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A great school isn’t about classrooms and homework. It’s a conversation—between teachers and students, between parents and teachers, and between students and their family members and peers.

We invite your child to be part of a new school experience. Where students and teachers interact one-on-one. Where virtual classrooms promote real achievement. And where new friends explore a world of new activities.

LET'S CONNECT.
I'm very pleased that you are exploring Connections Academy.
Watching and helping your child learn, grow, and succeed in a virtual school can be tremendously rewarding. As you look through this guide, you'll soon see how our personalized, online approach can help your son or daughter flourish.

The guide explains how we connect with our students using virtual learning that’s engaging, enriching, and effective. You’ll learn how we combine one-on-one instruction from superb teachers with an award-winning curriculum and a powerful digital learning platform. You’ll also discover a wide range of extracurricular activities that provide a complete educational and social experience.

While Connections Academy schools operate independently, they all use proven programs, materials, and curriculum. Each public school is nonprofit and is either administered by an independent governing board or operated in conjunction with a school district. Our private school is overseen by an advisory board of educators with extensive experience in online K–12 and college-level instruction.

I’d also like to call your attention to some exciting news about the upcoming school year.

First, we have broadened our unique relationship with the world-renowned Juilliard School, expanding our Juilliard eLearning music offerings with more courses. We are proud that Connections Academy is the only online school to provide courses developed in conjunction with Juilliard.

Second, we are offering an even wider selection of Career Technical Education courses through our affiliation with Pearson, the world’s leading learning company. This means that high school students will enjoy even more opportunities to develop their academic and career interests in fields like management, accounting, medical law, communications, and more.

I thank you for your interest in our program. We are honored that you are considering a Connections Academy school, and we look forward to helping your student reach his or her fullest potential.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Dreyer
President and CEO, Connections Education
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CONNECTIONS ACADEMY IS A VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAM
that helps students make the important connections—with lessons, with teachers, with peers, and with their own abilities. These connections help them succeed academically, emotionally, and socially.

Connections Academy full-time, tuition-free, K–12 public schools are available in almost half the states in the U.S.* Our private school, International Connections Academy, is available to all students nationwide and overseas.

More than 50,000 students are currently enrolled in our schools. But our success is not just measured in numbers. It’s shown in the quality of the education our students receive—and the success they achieve. We’ve made it our mission to provide a personalized approach to education. Instruction is tailored to the needs, learning styles, and interests of every student so each can reach his or her own potential.

In addition to the successes demonstrated by our students, our Connections Academy schools, administrators, teachers, and curriculum are frequently recognized by national and state organizations for outstanding achievement in online education.

In our 12 years of operation, Connections Academy has become a recognized leader in virtual education. And since we’re part of Pearson, the world’s leading education company, our schools have access to a wealth of learning resources that set them apart from other schools.

LEARN MORE:
ConnectionsAcademy.com/ProvenResults

*Not all grades are available in all schools.
A COMPLETE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

CONNECTIONS ACADEMY provides everything your student needs for a well-rounded education.

EXCEPTIONAL TEACHERS
Our teachers are the foundation of the Connections Academy experience. They are talented, passionate, certified, and specially trained to excel in online teaching. Connections Academy teachers are drawn to our schools because they care about kids and believe that personalized one-on-one instruction really works.

AN OUTSTANDING CURRICULUM
Our courses are developed by experts. They ensure that our curriculum meets national and state standards, including the quality guidelines of the International Association for K–12 Online Learning (iNACOL). They integrate the very best texts, materials, and educational resources from leading print and online publishers. Most important, our curriculum team builds lessons that truly engage students in learning.

INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION
We call our individualized approach Personalized Performance Learning®. Using this method, teachers get to know the learning styles, skills, and interests of each student so they can give every student the best opportunity to excel. It also allows students to accelerate learning in areas of strength or to get extra attention in areas of weakness.

EASY-TO-USE TECHNOLOGY
Connexus® is the online engine that makes the school go. It delivers lessons to students through their computers, helps families schedule their days, provides access to grades, and more. Best of all, families tell us that Connexus is easy to use and actually enhances learning.

SOCIALIZATION, COMMUNITY, AND FRIENDSHIPS
While our school is virtual, our students are part of a very real and supportive community. Students meet regularly in online LiveLesson® sessions. They have opportunities to share ideas, compare experiences, and have fun learning together. Their virtual school experience includes opportunities to attend in-person field trips that bring classroom lessons to life. Clubs, activities, and other gatherings offer more social options.

AN ACCREDITED PROGRAM
Connections Academy is a division of Connections Education LLC, which is accredited by AdvancED, the national accreditation commission. In addition, nearly all of our established schools are either accredited or in the process of being accredited by a local accrediting body or by one of the six regional organizations recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and by the U.S. Department of Education. Our new schools typically begin the accreditation process after operating for a full year.
OUR STUDENTS’ SUCCESS IS PROOF THAT OUR APPROACH is on target. We have always believed that, for many students, personalized instruction delivered in a safe, supportive educational setting is the best way to learn, grow, and maximize their potential. We meet our students where they are, nurturing their individual gifts and talents and helping them achieve personal excellence.

Some students are gifted; some learn at a different pace. Some are involved in extracurricular activities and need more flexibility. Others may not yet have found the right setting in which to succeed. By providing personalized instruction, Connections Academy works to ensure that each student’s needs are met.

We prepare students for success in whatever they wish to pursue. One student may go on to an Ivy League university, another may pursue specialized job training, a third may enter the workforce the day after graduation. Our goal is to help all of our graduates enter young adulthood at their absolute best.

A wide range of measures show that Connections Academy is succeeding at helping our students thrive.

- Our graduates have been accepted by leading colleges and universities across the U.S. and around the world.
- In 2013, our students received scholarships totaling more than $7 million—an increase of nearly 66% over 2012 scholarships.
- Parents and students give Connections Academy consistently high satisfaction ratings.

Our students’ average SAT combined score is higher than the national average.
WE OFFER CARING TEACHERS, AN OUTSTANDING CURRICULUM, powerful technology, and enriching interaction that allow you to structure an ideal learning experience for your student.

STUDENT
Studies at home or from any location that has Internet access

TEACHER
Delivers instruction and evaluates progress via the Internet, phone, and periodic live online sessions

PARENT
Supports by coaching the student, monitoring the schedule, and consulting with teachers

CURRICULUM
Delivers highly engaging content, multimedia tools, and continuous feedback on student learning

TECHNOLOGY
Provides access to the curriculum and brings students, teachers, and parents together

COMMUNITY
Nurtures socialization with online clubs and activities, plus in-person trips and gatherings
ONE OF THE HALLMARKS OF OUR PROGRAM IS PARENTAL involvement. A parent’s (or other trusted adult’s) daily participation in learning activities shows children that education is a top priority and helps ensure their success. At Connections Academy, the person who supports the child’s education in the home is called a Learning Coach. The Learning Coach works closely with the student to help facilitate learning and also plays a vital role by keeping students on track and regularly communicating with their teachers.

A STRUCTURE FOR LEARNING
A Learning Coach provides the structure a student needs by establishing and managing the daily routine. Our handy online scheduling tool makes it easy to schedule lessons for each subject and combine family and school activities. The Learning Coach also helps monitor attendance and ensures that the student attends state examinations, as required.

In addition, the Learning Coach stays in touch with the student’s teachers by phone, WebMail (our secure, internal email messaging system) messages, and online meetings. Your student’s teacher will contact you early in the school year to discuss how you will work together to help your student reach his or her potential.

We strongly recommend that a parent be available at home with the child, or that another responsible adult is designated as a Learning Coach. Connections Academy is not a student self-study program; students do need supervision to benefit fully from our program.

UNDERSTANDING THE COMMITMENT
Understanding the role of the Learning Coach is key to the success of your online student. In general, the age of your student determines how much hands-on time you will spend as a Learning Coach. As Learning Coach involvement changes over time, so does the amount of time a student typically spends working on the computer. In addition, the student’s responsibilities grow with his or her abilities. The table on the next page shows what you can expect at each grade level.
Discover Virtual Learning with Connections Academy

**Complete Training and Support**

Our online orientation program helps the Learning Coach understand his or her role and our expectations. It also introduces all the resources and support systems we make available to help the Learning Coach and student succeed.

We offer a searchable online help system that is available 24/7. The Learning Coach can also call a toll-free number to speak with a Connections Academy technical support representative. This support is available for both installation and troubleshooting.

You’ll also find support available from your child’s teacher and other school staff. Our wonderful families are supportive of each other, too.

Connections Academy is a full-time public school program with state-certified teachers. Our schools have specific rules and standards, including a defined school calendar and required assessments. Students may be required to participate in standardized or other proctored tests required by the school.

### Sample Learning Coach Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Coach</th>
<th>Elementary Students*</th>
<th>Middle School Students</th>
<th>High School Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time Commitment</td>
<td>Provides a high level of student oversight, which requires about five hours per day.</td>
<td>Varies based on each student’s individual needs, as some students in these grades work very independently. For most students, the Learning Coach’s time commitment is about 2–3 hours per day.</td>
<td>Varies based on each student’s individual needs, as students in these grades work very independently. For most students, the Learning Coach’s time commitment is approximately 30 minutes per day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample Learning Coach Activities</td>
<td>Sets a schedule with varied activities and breaks</td>
<td>Supports the transition to more independent learning</td>
<td>Encourages and supports a teen’s growing independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assists with lessons</td>
<td>Assists with some lessons</td>
<td>Verifies that lessons and assessments are completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monitors student comprehension and grades</td>
<td>Monitors student comprehension and grades</td>
<td>Communicates with teachers but refers student to teacher as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communicates frequently with teacher</td>
<td>Communicates with teachers but refers student to teacher as needed</td>
<td>Attends regular teacher conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Spent Learning**</td>
<td>A minimum of 30 hours per week</td>
<td>A minimum of 30 hours per week</td>
<td>A minimum of 30 hours per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Spent on the Computer</td>
<td>About 15–30% of the school day</td>
<td>About 50–75% of the school day</td>
<td>About 80–90% of the school day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A large percentage of schoolwork is done offline, including reading books and writing.</td>
<td>Classes blend both online and offline work.</td>
<td>Students learn primarily online.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of Scheduling Flexibility</td>
<td>Students have a very flexible schedule, as much of the work is done offline.</td>
<td>A prescribed schedule is provided. Students work with teachers as needed to create alternate schedules that accommodate their individual needs.</td>
<td>A prescribed schedule is provided. Students work with teachers as needed to create alternate schedules that accommodate their individual needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Interaction</td>
<td>Students have one primary teacher. A school counselor is also available.</td>
<td>Students have subject-specific teachers and a homeroom or advisory teacher who monitors and assists with the student’s performance across all subjects. A school counselor is also available.</td>
<td>Students have subject-specific teachers and a homeroom or advisory teacher who monitors and assists with the student’s performance across all subjects. A school counselor is also available.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In some states, sixth grade students are considered elementary students. In others, they are considered middle school students.

**The number of learning hours varies by school based on state regulatory requirements.

Connections Academy is a full-time public school program with state-certified teachers. Our schools have specific rules and standards, including a defined school calendar and required assessments. Students may be required to participate in standardized or other proctored tests required by the school.

**Complete Training and Support**

Our online orientation program helps the Learning Coach understand his or her role and our expectations. It also introduces all the resources and support systems we make available to help the Learning Coach and student succeed.

We offer a searchable online help system that is available 24/7. The Learning Coach can also call a toll-free number to speak with a Connections Academy technical support representative. This support is available for both installation and troubleshooting.

You’ll also find support available from your child’s teacher and other school staff. Our wonderful families are supportive of each other, too.
EVERY FAMILY BELIEVES THAT THEIR STUDENT IS SPECIAL.

We do, too.

That’s why we allow flexibility in the development of your student’s schedule to fit his or her needs, priorities, and passions.

Connections Academy schools give students and their families greater control over their daily schedules. We recognize that the same routine does not work for every student.

Education, extracurricular activities, and family time—these are all important parts of a student’s life. Connections Academy gives you the flexibility to design a schedule that includes volunteer work, sports, performing arts, and other pursuits.

Customized study plans also allow students to make the most of their own learning styles and skills. They can spend extra time on subjects they find challenging or move ahead in subjects where they excel.

Some coursework and LiveLesson sessions do need to take place at fixed times. In addition, each state has set requirements regarding the minimum required hours of instruction. But there is greater flexibility in how and when your student spends that time. This combination of structure and flexibility ensures that students have time to master our rigorous curriculum requirements and have time for their interests. A wide variety of scheduling options are available so you can shape your student’s daily schedule to fit his or her unique situation.

Jeffrey Miller
GRADE 9
ARIZONA CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

Attending Arizona Connections Academy gives competitive golfer Jeffrey Miller the flexibility to perfect his game and travel to tournaments while pursuing his education. Now ranked fifth nationally in his age group, Jeffrey hits the links early to beat the desert heat—then studies for his Honors courses in the afternoon and evening. “My teachers are very helpful; I talk to them regularly,” he says. Jeffrey plans to study psychology and play Division I golf in college, then join the PGA Tour.
Many families turn to Connections Academy because it allows them to customize the learning method, schedule, and environment to meet a child’s needs. In turn, students and families find more time to connect with what is important to them.

**Gifted and talented** students can move quickly through easily mastered concepts or dig deeper into material that interests them.

**Students who need extra time** to master skills and retain information benefit from flexible scheduling.

**Students who participate in performing arts** have the flexibility to schedule schoolwork around rehearsals, auditions, and performances.

**Families who travel frequently** can organize modified schedules with their student’s teachers. Students also have the flexibility to make time for outside activities, volunteering, and part-time jobs.

Connections Academy makes it possible for **student athletes** to keep up with their studies and communicate with their teachers while traveling for practice and competitions.

When **students are struggling with health issues**, families can plan around medical appointments or rearrange their agenda so there’s no stress about falling behind in school.

For **families who believe in at-home education**, connecting to an outstanding curriculum and experienced, specialized educators can greatly reduce the stress of planning each day.

Attending school from home enables **previously bullied children** to focus on learning—rather than fear of intimidation, embarrassment, or injury. Students also gain safe, supervised ways to socialize—both online and in person.
A POSITIVE APPROACH TO SCHOOL

OUR INNOVATIVE APPROACH HAS EARNED US A NUMBER OF awards for our technology, for our curriculum, and for excellence in teaching. You’ll find these many awards listed throughout the rest of this guide.

But there’s another award we appreciate even more: the consistently high ratings on our Parent Satisfaction Survey. Every year, we ask parents to tell us how well we’re serving their sons and daughters, and we’ve included several of these parent ratings throughout the guide. As you’ll see, parents give the Connections Academy program high marks. One reason those ratings stay so high is that we’re continually adjusting our offerings to keep up with the needs of our students.

This year, for example, we’re offering more Career Technical Education (CTE) courses than ever before. CTE courses provide our students with a wider range of opportunities to prepare for college and career. New choices include:

- Accounting II
- Introduction to Communication
- Principles of Management
- Public Speaking
- Business Math
- Introduction to Paralegal Profession
- Human Resource Management
- Medical Law and Ethics

In short, Connections Academy is successful because we’re all about our students. As you read through this guide, you’ll get to know some of our students, Learning Coaches, and teachers. You’ll also learn more about our curriculum, technology, and extracurricular activities. We hope you’ll continue to learn more about Connections Academy by contacting us today. We’ll be happy to show you how Connections Academy can help your son or daughter succeed.

LEARN MORE: ConnectionsAcademy.com/Awards

WINNER
South Carolina Connections Academy was awarded the 2013 Palmetto Silver Award for closing the achievement gap on the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards in grades 3-8.
READY TO LEARN MORE?
HERE'S HOW:

ATTEND AN INFORMATION SESSION, IN PERSON OR ONLINE
Meet teachers, administrators, and parents. Receive answers to your questions from the people who live and breathe Connections Academy every day. To find an information session near you, visit ConnectionsAcademy.com/Events

TALK WITH A PARENT
Parents are key to the success of our approach, as they are usually the student’s Learning Coach. We encourage you to speak with our parents. We’ll put you in touch by phone or email. Just go to ConnectionsAcademy.com/ContactParent

CONNECT WITH US
Join the conversation about Connections Academy schools by following us on social media:

91% of parents recommend Connections Academy to other parents.

LEARN MORE:
ConnectionsAcademy.com/ParentFeedback
OUR PROGRAM IS UNIQUE BECAUSE YOUR CHILD IS UNIQUE.

At Connections Academy, education is personalized to each student’s individual abilities. Students and families share a personal connection with our devoted teachers. This personal touch is what sets the Connections Academy experience apart.

When students have the personal attention they deserve, there’s no telling how far they can go.

LET'S GET PERSONAL.
STUDENTS SHINE WITH PERSONALIZED LEARNING.

EACH AND EVERY STUDENT HAS UNIQUE ABILITIES, AND ALL students perform better when they receive individual attention. These guiding principles are the foundation of Connections Academy’s Personalized Performance Learning approach.

We adapt each student’s instructional program to his or her abilities, interests, and learning styles. Personalized Performance Learning can be honed for those who are gifted or those who are struggling. This approach gives every student the best chance to flourish.

ONGOING STUDENT EVALUATION

Before we can personalize a student’s learning plan, we need to fully understand that student. To begin, we conduct assessments to identify and evaluate his or her strengths, weaknesses, talents, and learning styles. We uncover skills that may need improvement. We also look for ways to enhance the student’s learning potential.

This discovery process allows us to tailor each student’s instruction appropriately. We can speed up a student’s learning in areas of strength. We can also provide extra support and focused attention in areas that present a challenge.

Our assessment continues throughout the school year. We monitor progress regularly to ensure each student is on track. Regular testing helps us know how we should modify a student’s personalized program for continued success.

94% of parents say that their child is satisfied with the Connections Academy program.
EXTRA CHALLENGE FOR GIFTED LEARNERS
Our Gifted and Talented program allows gifted students to deepen, broaden, and accelerate their learning. Challenging advanced courses are available in a broad range of subjects. Gifted students may have the option to work above their grade level, engage in special enrichment projects, or perform independent research.

The Gifted and Talented program is available for students who qualify, starting in third grade. When appropriate, advanced younger students may have the opportunity to enroll in these courses or work at a higher grade level.

