SUCCESS TODAY. SUCCESS FOR LIFE.
Thank you for your interest. You have discovered a well-established, high-quality education option for your family! This guide will show you how, with your involvement, our personalized online approach to learning can help prepare your son or daughter for academic achievement and a lifetime of personal success in a future driven by technology.

Since the first Connections Academy-supported schools opened in 2002, we’ve nurtured and challenged students to help them connect with their interests and maximize their highest potential. We are proud to see our graduates go on to achieve great things both personally and professionally.

As a recognized national leader in online education, Connections Academy’s curriculum, technology, and methods are proven. Our parent satisfaction ratings are unmatched. Yet, even as we celebrate these achievements, we always look for ways to make the Connections Academy program even better.

Our award-winning Learning Coach Central website offers wonderful resources to help parents support student learning. In K–5 courses, friendly characters guide students through lessons and promote active learning skills. In all grades, Math, We’ve Got This! encourages students to discover the exciting real-world possibilities of numbers. And we continue to expand courses and clubs that inspire career exploration.

I invite you to learn more by connecting with us on social media, attending an information session, or talking to a current Connections Academy family. We look forward to helping your student develop confidence, learn new skills, and achieve his or her goals.

Sincerely,

Steven Guttentag
Steven Guttentag, PhD
President, Connections Academy
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READY TO ENROLL?
Turn to the last page to get started!
We connect students to success.

Connections Academy®-supported schools provide a comprehensive and engaging education personalized to your child. Caring teachers use our award-winning curriculum and powerful technology to build a strong academic foundation, while Learning Coach support at home helps unlock your student’s potential.

That means more one-on-one attention, a flexible school day that works with your child’s learning preferences and needs, and a family-friendly schedule. And thanks to Connections Academy’s clubs and activities, your student will have great opportunities to make friends, explore new interests, go on field trips, and have an enriching and exciting school experience.
SCHOOL THAT PUTS STUDENTS AT THE CENTER

AT CONNECTIONS ACADEMY, WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR STUDENT has unique gifts and abilities. We’ve made it our mission to help each child develop his or her strengths while connecting with personal interests and passions. We also customize our program to help students improve in areas of concern. With the student at the heart of every decision, learning becomes a rewarding experience. We call this approach Personalized Performance Learning®.

At every full-time tuition-free Connections Academy-supported school, the teacher uses our award-winning curriculum and works with the parent or Learning Coach to personalize the student’s learning and achieve the best possible results. In the following pages, you’ll learn more about each element of this Learning Triad and how these elements interact.

PROVEN AND ACCREDITED

Founded in 2001, Connections Academy is part of Pearson, the world’s learning company. Connections Academy students benefit from the proven program, curriculum, and resources developed by Pearson’s Online & Blended Learning experts. Each Connections Academy public school is operated independently, either by a governing board or in conjunction with a school district.

Nearly all established Connections Academy schools are accredited by either a local accrediting body or a regional organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. Connections Academy schools typically begin the accreditation process after operating for a full year, so newer schools may be in the process of accreditation.
OUR LEARNING TRIAD

TEACHERS
personalize lessons, evaluate student progress, provide feedback and assistance, and encourage students. Periodically, teachers facilitate real-time virtual sessions to provide targeted support based on student learning. See pages 6–7.

CURRICULUM
delivers engaging, interactive content; multimedia tools; and superb resources. It also provides teachers with continuous information on student progress. See page 8.

LEARNING COACHES
typically support and motivate students and monitor schedules. Parents/Learning Coaches are also encouraged to communicate and collaborate with teachers. See page 9.

STUDENTS
explore, create, and learn from home, accessing curriculum and resources via the internet. Students can contact teachers for assistance by WebMail or phone.
CONNECT WITH CARING TEACHERS

WE ATTRACT DEDICATED, HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS who respect young people and believe in collaborating with parents. Often, they get to know the entire family and build life-changing connections with their students. This helps teachers personalize lessons and coursework to ensure that each student receives the right degree of challenge and support. Teachers also monitor student participation and performance and provide timely feedback.

