

CHA Academic Key Points by Grade

Kindergarten

- Low student to teacher ratio, with an average class size of 1 to 15 supported by an instructional assistant during prime instruction blocks, such as language arts and math
- We use differentiated instruction for language arts and math
- Students work on cooperation and teamwork throughout their daily routines
- Daily routine consists of calendar/class meeting time, Daily 5, recess, snack, lunch, math, science and social studies
- Super Flex is the Social Thinking Program being taught by Dr. Gusty-Lee Boulware. She meets with each K class once a week for 10 weeks and then the teachers continue the lessons.
- Kindergarteners receive a weekly homework packet.

First Grade:

- Start using academic planners to develop organizational skills in class
- First graders will switch classrooms for both Math and Language Arts, for classes to work within a more precise pace for each student. Placements in each Math and Language Arts group are based on assessments completed at the beginning of the school year.
- Science and Social Studies is taught by the student's homeroom teacher
- First graders use Daily 5 for Language time. Daily 5 works on stamina in reading and writing by giving the students time to do the following five tasks: Read to Self, Read to Someone, Work on Writing, Work with Words, and Listen to Reading.
- Each classroom has one bulletin board dedicated to Morning Meeting. This is the time that we discuss our schedule for the day, calendar, weather, special events, etc.
- Daily math homework is assigned, as well as a weekly reading log and spelling practice packet for Language Arts

Second Grade:

- Students use academic planners to develop organizational skills as a homework log
- Second graders get homework on a nightly basis and are expected to return it to school on the due date-start holding the students responsible for turning in their own work
- Students see all three teachers in one day for one hour of academic time per subject. There is a math teacher, an English Language Arts teacher, and a Science/Social Studies teacher. Students do writers' workshop in their homeroom groups
- Conduct an Invention Convention where students can choose to invent their own product to solve a basic need or do a research project on an invention they are interested in
- Go to Pioneer Farm for outdoor education
- Uses 1, 2, 3, 4 Standards-based grading
- We use our Promethean Board to keep track of calendar
- Daily 5 is used in ELA where students choose which CAFÉ strategy to work on for their independent reading (CAFÉ stands for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Expanding Vocabulary)

Third Grade:

- Learn cursive writing and are using it in their writing at the end of the year.
- All third graders have one teacher for Language Arts, a different teacher for Math, and one for Social Studies/Science. This enables teachers to focus on their areas of strength and provide a strong curriculum in subjects they are most knowledgeable about.
- We start preparing for an environmental camp by going to Pioneer Farm's Indian Village where we learn about the environment and how it influenced the life of the Native American in Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer.
- Students build responsibility by keeping a planner where they record their assignments and write nightly about what they read.
- We use Engineering is Elementary kits in science, allowing students to have hands-on experience with the content.

- In Social Studies, students present state reports after learning about the four geographic regions of the United States.

Fourth Grade:

- Fourth graders go to IslandWood Environmental School for 4 days and 3 nights each spring. We learn about local plant and wildlife and how to take better care of our planet through recycling, composting, and reducing our waste.
- We also visit Tillicum Village, UW Engineering Days, and MOHAI or the WA State History Museum for field trips during the school year.
- All fourth graders have one teacher for Language Arts, a different one for Math and one for Social Studies/Science. This enables teachers to focus on their areas of strength and provide a strong curriculum in subjects they are most knowledgeable about.
- Students focus on further developing their leadership skills and independence. They are expected to be responsible for their learning and academics. They are encouraged to collaborate with the teachers to improve their performance in all subjects.
- Students each have their own Microsoft Surface which they use for a variety of projects and activities including IXL math practice, research, writing, and digital projects using Sway and PowerPoint.
- Students are empowered by being considered partners in the classroom and working together to create a positive a safe learning and emotional environment.

Fifth Grade:

- Students are focusing on leadership and being positive role models for younger students. They participate in Playground Pals where they go out to the playground once a week to interact with Kindergarten students and lead games and activities.
- Students each have their own Microsoft Surface which they use for a variety of projects and activities including IXL math practice, research, writing, and digital projects using Sway and PowerPoint.
- In the spring, students go to Washington DC for 5 days. CHA teachers travel with the group, and parents are also welcome if they'd like to accompany their child. They tour Colonial Williamsburg, Arlington National Cemetery, several Smithsonian Museums, and a variety of monuments and memorials to learn about our country's history.

Specialists:

- Technology:
 - All students attend one hour of technology a week
 - Keyboarding is taught in grades 1-5 (15 minutes of each class)
 - Students in grades 4-5 have one-to-one surfaces
 - Two 3D printers- Grades 2-5 will all have a chance to design and print
 - Topics include; Digital Citizenship, Microsoft Office Suite, Coding, Animation, 3D design, Web Tools, etc.
 - Students also come to the lab for IXL practice once a week
 - Focus mainly on technology tools integrated into a topic they are learning in their classrooms
- Art:
 - All students attend art class at least one hour a week.
 - The students use a wide variety of mediums to create drawings, sculptures, and paintings. Mediums include clay, glazes, acrylic paints, pastels, charcoal, and graphite.
 - The students are introduced to various art masters and styles.
- Library:
 - K-5 check out books every week
 - The librarian splits the curriculum between library skills and multicultural studies
 - K- 3 students enjoy a variety of lessons focusing on book care, library organization, different genres of books, all while the Librarian works closely with the classroom teachers to connect the read aloud stories to the current curriculum topics.

- 4th and 5th grade spend a good amount of time on Book Trailers. This is a project we do in collaboration with the Tech Lab and Microsoft movie maker. A book trailer is like a movie trailer, an advertisement/book review.
- Spanish
 - The Spanish program mainly focuses on the listening and oral part of the language, but students also work with the written language.
 - Kindergarten through 3rd grade have Spanish two times a week and 4th Grade have Spanish three times a week and Fifth grade have Spanish four times a week. All classes are 30 minutes sessions.
 - Each grade level studies different units of vocabulary. (Ex: animals, shapes/opposites, food, etc.)
 - All grade levels learn the language through oral, listening, and written activities. They learn through games, projects, books, etc., related to their unit of vocabulary.
 - 4th and 5th grade have middle school curriculum
- Music
 - Classes come to music twice a week. In addition to musical activities that include concepts such as solfege intervals, steady beat, syncopation, unpitched and pitched percussion technique, dynamics, and simple rhythms, improvisation, and composition, lessons also incorporate cooperation, respect, self and group-space, and listening to others. Self-discovery and expression are encouraged.
 - In grade K – 3 students play pitched and non-pitched percussion.
 - In Grade 4 and 5 students learn recorders and guitar.
- PE
 - Classes come to PE twice per week.
 - Focused on including everyone, learning good sportsmanship and building teamwork skills.
 - Through fitness activities, skills are developed that apply to a wide range of athletics.
 - Ski Program runs for five weeks, beginning in January.
 - K-2nd grade (Skiing Only) go up to Snoqualmie Pass on Thursdays.
 - 3rd-5th grade (skiing and snowboarding) are on the mountain on Wednesdays.