SUCCESS FOR STRUGGLING LEARNERS
We don’t just help struggling students catch up—we help them move ahead. We provide them with the extra time, attention, and resources they need to succeed. This enables them to master skills, build knowledge, and achieve meaningful academic progress.

Connections Academy teachers are trained to detect skill gaps. They develop plans to improve those skills in ways that are appropriate for each student’s needs and learning styles. Our schools also provide effective learning resources used by school districts nationwide to help students get back on track. These resources include Pearson Education’s award-winning SuccessMaker® for students in grades 3–8 and MathXL® for high school students.

EXTRA HELP IN READING AND MATH
Our exclusive Program for All Children to Excel (PACE)* helps students master critical math and reading skills and concepts. PACE teachers help students build a strong foundation of basic reading and math skills. They work to strengthen a student’s specific weaknesses and help him or her reach grade-appropriate proficiency.

93%** of parents are satisfied with our Gifted and Talented or Honors/Advanced Placement courses and instruction.

* Not all Connections Academy schools offer PACE.

** This question was asked of families who had a student enrolled in a Gifted and Talented or Honors/AP course.
WE ATTRACT MANY OF THE MOST PASSIONATE, TALENTED teachers in the profession. They choose Connections Academy because our approach enables them to work one-on-one with students. This personal attention empowers students to achieve their best. For both teachers and students, learning becomes a rewarding experience.

Our teachers personalize lessons and coursework to ensure that each student receives the right degree of challenge or support. They monitor participation and performance. They provide timely feedback and intervention. Teachers also stay in close communication with students and parents.

The bonds our teachers build with their students are deep and strong. Often, they get to know the entire family well. These relationships enable our teachers to make truly meaningful, life-changing connections with their students.

IMPRESSIVE CREDENTIALS
Connections Academy teachers are certified in their grade levels and subject areas. All have a bachelor’s degree, and many have a master’s or other advanced degree. They update their skills with training, coaching, and professional development. Many earn additional K–12 online teaching credit through our partners, American Public University and Boise State University, which are nationally recognized leaders in online teaching.

EXPERTS IN ONLINE EDUCATION
Our students enjoy a rich online learning experience because our teachers receive intensive training in online instruction. They know how to motivate and engage students online, are highly skilled at using our technology, and know how to get the most out of our powerful online tools. Among these are LiveLesson sessions, which allow teachers to create the lively personal interactions of a traditional classroom in an online setting. In LiveLesson sessions, teachers use a mix of unique interactive tools and multimedia resources as they meet with students in groups or one-on-one.
"At Connections Academy, I can approach each student as an individual. I discover who is having difficulty and needs help, who thrives on extra challenge, and who would benefit from a friendly phone call. Knowing my students on a personal level helps me be the best teacher I can be for them!

Stephanie Imig
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER
OREGON CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

As a Connections Academy teacher for seven years, Stephanie Imig uses technology to the fullest to personalize and enrich learning. During LiveLesson sessions, she guides lively class discussions in the chat pod or gives students leadership roles in presenting information. She creates breakout rooms, so students can collaborate on small-group projects or work with her on specific skills. "Although this is a public school, I can give students the one-on-one attention of a small private school. If a student struggles with writing, I can break the process down into steps, providing lots of feedback and encouragement. Other students want to branch out, so I recommend additional reading or creative projects and engage them in literary discussions."
When teaching in a bricks-and-mortar school, John Woodworth had to spend so much time on classroom management that it was hard to cover the entire curriculum. Now in his fourth year at Connections Academy, he appreciates being able to give his students all the academics they need—with fewer distractions. "To keep the virtual classroom engaging, I include games, videos, and humor. I make lessons relevant to real life by saying, ‘Get your piggy bank, we’re going to count money to buy a toy.’" John also interacts regularly with students one-on-one. "Because they feel comfortable at home, students can be themselves with me, so I really get to know them well."

John Woodworth

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER
MICHIGAN CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

I became a teacher to be involved with students and their successes. When I work with students who struggle in language arts, then see them have that ‘aha’ moment and just take off reading—that’s a great feeling! I love seeing students get excited about learning!"

K–5

LEARN MORE:
ConnectionsAcademy.com/Teachers
TEACHER AND STAFF
AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Daniel Wakefield, Ohio Connections Academy Teacher, recognized as a national runner-up for the National American Pioneer of Teaching Award presented by PublicSchoolOptions.org, 2013

Justin Siddall, Colorado Connections Academy Teacher, received Outstanding Online Teacher Recognition from the Colorado State Department of Education, 2012

Emily Wallace, Ohio Connections Academy Teacher, named Teacher of the Year by the Ohio Council of Community Schools, 2012

Allison Reaves, current Director of Schools at Connections Academy, former South Carolina Connections Academy Executive Director, honored with Outstanding Leadership by an Individual in the Field of Distance Learning by the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA), 2013

Our teachers believe parents are vital to the learning community. They keep families informed and involved—and let parents know how they can best support their children’s academic success."

—Allison Reaves, Director of Schools

CONNECTED TO STUDENTS
AND FAMILIES
We provide many ways for our teachers to build relationships with students and parents. They use LiveLesson sessions, WebMail messages, field trips, phone calls, the Connexus Message Boards, and face-to-face meetings. At all times, students and families receive the attention they deserve. We believe these one-on-one connections help our students excel.

LINKING TEACHERS
TO TEACHERS
Connections Academy teachers work together closely and talk regularly. They share best practices, subject matter tips, teaching methods, and more. For families working with multiple teachers, teachers coordinate their efforts to meet the student’s needs.

COUNSELORS AVAILABLE
FOR YOU
Our complete school program includes licensed school counselors. They are ready to advise students and families about academic matters, personal or social issues, college preparation, and career development.
CONNECTIONS ACADEMY SCHOOLS MEET THE NEEDS OF students in many different situations. Students who need extra attention, students eager to work above their grade level, students looking for flexible scheduling—they all find a program that works with them and for them at Connections Academy.

Parents tell us every day that their students are happy and engaged. In the next few pages, our families share their personal stories about how enrolling at Connections Academy changed their outlook on learning and put them on the path to success.

Brynnlee Johnson
GRADE 1
UTAH CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

The Johnson family turned to Utah Connections Academy because they wanted a quality education with close parental involvement for Brynnlee. Her mom, Casandra, likes that her daughter can spend extra time on challenging subjects or move ahead when she grasps a concept quickly. “I see that ‘light bulb’ moment when Brynnlee understands, and I feel fulfilled, knowing I helped,” she says. The Johnsoms blend teachable moments into family life and, following Brynnlee’s example, her younger siblings are already excited about learning.
MAKE A PERSONAL CONNECTION

Michele Omvig
Pictured with Connor and Ian Omvig
LEARNING COACH WITH STUDENTS IN GRADES 8 AND 10
IOWA CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

When economic pressures forced former homeschooler Michele back to work, she turned to Iowa Connections Academy, and the Omvigs made a successful transition.

Virtual school reduces Michele's workload, yet enables her to stay involved in Ian and Connor’s education. “Previously, I’d spend weeks researching curriculum. I worried if I was meeting my sons’ needs. Now I’m sure they’re learning everything they need to learn.”

The Omvigs plan ahead by looking at weekly assignments to decide which ones Ian and Connor can complete on their own. “Even from work, I can log on to keep track of how the boys are doing on schoolwork,” Michele says. “If they need help, they feel comfortable calling their teachers.”

Tanaeya McCoy
GRADE 12
CALIFORNIA CONNECTIONS ACADEMY @ RIPON

For accomplished violinist Tanaeya McCoy, attending California Connections Academy @ Ripon means she can pursue her musical ambitions while receiving a high-quality education. The flexible schedule enables Tanaeya to arrange her days around violin lessons and an average of four hours of practice. She plays in the prestigious Young People’s Symphony Orchestra of Berkeley—planning her schoolwork around the lengthy commute, rehearsals, and concerts—while staying on track for graduation.

“The flexibility is the best, and I have very supportive teachers. They really want you to learn and focus on helping you,” she says. Tanaeya plans to attend college, become a concert musician, and form a chamber music ensemble.
Toni Wood
LEARNING COACH WITH STUDENT IN GRADE 9
OKLAHOMA CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

When her daughter Belle was diagnosed with diabetes in sixth grade, keeping her healthy became a top priority for Toni Wood. “With Connections Academy, Belle can check her sugar levels, eat, and rest when needed—without missing lessons,” Toni says. “She takes challenging courses and has really excelled in developing her writing skills. Her teachers focus on what’s best for Belle—and she has blossomed!”

Jasmine Ortiz
GRADE 8
COMMONWEALTH CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

As an actress with a recurring role on Dora the Explorer, Jasmine Ortiz needed a more flexible school schedule. At Connections Academy, she can rearrange her agenda for travel, auditions, and acting gigs—while working above grade level and enjoying challenging Gifted and Talented courses.

Jasmine loves advancing at her own fast pace. “I want to learn and do as much as I can! I love discussing literature, and the Junior Great Books program gets better every year. My geometry teacher is phenomenal and has great mastery of the subject. I have close relationships with all of my teachers.” Her mom, Maria, agrees. “The teachers welcome parent involvement and treat you like a partner in your child’s education. The rich curriculum ensures Jasmine will be well prepared for college.”
The Higby family switched to INSPIRE, the Idaho Connections Academy, when Braedon, who was in a gifted and talented program, became bored with his previous school. The Higbys were also concerned that Colton wasn’t reaching his potential or being held accountable for missed assignments. Now in their third year with INSPIRE, both boys are thriving.

Their mom, Dana, says, “Braedon takes challenging Honors courses that interest him and loves that he can move ahead once he’s learned a concept, particularly in science. He flies through lessons and is doing well. Colton is also working above grade level in several subjects. Their teachers are great, and our family has wonderful relationships with them.”

The family enjoys field trips, visiting museums, and participating in Boy Scouts. Additionally, when their dad was receiving medical treatment out of state, the boys could travel to be with him—and still keep up with school.
IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU?

FOR MANY STUDENTS AND FAMILIES, a virtual school like Connections Academy provides the ideal environment for learning. It combines the best of traditional schools and homeschooling, then optimizes the experience by personalizing it to the individual student.

We realize that every family has its own unique circumstances. Although you won’t need to meet every criteria listed below, these examples will help you determine if Connections Academy is a good fit for your family.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONNECTIONS ACADEMY IS AN EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR PARENTS WHO WANT:</th>
<th>CONNECTIONS ACADEMY WORKS WELL FOR FAMILIES WHO CAN:</th>
<th>CONNECTIONS ACADEMY IS A GOOD FIT FOR STUDENTS WHO:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• A high level of involvement in their child’s education</td>
<td>• Dedicate time to keeping their student motivated throughout the day</td>
<td>• Would benefit from working at their own pace with more one-on-one attention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Greater control over the learning environment and schedule</td>
<td>• Provide ongoing guidance and encouragement</td>
<td>• Like the ability to learn from home or in various locations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The ability to incorporate family priorities and values into learning</td>
<td>• Help monitor student comprehension and progress</td>
<td>• Have special health needs</td>
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<td>• The rewards of seeing their children learn and grow daily</td>
<td>• Organize and structure the learning day</td>
<td>• Require a flexible schedule to accommodate competitive sports, performing arts, or frequent travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Maintain regular contact with their child’s teachers</td>
<td>• Need additional time for family, community, or other activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Want a rigorous academic curriculum to prepare for college</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WE HAVE WORKED WITH STUDENTS SINCE 2002 and have learned a lot about which factors improve the likelihood of success in a virtual school. Below are some things that you should consider before deciding to enroll in a Connections Academy school.

STUDENT’S ACADEMIC STANDING

For many students who are academically on track or advanced, Connections Academy is a good option. With support, flexibility, and a focused environment, students have what they need to succeed in their studies. They also gain access to Gifted and Talented and Honors courses, a learning schedule that provides them with the flexibility to work at different times, and an environment free of many distractions. These are just some of the reasons these students come to Connections Academy.

Students who are behind academically often stabilize or improve their performance after enrolling. Achieving this type of success requires strong commitment. Students must attend school regularly and complete remediation activities. Ongoing communication between students, parents, and teachers is also important.

For high school students who are far behind in earning credits toward graduation, our program can be very challenging. This is particularly true for students who have a large number of previously attempted courses in which they were unsuccessful. We recommend consulting a school counselor to help determine if Connections Academy will work for your student.

TYPE OF SCHOOL ATTENDED

Previously homeschooled students generally adapt readily but find that our school requires a more structured schedule. They also need to transition from parent-directed learning to a program directed primarily by the teacher with support from the student’s Learning Coach.

Students who attended a traditional public or private school will find that succeeding at Connections Academy takes self-discipline and strong independent study skills. In return, most students develop closer and more supportive relationships with their teachers. They also enjoy a much more flexible schedule. Students are encouraged to participate in our field trips, clubs, and activities to ensure they have frequent social interactions with other students.

TIME OF YEAR YOUR STUDENT ENROLLS

Students who enroll at the beginning of the school year or at the start of the second semester consistently outperform students who start later. If you will not be able to enroll on time, please be sure to contact us to discuss your situation. Families that need to start late can prepare for the transition by consulting with our teachers and counselors and attending an online or in-person information session. Please enroll early!
Learning that's fun and technology that makes it possible

An award-winning curriculum that grabs students' attention. Clubs and activities that spark new passions. Cutting-edge technology that makes it all work. Our user-friendly system lets students access a vibrant learning experience anywhere they have an Internet connection—for a whole world of possibilities.

Let's engage.
A STRONG CURRICULUM IS ESSENTIAL FOR A GREAT EDUCATION.

We believe that ours is the finest, most complete curriculum of any online K–12 school. It meets national and state standards as well as those set by leading educational organizations. Our courses are the foundation of the Connections Academy learning experience, and they meet the diverse needs of our students.

A 21st CENTURY CURRICULUM FOR 21st CENTURY SUCCESS

We design our courses to help students gain the knowledge and thinking skills they’ll need for life, work, and higher education. At each grade level, we blend both structured lessons and self-paced learning in core subjects: language arts/English, mathematics, science, and social studies. Connections Academy courses also develop skills in the important “four Cs” of 21st century learning:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Communication
- Creativity and innovation
- Collaboration

DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE RESULTS

Our own experts design our curriculum to deliver results. They start by identifying goals such as knowledge standards and skills that students must master. Then they create lessons to help students reach those goals and assessments to measure their progress along the way. Texts, learning materials, and online resources are woven into the courses.

With hundreds of courses, our curriculum is highly varied and flexible. Lesson content and activities engage students in individual study and collaboration with their classmates.

ALWAYS IMPROVING

We evaluate and revise our curriculum regularly. This ensures that it delivers the most effective content and aligns with state and national standards. As part of our ongoing review, we ask students and parents to rate each lesson on a five-star scale. After nearly four million evaluations, we’re very proud that our average lesson rating is 4.2 out of 5.

EXCITING ELECTIVES

Our electives are a key part of our curriculum. These stimulating K–12 courses cover a wide range of subjects such as world languages, game design, home life, sign language, and more. Our electives allow students to broaden their skills and explore new interests and talents. Electives by grade level are described in the Courses, Clubs, and Activities section of this guide, which starts on page 50.

LEARN MORE:
ConnectionsAcademy.com/Curriculum
CURRICULUM AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Association of Educational Publishers (AEP) Distinguished Achievement Award

2012 Finalist, K–5 Language Arts Whole Curriculum

ComputED Gazette's Education Software Review Awards (EDDIE Awards)

2013 Winner, Best Middle School Science Website: Science 8

2013 Winner, Best High School Vocational Training Website: Career and Technology Education

2013 Winner, Best Multi-Level Music Website: Juilliard eLearning Music

2012 Winner, Best Upper Elementary Social Studies Website: State Course: Utah

2012 Winner, Best Middle School Foreign Language Website: Elementary Chinese

ComputED Gazette's Best Educational Software Awards (BESSERTIE Awards)

2013 Winner, Best Early Elementary Music Website: Experiencing Music—a Juilliard eLearning course

2013 Winner, Best High School Music Website: Living Music—a Juilliard eLearning course

2013 Winner, Best Middle School Math Website: Middle School Math

2012 Winner, Best Upper Elementary Social Studies Website: Oklahoma State History

2012 Winner, Best Middle School Foreign Language Website: Elementary Chinese

2012 Winner, Best High School Virtual Science Lab Website: Science Simulation Tools

“Tech & Learning” Award of Excellence

2012 Winner, Math Teachlet® Tutorials—Algebra and Geometry

2012 Winner, State Signature Courses

ONLY THE FINEST MATERIALS

Our curriculum experts review and select the best texts and teaching materials from leading publishers to create units, lessons, and activities. We also develop our own high-quality materials.

Our multimedia team works closely with curriculum experts to create interactive tools and resources that get students involved in learning. Our own Teachlet tutorials and learning games combine graphics, video, and audio to bring ideas and concepts to life.

94% of parents agree that the program’s curriculum is high quality.

LEARN MORE: ConnectionsAcademy.com/Awards
A ONE-OF-A-KIND CONNECTION WITH WORLD-RENOUNDED JUILLIARD

Connections Academy is the only online school to offer music courses developed in collaboration with the prestigious Juilliard School. This year, we’re expanding this highly successful program by adding new advanced courses that allow students to expand and deepen their musical skills.

Juilliard scholars, composers, musicians, and instructors have worked with us to create courses that will build a lifelong appreciation for music and the arts. Students can learn music theory and composition, receive an introduction to Western Classical music, and explore music from other cultures around the world.

Our Juilliard eLearning classes feature virtual instruction and engaging multimedia tools that encourage students to fully immerse themselves in music. Demonstrations, recordings, and video performances by Juilliard students and alumni help Connections Academy students enjoy a rich, one-of-a-kind musical learning experience.

LEARN MORE: ConnectionsAcademy.com/Juilliard
SPECIALTY ACADEMIES FOR SPECIAL TALENTS

WE OFFER THREE SPECIALTY ACADEMIES for middle and high school students who excel and compete in the arts, sports, or science and technology. These academies provide activities to enrich their learning experience, and students also gain networking opportunities.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY
This academy welcomes students who excel in theater, music, dance, fine arts, photography, videography, and creative writing. Creative students hone their talents as they collaborate and network with other students in their arts disciplines. In addition to creating their own projects, students may also benefit from partnerships with arts organizations or from interactions with performers in their fields.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY
Students with advanced abilities in science and technology gain exposure to today’s cutting-edge innovations through guest experts from fields such as robotics, cyber security, environmental science, and astronomy. They also enjoy opportunities to interact with like-minded students. A variety of competitions and learning activities keeps students challenged and inspired.

