

CURRICULUM OPTIONS AT ORCHARD VIEW SCHOOL K-8

Orchard View offers a variety of carefully chosen curriculum options to meet the diverse needs of our students and families. These options provide flexible, engaging, and academically rigorous paths for learners with diverse interests and learning styles. Please review this list before our initial meeting to identify the best fit for your child.

INTEGRATED CURRICULUM

(Covers all subject areas—recommend supplementing with a standard math curriculum)

Blossom and Root (K–4)

[Blossom and Root](#)

A nature-based, literature-rich curriculum that celebrates creativity, wonder, and hands-on learning. It includes language arts, reading, science, nature study, and a full art component. Designed to be adaptable and inspiring, it's great for families who want structure with room to personalize. Supplemental literature is partially provided, with additional access online or through the library.

Teacher Take: Ideal for families seeking a highly structured yet flexible program that emphasizes nature, current literature, and clear expectations for student work. Work is often completed in printed pages and can be differentiated by need.

Oak Meadow (K–8)

[Preschool to Grade 4 - Elementary | Oak Meadow](#)

[Middle School \(5-8\) - Curriculum & Distance School | Oak Meadow](#)

A Waldorf-inspired curriculum that focuses on experiential, multisensory learning through storytelling, art, music, and hands-on activities. It encourages imagination and outdoor play, providing a less structured, more organic approach to education.

Teacher Take: Perfect for families who want a creative, parent-driven curriculum. Early grades are centered around real-world, hands-on experiences. Student work is completed in “Main Lesson Books,” with writing often modeled by parents and copied by students in the early years.

LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM

Wonders (McGraw-Hill) (K–6)

[Literacy Curriculum for Elementary | Wonders | McGraw Hill](#)

A comprehensive, research-based literacy program designed to foster a love of reading, promote critical thinking, and develop strong foundational language skills. Integrates social-emotional learning and adaptive tools to meet the needs of all students.

Teacher Take: Great for families looking for a structured, school-like experience at home with plenty of support materials and consistent pacing.

All About Reading (leveled program)

[All About Reading - Official Site | Homeschool Reading Program](#)

A structured, multisensory reading program that is scripted and easy to follow. Offers a step-by-step approach that supports visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners.

Teacher Take: A fantastic option for students who need explicit phonics instruction. Easy for parents to use after initial preparation.

Evan-Moor Daily 6-Trait Writing (3–6)

<https://www.evan-moor.com/search?q=6+traits+writing>

Focuses on the six key traits of effective writing: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions.

Teacher Take: Excellent for reinforcing writing concepts in a short, daily format that builds skills incrementally.

Explode the Code (K–5+)

[Explode The Code 2nd Edition | EPS Learning](#)

A phonics-based, sequential program that supports early literacy through decoding, vocabulary, and fluency. Includes Get Set for the Code (K) and Beyond the Code (comprehension-focused extension).

Teacher Take: A tried-and-true phonics curriculum with a solid reputation. Great for building foundational reading and spelling skills.

Learning Without Tears (K–3)

[Learning Without Tears](#)

Developmentally appropriate handwriting instruction using engaging, hands-on techniques. Emphasizes a clean, no-slant writing style.

Teacher Take: Fun and accessible handwriting curriculum that encourages fine motor development and consistent practice.

Benson Handwriting (K–6)

[Benson Handwriting with Integrated Reading and Language Arts | Grades K–5 | Perfection Learning](#)

Traditional printing and cursive instruction with a slight slant. Lessons integrate ELA components and support handwriting fluency and legibility.

Teacher Take: A more classic approach for families who want to maintain or improve handwriting fluency while supporting writing instruction.

Thoughtful Learning (K–5)

[Thoughtful Learning](#)

A comprehensive writing curriculum that blends grammar, usage, and composition in a clear, scaffolded format. Lessons are supported by colorful student handbooks and teacher guides.

Teacher Take: Offers strong writing instruction with structure and depth—great for parents who want comprehensive support in writing and grammar.

Making Connections (1–5)

[Making Connections | EPS Learning](#)

Supports reading comprehension and vocabulary through strategy-based instruction with fiction and nonfiction texts. Encourages active engagement and critical thinking.

Teacher Take: Ideal for building reading comprehension through direct strategies. Works well alongside literature-based programs.

California Collections (6–8)

[Collections Textbook | Secondary Literature Curriculum | HMH](#)

A middle-grade anthology series with diverse literary selections. Promotes deeper thinking, oral discussion, and analytical writing.

Teacher Take: Strong curriculum for students ready for higher-level thinking and text analysis. Provides a smooth transition to high school expectations.