Inside the Virtual Classroom

Students enjoy a rich online learning experience because Connections Academy teachers receive intensive training in using our multimedia resources and interactive technology to engage students.

In a LiveLesson® session, teachers may explain or demonstrate new concepts, lead discussions, write on a whiteboard, and show videos. They can also create virtual “breakout” rooms where classmates can meet to work on team projects.

Connections Academy teachers help prepare students for a future driven by technology. Students learn to use online tools and develop computer skills that they can carry with them into college and the workforce.

Personal Attention

When more help is needed, teachers may modify instruction or lessons, provide ways to practice skills, and offer helpful resources. They may work with a student in a small group or even one-on-one. This personal attention and individualized support empowers students to do their best and achieve their goals.

Committed to Excellence

Connections Academy teachers are certified in their grade levels and subject areas. All have bachelor’s degrees, and many have master’s or other advanced degrees. They participate in ongoing professional development and collaborate regularly with other teachers to learn the latest research and best instructional practices. Our professional learning model was recognized by industry experts as one of the best professional learning solutions in 2017.

The Connections Academy program also provides licensed school counselors who can advise students about academics, personal or social issues, college preparation, and career options.
James Spaulding

**HOMEROOM/ADVISORY TEACHER • South Carolina Connections Academy**

After a year of teaching in a bricks-and-mortar school, James Spaulding realized that various distractions prevented some students from being their authentic selves. “In my 10 years with Connections Academy, I’ve thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the ‘real’ students I teach,” James says.

During LiveLesson sessions, James strives to help his students build confidence by letting them read aloud through the microphone so they can get used to talking in front of peers. Additionally, he uses interactive games to enliven and engage the virtual classroom.

Like many other Connections Academy teachers, James believes that virtual education lets students take charge of their education by stimulating independence and initiative.

*James received his BA in middle childhood education from Ohio University and a master’s degree in education from Liberty University.*

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Meg Kirby

**LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER • Arizona Connections Academy**

Seeking to connect to students and families in a more meaningful way, Meg Kirby began teaching at Connections Academy after 14 years in traditional school settings. Meg has enjoyed watching her students progress from elementary to middle school. “It’s great to witness that ‘aha’ moment—the moment where the light bulb turns on and they get it.”

Meg also likes that Connections Academy allows students’ families to partner in their academic journeys through active engagement in daily learning. To establish a relationship among students and help those who are struggling, Meg started a peer mentoring program that encourages leadership within their virtual community.

*Meg received her BA in interdisciplinary studies from Tarleton State University with an endorsement in special education and specializations in reading and English. She has received numerous awards, including the Arizona Future City Educator of the Year in 2013–2014.*
OUR CURRICULUM: BUILT FOR THE FUTURE

EDUCATION SHOULD HELP PREPARE STUDENTS for work, college, and life. A good education starts with a strong curriculum.

For more than 15 years, we have developed, tested, and refined the Connections Academy curriculum to ensure that it meets or exceeds state, national, and international standards, as well as those set by leading educational organizations. Our award-winning curriculum is designed to meet the diverse needs of our students and uses the latest technology tools.

Curriculum Development Experts
We have a team of experts who design, evaluate, and improve our curriculum. These experts have classroom teaching experience, subject matter knowledge, and advanced degrees. They are dedicated to developing a high-quality online curriculum that delivers real results.

They start by identifying the skills and objectives students need to learn. Then they create lessons to help students practice and develop those skills, along with assessments to measure their progress. That way, students don’t just learn a subject—they master it.

In addition to courses in core subjects, our curriculum offers enriching electives for all ages. Our wide range of exciting courses enables students the opportunity to explore their interests. We also offer gifted and talented, Advanced Placement**, and honors courses.†

We’re committed to reviewing and revising our curriculum regularly. As part of this continuous improvement, we ask students and parents to rate each lesson on a five-star scale. We’re proud that more than seven million reviews have resulted in an average lesson rating of 4.2 out of 5.