SPORTS ACADEMY
Committed student athletes—including aspiring Olympians—network and make friends with other competitive-sports enthusiasts. While collaborating on projects, students inspire one another and exchange training tips and strategies for success. Activities include fitness challenges, athletic training workshops, virtual interviews, and interacting with athletic professionals. Students may also hone public speaking and presentation skills.

Vincent Zhou
GRADE 9
CAPISTRANO CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

Attending Capistrano Connections Academy empowers champion figure skater Vincent Zhou to excel. In 2013, Vincent became the U.S. Figure Skating Junior Men National Champion after also winning national competitions at the novice and intermediate levels. He is also the youngest member of Team USA. With a flexible learning schedule, he can travel and maintain his rigorous training program—and still earn top grades in challenging Honors courses. Vincent’s future plans include the 2018 Winter Olympics and an Ivy League college. He says, “I love that I can work toward my dreams both on and off the ice.”
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES HELP STUDENTS CONNECT.

AT CONNECTIONS ACADEMY, our special events give students a chance to explore the world around them and form friendships with other students.

We offer many ways for our students to meet, work together, and learn through field trips, volunteer projects, clubs, and activities.

**ENHANCED LEARNING**

Student gatherings and activities round out the school experience. Through them, students learn life lessons that build upon their course lessons. These experiences help students gain social confidence, learn teamwork, and develop leadership and communication skills.

And, they’re just plain fun.

**REAL-WORLD EXPLORATION**

We give families many chances to connect with our supportive community. Students, teachers, and parents take learning on the road with a variety of school-sponsored field trips. Learning adventures to museums, state capitals, and live performances give students real-world experiences even the best texts can’t match. Other fun gatherings, like picnics and roller skating, enhance socialization.

In addition, middle and high school students can choose from events such as college fairs and campus or business tours to help them prepare for the future.

Students have fun on a field trip to Rancho Los Cerritos in California.

LEARN MORE:
ConnectionsAcademy.com/OurCommunity
EXTRACURRICULARS MATTER

The American College Testing Program discovered that achievement in school activities was a stronger predictor of success in life than high grades in high school, in college, or on ACT tests. That’s why we make sure that our students have the flexibility to include sports, dance, drama, music, art, clubs, and other activities in their schedules.
OUR BROAD RANGE OF CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES encourages students to pursue their interests at every grade level. We continue to expand these rich extracurricular experiences as part of our commitment to providing a well-rounded education.

Students may choose to explore their creativity through clubs dedicated to the arts, including music, theater, and dance. Others might prefer to delve into computer technology, math competitions, science experiments, or robotics.

Clubs relating to the environment, leadership, and community service appeal to students who love helping others or supporting a good cause. Students interested in communications can opt to join clubs focused on debate, broadcasting, digital storytelling, or the student newspaper. Our career and college planning clubs inspire older students to examine their options and set goals for the future.

THE COMMONWEALTH CONNECTIONS ACADEMY INNOVATORS won the Pennsylvania Real World Design Challenge (RWDC) for the third year in a row and placed second in the country at the National RWDC engineering competition in 2013.

LEARN MORE: ConnectionsAcademy.com/ClubsandActivities
### GRADES K–5
- Arts and Crafts
- Book Club
- Brainteasers Club
- Chess Club
- Digital Storytelling Club
- Environmental Club
- Math Club I: First in Math
- Math Club II: Mathematical Olympiads
- Movie Club
- Music Club
- Pen Pals
- *Pens and Lens:* Student Literary Magazine
- Quiz Bowl
- Robotics Club
- Science in the Kitchen
- Sports Club

See page 66 for descriptions of K–5 clubs.

### GRADES 6–8
- Art Club
- Arts and Crafts
- Book Club
- Brainteasers Club
- Broadcast and Theater Arts Club
- Career Club
- Chess Club
- Debate Club
- Digital Storytelling Club
- Environmental Club
- Gaming and Computer Technology Club
- Leadership and Global Awareness Club
- Math Club I: First in Math
- Math Club II: Mathematical Olympiads
- *The Monitor:* Student Newspaper
- Movie Club
- Music Club
- Pen Pals
- *Pens and Lens:* Student Literary Magazine
- Poetry Corner
- Quiz Bowl
- Robotics Club
- Science Club
- Science in the Kitchen
- Sports Club

See page 76 for descriptions of 6–8 clubs.

### GRADES 9–12
- Art Club
- Book Club
- Brainteasers Club
- Broadcast and Theater Arts Club
- Chess Club
- College Planning Club
- Debate Club
- Digital Storytelling Club
- Environmental Club
- First-Generation Club
- Gaming and Computer Technology Club
- Leadership and Global Awareness Club
- *The Monitor:* Student Newspaper
- Movie Club
- Music Club
- Pen Pals
- *Pens and Lens:* Student Literary Magazine
- Poetry Corner
- Quiz Bowl
- Robotics Club
- Science Club
- Sports Club

See page 99 for descriptions of 9–12 clubs.
PERSONALIZED INSTRUCTION is what makes Connections Academy such an effective virtual school. Our advanced technology is what makes it go.

TECHNOLOGY THAT EDUCATES AND ENGAGES
Connexus is the online engine that drives Connections Academy. At home or wherever the Internet is accessible, this user-friendly system delivers a dynamic learning experience.

We designed Connexus from the ground up to match our schools’ requirements. It reinforces our teaching approach and meets the learning needs of students and families. Connexus allows parents, teachers, and students to connect in a close, supportive way. It adds excitement to lessons with videos, web applications, and other instructional tools.

This powerful system is a major reason why Connections Academy is so effective.

CONNEUX ALLOWS FAMILIES TO:

- Access all daily lessons and course assignments.
- Interact with teachers and students in real time through LiveLesson sessions.
- Monitor student progress 24/7 through the up-to-the-minute grade book.
- View and update monthly or daily schedules in moments.
- Communicate with teachers and other students and families via secure WebMail messages and Message Boards.
- Receive alerts through WebMail messages about assignments, attendance, or due dates.
- Access our many online learning resources.
- Participate in clubs and activities.
- View a directory of students.
- Provide ratings and written feedback about specific courses and the overall learning experience.

LEARN MORE: ConnectionsAcademy.com/ConnexusDemo
CONNEXUS IS EASY TO LEARN AND FUN TO USE

It gives students, parents, and Learning Coaches access to everything they need. Lessons and instructional resources can be reached from your personalized home page, 24 hours a day, using the Internet from your own computer or, in some cases, from a computer that will be supplied by your school.* For ongoing assistance and support, our expert tech team is just a phone call away.

* Some Connections Academy schools provide a computer and/or an Internet subsidy. For more information, including computer and connectivity requirements, please visit ConnectionsAcademy.com. Find your school’s web page, scroll over the Technology tab, and then choose Hardware & Connectivity from the drop-down menu.
BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE
Connexus enables students to connect to their teachers online, helping them grow and thrive outside a traditional classroom. Upon enrollment, students and parents receive step-by-step training that gets them up to speed with all the system’s features and functions.

We believe online technology can really boost learning. It helps make lessons more relatable, meaningful, and fun. So, we develop our own engaging online tools and resources. As students explore and interact, they deepen their understanding of complex concepts and also master skills.

MULTIMEDIA INSTRUCTIONAL TOOLS
We’re proud of how our many instructional tools add dimension to our students’ coursework. For example, with our Lab Investigator: Chemical Reactions tool, students enter a virtual lab where they build and balance chemical equations, watch videos of the reactions, and send their observations to a teacher.

With our animated Lion and Friends videos, kindergarten language arts students learn about phonics, reading, and writing. Lion also makes connections with his pals in other subjects such as math, science, and social studies.

LIVELESSON SESSIONS
Using phone conferencing and dynamic on-screen tools, teachers conduct interactive LiveLesson sessions. LiveLesson technology recreates the lively, real-time interactions of a traditional classroom in an online setting. By typing or speaking into a microphone, students can ask and answer questions. They also take part in class discussions and work with other students in small-group sessions.

Teachers use this powerful technology, sometimes enhanced with web cameras, to hold office hours, during which students can receive additional one-on-one attention.

LEARN MORE:
ConnectionsAcademy.com/LiveLesson
94% of parents say that our technology improves their child’s learning experience.

LEARN MORE:
ConnectionsAcademy.com/CoolTools

CONNECT TO LEARNING
LAB INVESTIGATOR: CHEMICAL REACTIONS
LION AND FRIENDS
IT'S ABOUT OPTIONS
FOR EVERY STUDENT.

Not every student has a Connections Academy public school available where he or she lives. Other students prefer to combine the traditional school experience with the flexibility of online learning.

So, we have options for all of these students. International Connections Academy delivers our college prep curriculum all over the world. And Nexus Academy offers a blended approach, combining the best of online and classroom instruction in select states. It’s a passport to a great learning experience.

LET'S EXPLORE.
INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS ACADEMY (iNaCA) is a global accredited online private school for students in grades K–12. We connect students worldwide to everything they need for successful learning. Expert online teachers, award-winning curriculum, and personalized instruction come together to meet the needs of families who are seeking the greatest flexibility in their students' education.

Our superb college-preparatory curriculum challenges and inspires young minds. It provides a strong foundation in the basics and the knowledge and skills needed to excel in a global economy.

ABOUT iNaCA
Our talented, innovative teachers are licensed and specially trained in online instruction, and our rigorous curriculum is recognized for its outstanding quality.

As a college preparatory school, we provide experienced counselors who help guide students through the complex process of applying to colleges. We’re proud to note that iNaCA students have been accepted at many prestigious colleges and universities.

Yet, as high as our success rate is, iNaCA tuition is substantially lower than that of most traditional private schools.

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES TO MEET SPECIAL DEMANDS
iNaCA is ideal for athletes, artists, actors, and other talented students whose day doesn’t fit into a typical school schedule. Students can enroll full-time or part-time, choosing anything from one class to a full course load. They can decide when and where to complete each day’s assignments. We offer a wide range of electives—even summer courses that enable students to catch up or get ahead.

In short, anywhere there’s an Internet connection, your son or daughter can enjoy an outstanding education with iNaCA.

ATTEND AN ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION TO LEARN MORE:
InternationalConnectionsAcademy.com/Events
Tiffani Bakken enrolled her son Braeden in International Connections Academy after he was diagnosed with cancer. Having a flexible schedule made it possible for Braeden to keep up with school while traveling to receive the specialized healthcare he needed. With Braeden’s immune system compromised, the family also wanted to limit exposure to contagious illnesses, so Tiffani enrolled Marshall and Peyton the following year.

Although Braeden’s cancer is in remission, the family continues with iNaCA for the quality of education. “We love it! My children had good grades in their previous schools, but once I became more actively involved, I saw that their education was lacking. Their teachers at iNaCA have been wonderfully responsive, helping them to improve their writing skills and vocabularies. I also like being there to give my kids the attention they need.”

Our private school could be ideal for your student if:

- Your family travels or moves frequently for business, for military or diplomatic service, or for other reasons.
- Your student wants to take one or two summer courses online.
- A Connections Academy public school is not available to you.
- Your family is looking for an alternative to traditional public school.
- Your student wants a head start on college with a dual credit or dual diploma program.
OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCEL

CHOOSE FROM TWO WAYS TO EARN COLLEGE CREDIT while earning a high school diploma.

DUAL DIPLOMA PROGRAM
If your student wants to work toward a high school diploma and an associate degree at the same time, iNaCA makes it possible, through our partnership with American Public University (APU).

The program starts in the freshman year of high school, where students begin a defined course track. When the junior year is successfully completed, students are granted a year’s worth of college credit—for the cost of only one year’s high school tuition!

Seniors are then admitted directly into APU, bypassing the usual admissions process and completing their sophomore year of college during their senior year of high school. At the end of the program, graduating seniors will also receive their high school diplomas from iNaCA and their associate degrees from APU.

That’s a significant savings on tuition—and a two-year head start on a college degree.

DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM
Qualifying seniors can take up to seven credits of first-year college courses while pursuing a high school diploma. That’s because iNaCA has relationships with leading online providers like DeVry University and the University of Maryland University College (UMUC), which allow students to take classes at these institutions and receive college credits while also receiving high school credits. This allows students to graduate high school with college credits already earned at fully accredited institutions of higher learning.

PART-TIME COURSES ARE AVAILABLE, TOO
In addition to our full-time private school, iNaCA offers hundreds of part-time courses for students in K–12, including:

- Advanced science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) courses
- Gifted and Talented, Honors, and AP courses
- Credit recovery courses
- NCAA-eligible courses

RESPECTED ACCREDITATION
International Connections Academy is accredited by:

- The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)
- The Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI)

Plus, iNaCA has provisional accreditation from the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC).

LEARN MORE: InternationalConnectionsAcademy.com/CollegePrep
As a Level 10 gymnast in the Junior Olympic program, Kiarra Alleyne needs a school schedule that’s as flexible as she is! Each week she spends 37 hours at the gym, and International Connections Academy makes it possible to arrange schoolwork around her training. Plus, when she travels for gymnastics meets, Kiarra can easily take her studies on the road.

Kiarra and her family appreciate the strong academic program—she’s taking rigorous Honors and AP courses and earning top grades. “I’m glad that my classes challenge me, because I learn best when I really get into my work. I have good relationships with my teachers—they do a great job of being available to help me when I need it,” she says. Kiarra’s goals for the future include earning a gymnastics scholarship to Stanford and becoming a doctor.

TAKING SUMMER COURSES... WHILE STILL ENJOYING SUMMER.

With nearly 100 courses to choose from and flexible start dates, iNaCA makes it possible to fit schooling around your student’s summer activities.

Our summer program includes:

- Complete high school courses to satisfy graduation requirements or accelerate your student’s academic progress
- Credit recovery courses to help your student advance and acquire skills for success
- “Summer Smarts” courses for grades K–8 to help your student catch up or enhance existing skills

QUESTIONS? READY TO ENROLL?
1-888-440-2899
InternationalConnectionsAcademy.com
WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU COMBINE THE BEST of face-to-face and personalized online learning?

The answer is Nexus Academy. It’s how Connections Education is rethinking high school—using a blended learning approach created expressly to prepare today’s students for tomorrow’s college and career success.

Nexus Academy schools feature expert teachers, a college commons-like learning environment, and our proven, award-winning technology and curriculum. We offer the AP and Honors courses colleges expect—plus a personalized fitness program and dedicated Success Coaches who help students stay on task and guide them toward their goals.

There’s no tuition, because Nexus Academy schools are public schools. Enrollment is limited to 300 students per school, to ensure individual attention.

WHAT’S A TYPICAL DAY LIKE AT A NEXUS ACADEMY SCHOOL?

Each Nexus Academy is housed on a campus designed and equipped specifically for interactive learning. Students can choose to attend in person during the morning or afternoon session, each offered four days a week. While on-site, students work with their teachers and fellow students, in class and on their computers. They can also choose from various study environments to suit their work styles: there are couches, high-top tables, and even movable ergonomic chairs. Following individualized schedules, students also meet with their Success Coaches, exercise as part of their personal fitness plans, or take part in anything from Chess Club to student government.

When they’re off campus, students continue their schoolwork from home or wherever there’s an Internet connection. The flexible Nexus Academy schedule is ideal for students who have jobs or internships, want to take college courses, or are pursuing interests like athletics or the performing arts.

WHERE CAN I FIND NEXUS ACADEMY?

Right now, there are seven Nexus Academy campuses in three states, with more on the way.

Indiana
Indianapolis
Michigan
Grand Rapids
Lansing
Royal Oak
Ohio
Cleveland
Columbus
Toledo
Although Rose Brock was doing well at her previous school, her time-management skills were lacking. Her mom decided that Nexus Academy’s blend of in-person and online learning was the ideal solution. “Rose has improved in planning for deadlines. After classes and socialization at school, she can focus with no distractions at home,” she says. Rose also enjoys the broad course selection. “I’ve taken advanced German and learned digital photography. In Living Music, I studied music theory and wrote my own compositions.” After graduation, Rose plans to attend college in Michigan.

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**NEXUS ACADEMY IS THE PERFECT CHOICE IF YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER:**

- Wants the advantages of both **online learning** and **classroom instruction**
- Could benefit from **smaller classroom sizes** and **one-on-one attention**
- Wants to take AP and Honors courses to **gain an advantage for college admission**
- Is **self-motivated** and enjoys a challenge
- Wants a wide selection of **Career Technical Education** courses, in fields like finance, marketing, psychology, criminal justice, and more
- Would flourish in a school that provides a **safe, encouraging atmosphere**

**HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?**

1-888-533-6360
NexusAcademySchools.com
In grades K–5, Connections Academy helps young students learn the basics, acquire study skills, and develop a love of learning that will last a lifetime.

We introduce K–5 students to the building blocks for success in school—reading, writing, and mathematics. We weave in science, social studies, technology, art, and physical fitness to provide a well-rounded core curriculum.

To encourage further exploration, we offer exciting electives and clubs. Students can take world language courses, learn basic music concepts, conduct home experiments, and much more.

We supply students with the finest instructional resources, including virtual tools, art kits, workbooks, and more. Our teachers bring it all together. They’re experts at motivating students online and personalizing lessons.

Connections Academy provides a superb K–5 education while building a strong foundation for later success.
The kindergarten curriculum provides students with everything they need to get started on a lifetime of learning. The texts, stories, and activities cover the basics of reading, writing, science, social studies, and math while providing young students with a fun and interactive learning experience.

**Language Arts** In kindergarten, students build a foundation for successful reading as they explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills outlined in national and state standards. Learning activities combine phonics, listening, comprehension, and vocabulary instruction with daily exposure to books, including literature and informational texts. A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises encourages the development of fine motor skills. Students learn language skills as well as letter formation, and they practice these by drawing, dictating, and writing. By the end of kindergarten, many students will be reading, and all students should be able to recognize consonant as well as long and short vowel sounds.

*Reading Street, Scott Foresman, 2013*

**Math** In kindergarten, mathematical thinking and problem solving are introduced. Students explore topics and apply mathematical practices outlined in national and state standards. They learn how to identify numbers, write numbers zero to 20, and count to 100 by ones and tens. They also describe, sort, and compare objects and learn basic shapes. Stories and activities introduce addition and subtraction. A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises teaches students about money, time, fractions, and measurement.

