the Second Step program that our students began in primary school.

Our students who have other needs will also have support from our Speech and Language Pathologist and our Occupational and Physical Therapists.

Instrument Lessons

Students who have chosen to play an instrument in our bands at HKIS will receive one lesson a week. Similar instruments may be grouped together for the lessons, which are taught by one of our music teachers.

Clubs and Activities

Fourth and Fifth Grade is a time when children are excited about extra-curricular opportunities. In addition to allowing the students to explore their interests, our club activities help connect them to others and to the school. Below is a sample of the kinds of clubs and activities that we have offered at HKIS. Our clubs will run three different times a year: fall, winter and spring. This list will change and expand due to student interest. If you wish to see a club not on this list, please talk to Mr. Larson or Mrs. Scopa, our School Counselor.

- Student Council
- Running Club
- Lego Club
- Sign Language Club
- Yearbook Club
- Illustration Club
- Roller Skating Club
- Unified Sports