Bringing Lessons to Life
Talented multimedia designers help bring the curriculum to life. Our curriculum team also selects the best texts and materials from leading publishers to weave into units, lessons, and activities. Then, we deliver these high-quality resources right to each student’s home.

The curriculum engages students in individual study as well as collaboration with their classmates. As a result, students learn to think independently and work together using digital technology. Descriptions of core courses for each grade level can be found starting on page 28.

LEARN MORE: ConnectionsAcademy.com/Curriculum

* AP® and Advanced Placement® are registered trademarks of the College Board. Used with permission.
† Offerings vary by state.
LEARNING COACH: AT-HOME SUPPORT

EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT A STUDENT LEARNS BEST as part of an inclusive and welcoming community of parents, teachers, and classmates—all working toward a common goal.

One of the central roles in this community is that of the Learning Coach. Typically, the Learning Coach helps keep students motivated and on track and regularly communicates with teachers. Most often a parent chooses to act as the Learning Coach, while some families assign that responsibility to another trusted adult.

The active support of a Learning Coach can show students that education is a top priority and help ensure successful learning. While each family is unique, many Learning Coaches tell us that participating in the learning process and sharing more time with their student is very rewarding.

Enhancing Online Learning

The Learning Coach has many opportunities to enhance and personalize the online school experience. He or she can maintain a comfortable environment that enables the student to focus on learning. The Learning Coach may also provide the structure a student needs by establishing and managing the daily routine, helping monitor attendance, and ensuring that the student attends any state–required examinations.

With Connections Academy, the Learning Coach is empowered to stay in touch with teachers by phone, WebMail (our secure internal messaging system), and online meetings. Teachers contact the Learning Coach early in the school year to discuss how they can work together to help each student reach his or her goals. This allows both Learning Coach and teacher to understand each other’s expectations and abilities as they relate to the student’s learning.

Supporting Student Development

The Learning Coach can be instrumental in supporting student development. In general, the age of your student determines how much hands-on time you may spend coaching. You can read more about the recommended amount of guidance your student will likely need in the What to Expect at Each Grade Level section, starting on page 20.

Connections Academy has many resources to help Learning Coaches become confident and effective in their chosen role, including our Get Coaching! program, featured on page 17 of this guide.

Learn more about the role of the Learning Coach starting on page 20.
TECHNOLOGY THAT ENGAGES STUDENTS

EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY WORKS BEST when it makes learning relatable, meaningful, and fun. That’s why we develop many of our own engaging virtual tools and resources. It all starts with our online learning system, which brings the school experience right to students.

Your New Home Base
The Connexus online platform is the engine that makes learning at Connections Academy schools possible. At home or wherever the internet is accessible, this user-friendly system connects students with lessons, teachers, and a wide range of resources.

We designed this platform from the ground up to meet the needs of our students and their families. From their personalized home page, students and families can:

• Access daily lessons and assignments
• Monitor progress through the online grade book

• Create and update monthly or daily schedules
• Connect with teachers and other students and families via secure WebMail and Message Boards
• Access videos, web applications, and other learning tools
• Provide feedback on courses and the school

Available around the clock, the Connexus learning platform is accessible on the internet from your own computer or, in some cases, from a computer that will be supplied by your school.* Upon enrollment, families receive step-by-step training to get them up to speed with the system’s features. For ongoing assistance and support, our expert tech team is just a phone call away.

LEARN MORE
ConnectionsAcademy.com/ LearningPlatform

* Some Connections Academy schools provide a computer and/or an internet subsidy. For more information, including computer and connectivity requirements, please visit ConnectionsAcademy.com/hardware.
Multimedia Tools and Resources

Our instructional tools add dimension to students’ coursework. As students engage and explore, they deepen their understanding of concepts and master everyday skills.

For example, our interactive math reviews provide helpful feedback as students solve word problems. Students who choose music as an elective can create their own compositions using our award-winning virtual music tools. These cutting-edge tools promote learning through practice and discovery.