*Math* enVisionMATH, Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley, 2012

**Science** The key to science is stimulating curiosity. A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises encourages students to observe, describe, measure, and question the world around them. Life, Earth, and physical sciences are introduced. Students investigate living things, such as plants and animals, and nonliving things, such as matter and mixtures.

*Interactive Science, Pearson, 2012*

**Social Studies** Students learn the concepts of community, nation, and world in this course. They answer essential questions including “How do people get what they need?”, “How is culture shared?” and “How does life change throughout history?” A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises teaches students about personal responsibility, good citizenship, and basic geography. While learning about America’s past and important historical figures, students research their personal history and heroes.

*myWorld Social Studies, Here We Are, Pearson, 2013*
Educational Technology and Online Learning  In this course, students explore the features of a draw and paint program as a tool to support emerging reading, writing, and mathematics skills. They learn to locate letters and numbers on the keyboard. A study skills unit introduces them to listening and visualization techniques that support learning across the school day. Students also learn to recognize safe and responsible use of technology resources so they can become model digital citizens.

Art  In art, students explore color, line, and shape. A combination of interactive and hands-on studio projects encourages students to create art. They sharpen their fine motor skills and explore the areas of art they find interesting. Artistic modes include drawing, painting, assembling, and sculpting.

Physical Education  In kindergarten, physical education encourages students to develop their fine motor skills, movement, and confidence to enjoy healthy physical activity regularly. A combination of interactive and hands-on activities teaches students essential skills. Students learn how to respect themselves and others while playing.

CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENTS

Digital and Interactive Resources
- BrainPOP Jr.
- Discovery Education™ streaming
- EBSCO
- Google Earth®
- Grammar Jammers
- Grolier Online™

Connections Academy Exclusives!
Instructional Tools
- Activity Tracker
- Virtual 2-D/3-D Shapes
- Virtual Geoboard
- Virtual Pan Balance

Books
- Abuela
- Farfallina and Marcel
- Goldilocks and the Three Bears
- Language Arts K Course Guide
- Little Books Package
- Little Quack
- Math K Course Guide
- Mayday! Mayday! A Coast Guard Rescue
- My Lucky Day
- My Skills Buddy
- Reader’s and Writer’s Notebook
- Science K Course Guide
- Social Studies K Course Guide
- This Is the Way We Go to School!

Learning Supplies
- Art Kit
- Letter Tiles
- Math Manipulatives Ki
- Science Kit

 Indicates that this textbook is available as an online text. Students in some schools may also receive printed texts.
FIRST GRADE

The curriculum for grade one builds on the foundation established in kindergarten. The focus is on developing reading skills and learning the basics of math, science, and social studies. Students strengthen their communication skills and explore the concepts of number sense, addition, subtraction, and basic geometry. They also develop an understanding of both the United States and the world.

Language Arts Students explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening practices outlined in national and state standards. Students are taught to attack new words using a variety of decoding and contextual strategies, and they are given daily opportunities to apply these skills to literature and informational texts. They are taught to think about what they read by implementing various guided reading strategies. Their handwriting improves and their writing skills strengthen as they compose narrative, informational, and opinion pieces.

Math In first grade math, students explore topics and apply mathematical practices outlined in national and state standards. While building strategies for addition and subtraction of whole numbers, students also develop their problem-solving and reasoning skills. Students use hands-on activities and tools to practice money and measurement concepts. They also explore geometry topics—shapes, congruence, and symmetry—and learn to analyze picture graphs, data, and bar graphs.

Science This course encourages students to explore the natural world. They study Earth, its resources, ways to protect the planet, and how plants and animals grow and change. They create a model of a mountain and investigate the way sunlight affects leaves. Students also learn about the scientific method and explore possible careers in science.

Reading Street, Scott Foresman, 2008
Handwriting, Zaner-Bloser, 2012

enVisionMATH, Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley, 2009

Social Studies Students learn about the ways in which people contribute to their communities and work together to the benefit of all. This course explores the concepts of good citizenship, neighborhoods, and economics. Students also study maps, photographs, biographies, illustrations, poetry, and music to help explain the concept of communities and extend it to the larger world.

Social Studies: All Together, Scott Foresman, 2008

Educational Technology and Online Learning In this course, students build on foundational skills while using software to draw, type, and format text. They also create presentations to support academic skills. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety and appropriate online behavior.

Art Students expand their understanding of color, line, and shape. Activities include drawing, cutting, creating designs, and paper construction. The concepts of texture and three-dimensional forms are also introduced.

Physical Education Each week, students learn new games and activities that are grouped into thematic units including Making Healthy Choices and Games Around the World. In addition to doing the activities described in the lessons, students have the option of participating in yoga or an individual or a team sport.

CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENTS

Digital and Interactive Resources
BrainPOP Jr.®
Digital Learning CD-ROM Powered by KnowledgeBox®
Discovery Education™ streaming
EBSCO
Grammar Jammers
Grolier Online™
SkillsTutor™
Take Me to Your Readers

Connections Academy Exclusives!
Instructional Tools
Activity Tracker
Connect-a-Majig®
Virtual 2-D/3-D Shapes
Virtual Geoboard
Virtual Pan Balance

Books
The Grammar and Writing Practice Book
Ira Sleeps Over
Language Arts 1 Course Guide
Language Arts: Practice Book
Math 1 Course Guide
Math: Interactive Homework Workbook
Math: Transitioning to Common Core Student Lessons
Phonics and Spelling Practice Book
Science 1 Course Guide
Science: Building Skills Reading and Writing Workbook
Social Studies 1 Course Guide
Social Studies: All Together Workbook

Learning Supplies
Art Kit
Letter Tiles
Math Manipulatives Kit
Science Kit
Yoga DVDs and Jump Rope

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SECOND GRADE

The language arts focus in grade two is on improving students’ comprehension and fluency along with their grammar, spelling, and handwriting skills. Students explore basic history, geography, economics, and government concepts in their study of social studies. In math, they continue to expand their understanding of numbers and operations and are introduced to basic concepts in algebra, geometry, and measurement. In science, students explore energy and the changing states of matter.

**Language Arts** Students explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening practices outlined in national and state standards. They are given the opportunity to apply word-attack skills to increasingly complex texts and build their oral and sight vocabularies through daily instruction. While practicing new skills, students take part in activities based on selections they are reading. Students apply handwriting and grammar skills to narrative, informational, and opinion pieces.

*Reading Street, Scott Foresman, 2008  
Handwriting, Zaner-Bloser, 2012*

**Math** Students explore topics and apply mathematical practices outlined in national and state standards. Students use hands-on activities to study time, money, geometry, and fractions. They connect numbers to statistics using basic algebraic concepts and simple graphs. Students also investigate measurement topics such as weight, mass, capacity, time, and temperature.

*enVisionMATH, Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley, 2009*

**Science** This course stimulates students’ curiosity about the world around them. They investigate energy and changing states of matter, such as liquid water changing to water vapor, and they create a weather chart. Students enjoy hands-on and virtual activities as they investigate the importance of water and vegetation in life science and explore forces in physical science.

*Science: A Closer Look, McGraw-Hill, 2008*

**Social Studies** Students explore basic concepts of history, geography, economics, and government while discovering more about world cultures. Students practice basic map, chart, graph, and critical-thinking skills. They also learn about ordinary people who demonstrate good citizenship and famous people who have influenced the United States and the world.

*Social Studies: People and Places, Scott Foresman, 2008*

**State History** All students are introduced to the history of their state. They trace the timeline from Native Americans to the present while focusing on the state’s people, government, economy, resources, and geography. Throughout the course, students are introduced to analytical skills such as recognizing change and continuity over time, as well as identifying...
cause and effect. (This course may be offered in second, third, fourth, or fifth grade depending on the student’s state requirements.)

Educational Technology and Online Learning In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects and solve problems. Students use software to draw, write, organize, and present information. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety and appropriate online behavior.

Art Students learn how the elements and principles of art are combined to create unique and expressive artwork. They explore how art is connected to other subjects such as science and math. Students also learn the basics of drawing, painting, and three-dimensional design.

Physical Education Each week, students learn a new game or activity based on thematic units including Games You Can Make and Games Around the World. In addition to doing the activities described in the lessons, students have the option of participating in yoga or an individual or a team sport.
In grade three, the goal in language arts is to strengthen students’ comprehension skills as they read and analyze more complex texts. In science, students use hands-on activities and observation to further their understanding of the scientific method. In math, they explore various strategies for multiplication and division. In social studies, students compare communities, study money, and more.

**Language Arts** Students explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills outlined in national and state standards. As they read critically and analyze literature and informational texts, they also learn and apply new word-study skills. Writing progresses to paragraphs and, eventually, longer compositions. As they compose, students learn the five stages of writing: planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Students also begin to conduct short research projects.

*Reading Street,* Scott Foresman, 2008  
*Handwriting,* Zaner-Bloser, 2012

**Math** Third grade math provides the opportunity for students to explore topics and apply math skills outlined in national and state standards. Multiplication and division are introduced as well as adding and subtracting decimals. Students’ understanding of these operations continues to develop as they apply problem-solving strategies and mathematical reasoning to their work. Students use hands-on activities to explore geometric patterns, shapes, and solids. They also use tools to determine measurements such as time and temperature. In the probability unit, students gather data, create graphs, and perform experiments.

*enVisionMATH,* Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley, 2009

**Science** Students explore the living world and the sky above. In life science, students begin by analyzing things that make up the living world and then study life cycles and ecosystems. They study the composition of Earth as well as its location in relation to the sun and moon. In physical science, students investigate the properties of matter.


**Social Studies** This course focuses on the theme of community, with an emphasis on history, civics, economics, and geography. Students compare communities and examine the American political system, including the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the three branches of government, all within the context of a citizen’s rights and responsibilities. Students are introduced to economics by studying money, prices, and supply and demand, with a special emphasis on making good personal economic decisions.

*Social Studies: Communities,* Scott Foresman, 2008

**State History** All students are introduced to the history of their state. The history ranges from the time of Native Americans to the present. While focusing on the state’s people, government, economy, resources, and geography, the course
also successfully intertwines analytical skills such as recognizing change and continuity over time and identifying cause and effect. (This course may be offered in second, third, fourth, or fifth grade depending on the student’s state requirements.)

**Educational Technology and Online Learning** In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects, manage information, and solve problems. Students use software to write, organize, analyze, and present information. They learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety and appropriate online behavior.

**Art** Students engage in arts and crafts that explore the characteristics of the four seasons. As they study the art of various cultures, they are introduced to art history and art criticism. Students also use a variety of media to create two- and three-dimensional projects.

**Physical Education** By third grade, students are expected to understand and demonstrate clearly defined combinations of movements, and they learn one or more new activities each week. Students learn the importance of nutrition as it relates to health and physical fitness. They also have the option of participating in yoga or an individual or a team sport.

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**CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENTS**

**Digital and Interactive Resources**
- BrainPOP®
- BrainPOP Jr.®
- Digital Learning CD-ROM Powered by KnowledgeBox®
- DimensionU™
- Discovery Education™ streaming
- EBSCO
- Grammar Jammers
- Grolier Online™
- SkillsTutor™

**Connections Academy Exclusives!**

**Instructional Tools**
- Activity Tracker
- Lemonade Stand
- Virtual 2-D/3-D Shapes
- Virtual Geoboard
- Virtual Spring Scale

**Books**
- Get Fit Handbook
- The Grammar & Writing Book
- Language Arts 3 Course Guide
- Language Arts: Practice Book
- Math 3 Course Guide
- Math: Interactive Homework Workbook
- Novels
- Phonics and Spelling Practice Book
- Science 3 Course Guide
- Science: Building Skills Reading and Writing Workbook
- Social Studies 3 Course Guide
- Social Studies: Communities Quick Study

**Learning Supplies**
- Art Kit
- Math Manipulatives Kit
- Science Kit
- Yoga DVDs and Jump Rope

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FOURTH GRADE

The fourth grade language arts curriculum continues to advance students’ study of literature and informational texts. Students enhance their exploration of life, physical, and Earth sciences; apply geography skills in social studies; and advance their math skills by working with fractions, decimals, and units of measurement.

Language Arts
Students explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills outlined in national and state standards. They learn to understand vocabulary and read more independently. Basic writing skills are reinforced as students write longer, well-organized narrative, informational, and opinion compositions. Spelling, handwriting, and proper language usage are emphasized. Daily spelling activities help students learn to spell and use words correctly.

Reading Street, Scott Foresman, 2008

Math
Students explore topics and apply math skills outlined in national and state standards. Mastery of basic skills helps students multiply two-digit numbers and divide three-digit numbers by one-digit divisors. Measurement covers both customary and metric units. Students also study geometry concepts including lines, angles, polygons, perimeter, area, and congruence. Fourth grade math also covers equations, statistics using data and graphing techniques, and probability concepts. Throughout the course, students practice problem-solving strategies and explain mathematical reasoning.

enVisionMATH, Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley, 2009

Science
Students in this course use the scientific method to perform hands-on and virtual explorations. In the area of life science, they explore the differences and similarities among organisms. In Earth science, students investigate the differences between rocks and minerals and explore forces and forms of energy. Students are also introduced to the idea of a career in science.


Social Studies
A regional approach is used to examine the geography and history of the United States in this course. During their studies, students learn how to use different types of maps and apply geographic skills and concepts. The course emphasizes the role of the individual in the community and the concept of change over time. (Course may vary by state.)

Social Studies: Regions, Scott Foresman, 2008

State History
All students are introduced to the history of their state. The timeline stretches from Native Americans to the present while focusing on the state’s people, government, economy, resources, and geography. Students are also introduced to analytical skills such as recognizing change and continuity over time as well as identifying cause and effect. (This course may be offered in second, third, fourth, or fifth grade depending on the student’s state requirements.)
Educational Technology and Online Learning In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects, manage information, and solve problems. Students use software to write, organize, analyze, and present information. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety, appropriate online behavior, and effective search and website evaluation strategies.

Art In this course, students are introduced to works of art from several continents. As they become more familiar with art elements and the principles of design, they learn how these are applied in creating visual art in diverse cultures around the world. In addition, students use various media to create two- and three-dimensional projects.

Physical Education By fourth grade, students have improved hand–eye coordination, and they understand rules and the importance of following them. This prepares them for more advanced instruction in both individual and partner activities. Students learn the importance of nutrition and exercise as they relate to health and physical fitness. They also have the option of participating in yoga or an individual or a team sport.

**CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENTS**

Digital and Interactive Resources
- 6 Trait Power Write®
- BrainPOP®
- Digital Learning CD-ROM Powered by KnowledgeBox®
- DimensionU™
- Discovery Education™ streaming
- EBSCO
- Grammar Jammers
- Grolier Online™
- SkillSTutor™

**Connections Academy Exclusives!**

Instructional Tools
- Activity Tracker
- Lemonade Stand
- Virtual 2-D/3-D Shapes
- Virtual Geoboard
- Virtual Spring Scale

Books
- Get Fit Handbook
- The Grammar & Writing Book
- Language Arts 4 Course Guide
- Language Arts: Practice Book
- Math 4 Course Guide
- Math: Interactive Homework Workbook
- Novels
- Science 4 Course Guide
- Science: Building Skills Reading and Writing Workbook
- Social Studies 4 Course Guide
- Social Studies: Regions Quick Study
- Word Study and Spelling Practice Book

Learning Supplies
- Art Kit
- Math Manipulatives Kit
- Science Kit
- Yoga DVDs and Jump Rope

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Indicates a Gifted and Talented course is also available.
In fifth grade, students continue to strengthen their reading comprehension and build reading proficiency. They sharpen their investigative skills while expanding their knowledge of Earth, physical, and life sciences. Students are also introduced to more advanced mathematical operations, learn American history up to the present day, and chart the growth of the nation.

**Language Arts** Students explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills outlined in national and state standards. Writing instruction focuses on structure, format, and grammar. Students use effective planning tools such as graphic organizers and outlines to create narrative, informational, and opinion compositions.

*Reading Street,* Scott Foresman, 2008

**Math** Students explore topics and apply math skills outlined in national and state standards. The order of operations is discussed, and students learn to solve and write equations and inequalities. Students advance in geometry as they classify two- and three-dimensional solids, calculate the surface area and volume of regular and irregular figures, explore graphing and probability, create circle graphs, and make predictions based on statistics. Throughout the course, students practice problem-solving strategies and explain their mathematical reasoning.

*enVisionMATH,* Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley, 2009

**Science** Students continue to sharpen their investigative skills. In life science, students examine the living world; in physical science, they explore characteristics of matter, sound, and light. Students also learn about Earth’s composition and the forces that shape its surface. The scientific method is reinforced, and careers in science are discussed.


**Social Studies** In this course, students trace the history of the United States from the earliest Americans to the 21st century. Students practice map skills as they chart the growth of the nation and develop their ability to compare, sequence properly, and interpret sources. Students also study how geography has affected culture and historic events.

*Social Studies: The United States,* Scott Foresman, 2008
**State History** All students are introduced to the history of their state. The timeline stretches from Native Americans to the present while focusing on the state’s people, government, economy, resources, and geography. Students are also introduced to analytical skills such as recognizing change and continuity over time as well as identifying cause and effect. (This course may be offered in second, third, fourth, or fifth grade depending on the student’s state requirements.)

**Educational Technology and Online Learning** In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects, manage information, and solve problems. Students use software to write, organize, analyze, and present information. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible communicators and users of technology as they learn about intellectual property, Internet safety, and effective search and evaluation strategies.

**Art** Students are introduced to various works of art, and they become familiar with the elements of art and the principles of design. They examine how these elements and principles were applied to create visual art in different time periods and cultures. Students use assorted media to create two- and three-dimensional projects.

**Physical Education** By fifth grade, students understand the concepts of fair play and playing by the rules. Respecting themselves and others is emphasized during cooperative physical education activities. Students learn the importance of nutrition and exercise as they relate to health and physical fitness. They also have the option of participating in yoga or an individual or a team sport.

