



AFSA Charter School

Academy for Sciences & Agriculture

Elementary Instruction Overview (PreK-6th)

AFSA's Elementary grades cover standards in a hands-on, skill-based format using research-proven methods of teaching and curriculum. Students will work at their own pace to demonstrate grade-level progress, and support programs will be in place for both struggling and accelerated learners.

Field experiences will continue to be an integral component, with opportunities planned on a bi-weekly basis throughout the year! AFSA's Elementary program prepares students for Middle School and beyond with a global citizenship perspective.

PreK

PreK will use Creative Curriculum and Gold Strategies KEP.

Kindergarten

AFSA's Kindergarten will focus on inquiry with play-based activities throughout the day. Students will have a literacy and numeracy focus with environmental education and cultural studies infused into each day. Staff will work with students at their learning level to foster skill development in a supported atmosphere, with access to technology, outdoors, and a classroom full of resources just for Kindergarten! Kindergarten students will have the opportunity to work with older students as reading buddies or other mentoring activities. Field experiences will be integrated on a regular basis, providing opportunities for community exploration, hands-on learning, and social skill development!



Teacher Developed Curriculum:

Hands-on, play-based learning for Reading skills, Science, Social Studies, and Social-emotional learning.

Project Learning Tree:

Hands-on, inquiry-based activities for Environmental Education.

Bridges in Math:

Non-profit math curriculum that infuses active learning with math skills.

1st-6th Grade

Science:

Through cross-content units, Science labs and experiences will be included throughout the program. Daily science lessons with tech-enabled data collection tools, inquiry-based explorations, and many opportunities outside the classroom will be provided!

Project Learning Tree and Project Wild (DNR supported programs):

Hands-on, inquiry-based activities to align with our mission to teach environmental stewardship and agricultural literacy.

Bridges in Math:

Bridges in Math will be used to develop mathematical thinking, problem solving, and inquiry skills. The curriculum has built-in interventions for struggling learners and enhanced activities for advanced learners. Bridges is a non-profit that aligns with MN standards and connects well with the CPM curriculum used in upper grade levels.

Technology Time:

Online coding and programming software will be used to enhance problem solving and mathematical learning.

Innovation Studio:

Staff facilitate periods of student-driven learning through Innovation Studio, where students have access to cutting edge technology and resources to develop a learning plan in a specific interest area. With inquiry-based, cross-content units, students will develop skills to investigate the world around them and solve global issues with creativity unique to young minds!



ELA:

English language arts (Literacy) classes will focus on the 5 areas of Reading development; phonics, phonemic awareness, comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary. All content areas will work towards the goal of Reading Well by 3rd grade.

Cultural Studies:

Hands-on, active curriculum will be utilized to teach community, government, history, and culture standards. Cultural studies will be infused with Spanish language to develop dual-language skills and appreciate cultural connections.

Second Step:

AFSA believes in developing social/emotional skills throughout childhood, and will be utilizing activities to target skills with students throughout Elementary and Middle School. Circle talks, friendship groups, and bullying prevention will be some of the components used in this area.

Specialists:

Specialist will teach Physical Education, Art and Agriculture are offered.