Our exclusive Learning Buddies—Lion, Ladybug, Clara the Cat, and other animal friends—bring the math, language arts, and science courses to life for students in grades 1–5. The buddies introduce concepts, model skills, and guide student learning.

The Learning Buddies animal characters bring curriculum to life for elementary students.

LiveLesson Sessions

Students benefit from periodic live online sessions provided by their teachers as needed, based on course content and the learning needs of the student. These LiveLesson sessions offer the interaction of a traditional classroom in an online setting.

By typing or speaking into a microphone, students can ask and answer questions in real time. They can use on-screen tools, join in class discussions, and work with other students in small-group sessions.

Teachers also use this powerful technology, sometimes with web cameras, to hold virtual office hours or meet with students for personalized one-on-one instructional support.

LEARN MORE

ConnectionsAcademy.com/LiveLesson
MAKE LEARNING PERSONAL

AT CONNECTIONS ACADEMY, students receive individual attention in a nurturing learning environment. Our Personalized Performance Learning approach lets us adapt each student’s instructional program to motivate, inspire, and provide the best opportunity for success.

Progress for Every Learner
Each Connections Academy student receives a personalized learning plan. To begin, we conduct assessments to identify and evaluate a student’s strengths and challenges. This allows us to tailor each student’s instruction appropriately. Regular testing and evaluation of student work shows us how to modify a student’s program for continued success.

Even students who are already making progress in school can learn more effectively. Small changes in instruction, approaches based on learning preferences and needs, and projects of interest enrich the school experience. These changes engage students more fully in their courses and help enhance their learning potential.

Extra Help When Needed
If students struggle, Connections Academy teachers are available to help. They develop individual plans to provide the extra time, attention, and practice each student needs. This enables students to build a strong academic foundation by mastering skills, gaining knowledge, and achieving meaningful progress.

Enrichment for Gifted Learners
Our gifted and talented program* allows gifted students to deepen, broaden, and accelerate their learning. Gifted students may have the option to take challenging advanced courses, work above their grade level, engage in special enrichment projects, or perform independent research.

* The gifted and talented program is available at most Connections Academy–supported schools for students who qualify, starting in third grade. When appropriate, advanced younger students may participate in the gifted and talented program.
TIME TO CONNECT AND EXPLORE

WITH CONNECTIONS ACADEMY, students and families find more time to connect with what is important to them. Many find that this method of schooling enables them to create a unique balance of education, extracurricular activities, and family life.

THE LEARNING SCHEDULE

Flexibility for Learning—and Life!

Although some coursework and LiveLesson sessions do need to take place at fixed times, virtual schooling gives you greater flexibility in how and when your student spends that time. It is important to meet the minimum required hours of instruction set by your state. With a combination of structure and flexibility, students have time to master their studies and pursue their interests.

Many families turn to Connections Academy because it allows them to create a customized learning schedule. The schedules on this page are just three examples of how our students connect with what is important to them.

Visit ConnectionsAcademy.com/DayInTheLife to watch how some families organize their days.
OPPORTUNITIES TO EXTEND LEARNING

OUR ONLINE CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES provide students with the opportunity to deepen their learning and engagement in subjects of interest while forging friendships with students across the country and around the globe. These rich, teacher-directed offerings are an important part of our commitment to provide a well-rounded education and are open to students at every grade level.

Calling All Interests

With a large variety of academically focused clubs* and engaging activities, students can customize learning as they pursue their passions, whether their interest lies in art, music, sports, broadcasting, debate, or writing for the student blog. Other students might prefer to delve into gaming and technology, math competitions, chess club, science, or robotics. Our career and college planning clubs inspire middle and high school students to examine their options, set goals, and develop a vision for the future.

When students join our clubs, they interact with other Connections Academy students nationwide and with students who attend International Connections Academy. Bringing students together, sparking their passions, and pointing them toward a successful future are what these student engagement activities are all about.

Students and staff from all of our Connections Academy schools enter their best photographic moments in this exciting annual competition.