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**CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENTS**

**Digital and Interactive Resources**
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- DimensionU™
- Discovery Education™ streaming
- EBSCO
- Grammar Jammers
- Grolier Online™
- SkillsTutor™

**Connections Academy Exclusives! Instructional Tools**
- Lab Investigator: Rocks and Minerals
- Virtual 2-D/3-D Shapes
- Virtual Geoboard
- Virtual Spring Scale

**Books**
- Get Fit Handbook
- The Grammar & Writing Book
- Language Arts 5 Course Guide
- Language Arts: Practice Book
- Math 5 Course Guide
- Math: Interactive Homework Workbook
- Novels
- Science 5 Course Guide
- Science: Building Skills Reading and Writing Workbook
- Social Studies 5 Course Guide
- Social Studies: The United States Workbook
- Word Study and Spelling Practice Book

**Learning Supplies**
- Art Kit
- Math Manipulatives Kit
- Science Kit
- Yoga DVDs and Jump Rope

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ADDITIONAL COURSES AND ELECTIVES K–5

Chinese (I and II)  Students learn Mandarin Chinese through conversations with a native speaker. Cultural explorations lead students to make connections between their culture and that of people in the Mandarin-speaking world. These introductory courses use many interactive components to engage students with the Chinese language and culture. The courses are offered for students in third, fourth, and fifth grade.

Experiencing Music (I and II)—Juilliard eLearning courses Designed for students in grades K–2, these courses introduce younger students to the basic components of music: melody and rhythm. Students use these components to explore their own voices by creating beats and rhythms. In addition, students use critical-listening skills to analyze music they hear as they participate in interactive experiences. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies provided by both The Juilliard School and Connections Education, these courses provide a unique and advanced learning experience for students in these grades.

Discovering Music (I and II)—Juilliard eLearning courses Designed for students in grades 3–5, these courses teach students fundamental musicianship skills from a Western Classical approach while aligning to national music education standards. The courses challenge students to improve their listening, notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies provided by both The Juilliard School and Connections Education, these courses provide a unique and advanced learning experience for students in these grades.

Gifted and Talented Literature Study 2 This course, for second graders only, is organized around the themes of friendship, responsibility, and bravery. The Junior Great Books® program, which is the basis for this course, employs the Shared Inquiry™ method. This method enables students to discuss these themes and make interpretations. This approach to learning fosters a vibrant environment where students acquire the habits and strategies of self-reliant thinkers, readers, and learners.

Home Life In this course, students select from a number of activities that develop their skills through fun, experiential learning projects. Activities include cooking, crafts, sewing, home maintenance, family outings, and genealogy.
Sign Language This course introduces students to the fundamentals of American Sign Language through the use of vocabulary, grammar, and conversation as well as basic signing and fingerspelling techniques. Special activities and exercises help students understand the culture of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Spanish (I and II) These highly interactive courses enable students to communicate with a native speaker and make connections between their culture and the culture of people in the Spanish-speaking world. Students further develop their Spanish communication skills as they study familiar topics such as school, clothes, and community. (These courses are offered for students in third, fourth, and fifth grade.)

WebQuest This interactive elective allows students to participate in a unique and individual WebQuest experience. The course is primarily based on students’ collecting, submitting, and tracking their own data. In addition, students are able to share online their collected information with other students.

● Designates a new, revised, or expanded course.
**Arts and Crafts** This club encourages students to create crafts using materials found at home and in nature. Through the study of culture, nature, science, and history, students work on projects such as mosaics, keepsake boxes, and magnetic emoticons.

**Book Club** Participants meet online monthly to discuss reviews of books from designated genres. Sharing themes, plots, and opinions allows students the opportunity to strengthen public speaking skills while honing their ability to analyze and summarize literary content.

**Brainteasers Club** Members solve anagrams, crosswords, word searches, crack the code challenges, logic grids, Sudoku puzzles, and more—all delivered to them through a weekly newsletter. Students are also encouraged to create their own brainteasers and share them on the Connexus Message Boards.

**Chess Clubs** Members learn, socialize, and play in an atmosphere of friendly competition using an exclusive gaming site, available 24/7. After completing a tutorial, students request games through the gaming system at their desired skill level, and the online games begin. Monthly presentations enhance learning and build friendships, while an end-of-year tournament allows for more intensive competition. Introduction to Chess and Advanced Chess Clubs are both available.

**Digital Storytelling Club** Students use a variety of computer programs to incorporate pictures and audio to tell their original tales. They share stories in their LiveLesson sessions and through Message Board discussions to get feedback from peers. Students also share their final products in the Virtual Library for all to enjoy.

**Environmental Club** Students develop an individual awareness of their contribution to and effect on the environment. Members exchange ideas about ways to keep our planet clean and also discuss global issues such as alternative energy, trash collection and recycling, and allocating limited resources. Activities show students how they can influence these issues on a local level. Members also hear from experts and professionals who work on environmental issues.

**Math Club I: First in Math®** Students take part in a math competition by playing interactive games on the First in Math website. The online play reinforces a wide range of skills, from simple addition to solving for $x$ and $y$ variables. Students work at their own pace and earn points as they master various concepts and complete test-prep exercises geared to appropriate grade levels. Monthly meetings provide opportunities for enriched and collaborative learning.

**Math Club II: Mathematical Olympiads** Fourth and fifth graders compete in the International Mathematical Olympiads. These gifted and talented math students
meet twice a month: first to review high-level problem-solving strategies and techniques, and next to apply their skills in the official competition and accrue points that determine annual winners.

**Movie Club** Members learn about film genres, acting, special effects, and musical compositions around monthly themes. Student film buffs gain opportunities to demonstrate their creativity and collaborate with others to create their own movies as part of a virtual showcase.

**Music Club** Students who enjoy performing, composing, or listening to music explore various musical genres, lyrics, and instruments. Members have opportunities to collaborate and exercise their creativity by designing their own musical instruments or participating in a virtual showcase and talent show.

**Pen Pals** It’s a classic way to build friendships. Students develop their skills in letter writing, written expression, and penmanship while making friends with other students across the country. Once a month, students meet online to share personal experiences and personal favorites, like favorite foods and favorite celebrations.

**Pens and Lens: Student Literary Magazine** The monthly Pens and Lens magazine recognizes and publishes original student-created poetry, short stories, and photographs. This recognition encourages and inspires others to pursue both writing and photography.

**Quiz Bowl** During this weekly academic competition, elementary students apply their knowledge of fun facts. Winners are named at the end of the year.

**Robotics Club** Members learn how robots are used in popular culture, scientific studies, and commercial enterprises. Students work together to program a robot to navigate an obstacle course. Their creativity is encouraged as they plan, design, and submit drawings of their ultimate robots. No previous computer coding experience is required, and no materials are required for participation. Club members in some states may have the opportunity to participate in state or regional robotic competitions.

**Science in the Kitchen** Young students are encouraged to apply their research skills and scientific knowledge by conducting experiments using household items. Students’ kitchens double as laboratories for conducting safe, simple experiments. Club members then discuss their results online with fellow students.

**Sports Club** Students who enjoy athletics explore a variety of sporting activities. Members discuss the similarities and differences of various seasonal sports and have the opportunity to learn about training techniques and fitness programs. Students also use the Activity Tracker to document personal fitness habits and routines.

Students and Learning Coaches will receive information about signing up for clubs and activities after the school year begins. Additional clubs and activities are offered to students, and these may vary by school.
MIDDLE SCHOOL: THE ON-RAMP TO SUCCESS

Students enter a new world of academic growth and personal discovery in middle school. Connections Academy helps these students see their own potential and the many possibilities that are open to them.

Our outstanding curriculum helps students in grades 6–8 sharpen their language arts, math, and critical-thinking skills. It also deepens their understanding of history and science.

We enhance this rigorous curriculum with exciting electives. Students can learn new skills, find art in everyday life, or explore new technologies. They can join clubs that enrich them in whole new ways, like competing in Mathematical Olympiads or writing for the school newspaper. Gifted students can even start earning high school credits early.*

Middle school (grades 7–8 in some schools) is when Connections Academy students begin working directly with subject-specific teachers. They become more independent, more responsible for their education, and more focused on their passions. Our 6–8 education helps them every step of the way.

* Not available in all schools. Requires the school counselor’s approval.
Students sharpen and strengthen skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. They are exposed to a wide variety of writing styles to create a sense of curiosity and excitement. Students improve comprehension of increasingly complex literature and informational texts using a multi-draft reading approach as they discuss, analyze, and critique. They learn to make connections between their readings, other titles, and the world. Students also expand their academic vocabularies and build confidence through independent reading. They write expository and creative compositions and employ test-taking strategies that are effective for different types of learners.

**In sixth grade** Through the study of authors such as Elizabeth Partridge, Gary Soto, and Langston Hughes, students ponder such questions as “Is conflict always bad?”; “How do we decide who we are?”; and “How much do our communities shape us?” Short-term research engages students’ curiosity and critical-thinking skills. Students are encouraged to support their ideas with evidence as they practice narrative, informative, and persuasive writing.

*Pearson Common Core Literature, Grade 6, 2015*

**In seventh grade** By studying authors such as Amy Tan, Emily Dickinson, and Laurence Yep, students ponder such questions as “Does every conflict have a winner?”; “What is the best way to communicate?”; and “Do others see us more clearly than we see ourselves?” Short- and long-term research engages their curiosity and critical-thinking skills. Students are encouraged to integrate knowledge and ideas into their work as they practice narrative, informative, and persuasive writing.

*Pearson Common Core Literature, Grade 7, 2015*

**In eighth grade** Through the study of authors such as Nikki Giovanni, Elie Wiesel, and Mark Twain, students ponder such questions as “Can all conflicts be resolved?”; “Is it our differences or our similarities that matter most?”; and “Are yesterday’s heroes important today?” Students exercise their curiosity and critical-thinking skills through short- and long-term research. They refine and reinforce their skills by practicing narrative, informative, and persuasive writing.

*Pearson Common Core Literature, Grade 8, 2015*

Textbooks may vary by state.

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**CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENTS**

**Sixth Grade**
- The Cay
- Guardians of Grammar
- Journey to Topaz
- Language Arts 6 Online Course Guide
- SAS® Curriculum Pathways®
- Walk Two Moons

**Seventh Grade**
- Dragonwings
- Guardians of Grammar
- Language Arts 7 Online Course Guide
- SAS® Curriculum Pathways®
- The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963

**Eighth Grade**
- Activity Tracker
- The Giver
- Guardians of Grammar
- Johnny Tremain
- Language Arts 8 Online Course Guide
- SAS® Curriculum Pathways®

- BrainPOP®, Discovery Education™ streaming, EBSCO, Gizmos, Grolier Online™, SkillsTutor™, and Write to Learn are available in grades 6—8 for applicable subjects.
MATH 6–8

The middle school math program provides interactive, engaging content that encourages students to think critically, make real-world connections, and collaborate with peers. These courses contain a variety of online instructional resources such as virtual tools, educational games, and tutorials that enable students to manipulate and make sense of mathematical problems. Throughout the program, students reason abstractly and quantitatively, engage in mathematical discussions, strategically apply concepts, and express their reasoning.

**Math 6** Students connect ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and also use the concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems. In addition, they expand their ability to divide fractions and to write, interpret, and apply expressions and equations. They also develop an understanding of statistical thinking.

*Mathematics: Course 1, Common Core Edition, Prentice Hall, 2012*

**Math 7** Students build on their knowledge of proportional relationships and operations with rational numbers. They solve real-world problems involving scale drawings, geometric constructions, area, surface area, and volume. Students also draw inferences about populations based on samples.


**Algebra Readiness (Pre-Algebra)** Students prepare for algebra as they expand their understanding of expressions and equations. They solve linear equations and systems of linear equations, use functions to describe quantitative relationships, and analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures.


**Algebra 1** In this course, students explore the properties of real numbers and apply this knowledge to equations, inequalities, and multi-step equations. Students learn to identify, write, and graph functions and equations, simplify radical expressions, and solve quadratic equations. They learn to factor and perform operations with binomials and polynomials. Students calculate slope and use slope-intercept form to graph linear equations. They also learn to solve systems of equations and inequalities both graphically and algebraically. This course is offered to qualified students.

*Algebra 1, Prentice Hall, 2011*

Textbooks may vary by state.

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**CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENTS**

**Sixth Grade**
- Math 6 Online Course Guide
- Virtual 2-D/3-D Shapes
- Virtual Geoboard
- WorkPad

**Seventh Grade**
- Math 7 Online Course Guide
- Virtual 2-D/3-D Shapes
- Virtual Geoboard
- WorkPad

**Eighth Grade**
- Algebra Readiness (Pre-Algebra) Online Course Guide
- DimensionU™
- Online Graphing Calculator
- Virtual 2-D/3-D Shapes
- Virtual Geoboard
- WorkPad

*BrainPOP®, Discovery Education™ streaming, EBSCO, Gizmos, Grolier Online™, and SkillsTutor™ are available in grades 6–8 for applicable subjects.*

*Indicates that this textbook is available as an online text. Students in some schools may also receive printed texts.*

*Indicates a Gifted and Talented course is also available.*

*Designates a new, revised, or expanded course.*
The middle school science program covers life science, Earth science, and physical science using a variety of online resources as well as meaningful hands-on activities. Students explore fundamental crosscutting concepts relating to the various fields of science and develop a scientific worldview.

These media-rich science courses enable students to engage actively in inquiry-based investigations and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) projects, as well as cross-disciplinary and cross-curricular activities. Students are encouraged to make connections, collaborate, and reflect on their learning as they work through the content.

As students advance through the courses, they receive an internationally benchmarked science education that covers the topics listed below. Because each course is designed to meet state-based standards, the sequence of content will vary by state and may include the following:

- Structure of the cell
- Organism systems and information processing in the body
- Transfer of matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems
- Interdependent relationships in ecosystems
- Natural selection and adaptations
- Growth, development, and reproduction of organisms
- Earth and space systems
- Earth’s surface and interior processes
- Weather and climate
- Human impact on Earth
- Structure and properties of matter
- Chemical reactions
- Forces, energy, and motion
- Waves and electromagnetic radiation

CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENTS

Lab Investigator: Rocks and Minerals
Lab Investigator: Virtual Dissection
Science Kit
Virtual Digital Scale
Virtual Spring Scale

BrainPOP®, Discovery Education™ streaming, EBSCO, Gizmos, Grolier Online™, and SkillsTutor™ are available in grades 6–8 for applicable subjects.

Indicates a Gifted and Talented course is also available.
SOCIAL STUDIES 6–8

An enhanced and technology-enriched social studies curriculum provides students with the opportunity to engage with technology and explore history from ancient China, Egypt, and Greece to modern America. To develop 21st century skills, students utilize their critical- and creative-thinking abilities as they communicate and collaborate with peers to connect what they are learning with the world around them.

In sixth grade Students focus on ancient civilizations. They begin by analyzing a historian’s role and utilizing the tools and skills he or she would use, including building timelines, studying geography, and evaluating multiple sources. Students trace how societies shifted from hunting and gathering to farming. They also trace the development of ancient China, India, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Italy. Students enhance their critical thinking by interpreting primary sources and reading eyewitness accounts to draw conclusions.

World History: Journey Across Time: The Early Ages, Glencoe, 2008

In seventh grade Students study political, economic, and social changes from the fifth century to modern times. They utilize their critical-thinking skills by making connections between historical events, such as the rise and fall of empires and the rise of democracy, and by analyzing long-term changes and recurring patterns in world history. Students complete a comprehensive study of the history, geography, and cultures of nations in North and South America. Thinking as historians, they read primary source documents, form hypotheses, and draw conclusions.


World Studies: Western Hemisphere, Prentice Hall, 2008

In eighth grade The first segment of American history focuses on precolonial times and extends through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Using a chronological approach, students make connections among historical events and analyze the impact on the American people. They hone their critical-thinking skills as they interpret primary sources, create and analyze timelines and graphs, compare and contrast multiple viewpoints, and recognize bias in historical accounts.

The American Republic to 1877, Glencoe, 2005

State history or alternative social studies courses may be offered in sixth, seventh, or eighth grade depending on the student’s state requirements.

CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENTS

Sixth Grade
- Active Reading Note-Taking Guide
- Google® Earth
- Social Studies 6 Online Course Guide
- Virtual Timeline

Seventh Grade
- Google® Earth
- Social Studies 7 Online Course Guide
- Virtual Timeline

Eighth Grade
- Google® Earth
- Social Studies 8 Online Course Guide
- Virtual Timeline

BrainPOP®, Discovery Education™ streaming, EBSCO, Gizmos, Grolier Online™, and SkillsTutor™ are available in grades 6–8 for applicable subjects.

Indicates that this textbook is available as an online text. Students in some schools may also receive printed texts.
ADDITIONAL COURSES AND ELECTIVES 6–8

- **Art** The middle school art program is organized around the three artistic processes of creating, presenting, and responding. In addition, the program emphasizes how art and design can drive innovation in the same way science, technology, engineering, and mathematics do. Throughout the courses, students use various media and techniques to construct projects, collaborate with peers, and critique their own work as well as the work of other artists. Students explore how local, national, and international art influences ideas, actions, cultures, and environments.

- **Business Keyboarding** Students begin by learning the functions of all the keys and how to find them quickly. They explore the alphabetic and numeric keyboard, study the history of the keyboard (and new technology), and build speed and accuracy. Proper formatting for various academic and business documents, a discussion on business ethics, and the importance of keyboarding in virtually every career are also covered.

- **Chinese (I and II)** In Chinese I and II, students have the opportunity to “see it, hear it, say it, and write it” as they interact with content and communicate with native speakers throughout the courses. Familiar characters introduce students to lesson content and serve as tour guides as students visit the Great Wall, meet pandas in Sichuan, and celebrate the Lantern Festival.

- **Digital Arts I** Students learn basic concepts essential to visual and digital art, such as line, shape, form, color, value, space, and texture. They use Inkscape, a vector drawing application, to create original digital art and also complete a still-life scene for a course-long art project. (This may be considered an arts course at some schools.)

- **Educational Technology and Online Learning** Students use electronic media and software to apply academic concepts as they create meaningful organizers, projects, and presentations. Students locate, retrieve, and evaluate data in order to construct and analyze databases. They produce presentations on Internet safety, online predators, and cyberbullying. Students become effective communicators and collaborators as they plan, evaluate, and synthesize research emphasizing current issues in the field of technology.

