



Berlin Community School Curriculum Overview

Kindergarten through Fifth Grade:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Fifth Grade | | XXXXX | XXXXX | | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX |
| Fourth Grade | | XXXXX | XXXXX | | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX |
| Third Grade | | XXXXX | XXXXX | | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX |
| Second Grade | XXXXX | | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | | |
| First Grade | XXXXX | | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | | |
| Kindergarten | XXXXX | | | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | XXXXX | | |
| | Wilson Foundations | Reading Workshop | Writing Workshop | Balanced Literacy | Go Math | Science | Social Studies | Read 180 | System 44 |



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Wilson Foundations:

A multisensory, structured language programs. Wilson Foundations makes learning to read fun while laying the groundwork for life-long literacy. Students in grades K-2 receive a systematic program in critical foundational skills, emphasizing: Phonemic awareness, Phonics/ word study, High frequency word study, Reading fluency, Vocabulary, Comprehension strategies, Handwriting and Spelling.

For more information about Wilson Foundations:

<http://www.wilsonlanguage.com/parents/>



Reading Workshop:

Teachers College Columbia University Reading and Writing Project provides four units of study for reading in grades 3-5. Units include two units in reading fiction and two in reading informational texts. The reading workshop comprises of a mini lesson based on reading strategies, independent reading time based on a student's independent reading level, guided reading (if needed), flexible grouping and conferencing with the teacher.

For more information about Reading Workshop:



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<http://readingandwritingproject.org>

<http://www.heinemann.com/unitsofstudy/reading/default.aspx>



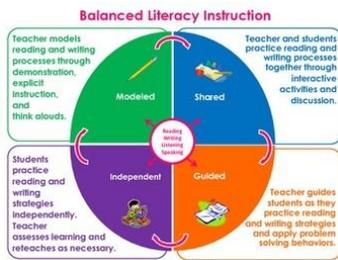
Writing Workshop:

Teachers College Columbia University Reading and Writing Project provides four units of study in *Opinion/Argument*, *Information*, and *Narrative Writing* in grades 1-5. The writing workshop comprises of a mini lesson based on writing strategies, independent writing time, and small group and/or individual conferencing with the teacher.

For more information about Reading Workshop:

<http://readingandwritingproject.org>

<http://www.heinemann.com/unitsofstudy/writing/default.aspx>

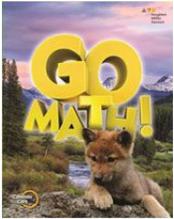


Balanced Literacy:



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In grades K- 2, balanced literacy comprises of guided reading, read alouds, centers (technology, library, writing, and word work) and reading strategies. Students utilize reading eggs for supplemental support.



Go Math:

GO Math! K-5 offers an engaging and interactive approach to covering new state standards. Its seamless digital path and Write-in Student Edition ensure that students can access content at appropriate levels of depth and rigor. The [Harvard Research Report](#) shows significant improvement in student achievement with *GO Math!*, and the program earned The *Journal/Readers'* Choice Silver Award: Best Math Program & Formative Assessment. *GO Math!* has personalized & adaptive instruction with the *Personal Math Trainer*® & *HMH Player*® and powerful online components for teachers, students, and parents. Teachers will also be utilizing resources from [Achievethecore.org](#) to support their *GO Math!* lessons and assessments.

For more information about *GO Math!*:

<https://www.hmhco.com/shop/education-curriculum/math/elementary-mathematics/go-math-k-8>

For more information about [Achievethecore.org](#):

<https://achievethecore.org/page/2853/go-math-k-5-guidance-documents>

For access to student Think Central accounts:

<https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com/ePC/start.do>



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The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) identify scientific and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas in science that all K-12 students should master in order to prepare for success in college and 21st-century careers. The NGSS provide a strong science education that equips students with the ability to think critically, analyze information, and solve complex problems — the skills needed to pursue opportunities within and beyond STEM fields.

Our science curriculum and resources at BCS have all been recently aligned with the NGSS. We also utilize a wonderful online science resource entitled *Mystery Science*. *Mystery Science* is an inquiry based program in which students participate in fun, interactive science experiments with their peers.

