

CFISD Middle School Life Skills

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Novels for 2026-2027

- **A Series of Unfortunate**

Events: A story that follows the Baudelaire orphans as they try to escape Count Olaf. A man who wants to steal their inheritance.

- **Charlotte's Web:** A story about a pig named Wilbur who is saved by a spider named Charlotte and other barnyard friends.

- **New Dragon City:** A story that follows Noah, a survivor of the dragon takeover of Earth who befriends a dragon named Asha.

- **The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind:** A true story of William, a boy in Malawi who teaches himself physics and engineering to generate electricity for his village.

English

The base of the Language Arts class is locally developed adapted novels.

Each novel comes with a set of activities focusing on vocabulary and writing skills. Students will also focus on functional writing/expressing ideas.

Short Stories for 2026-2027

- **Maestro of Main Street:** A short story that follows a group of people who live in the same apartment complex and are brought together by their love of music.
- **Neighbors:** A short story that follows two neighbors, Francis and Tamaki. Tamaki is taken away to a camp during WW2 and Francis looks after his garden.
- **Dreams:** Exploring the famous Langston Hughes poem through reading and activities

CFISD Middle School Life Skills

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ULS Phonics Course

The ULS Phonics Program consists of six groups of courses, each called a “series.” Each series focuses on specific sounds and phonics skills. For example, in ULS: Foundational Phonics 1 students experience explicit instruction for consonant and short vowel sounds and VC, CVC and CVCs words. Each course within a series has a similar structure to explicitly teach students new sounds or skills, and then use those sounds or skills to read words, sentences and a connected text. The program was designed to ensure flexibility for teachers and students. Lessons can be taught to the whole class, small groups or individual students. Lessons can be taught as a whole, or based on your students needs, be broken into smaller, more manageable chunks.

READING

The Reading Curriculum consists of two main pieces: ULS Foundational Phonics and Edmark Reading Program. Students will also have access to News 2 You articles and activities. In addition, students will focus on functional reading, reading games and library time. Units are based on student's individual levels.

EdMark Reading

This program is sight word based. Students move up from Elementary School having already started the program so continue with your sixth graders or assess students that are new in order to know where to start. Familiarize yourself with the teacher book.

EdMark Reading

News2you maintains alignment with state standards through instructional targets. Students connect with the world by reading current events in the weekly newspaper.

CFISD Middle School Life Skills

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Hands on Math

A standards-based program taught with manipulatives to transition students from concrete to abstract math concepts

ULS Math

Unique Lessons from the year have been pulled to support the Hands on Math Lessons as closely as possible. Unique Lessons are standards based and support Science and Social Studies Units

Focus on Math

A comprehensive, story-based program specifically designed for students with moderate to significant disabilities and autism. Books correspond with the unit being taught

MATH

Math includes a combination of “Hands on Math” curriculum and Unique Learning Systems. This is supplemented by Math games, books, and functional Math activities. Functional lessons include: money, budgeting, and time. Students will have access to calculators, manipulatives and technology to assist in accessing the Math curriculum at their level.

2026-2027 Units

1st Grading Period: Math expressions and equations including adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing

2nd Grading Period: Algebra concepts including positive and negative numbers as well as graphing rational numbers

3rd Grading Period: Measurement, Time, and Money Concepts

4th Grading Period: Continued money concepts, Geometry, and intro to working with fractions.

CFISD Middle School Life Skills

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Unique Learning Units

A comprehensive, standards-aligned special education curriculum. It provides differentiated, age appropriate science instruction broken into different levels.

Focus on Science

A comprehensive, story-based program specifically designed for students with moderate to significant disabilities and autism. Books correspond with the unit being taught

Cooking Curriculum

The cooking curriculum is structured across four Grading Periods (GPs), with each period focusing on a different meal category, often correlating with science topics as well as hygiene and kitchen skills

SCIENCE

The Science curriculum centers around lessons from Unique Learning Systems and includes units such as: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth Science, Technology and Space. Each unit spans a grading period and is enriched with vocabulary lessons, science experiments and other activities that encourage hands-on learning. Each student will access Science lessons at their individual prerequisite level. The Science curriculum also includes functional lessons for cooking, hygiene and cleaning.

2026-2027 Units

1st Grading Period: Explore applications of state of matter, including physical (size, shape, state or appearance) or chemical changes (transformation to a different kind of matter). Cooking Curriculum focuses on Snacks/Desserts.

2nd Grading Period: Identify traits inherited through genes (DNA). Cooking Curriculum focuses on Breakfast.

3rd Grading Period: This unit focuses on the solar system, including the relationships between the Earth, Moon, Sun and planets. Cooking Curriculum focuses on Lunch.

4th Grading Period: This unit focuses on life in and around the ocean. Cooking Curriculum focuses on Dinner.

CFISD Middle School Life Skills

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Unique Learning Units

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Elements of Texas

History

Lessons explore the history of Texas from early times to the present. Students learn important facts about Texas geography, natural resources, and history with engaging and easy-to-follow content. Key individuals, events, and issues and their impact are examined.

Social Skills

Various story based lessons focusing on Social Skills, Safety, and Feelings

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies curriculum centers around Unique Learning Systems and includes units such as: Citizenship, Traditions, Government, World Cultures and US History. The lessons are on a 3 year cycle so all students get access to all lessons while in middle school. Students receive instruction in Texas history weekly throughout the 3 years. News 2 You is used to keep students up to date with current events with brief daily breaking news articles. The Social Studies curriculum also includes functional lessons for social skills and community based instruction. Students will have the opportunity to participate in CBI trips to grocery stores and fast food restaurants to practice ordering and paying for food along with other community living skills.

N2Y

Brief articles added almost daily in World, Sports, and Entertainment news

2026-2027 Units

1st Grading Period: This unit focuses on conflict and how it has changed the United States. Students will learn about five American wars, their causes and their consequences, both good and bad.

2nd Grading Period: This unit focuses on holidays and traditions from different countries around the world, as well as the geography of each country.

3rd Grading Period: This unit focuses on the rights and freedoms of U.S. citizens.

4th Grading Period: This unit focuses on using maps to explore geographical and human-made features.

CFISD Middle School Life Skills

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

ELECTIVES

Fine Arts

A combination of Art, Music and Theater. This class offers hands-on activities for students to learn more about Fine Arts. Different musical genres/artists are highlighted and students will learn about the history of music as well as listen to different artist/genres.

The students will learn about different art concepts and art history and will make beautiful art! Students will read/act out plays in the Theatre portion as well as learn about Drama.

Vocational Exploration

Centers on the "I Can Work" Curriculum. A five module curriculum designed to integrate communication skills with hands on prevocational training including the areas of Job Readiness, Clerical, Retail, Food Service, and Grocery

Enterprise

Students take their learned vocational skills and work on an enterprise project where students make and sell items to staff and/or students. One of the most popular is a snack cart where students can practice taking inventory, advertising, selling and managing money.