Wordly Wise (2–12)

[Wordly Wise Overview | EPS Learning](#)

A direct vocabulary instruction program aligned with grade-level literature and assessments. Offers both print

and digital formats.

Teacher Take: A classic vocabulary builder with engaging exercises and real-world application. Useful for standardized test prep.

Novel Studies

Uses grade-level appropriate novels paired with literature guides. Students demonstrate comprehension and vocabulary development through questions, discussions, and creative projects.

Teacher Take: Perfect for families who love reading and want to dive deeper into stories. Encourages thoughtful conversation and project-based learning.

MATH CURRICULUM

Math in Focus: Singapore Math (K–8)

[Math in Focus | K-8 Singapore Math Curriculum | HMH](#)

A visually rich, problem-solving-based curriculum rooted in Singapore Math practices. Builds conceptual understanding and strong number sense using hands-on tools and consistent models.

Teacher Take: A great choice for building deep mathematical understanding. Best when families are comfortable with a conceptual rather than procedural approach

Desmos (K–12 comprehensive)

<https://teacher.desmos.com/?r=w.hd>

Interactive and engaging digital math lessons that promote reasoning and collaboration. Especially powerful in middle and high school.

Teacher Take: A fun, tech-savvy platform for learners who enjoy screen-based activities. Students get live, interactive feedback. Loved by students.

Math-U-See (K–5)

[Math-U-See](#)

A sequential, mastery-based program that emphasizes conceptual understanding through videos, manipulatives, and direct instruction.

Teacher Take: Excellent for students who need visual and hands-on support. Easy for parents to follow with built-in lesson structure. Does not prepare students for standardized testing or math classes due to its structure.

Zearn (K–8)

[Zearn](#)

Blended learning platform with online and paper-based components. Data-rich and aligned with standards.

Teacher Take: Great for students who benefit from independent practice and instant feedback. Easy to track progress.

SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

Healthy Living from the Start (K–3)

[Healthy Living From the Start: K-3 Health Curriculum | Oak Meadow](#)

A flexible and engaging health curriculum with weekly lessons that encourage healthy habits, wellness, and self-awareness through hands-on, age-appropriate activities.

Teacher Take: A gentle, child-centered introduction to health and wellness. Easy to adapt across age groups.

IMPACT Social Studies (McGraw-Hill) (K–12)

<https://www.mheducation.com/prek-12/program/microsites/MKTSP-AAS02M0/about.html>

Inquiry-based curriculum that fosters critical thinking, collaboration, and exploration of diverse perspectives.

Teacher Take: Excellent for fostering curiosity and discussion. Supports civic engagement and global awareness. There are fun projects at the end of each unit.

SCIENCE CURRICULUM

CA Science (McGraw Hill) (K–6)

[K–6 California Inspire Science](#)

Hardcover textbook paired with engaging lab workbooks. Aligned to state standards.

Teacher Take: A solid, standards-based choice with clear structure and teacher support.

Hands-on Science Discovery Kits

[https://www.discoveryeducation.com/solutions/science/elementary/Supplemental kits designed to promote exploration and experimentation.](https://www.discoveryeducation.com/solutions/science/elementary/Supplemental_kits_designed_to_promote_exploration_and_experimentation)

Teacher Take: Wonderful for curious learners and tactile activities. A fun way to bring science to life.

Mystery Science (K–5)

[Mystery Science](#)

Online lessons that include videos, guided discussions, and printable hands-on activities.

Teacher Take: High interest and engaging for kids. Easy for parents to lead and great for sparking scientific questions.

Concepts and Challenges (Pearson) (Grades 6–8)

Textbook series covering Earth, Life, and Physical Science.

Teacher Take: A comprehensive middle school curriculum that prepares students for high school science.

Focus On Science (Glencoe) (Grades 6–8)

Detailed and standards-aligned textbooks for Earth, Life, and Physical Science.

Teacher Take: Clear and informative, this curriculum supports strong content knowledge with review tools and visuals.

At Orchard View, we encourage students to engage deeply with what they're learning by integrating

Project-Based Learning into their curriculum. PBL allows students to explore real-world problems, develop solutions, and present their findings in meaningful ways.

Examples of project-based learning at Orchard View:

- Researching local ecosystems and creating a nature journal
- Writing and publishing original short stories or zines
- Designing a model of a sustainable community
- Presenting a “history museum” exhibit on an ancient civilization
- Developing a business plan and mock product as part of a financial literacy unit

Teacher Take: PBL encourages creativity, critical thinking, and communication. It empowers students to take ownership of their learning while developing academic and life skills. Whether paired with a curriculum or used as a stand-alone enrichment option, PBL brings learning to life.