In addition to these resources, our teachers utilize interactive science journals/notebooks and *Scholastic News*, *National Geographic*, and *Time for Kids* interactive magazines to incorporate science into the ELA curriculum.

For more information on *Mystery Science*:

<https://mysteryscience.com/>



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System 44

System 44 Next Generation is a new foundational reading program for the most challenged readers in Grades 3-5. *System 44* is proven to help students master the foundational reading skills required for success with the new standards, college, and career through explicit instruction in phonics, comprehension, and writing. Within the comprehensive special education program, students are instructed through small group instruction, instructional technology, and modeled & independent reading centers.

To learn more about System 44, please visit the Family Portal:

<http://www.hmhco.com/products/system-44/family/>



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Sixth through Eighth Grade:



Language Arts

Sixth grade reading consists of independent reading and whole class analysis of three full-length books and a variety of short texts. The books include *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, *Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World* by Sy Montgomery, and *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor.

Students study narrative and argument writing in writing workshop, which consists of a mini-lesson based on writing strategies, independent writing time, and small group and/or individual conferencing with the teacher. Teachers College Columbia University Reading and Writing Project provides units of study in *Literary Analysis* and *Personal Narrative Writing*. Students study vocabulary from whole-class texts as well as the Membean website. Membean provides individualized vocabulary training.

The seventh grade English language arts curriculum is designed to incorporate vocabulary, grammar, reading and writing skills while encouraging the students to increase their critical thinking skills, their 21st Century Workplace Readiness skills, and their verbal communication skills. We study fiction (in the form of short stories, novels, and poetry) and nonfiction (in the form of essays, speeches, and letters). We also study propaganda and how it can affect the consumer. We use the Prentice Hall Penguin Edition for our short stories and the students choose from a selection of novels for our Literature Circles. We also read *Witness* by Karen Hesse for our poetry unit.

The eighth grade language arts curriculum is a literature-based integrated thematic instructional program. The reading, writing, speaking, and listening instructional programs are derived from literature-based thematic units. All study is aligned



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with the New Jersey Learning Standards. The reading curriculum explores the elements of fiction and non-fiction through the short story, a full length play, and selected short excerpts and non-fiction pieces as presented in *Prentice Hall Literature: Penguin edition for 8th grade; Heath Middle Level Literature, Purple edition; The Miracle Worker* by Gibson and various other sources. In addition, students are required to read independently both in class and at home and present an oral and written analysis of that reading each marking period.

The writing program focuses primarily on the 5-paragraph essay format with assignments that may include an interview, expository essay, argument letter, persuasive essay, character analysis, and a theme analysis. Using the *Holt Handbook* as the basic text, grammar instruction focuses on the structural elements of independent clauses, dependent clauses, and verbals (gerunds, participles, and infinitives). Usage construction includes active and passive voice and the conditional and subjunctive moods. Mechanical instruction focuses on the proper use of commas, italics, quotation marks, and semi-colons.



Mathematics

Grade six Mathematics follows the state model curriculum as identified by the Common Core State Standards and the PARCC Model Content Frameworks. The Envision math series is the text utilized in 6th grade.

Unit 1 builds on the students' understanding of number system concepts from previous grades to extend to division of a fraction by a fraction, operations with decimals, and multi-digit division. Unit 2 employs the students' understanding of the concepts involving integers in unit 1 to understand and apply rational number concepts. The standards from the Geometry and Statistics and Probability domains are included as a means of providing real world contexts. The standards included in units 3 and 4 were strategically placed for their impact on ratios and proportional reasoning which is found in unit 5. Grade 6 will end



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with unit 5, Ratio and Proportions. This important sixth grade unit comes at the end of the year since the content will have a great amount of influence on one of the major topics in grade 7, analyzing proportional relationships.

For more information on 6th Grade Math:

<http://www.nj.gov/education/modelcurriculum/math/6.shtml>

www.pearsonsuccessnet.com

The seventh grade *Advanced* class covers the Mathematics Common Core Course 2 (entire text) + Prentice Hall Algebra 1 CCSS (Chapters 1-3)

The seventh grade *General* class covers the Mathematics Common Core Course 2 (entire text)

For more information on 7th Grade Math:

www.pearsonsuccessnet.com

The eighth grade *Enriched Algebra* students cover the entire Pearson Common Core Algebra 1 text and all of the content in the Prentice Hall Mathematics Common Core: Course 3 (the 8th Grade Common Core sequence).