- **Exploring Music (I and II)—Juilliard eLearning courses** This series of courses is designed to teach students fundamental musicianship from a Western Classical approach while aligning to national music education standards. Through the use of virtual tools and an analysis of classic repertoire, students improve their rhythm, listening, notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies provided by both The Juilliard School and Connections Education, the course sequence provides a unique and progressively more advanced learning experience for students in grades 6–8.

- **Health and Physical Education** Students determine current personal fitness levels and learn to improve them. Students also learn safety rules for exercise, how different activities target different body parts, how to set and reach a goal, and how to be good sports. Activity choices are plentiful, leading students to a healthy and physically active lifestyle. Students keep a log of physical fitness activities so they can monitor and reflect on personal progress. A yoga DVD is provided.
**Home Life** In this course, students select from a number of fun, experiential learning projects that develop their skills. Activities may include cooking, crafts, sewing, home maintenance, family outings, photography, and genealogy.

**Introduction to Entrepreneurship I**
Students learn the basics to plan and launch their own business by studying successful entrepreneurs and basic economic concepts such as competition and production, setting up a business plan, and marketing a company.

**Sign Language** This course introduces students to the fundamentals of American Sign Language. They explore vocabulary, grammar, and conversation by using basic signing and fingerspelling techniques. Special activities and exercises help students understand the culture of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

**Spanish (I and II)** Spanish I and II introduce students to Spanish language and culture. Student guides share information on topics such as family and friends, home, food, clothing, and neighborhoods. Culture is presented throughout the courses to help students make connections between their culture and the culture of people in the Spanish-speaking world. Opportunities for students to communicate with native speakers throughout these courses provide a real-world context.

**WebQuest** This interactive elective allows students to participate in a unique online experience. The course is primarily based on students’ collecting, submitting, and tracking their own data. In addition, students are able to share the collected information with other students online.

*Designates a new, revised, or expanded course.*
Art Club  The Art Club sparks imagination and creativity by exploring techniques and styles associated with two-dimensional and three-dimensional art, photography, and graphic design. Students have the opportunity to create original designs and artwork, share their artwork with peers, learn about appropriate critique guidelines, and provide feedback to other club members.

Arts and Crafts  This club encourages students to create crafts using materials found at home and in nature. Through the study of culture, nature, science, and history, students work on projects such as mosaics, keepsake boxes, and magnetic emoticons.

Book Club  Participants meet monthly to discuss reviews on books from designated genres. Sharing themes, plots, and opinions allows students the opportunity to strengthen public speaking skills while honing their ability to analyze and summarize literary content during online meetings.

Brainteasers Club  A weekly brainteasers newsletter provides students with the opportunity to solve a variety of puzzles and problems, including anagrams, crossword puzzles, crack the code, and logic grids. In addition, students are encouraged to create their own brainteasers to share on the Connexus Message Boards and in student-made publications.

Career Club  Students learn about potential careers and explore fields that interest them. The club enables students to enter high school with a direction in mind, making them more likely to embrace and succeed in a high school program that prepares them for pursuing their career interests.

Chess Clubs  Members learn, socialize, and play in an atmosphere of friendly competition using an exclusive gaming site, available 24/7. After completing a tutorial, students request games through the gaming system at their desired skill level, and the online games begin. Monthly presentations by the Grandmaster from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County enhance learning for all students, and an end-of-year tournament provides the opportunity for more intensive competition. Introduction to Chess and Advanced Chess Clubs are both available.

Debate Club  Members learn internationally recognized debate procedures and put them into practice when they meet in LiveLesson sessions and take part in Message Board discussions. Members also learn the art of public speaking and critical thinking while working in collaborative teams. Research, reasoning, and understanding opposing perspectives form the foundation for moderated debates.

Digital Storytelling Club  Students use computer programs to incorporate pictures and audio to tell their original tales. They share stories in group meetings and through Message Board discussions, where they get feedback. Final versions of student work are available in the Virtual Library for all to enjoy.

Environmental Club  Members exchange ideas about keeping our planet clean and also hear from environmental experts. They discuss global issues and learn how they can influence issues on a local level.

Gaming and Technology Club  Students who have an affinity for technology and gaming explore and discuss gaming styles and genres as well as careers in the gaming and technology industry. They share their original work in LiveLesson sessions. Individual and collaborative projects may include creating elements of video games and investigating Internet safety and cyber threats.

Leadership and Global Awareness Club  This club challenges students who are natural leaders in their communities to take on a leadership role at the state, national, and international levels. Students meet regularly to discuss, plan, and share service learning projects and outcomes. Additionally, students learn about historic and current global cultures in order to better prepare them for careers and lives in our global economy.

Math Club I: First in Math®  Students expand their math skills, from simple addition to algebra, by playing interactive games on the First in Math website. They work at their own pace and earn points while mastering concepts. Monthly meetings provide opportunities for enriched and collaborative learning.
Math Club II: Mathematical Olympiads
Middle school students compete in the International Mathematical Olympiads. These gifted and talented math enthusiasts meet twice a month to first review high-level problem-solving strategies and techniques and then to apply their skills in the official competition and accrue points that will determine annual winners.

The Monitor: Student Newspaper
The Monitor is Connections Academy’s student-managed, student-staffed newspaper. Our writers and editors work together to write and organize content for sections of the newspaper including news, entertainment, sports, and school happenings.

Movie Club
Members learn about film genres, acting, special effects, and musical compositions centered around monthly themes. Student film buffs demonstrate their creativity and collaborate with others to create their own movies as part of a virtual showcase.

Music Club
Students who enjoy performing, composing, or listening to music explore various musical genres, lyrics, and instruments. Members have opportunities to collaborate with others and exercise their creativity by designing their own musical instruments or participating in a virtual showcase and talent show.

Pen Pals
Students develop skills in letter writing, written expression, and penmanship while making friends with students across the country. Once a month, students meet online to share personal interests and experiences.

Pens and Lens: Student Literary Magazine
The monthly Pens and Lens magazine recognizes and publishes original student-created poetry, short stories, and photographs. This recognition encourages and inspires others to pursue both writing and photography.

Poetry Corner
Middle school writers work together to explore the language of poetry. Twice a month, forums are held for students to share and critique original work.

Quiz Bowl
During this weekly academic competition, middle school students apply their knowledge of fun facts. Winners are named at the end of the year.

Robotics Club
Students focus on the latest trends in robotics, how robots are built and controlled, and how to make one navigate an obstacle course. No previous computer coding experience or materials are needed. Members in some states may have the opportunity to participate in state or regional competitions.

Science Club
Students work with the scientific method by planning experiments and observing the world. They experiment at home and share the processes and results with their peers. Through synchronous group meetings, students also predict outcomes and alter variables in experiments they conduct together.

Science in the Kitchen
Students’ kitchens double as laboratories where they conduct safe, simple experiments. Then they discuss these experiments online with fellow students.

Sports Club
Students who enjoy athletics explore a variety of sporting activities from around the world. Members discuss the similarities and differences of various seasonal sports and have the opportunity to learn about training techniques and fitness programs. Students also use the Activity Tracker to document personal fitness habits and routines.

Students and Learning Coaches will receive information about signing up for clubs after the school year begins. Special activities and events will also be shared with families throughout the school year. Additional clubs and activities, varying by school, may also be offered to students.

Designates a new, revised, or expanded club.
High school is about setting goals and reaching them: becoming fluent in a world language, acing college entrance exams, or gaining the technical skills needed for a career. We encourage our students to aim high—and then soar.

Connections Academy’s 9–12 education features a curriculum that is fine-tuned to launch each student into a successful future.

Math, science, English, and social studies form the core of the curriculum. We want our students to be well-rounded, so we also offer a range of enriching electives focused on topics such as music appreciation, web design, psychology, and personal fitness.

Our Career Technical Education courses make it possible for students to explore career options and prepare for achievement in the workforce. Extracurricular opportunities like robotics, debating, and our literary magazine encourage personal growth. Honors and Advanced Placement® courses invite students to challenge themselves at the college level.

Our high school students are guided by outstanding teachers and school counselors. All students meet with an advisory teacher to develop a Personalized Learning Plan that will prepare them for success on any postsecondary path they choose.

Our 9–12 education is designed to achieve one essential goal—helping our students reach theirs.
ONLINE EDUCATION IS A NATURAL FIT FOR TODAY’S TEENS. High school students have grown up with the Internet, and they already use technology to connect with each other and their interests every day. Who better to take advantage of the benefits and possibilities of virtual schooling? Here’s what makes Connections Academy a great match for your teens.

Flexibility Connections Academy offers more flexibility than a traditional high school. Students involved in sports or the arts can work on lessons any time of the day or night, so school schedules no longer conflict with rehearsal or practice schedules. Students who have jobs can easily plan their lessons to accommodate their work schedules.

Support Licensed school counselors support students and families by assisting with college applications and providing official transcripts for those applying for college. They also provide guidance and counseling for those students entering the workforce or the military.

Personalized Learning Plan When your son or daughter enrolls, an advisor works with him or her to shape a Personalized Learning Plan and to make sure that graduation requirements are being met. We use a questionnaire that determines the student’s learning style, followed by a review of his or her academic transcript. Finally, we work to help the student:

- Maximize academic achievements in high school
- Achieve personal and social goals
- Set goals for college and/or a career

Most importantly, a student’s Personalized Learning Plan is reviewed regularly and can be adjusted to meet changing needs.

Counselors who care Connections Academy’s counseling team holds national LiveLesson sessions that are focused on students’ development during high school and beyond. The sessions are presented frequently with topics focused on academic achievement, personal and social development outside the classroom, and college and career readiness. The National Counseling series also includes a sneak peek at different jobs during career “fireside chats.” These chats feature guest speakers who explain the choices they made, how they realized their dreams, and much more. Many sessions are recorded and available to all high school students who cannot attend the LiveLesson sessions.

Acceleration options We consult with students, parents, and counselors to determine correct course placement and whether standard, Honors, or Advanced Placement classes are appropriate. The student’s counselor can also tell him or her whether early college credit is available in the state.

A wide range of Advanced Placement courses Connections Academy offers a full array of College Board–approved AP courses to prepare talented students for the national AP exams. High scores on these tests could enable students to earn early college credit or placement in advanced college classes, depending on the individual college’s policies.
Transferring from another school?

If your student is joining us from another accredited high school, our counselors will review transcripts to place him or her in the appropriate courses. If you have been homeschooling your student, you will need to submit a High School Home School Credit form. Counselors will use this to determine placement.

SPECIAL WEBSITE FOR TEENS!

Students can learn more about Connections Academy by visiting ConnectionsAcademy.com/JustForTeens

NCAA and California a-g courses

Connections Academy has more approved courses than most other virtual schools. Most of our high school courses are approved by the NCAA Eligibility Center and meet its eligibility requirements. Also, many courses are certified as fulfilling the "a-g" subject requirements for freshman admission to the University of California.

For more details on a-g and NCAA-approved courses, visit: ConnectionsAcademy.com/CourseApprovals

SAT/ACT preparation courses

Students can prepare for college by enrolling in the Official SAT Online Course™ or navigating the ACT’s Online Prep™ website and taking several practice tests. These courses also include Teachlet tutorials devoted to other critical aspects of the college application process, including writing effective personal essays and understanding the financial aid process.

Social events

Our high school program includes many social opportunities. Students can meet classmates through clubs, extracurricular activities, and field trips, plus business and college campus tours that provide a glimpse of life beyond high school.

Pomp and circumstance

To celebrate the successful completion of high school, most Connections Academy schools hold live graduation ceremonies.

From virtual education to higher education

Our graduating seniors are accepted to some of America’s finest colleges and universities, such as Cornell University, Duke University, Harvard University, United States Air Force Academy, University of California Los Angeles, University of Notre Dame, and Wellesley College. To see a list of college acceptances, visit ConnectionsAcademy.com/Colleges
ENGLISH 9–12

Throughout high school, the aim of our English courses is to enable students to analyze and critique written works, think critically, conduct research independently, and understand how their writing relates to the literature they are reading. Throughout each course, students read a wide range of literature, write in a variety of genres, and reinforce and expand their skills in grammar, usage, mechanics, and vocabulary. Students have access to online and offline tutorials, rubrics, and graphic organizers.

English 9 Classic and contemporary works of American, British, and world literature in a variety of genres are introduced in English 9. Students analyze short fiction, nonfiction, and poetry selections. Students also read and analyze novels and other major literary works. Reading and writing assignments strengthen students’ understanding of literary elements in poetry, fiction, and drama; the characteristics of narrative, expository, and persuasive writing; correct grammar and usage; and research skills. The thematic units include works by Homer, Gabriel García Márquez, and Leslie Marmon Silko.

- Pathways: Literature for Readers and Writers, Perfection Learning, 2008
- The Essential Guide to Language, Writing, & Literature, Perfection Learning, 2007
- Writing with Power, Perfection Learning, 2012

English 10 The timeless themes in world literature are emphasized in English 10, drawing from literature of the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, the Pacific Rim, and Africa. A classic world literature selection introduces each region by short fiction, nonfiction, and/or drama. Students explore the cultures surrounding each piece of literature and consider the similarities that unite the human family. The survey of world literature includes works by Margaret Atwood, Pablo Neruda, and Eugène Ionesco. Students continue to strengthen their mastery of the writing process and compose for various purposes. Skills are further developed, including the research process and oral communication.

- Reading the World, Perfection Learning, 2010
- Writing with Power, Perfection Learning, 2012

English 11 Students focus on the literary movements that comprise American literature and trace the early American and colonial period through the contemporary period. Students read selections from the Native American oral tradition, seminal historical documents and essays, as well as fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. The survey of American authors includes Mark Twain, Ralph Ellison, and Julia Alvarez. Students continue to strengthen and apply higher-level critical reading, literary analysis, and research skills through the use of graphic organizers and note-taking strategies.

- American Short Stories, Perfection Learning, 2010
- A Multicultural Reader: Collection Two, Perfection Learning, 2008
- Writing with Power, Perfection Learning, 2012
English 12 Students study classical and contemporary British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the modern era. They examine how the historical, social, and cultural contexts of each period influenced writers. Particular attention is given to the form and function of different types of literature, including epic poetry, allegory, lyric poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and drama. The survey of British literature includes excerpts from Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, and Virginia Woolf. Students write creative and analytical compositions and participate in collaborative discussions to refine their writing products.

British Literature, Perfection Learning, 2010

Writing with Power, Perfection Learning, 2012

AP English Literature and Composition
This course prepares high school students for the AP English Literature and Composition exam by providing them with college-level instruction in various kinds of analytic and persuasive essays on literary and nonliterary topics. Students become skilled readers of prose written in various periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. Through their integrated reading and writing activities, students analyze and evaluate the interaction among a writer’s subject and purpose and the audience’s expectations, as well as the way in which conventions and language contribute to effectiveness in writing.

AP English Language and Composition
This course provides high school students with college-level instruction in language, rhetoric, and exposition. Students study and write various kinds of analytic and persuasive essays on literary and nonliterary topics. Students become skilled readers of prose written in various periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. Both reading and writing assignments are designed to make students aware of the interaction among a writer’s subject and purpose and the audience’s expectations, as well as the way in which conventions and language contribute to effectiveness in writing. This course effectively prepares students for the AP English Language and Composition exam by enabling them to read, comprehend, and write about complex texts while developing further communication skills at a college level.

CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENTS

6 Trait Power Write®
Novels (digital or print)
SAS® Curriculum Pathways®

BrainPOP®, Discovery Education™ streaming, EBSCO, Grolier Online™, and Skills Tutor™ are available in grades 9–12 for applicable subjects.

Indicates that this textbook is available as an online text. Students in some schools may also receive printed texts.

Indicates Honors course is available.
These math courses are designed to enable students to develop and apply mathematical concepts, skills, and problem-solving strategies. Students are taught to use interactive online tools, think critically, and utilize helpful test-taking strategies. In math, students continually apply what they are learning to real-world situations, review frequently, and are provided with enrichment opportunities.

**Pre-Algebra** In this course, students are provided with a solid foundation for success in future high school mathematics. They refine their operational skills as they work with exponents, fractions, decimals, and integers, and they learn to use variables and expressions to write and solve equations and inequalities. Students are introduced to relations and functions, as well as multi-step equations, which they learn to solve and graph. Units on geometric skills focus on development of spatial thinking and an understanding of basic geometric terms and formulas.

*Pre-Algebra*, Prentice Hall, 2009

**Algebra 1** Students learn about the properties of real numbers and apply their knowledge to equations, inequalities, and multi-step equations. They move on to identify, write, and graph functions and equations; simplify radical expressions; solve quadratic equations; and factor and perform operations with binomials and polynomials. Students calculate slope and use the slope-intercept form to graph linear equations. They also learn to solve systems of equations and inequalities both graphically and algebraically.

*Mathematics: Algebra 1*, Prentice Hall, 2011

**Geometry** This course guides students through the exploration of geometric figures. They analyze plane figures and three-dimensional figures and apply formulas to calculate area, surface area, and volume. They learn how to use inductive and deductive logic to conduct formal proofs through predictions, counterexamples, and drawing conclusions. Students also conduct detailed analyses of the properties of parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, polygons, quadrilaterals, and circles, including similarity and transformations.


**Precalculus** This course includes an in-depth study of functions. Students review the principles and techniques of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry, and they learn to explore, solve, and evaluate various functions, equations, and inequalities. Mathematical reasoning and problem solving are stressed to prepare students for calculus at the high school or college level. A TI-83+ or TI-84+ graphing calculator is strongly recommended.

*Advanced Mathematical Concepts: Precalculus with Applications*, Glencoe, 2006

**Calculus** Students study limits, continuity, and differentiation while exploring integrated algebraic, trigonometric, and transcendental functions and the applications of derivatives and integrals. Major topics and concepts include differentiation and integration rules, rates of change, derivative tests, and differential equations. A TI-83+ or TI-84+ graphing calculator is strongly recommended.
**AP Calculus AB** This college-level course covers such concepts as derivatives, integrals, limits, approximation, applications, and modeling. In the first semester, students begin by reviewing function notation, then they explore absolute value, piecewise, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, polynomial, and rational functions. After studying limits and continuity, students move on to concepts of derivatives, including the chain rule, differentiation, implicit differentiation, and logarithmic differentiation. Toward the end of the course, students apply what they have learned to solve integration problems. This course effectively prepares students for the AP Calculus AB exam. A TI-83+ or TI-84+ graphing calculator is required for this course, but it is not provided by Connections Academy.


