The Academy of Critical Thinking

- Provides middle and high school learners with solid knowledge in the sciences (rotating through biology, chemistry, physics and geology), mathematics, language arts, and the social sciences (including Washington State history and US history and government).
- Fosters an ability to make sense of information, problem solve, think creatively, and explore connections between evolving knowledge domains.



What is Critical Thinking?

Critical thinking covers a broad span of human endeavor, including both the more formal languages of mathematics, scientific investigation and computer programming, as well as the everyday language we use to understand, reason and persuade in the fields of literature, history, or civics.

At its core, critical thinking involves learning to think in structured ways about what we know and how we know it.

As part of Sky Valley Education Center, ACT embraces the school philosophy that students thrive when parents partner with the program.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Monroe School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Title IX Coordinator, Compliance Coordinator for 28A.640 and 28A.642 RCW
Dan Johnston
14692 - 179th Avenue SE,
Monroe, WA 98272
(360) 804.2530
johnstond@monroe.wednet.edu

Section 504/ADA Coordinator
David Paratore
14692 - 179th Avenue SE,
Monroe, WA 98272
(360) 804.2609
paratored@monroe.wednet.edu

The Monroe School District will also take steps to assure that national origin persons who lack English language skills can participate in all education programs, services and activities. For information regarding translation services or transitional bilingual education programs, contact:

Chris Cronas
14692 - 179th Avenue SE, Monroe, WA 98272
(360) 804.2558 / cronasc@monroe.wednet.edu

MONROE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SKY VALLEY EDUCATION CENTER
351 Short Columbia Street
Monroe, WA 98272
360-804-2700

ACADEMY OF CRITICAL THINKING



Sky Valley Education Center

The Academy of Critical Thinking (ACT) program encourages the development of critical thinking skills in mathematics, the sciences, language arts and the social sciences.

Elements of Critical Thinking

Strong critical thinking holds these commonalities across all subjects: clarity, accuracy, consistency, relevance, solid evidence, depth, breadth and fairness. In ACT, students learn how develop these aspects of thought. In addition, they learn how to *analyze* the components of thinking, how to *evaluate* the quality of thinking, and how to *improve* upon what they have practiced in their thinking.



An Integrated Curriculum

Using curriculum designed to make explicit the elements of critical thought, students are given the tools to help them understand the foundations of reasoned thinking. These tools are then used in a variety of settings, including group exploration of game theory, scientific investigation, and literary or historic analyses, providing the opportunity to practice and hone their skills.

Hours & Credits

The ACT program is weighted as 4 and covers the following subject areas:

English, Math, Social Studies & Science

The general workload is 6 hours for middle school and 10 hours for high school in class and a minimum of 10 hours outside class time, per week, plus an optional 3 hour lab on Fridays with the opportunity for one on one instruction.

MEET TIMES
Middle School: M, W or T,Th 9am-12pm
High School: M, W 9am-2pm
**Fridays are optional open work labs for both MS & HS from 9am-12pm*



A few of the 2022-23 ACT students, with teacher Shamus Neary.

ACT Teachers and contact info;
-Shamus Neary
nearys@monroe.wednet.edu
-Dylan Neary
nearyd@monroe.wednet.edu

Is ACT right for your student?

The ACT program sets high standards, encouraging students to work hard to meet their academic goals.

Whether your student's post-graduation path is in the skilled trades or into a career requiring an academic degree, ACT strives to equip all learners with solid foundational knowledge across core disciplines, as well as with critical thinking skills.