The eighth grade *Academic Algebra* students cover Ch 1-6 in the Pearson Common Core Algebra 1 text and all of the content in the Prentice Hall Mathematics Common Core: Course 3 (the 8th Grade Common Core sequence).

For more information on 8th Grade Math:

www.pearsonsuccessnet.com

For more information on iTunes University:

<https://www.apple.com/education/itunes-u/>



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Science

The sixth grade curriculum is Earth Science and encompasses the following units:

Earth Systems- Earth's structure, rock cycle, water cycle, natural resources, Earth's Atmosphere

Weather and Climate - weather patterns, climates, climate cycles, recent climate changes

History of Earth - plate tectonics, Changing Earth

Space Systems- seasons, moon cycles, eclipses, tides, structure and scale of the solar system, gravity's effect on the universe

The seventh grade science curriculum is Life Sciences and encompasses the following units:

Structure, Function, and Information Processing

Growth, Development and Reproduction of an organism

Inheritance of Traits

Evidence of Common Ancestry

Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems

Interdependence in Ecosystems

Human Impact on Earth Systems

The Eighth grade does 5 units: Motion and Force, Interactions of Matter, Structure and Properties of Matter, Chemical Reactions and Energy and Energy Resources. More details can be found in OnCourse under Curriculum.

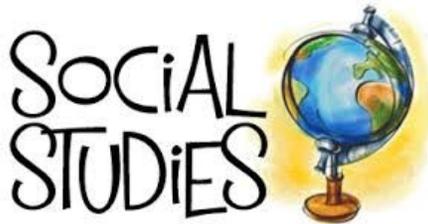
All three grade levels use McGraw Hill - Glencoe Science Texts and all of the resources and online text.



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For more information about middle school science:

<https://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/connected/login.do>



Social Studies

The Social Studies curriculum for sixth grade introduces students to the study of the world's ancient civilizations. Focus is on key themes (geography, government, economics, culture, etc.) as they relate to various societies. By exploring how ancient people lived day-to-day, governed themselves, and solved problems related to environmental and other issues, students begin to see how the past influences our modern world. *My World History* by Pearson

Seventh-grade social studies begins with the road to revolution around 1745 and covers American history through 1870. This includes declaring independence from Britain and the formation of the new United States. The journey continues with westward expansion including the Louisiana Purchase, War of 1812, Trail of Tears, the annexation of the southwestern states which includes western settlers and the California Gold Rush. Time is spent on our changing nation and the industrial revolution, immigration, and reformers such as the women's suffrage movement and abolitionists. Finally, we conclude with the discontent among the states over state's rights and slavery which leads to the Civil war. We conclude with reconstruction after the war. *American History of our Nation*, by Pearson Copyright 2014



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Some of the topics covered throughout the 8th grade year are "The Constitution", "Rights and Responsibilities", "The Three Branches of Government", and "The Holocaust". These themes are all aimed at getting the students to be more informed citizens by allowing them to understand the importance of being active citizens. Holt Civics



Read 180

Read 180 is the leading blended learning intervention program building reading comprehension, academic vocabulary, and writing skills for struggling students grades 3 through 8. Read 180 is built on over 20 years of scientifically based research and ongoing collaboration of the country's leading researchers and reading experts. Within the comprehensive special education program, students are instructed through small group instruction, instructional technology, and guided & independent reading centers.

To learn more about Read 180, please visit the Family Portal:

<http://www.hmhco.com/products/read-180/family/>



Wilson Just Words

Just Words® is a highly explicit, multisensory decoding and spelling program for students in grades 6-8 who have mild to moderate gaps in their decoding and spelling proficiency. The program is designed for students with below-average decoding



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and spelling scores and is provided to specifically identified special education middle school students in addition to other literature-rich programs.

To learn more about Just Words, please visit:

<http://www.wilsonlanguage.com/programs/just-words/overview/>