**AP Calculus BC** This course, an extension of AP Calculus AB, emphasizes broad concepts and applicable methods. Students describe and analyze functions, limits, and graphs; calculate and apply derivatives; interpret and apply integrals; and study polynomial approximations and series. The course provides opportunities for students to apply concepts to real-world situations. This course effectively prepares students for the AP Calculus BC exam. A TI-83+ or TI-84+ graphing calculator is required for this course, but it is not provided by Connections Academy.


**Consumer Math** Students focus on math skills and problem-solving strategies that are relevant to practical financial applications. Topics include planning and managing a budget, avoiding common financial pitfalls, and posing questions to businesses and companies. Students also learn to examine their own spending behavior and evaluate purchasing decisions.

**Explorations in Mathematics** Students delve into fundamental math concepts and apply them to real-life situations. Topics covered include prime factorization, operations with rational numbers and integers, solving equations, properties of real numbers, and basic statistics. The goal is to establish a solid base for the study of more-advanced math.

**Statistics** In this course, students are introduced to the major concepts of collecting, organizing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students have the opportunity to observe patterns and departures from patterns, plan a study, produce models using probability and simulation, and use statistical inference to confirm models.

*Stats: Modeling the World*, Addison-Wesley Professional, 2009

**AP Statistics** Students gain an understanding of the vocabulary, method, and meaning of statistics. They explore data and patterns found in the world around them by analyzing information and noting statistical relationships. They apply their knowledge to relevant, open-ended tasks requiring them to connect multiple statistical topics together. To demonstrate their comprehension, students actively construct experiments to understand, interpret, communicate, and apply statistical methods. General topics of study include planning and designing a study, anticipating patterns, and making statistical inferences. This course effectively prepares students for the AP Statistics exam.

*Stats: Modeling the World*, Addison-Wesley Professional, 2009

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**CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENTS**

- Online Graphing Calculator
- Power Algebra
- Power Geometry
- WorkPad
- BrainPOP®, Discovery Education™ streaming, EBSCO, Grolier Online™, and Skills Tutor™ are available in grades 9–12 for applicable subjects.

1 Indicates that this textbook is available as an online text. Students in some schools may also receive printed texts.

2 Indicates Honors course is available.

3 Designates a new, revised, or expanded course.
The science courses challenge students with a rigorous curriculum that includes opportunities to explore and apply concepts in depth. In addition to designing and conducting experiments and engaging in independent research, students also complete active, inquiry-oriented lessons and participate in online tutorials and virtual labs.

**Biology**  Students have frequent opportunities to debate scientific findings and analyze how biology impacts society as they study topics such as ecology, genetics, and anatomy. Using both hands-on experiments and interactive tools, they also study cells, compare microorganisms, investigate plant and animal structure and function, and explore the history of life on Earth.

* Miller and Levine Biology, Pearson, 2010

**AP Biology**  This challenging course is designed to provide a college-level experience and prepare students for the AP Biology exam. Students are engaged in a wide variety of activities with substantial emphasis on interpreting and collecting data in virtual labs, writing analytical essays, mastering biology concepts, and making connections. The key themes in the course include the scientific processes; the effects of science on technology and society; the chemistry and makeup of living organisms; and genetics, diversity, and evolution.

* Campbell Biology, Ninth Edition, Pearson, 2010

**Chemistry**  Students are given the opportunity to model atomic structure and to observe, represent, and interpret reactions between atoms and molecules. Students investigate the properties of solutions and analyze the nature of solids, liquids, and gases using interactive tools. They describe and calculate the energies of different types of reactions and explore electrochemistry.

* Chemistry, Prentice Hall, 2008

**Earth Science**  Students look at our planet’s place in the universe, at its composition, and at the many changes it may undergo. In addition, they study Earth’s history by comparing landforms, investigating the properties of rocks and minerals, analyzing weather patterns, and examining the relationships between the Earth, moon, and sun.

* Earth Science, Prentice Hall, 2009

**Environmental Science**  Students have an opportunity to study the fundamentals of ecology and investigate ways to protect the environment. They review the scientific method and the water and carbon cycles. Students also take a look at various kinds of pollution and ways to safeguard our natural resources.
**AP Environmental Science** The goal of this course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand interrelationships in the natural world, identify and analyze environmental problems that are natural and human-made, and prepare for the AP Environmental Science exam. Students evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems and examine alternative methods for resolving or preventing problems. Hands-on and virtual lab experiences support students’ ability to master the content.

**Physics** Students apply the math and science skills they have already learned to explain the laws of motion, analyze the laws of thermodynamics, describe the behavior of waves, and investigate the relationship between electricity and magnetism. They are introduced to quantum physics and are asked to apply physics concepts to real-life situations.

*Physics*, Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, 2006

**Physical Science** Students explore and learn the basic concepts of chemistry and physics. The chemistry-focused lessons extend prior knowledge of the properties, states, and structure of matter; explore the dynamics of chemical bonding and reactions; and introduce students to nuclear chemistry. The physics-focused lessons enable students to explore motion, force, work, power, energy, wave mechanics, electricity, magnetism, optics, and the electromagnetic spectrum. Additional content includes Earth science units. Hands-on explorations and virtual simulations enhance students’ comprehension of key science concepts.

In these courses, students receive an overview of important cultural, socioeconomic, and political events in United States and world history. They also study the most influential people of critical historical periods. All high school social studies courses are designed to be thought-provoking, sharpening the student’s ability to question, read, analyze, and interpret different forms of information and better communicate ideas to others.

**Economics** This course provides an introduction to macroeconomics and microeconomics and covers such basics as supply and demand, labor issues, financial markets, taxes, and international trade. Students also examine how capitalism and the global economy work.


**AP Macroeconomics** Students learn about the overall economy and explore the gross domestic product (GDP) and other indicators. Students also examine inflation, unemployment, world trade patterns, and the role of the Federal Reserve. Working with a theoretical economy, they also use fiscal and monetary policy to create high employment and a higher standard of living. This course effectively prepares students for the AP Macroeconomics exam.


**Personal Finance** Through real-world applications and clear, engaging lessons, Personal Finance prepares students for making sound financial decisions. Exercises illustrate the influence of economics in daily life and how financial decisions made today affect the future. The course covers topics such as financial and career planning; banking, savings, and investment programs; and stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.

**Geography and Society** Students explore geography skills and principles as they examine several case studies with geographic implications. They gain an understanding of the ways in which geography influences the daily lives of people around the world. This course covers the concepts of physical geography, human and environmental interaction, human systems, and the movement of peoples and their culture.

**World Geography** Students explore the world’s cultural regions by focusing on location, physical characteristics, demographics, historical changes, economic activity, and land use. They are encouraged to examine real-life situations, develop an understanding of multiculturalism, and explore people’s relationship to their environment.
AP Human Geography This course is designed to provide college-level instruction on the patterns and processes that impact the way humans understand, use, and change Earth’s surface. Students use geographic models, methods, and tools to examine human social organization and its effect on the world. They are challenged to use maps and geographical data to discern spatial patterns and analyze the changing interconnections between people and places.

American Government This course focuses on the basic principles and organization of the U.S. government. Students examine the growth of democracy, federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, and public policies and services. They are provided with an overview of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches and are encouraged to understand and participate in the nation’s government.


AP United States Government and Politics Students survey the complex subjects of the U.S. government and politics. They make detailed analyses of the processes and institutions (both formal and informal) by which the political system functions and policy decisions are made. These analyses take into account the constitutional structure of government, participatory politics, the formal institutions of power (and extra-constitutional influences on them), public policy, and individual rights and liberties. This course effectively prepares students for the AP United States Government and Politics exam.


AP United States History Students learn about what makes America great as they use interactive assignments, write essays, study primary source documents, and engage in discussions on topics ranging from colonial America to the Civil War to the present. They investigate learning objectives covering seven major themes while applying the historical thinking skills that are central to the study and practice of history, including chronological reasoning, comparison and contextualization, crafting historical arguments from historical evidence, and historical interpretation and synthesis. This course prepares students for the AP United States History exam.


World History Beginning with a review of ancient civilizations, this course moves through the emergence of nation-states and the age of exploration and colonization, culminating in the advances and turmoil of the 20th century and its evolution into today’s global, networked society. Students use primary sources to bring the past to life through the words and experiences of those who lived it.

World History: Modern Times, Glencoe, 2005

GRADERS 9–12: COURSES, CLUBS, AND ACTIVITIES

CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENTS

Economics Guided Reading and Review Workbook
World History: Modern Times
Active Reading Note-Taking Guide (electronic format)

BrainPOP®, Discovery Education™ streaming, EBSCO, Grolier Online™, and Skills Tutor™ are available in grades 9–12 for applicable subjects.

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ADDITIONAL COURSES AND ELECTIVES 9–12

Leading our list, on the first three pages of this section, are our 2014–2015 Career Technical Education (CTE) courses, including 12 brand-new courses. These courses give students a solid academic foundation, technical knowledge, and skills training in a wide variety of fields, and they help prepare students for career or college success.

Accounting I This course provides students with an introduction to accounting concepts and principles, financial statements, internal control design, and accounting for partnerships.

Accounting II Students build upon knowledge gained in Accounting I and continue to explore topics such as corporate accounting and financial statements, long-term liabilities, cash flow and financial statement analysis, managerial accounting, budgeting, and using financial data to make business decisions.

Administrative Duties and Office Management Students learn the skills and knowledge required to perform tasks in the administrative department of a medical office. Topics include, but are not limited to, receiving patients, scheduling appointments, handling medical records, and processing insurance claims.

Anatomy and Physiology Students learn about the anatomical structures and physiology of the human body. Body systems are discussed in terms of how each participates in homeostasis of the body. Students learn about selected major pathologies, including causes, symptoms, diagnostic procedures, and treatments, as well as common changes that occur throughout the life span.

Business Communication Students explore business communication, including letters, memos, electronic communication, written reports, oral presentations, and interpersonal communication. Resumes, application letters, interviewing tips, and employment follow-up are also covered.

Business Information Systems This course introduces students to various information and communications technologies and explains how information systems are used to solve problems and make better business decisions.

Business Law Students explore principle areas of business law and topics such as torts, crimes, intellectual property, contracts, negotiable instruments, agency, employment, and forms of business organization. They learn rules of law and legal terminology, as well as legal solutions to business-related challenges.

Business Math Students explore topics such as business statistics, profit calculations, payroll, banking, interest calculations, insurance, taxes, and other business topics.

Criminal Investigation Students examine the process of identifying and arresting criminal suspects, types of crimes and offenses, and preparing for court. They study the history of criminal investigation and explore the relationship between investigation and the courtroom process by examining case studies.

Developmental Writing Students explore the fundamental tools and techniques needed to write clear sentences, effective paragraphs, and well-organized essays for general education courses and employment settings. Using Standard American English, students learn to organize, clarify, and communicate written ideas, as well as how to use correct sentence structure, grammar, and parts of speech in written communication. Students also develop skills in revising and editing to clarify voice, tone, style, and mode.

Health, Safety, and Nutrition Students learn about the physical and psychological needs of children from birth to age eight and how to meet these needs in group settings. Topics include wellness of young children; standards, guidelines, and national initiatives; children’s nutritional needs; safe and healthy environments; emergency response; child abuse and
neglect; educational experiences; and partnering with families.

**Human Resource Management**
Students learn important human resource management skills used by business managers in day-to-day operations. While focusing on various aspects of human resource management and practices, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills are applied.

**Introduction to Business**
Students explore business in global society, learning terminology, concepts, systems, strategies, and current issues. Topics include the business environment, ethics, entrepreneurship and global business, management, marketing, production, information systems, and financial elements.

**Introduction to Communication**
Students examine the communication process, including elements of listening and verbal and nonverbal communication. The course also explores how these communication elements operate between self, individuals, and groups. Communication concepts and skills are explored through a variety of methods and activities.

**Introduction to Criminal Justice**
Students explore law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional system. They study what crime is, how crime is measured, and theories of crime causation. They also examine issues and challenges within the criminal justice system and its future directions.

**Introduction to Early Childhood Education**
This course provides the historical, theoretical, and developmental foundations for educating young children, with emphasis on creating inclusive environments and curricula for diverse children and their families. Topics include historical influences, program types, guidance strategies, professionalism, current trends and issues, and advocacy.

**Introduction to Finance**
Students gain understanding of financial management, including key language and terminology, time–value of money, financial markets and securities, financial statements, financial analysis, risk and return, valuation of stocks and bonds, capital budgeting and valuation, cost of capital and capital structure, working capital management, dividend policy, and international finance. Students apply financial tools and understand how they impact financial decision making.

**Introduction to Homeland Security**
This course provides an overview of the elements involved in the homeland security function, as well as the challenges managers in government and industry may face while maintaining mission operations and staff accountability in the midst of multiple overlapping roles and responsibilities. The key functions of threat prevention, asset protection, crisis response, and operations recovery are addressed from a variety of perspectives.

**Introduction to Law**
Students receive an overview of substantive and procedural areas of law and legal practice. They explore the legal profession, courts, ethics, sources of law, and alternative dispute resolution systems. They also analyze an application of law to factual circumstances.

**Introduction to Medical Assisting**
Students explore the role of the medical assistant, including professionalism, duties and responsibilities, and medical specialties. Also included is information about medical law and ethics, office management, and compliance and regulatory issues affecting the role of the medical assistant.

**Introduction to Paralegal Profession**
Students explore the role of paralegals in the legal system, paralegal skills, legal working environments, ethical considerations, and career opportunities. They are introduced to the sources of law, an overview of courts, and alternative dispute resolution systems.

**Introduction to Psychology**
Students gain an understanding of human behavior, including biological foundations and the brain, sensation, motivation, and perception. Students explore the relationship between learning and memory, various personality theories, emotions, states of consciousness, cognition, life-span development, and applied psychology.

**Introduction to Sociology**
Students examine the sociological processes that underlie everyday life, with a focus on globalization, cultural diversity, critical thinking, new technology, and the growing influence of mass media.

**Introductory Astronomy**
Students explore a broad range of astronomy topics, including the planetary system, stars, galaxies, and the universe. Students also learn about the scientific method and the evolution of scientific ideas.

**Java Programming I**
Students explore programming fundamentals, basic problem solving, variables and assignments, math, conditionals, control flow, methods and functional abstraction, objects and data abstraction, inheritance and polymorphism, exception handling, graphical user interfaces, and external libraries. Students use Sun’s Java programming language throughout this course.

- Designates a new, revised, or expanded course.
Java Programming II Students explore programming fundamentals, linked list, stacks, queues, binary trees, generics and interfaces, introduction to Big O notation, Java collections framework, analyzing complexity and implementing various sorting algorithms, graph applications, and advanced GUIs and graphics.

Leadership and Supervision in Business This course examines the roles and responsibilities of supervisors in private, service, and public organizations. Students gain an understanding of the expanded scope of supervisory responsibilities for business personnel ranging from first-time, first-line supervisors to top-level executives.

Medical Law and Ethics Students gain an understanding of the legal and ethical issues that can impact professional roles in health care settings. Laws that regulate the health care industry, such as HIPAA, the Patient’s Bill of Rights, and standard of care, are introduced. Students are encouraged to consider the impact of personal ethics and morals on decision making.

Medical Terminology Students explore medical terminology, its symbols and abbreviations, and the application of this new language in health care. They learn medical terms relating to body structure and function and how to construct terms using word parts such as roots, suffixes, and prefixes.

Principles of Management Students are introduced to common management philosophies and issues in today’s changing world. They study globalization, ethics, diversity, customer service, and innovation from a managerial perspective.

Principles of Marketing Students explore factors that influence how marketing decisions are made, including the impact of marketing decisions on an organization and its customers. They gain a working knowledge of practical marketing and business vocabulary. They also evaluate how the actions of competitors influence marketing decisions in the global marketplace.

Public Speaking Students gain a basic understanding of public speaking and the basic elements of a speech. Students learn strategies to effectively communicate, to adapt to different audiences, and to practice organizational methods to create engaging speech content. Throughout the course, students develop and present original speeches to their classmates.

Research Methods Students practice the fundamentals of scientific research methodology by examining a social issue. They develop a research question, find and evaluate existing research, and design and implement an objective research method.

Designates a new, revised, or expanded course.

CERTIFICATION PREP

Introduction to Computers and Information Technology: IC3 Students gain an understanding of computing and the common features of popular applications. They practice and apply computer skills needed in today’s academic and business environments, including word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation applications. Skills needed for working in an Internet or networked environment are also taught. This course prepares students for the three Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC3) tests.

Learning Microsoft® Office 2010 In this course, students learn, practice, and apply the practical capabilities of the Microsoft Office productivity suite, including Word, Excel®, PowerPoint®, and Access®. They also learn key computing terms and gain an overview of computing and Internet concepts. As students learn the most commonly used software in today’s academic and business environments, they prepare for Microsoft Office Specialist Core certification testing. Students must have Office 2010 to take this course.
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Introduction to Entrepreneurship (I and II) Students learn the basics to plan and launch their own business by studying successful entrepreneurs and basic economic concepts such as competition, production, setting up a business plan, and more. In course II, students continue to develop skills, including setting goals, applying financial concepts, working with others, and managing employees.

Introduction to Marketing Students master the basics of marketing, including core concepts such as financing, pricing, distribution, product management, and more. Throughout the course, students explore the basics of economics and economic systems, managing business finances, accounting practices, operating a business in the global marketplace, generating business ideas and seeking out business opportunities, creating a business plan, and promoting and advertising a business.

Sports Management In this introduction to the fast-growing field, students explore topics such as sports marketing, branding, ticket sales, media relations, and ethics. They also learn tips for breaking into the industry. The activities and assignments require students to respond to real-world sports management scenarios.

ENGLISH

Journalism Students gain firsthand experience writing news, sports, and feature articles and following proper journalism guidelines. The activities and assignments simulate an actual newsroom. In addition, students can contribute to the school newspaper and other monthly publications.

Speech and Debate Using video tutorials, students study verbal and nonverbal techniques—including those of famous orators—to use when presenting simple and complex ideas and when speaking to a group. Using an audiovisual tool to record their speeches, students learn how to speak persuasively, develop position statements, support their arguments, and think analytically. Brainstorming techniques, media analysis, research skills, and presentation strategies are also discussed.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health, Fitness, and Nutrition This course covers first aid, the benefits of good nutrition, and the dangers of alcohol and drug use. Students learn how to evaluate their own fitness and nutritional needs and how to make changes that lead to a healthier lifestyle over the long run. Also discussed are strategies for resisting peer pressure and ways fitness can influence self-image and overall well-being.

Personal Fitness Students learn the proper ways to exercise and eat healthy, how to assess their fitness level, and strategies for reaching their highest possible fitness level. They have the option of learning yoga in this course.

Math and Science

Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications Students explore topics such as saving money, spending money, and dealing with debt. Formulas to determine account balances, monthly payments, and total costs are evaluated and applied. Incorporating real-world scenarios, students learn about mortgages, investments, and retirement, which serves as a foundation for making future financial decisions.

Earth Space Science Students focus on the study of space and the geologic and atmospheric forces that shape our world. Through experimentation and investigation, students explore Earth cycles including the geosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, atmosphere, and carbon cycle. They learn about scientific inquiry, geologic time, space exploration, the solar system, and the universe. Students use Web 2.0 tools, interactive experiences, higher-order thinking, collaborative projects, and real-world application through labs and a variety of assessments.
Marine Science  Students delve deep into Earth’s bodies of water and study geologic structures and how they impact oceans. They investigate characteristics of various populations, patterns of distribution of life in our aquatic systems, and ongoing changes occurring every day in the ecosystems. Students have the opportunity to explore the relationships among living organisms and see how they are affected by the oceans’ currents, tides, and waves.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Psychology  The course begins with a review of the ways in which people have sought to explain human behavior from ancient times to today. Students explore research methods and discover how the scientific method has moved psychology from hypnosis and mesmerism to using serious inquiries to prove theories. They also investigate brain personality theories to help understand such complex mental processes as learning, memory, thought, and language.

AP Psychology  The equivalent of an introductory college course, this course includes an overview of current research methods and theories. Students explore therapies used by professionals and examine the way people learn and think. Human reactions, instincts, aggression, intimacy, altruism, and information retention are studied. The course prepares students for the AP Psychology exam.


STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Career Exploration  From writing an effective resume to giving the perfect interview, students learn how to get started and succeed in their chosen careers. This course introduces possible career options and helps prepare students for the transition from high school to college and from college to the workplace.

College Prep with ACT  Students learn test-taking strategies and complete practice tests. Students also develop college resumes, write effective personal essays, and request letters of recommendation as part of the college admissions process.

College Prep with SAT  Students complete several practice quizzes and tests and develop test-taking strategies as they prepare for the SAT. Also, students develop college resumes, write effective personal essays, and request letters of recommendation as part of the college admissions process.

Critical Thinking and Study Skills  In this course, students implement thinking strategies, learn test-taking strategies and time-management and organization skills, build verbal competence, and sharpen their mathematics reasoning. Specifically, students learn strategies for acquiring, storing, and retrieving knowledge, and methods for linking new information with prior knowledge.

Driver’s Education  Students study the Highway Transportation System, road signs, rules of the road, accident avoidance, and making good choices behind the wheel. They begin to develop the skills necessary to become safe, responsible drivers. Throughout the course, road simulations help students increase their knowledge of real-world driving. (Additional time is required for driving experience, which is not included in this course.)

  * Responsible Driving, McGraw-Hill/ Glencoe, 2005
Internship and Work Study Students taking this course should be currently working in an internship or at a work site, or pursuing placement. In this course, students learn how to apply the lessons learned on the job to a future career. Topics include searching for and applying for jobs, creating resumes and cover letters, and doing interviews. Students also learn about the rights of employees, and they build budgeting skills while completing activities in SkillsTutor™.

Life Management Skills This course provides an opportunity for students to explore important decisions they may have to make as teenagers. It includes important information pertaining to nutrition, substance abuse, coping with stress, sexual issues, and more. The course teaches students how to be savvy consumers in a world of advertising and credit cards, and it reviews Earth-friendly practices.

TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

3-D Art I—Modeling This course introduces students to three-dimensional modeling tools and concepts. Using Blender, a popular open-source 3-D modeling package, students learn the basics of creating shapes, adding textures and lighting, and rendering. By the end of the course, students produce a series of increasingly sophisticated projects for their portfolio. This course is suitable for students with no prior experience with three-dimensional design or digital media authoring tools.

Business Keyboarding Students begin by learning the functions of all the keys, how to find them quickly, and the importance of keyboarding in virtually every career. They explore the alphabetic and numeric keyboard, study the history of the keyboard and new technology, and build their speed and accuracy. Students learn proper formatting for various academic and business documents and participate in discussions of business ethics.

- AP Computer Science A Students develop the skills to write programs or parts of programs in order to correctly solve specific problems. There is an emphasis on the design issues that make programs understandable, adaptable, and, when appropriate, reusable. The development of useful computer programs and classes is used as a context for introducing other important concepts of computer science, including the development and analysis of algorithms, the development and use of fundamental data structures, and the study of standard algorithms and typical applications.

Digital Arts I Students learn basic concepts essential to visual and digital art, such as line, shape, form, color, value, space, and texture. They use Inkscape, a vector drawing application, to create original digital art and also complete a still-life scene for a course-long art project. (This may be considered an arts course at some schools.)

Emergent Computer Technology In this course, students learn the basics of building safe websites, including the use of hypertext markup language (HTML). They then plan their own sites and learn how to link and navigate pages. As they progress to more complex design techniques, students also learn how graphics can make a site more attractive.

Game Design This course introduces students to the basic skills necessary for game design. Students study the various games in the industry, explore the processes and art of making game elements, and develop a prototype showing their understanding of the game design process.

Introduction to Computers and Applications This course helps students understand hardware, software, and operating systems. Students learn the basics of creating a word processing document in Microsoft Word, a spreadsheet in Excel, and PowerPoint presentations. Internet safety skills are also covered, including the effective use of search engines and respect for intellectual property rights. In addition, students apply their knowledge of various applications by creating a digital publishing product.

Web Design I This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the essentials of website design. From designing page layouts to coding with CSS and JavaScript®, students learn how to create a complete website. Through study of real-world design scenarios and hands-on projects, students create compelling, usable websites using KompoZer, one of the Internet’s easiest-to-use open-source editing applications.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Art History Students begin exploring the basic elements of art and its role in history through their examination of works from Paleolithic times to the Roman Empire. The goal is to enhance students’ understanding of ancient history and show how art reflects historical events.

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**AP Art History** This course is designed to provide college-level instruction in art history and prepare students for the AP Art History exam. Students examine major forms of artistic expression from the past to the present and from a variety of cultures. They learn to look at works of art critically, with intelligence and sensitivity, and to articulate what they see or experience.

**Digital Photography** This course covers both digital photography and graphic design. Students learn basic photographic concepts and composition skills, elements of graphic design, digital image editing, and special effects techniques. They also explore the fields of photography, advertising, and illustration as possible career choices.

**Living Music (I and II)—Juilliard eLearning courses** This series of courses teaches students fundamental musicianship from a Western Classical approach, while aligning to national music education standards. Students use classic repertoire to analyze compositional style and are challenged to improve their rhythm, listening, notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills using virtual tools. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies provided by both The Juilliard School and Connections Education, the course sequence provides a unique and progressively more advanced learning experience for students in grades 9–12.

**WORLD LANGUAGES**

- **Chinese I** Spoken by one-fifth of the world’s population, Mandarin is the dialect of Beijing and the basis for modern standard Chinese. This course emphasizes listening skills, including the mastery of Chinese tones and tonal changes, as well as vocabulary and grammar skills. Students also begin to identify and write Chinese characters.

- **Chinese II** This course enables students to further develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing Mandarin Chinese at a more advanced level. As they are immersed in Chinese culture, students expand their vocabulary, practice interacting with others, and learn the use of appropriate terms to communicate in various everyday situations.

- **Chinese III** Students continue to expand their knowledge of Mandarin Chinese in this course. They build their knowledge of vocabulary, sentence patterns, and grammar points through communicative texts; enhance their listening and speaking skills through pronunciation and intonation; and work to improve their reading ability. Students advance their skills by learning to write in various formats, such as journals, essays, and letters, and by composing simplified Chinese characters. By studying Chinese culture, including origins, histories, anecdotes, and more, students learn to compare and contrast various aspects of this other culture with their own.

**French I** This course introduces students to basic vocabulary and grammar. Lessons and assignments focus on simple speaking and reading, comprehension, and composition. Students also study the history and culture of French-speaking peoples around the world.

**French II** Students are exposed to more complex reading, writing, and listening coursework. They explore advanced grammatical structure and apply vocabulary and word usage to various situations.

**French III** This course is designed for students with strong listening and speaking skills plus a solid vocabulary base. The focus is on verb conjugation, direct and indirect object pronouns, and tenses. Students also improve their writing and speaking skills as they study the culture, art, and governments of French-speaking countries.

**French IV** Students cover present, past, future, and conditional tense verbs, subjunctive mood, articles, and adjectives while delving more deeply into French culture. This course, rich in authentic reading material, uses native-speaker recordings to enrich the student’s culture, grammar, and vocabulary lessons.

**German I** Students use discussions and other activities to learn how to speak, read, write, and understand basic German. Simple grammar, punctuation, and spelling are reinforced with interactive lessons, games, and activities. Students also study German culture and history, as well as the influence of the German language.
**German II** In this course, students are introduced to increasingly complex vocabulary and grammar. There is more emphasis on improving spoken communication and listening comprehension.

**German III** Students learn to express themselves using an ever-increasing vocabulary, present-tense verbs, articles, and adjectives. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Culture is sprinkled throughout the course in order to help the learner focus on the German-speaking world and its culture, people, geographical locations, and history.

**Japanese I** In today’s business world, learning Japanese can be extremely valuable. This course focuses on spoken and written Japanese with a thorough grounding in Japanese culture. Using warm-up activities, reading, vocabulary studies, games, and multimedia presentations, students gain the foundation to communicate successfully in Japanese.

**Japanese II** Students practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills as they express themselves using new vocabulary, present-tense verbs, and adjectives. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways and with a variety of learning styles in mind. Students learn about the culture by focusing on the people, lifestyle, geography, and history of Japan.

**Latin I** Students gain a foundation in Latin grammar and vocabulary as well as an appreciation and understanding of the Roman culture as the foundation for much of Western culture. Through the study of Latin, students will gain an appreciation for and understanding of the grammatical constructs of the English language as they increase their vocabulary and understanding of word origins.

**Latin II** Students build on their knowledge of Latin grammar and vocabulary and gain a solid foundation in the structure of the language as well as an understanding of the life and times of ancient Romans. They learn to appreciate how Roman engineering, art, commerce, and law systems were all supported by a clear, expressive, and flexible language.
Latin III  Students expand their knowledge of Latin by exploring prose written and spoken by Roman figures such as Caesar, Cicero, and Catullus. Through exposure to authentic texts, students strengthen their vocabulary as well as their understanding and appreciation of well-crafted writing.

Sign Language (I and II)  This series of courses introduces students to the fundamentals of American Sign Language. They learn and increase fluency by employing vocabulary, grammar, and conversation skills and also using signing and fingerspelling techniques. Special activities help students understand the culture of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

- Spanish I  Students cover basic vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation to build a solid foundation for further study. Assignments include engaging in simple conversation, writing paragraphs, and listening to Spanish dialogue. Students also study the history and culture of Spanish-speaking peoples.

- Spanish II  As they engage in more advanced conversations, write paragraphs and stories, and translate to and from Spanish, students improve their vocabulary and grammar. Intense listening comprehension exercises aid in understanding more complex thoughts and subjects.

- Spanish III  Students build their vocabulary and communication skills even further in Spanish III. Advanced grammar, including the study of tenses, sentence structure, and punctuation, is covered. Students also practice correct accents and learn to comprehend real-world native speech.

- Spanish IV  The fourth year of Spanish covers advanced grammar, including present, past, future, and conditional tense verbs, subjunctive mood, articles, and adjectives. Students focus on the Spanish-speaking world and its culture, people, geographical locations, and history.

AP Spanish Language  The main objective of this course is to develop students’ interpersonal communication skills and prepare them for the AP Spanish Language exam. Students develop a strong command of the Spanish language and become very proficient in reading, writing, and speaking. Students are exposed to Spanish literature, historical and current events, music, movies, radio, and television.

Additional electives are offered to students and may vary by school.

- Designates a new, revised, or expanded course.
CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES 9–12

Art Club The Art Club sparks imagination and creativity by exploring techniques and styles associated with two-dimensional and three-dimensional art, photography, and graphic design. Students have the opportunity to create original designs and artwork, and they share their artwork with peers, learn about appropriate critique guidelines, and provide feedback to other club members.

Book Club Participants meet monthly to discuss reviews on books from designated genres. Sharing themes, plots, and opinions allows students the opportunity to strengthen public speaking skills while honing their ability to analyze and summarize literary content during online meetings.

Brainteasers Club A weekly brainteasers newsletter provides students the opportunity to solve a variety of puzzles and problems including anagrams, crossword puzzles, crack the code, and logic grids. In addition, students are encouraged to create their own brainteasers to share on the Connexus Message Boards and in student-made publications.

Broadcast and Theater Arts Club Members learn about choreography, set design, tech crew, and musical scores for on- and off-Broadway productions. Working both individually and collaboratively, students are encouraged to write plays and musical scores. Students also learn about history and trends in broadcast media, while exploring print, audio, and video mediums. LiveLesson sessions provide opportunities for students to share their theatrical talents as well as presentations similar to segments on television news magazines.

Chess Clubs Members learn, socialize, and play in an atmosphere of friendly competition using an exclusive gaming site, available 24/7. After completing a tutorial, students request games through the gaming system at their desired skill level, and the online games begin. Monthly presentations by the Grandmaster from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County enhance learning for all students, and an end-of-year tournament provides the opportunity for more intensive competition. Introduction to Chess and Advanced Chess Clubs are both available.

College Planning Club This club, designed for students in grades 9–12 who are interested in college, guides members through the college preparation and admissions process and also discusses college planning, building a resume, identifying career interests and potential majors, researching colleges, completing applications, and identifying financial aid and scholarship opportunities. LiveLesson sessions and Message Boards provide support and encourage discussion as participants develop a portfolio that includes elements sought by college admissions committees.

Debate Club Members learn internationally recognized debate procedures and put them into practice when they meet in LiveLesson sessions and engage in Message Board discussions. Members learn the art of public speaking and critical thinking while working in collaborative teams. Research, reasoning, and understanding form the foundation for weekly moderated debates.

Digital Storytelling Club Students bring storytelling into the 21st century by using a variety of computer programs to incorporate pictures and audio to tell their original tales. They share stories and receive feedback through group meetings and Message Board discussions. Final versions of student work are available in the Virtual Library for all to enjoy.

Environmental Club Members develop an awareness of the environment as they exchange ideas about keeping our planet clean. They discuss such global issues as alternative energy, recycling, and allocating limited resources, learning how they can influence these issues on a local level. Students also hear from experts who work on environmental issues.

First-Generation Club Designed for high-achieving students who aspire to be the first in their families to graduate from college, this club provides mentoring, advice, and personal development activities to help them prepare for a challenging and successful career. LiveLesson sessions and Message Boards support and encourage discussion as members are guided through the college admissions process. Participants develop a portfolio that includes elements sought by college admissions committees.

Gaming and Technology Club Students who have an affinity for technology and gaming explore and discuss gaming styles and genres as well as careers in the gaming and technology industry. They share their original work in LiveLesson sessions. Individual and collaborative projects may include creating elements of video games and investigating Internet safety and cyber threats.

Designates a new, revised, or expanded club.
Leadership and Global Awareness Club
This club challenges students who are natural leaders in their communities to take on a leadership role at the state, national, and international levels. Students meet regularly to discuss, plan, and share service learning projects and outcomes. Additionally, students learn about historic and current global cultures in order to better prepare them for careers and lives in our global economy.

The Monitor: Student Newspaper The Monitor is Connections Academy’s student-managed, student-staffed newspaper. Our writers and editors work together to write and organize content for sections of the newspaper, including news, entertainment, sports, and school events.

Movie Club Members learn about film genres, acting, special effects, and musical compositions centered around monthly themes. Student film buffs gain opportunities to demonstrate their creativity and collaborate with others to create their own movies as part of a virtual showcase.

Music Club Students who enjoy performing, composing, or listening to music explore various musical genres, lyrics, and instruments. Members have opportunities to collaborate with others and exercise their creativity by designing their own musical instruments or participating in a virtual showcase and talent show.

Pen Pals It is a classic way to build friendships. Students develop their skills in letter writing, written expression, and penmanship while making friends with other students across the country. Once a month, students meet online to share personal interests and experiences.

Pens and Lens: Student Literary Magazine The monthly Pens and Lens magazine recognizes and publishes original student-created poetry, short stories, and photographs. This recognition encourages and inspires others to pursue both writing and photography.

Poetry Corner High school writers work together to explore the language of poetry, and forums are held to share and critique original work twice a month.

Quiz Bowl During this weekly academic competition, high school students apply their knowledge of fun facts. Winners are named at the end of the year.

Robotics Club Members of this club focus on the origins, applications, and latest trends in robotics. They learn how robots are built and controlled, and then they move on to the challenge of programming a robot to navigate an obstacle course. No previous computer coding experience is needed, and no materials are required for participation. Club members in some states may have opportunities to participate in state or regional robotic competitions.

Science Club Students gain hands-on experience with the scientific method, planning experiments, and observing the world. They are encouraged to engage in experiments at home and share the process and results with their peers in LiveLesson sessions. Through online group meetings, students also predict outcomes and alter variables in experiments they conduct together.

Sports Club Students who enjoy athletics explore a variety of sporting activities from around the world. Members discuss the similarities and differences of various seasonal sports and have the opportunity to learn about training techniques and fitness programs. Students also use the Activity Tracker to document personal fitness habits and routines.

Students and Learning Coaches will receive information about signing up for clubs after the school year begins. Special activities and events will also be shared with families throughout the school year. Additional clubs and activities, varying by school, may also be offered to students.

Designates a new, revised, or expanded club.
To see which courses are approved by either the University of California a-g program or the NCAA Eligibility Center, visit ConnectionsAcademy.com/CourseApprovals
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