* Specific clubs are subject to change.
LAUNCHING AN UNLIMITED FUTURE

SUCCESS CAN BE DEFINED IN MANY WAYS. We are proud of the countless ways that Connections Academy students go on to shine, from attending an Ivy League university, to training for a specific career, to entering the workforce the day after graduation. Our program establishes a strong foundation for success in a constantly changing world.

As students work toward personal excellence, they develop problem-solving, critical-thinking, collaboration, and communication skills that are valued in the global workplace. Our goal is to help every student prepare to excel in the next phase of his or her life.

A wide range of measures show that Connections Academy succeeds at helping students thrive.

- Parents give Connections Academy high satisfaction ratings year after year.
- Our graduates are accepted by leading colleges and universities across the United States and around the world, including Duke University, Harvard University, and Yale University.
- In 2017 alone, students were accepted to more than 600 four-year colleges and universities across all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Of those students who indicated an interest in attending a four-year college, 91 percent were accepted to a four-year college in 2017.
- Students received scholarships totaling more than $38 million in 2017—a 52 percent increase over 2016.
- Graduates tell us they learned time management, organization, and study skills that are helping them succeed in college and career.

SEE THE FULL LIST OF OUR STUDENTS’ COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES ConnectionsAcademy.com/Grads
A VIBRANT, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

WHEN YOU ENROLL YOUR CHILD in a Connections Academy school, your whole family is welcomed into a friendly and encouraging community. Field trips and other fun outings allow students and families to meet teachers in person and make new friends.

Beyond the Online Classroom

Students, teachers, and parents take learning on the road with a variety of school-sponsored field trips. Journeys to museums, farms, state capitals, and science centers give students real-world experiences that can’t be matched. In addition, middle and high school students can choose from events such as college fairs and campus or business tours. Other fun gatherings, like picnics and scavenger hunts, provide students and families with opportunities to socialize.

Get Connected!

Parents told us they wanted more opportunities for casual interaction with other Connections Academy families, and we listened. Our Get Connected! program gives families more ways to connect. Parents can use our secure online school directory to find other families nearby who are interested in sharing learning tips or arranging social outings. Club ORANGE, our parent volunteer club, brings together families as they reach out in their local communities to spread the word about Connections Academy.

JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY ON FACEBOOK
Facebook.com/ConnectionsAcademy
ONLINE EDUCATION CAN TRANSFORM A CHILD’S LIFE, but getting started can be a big change for parents. Our family support program was designed to help students and families succeed in virtual schooling.

**Tools for New Families**

Our Get Started! program ensures that families can connect with the support and tools they need to make a smooth start in online school. These include:

- Personal welcome calls from teachers
- Our Prepare for Success website
- Live online sessions where new families can learn from experienced virtual school parents
- Recorded orientation programs

**Succeed as a Learning Coach**

Our Get Coaching! program provides ongoing support for Learning Coaches, offering easy access to resources, tools, and strategies to motivate and assist their students, such as:

- Learning Coach Central, a website featuring on-demand tutorials, access to social media sites, and more
- Learning Coach Link, a monthly e-newsletter
- Learning Coach Resource Sessions, engaging interactive webinars

**HELP WHEN IT’S NEEDED**

If your family needs advice or assistance, useful information is available 24/7 through our searchable online help system. During business and early evening hours, Learning Coaches can call a toll-free number for assistance with installation and troubleshooting. Teachers and other school staff also offer support and encouragement.

**EXPLORE THIS RESOURCE**

ConnectionsAcademy.com/FamilySupport
Building achievement, grade by grade.

The Connections Academy program is designed to meet students’ needs at every grade level, with the right combination of interesting courses, supportive teachers and counselors, helpful resources, and engaging activities. Students learn online and offline, with a Learning Coach helping them along the way as they build independence, collaborate with classmates, and discover new subjects that spark their interests.

The result is an education that brings new challenges every year and new opportunities to help your child grow. Plus, building good habits and a love of learning is a step-by-step recipe for future success—in college and in life.
IN GRADES K–5, CONNECTIONS ACADEMY HELPS YOUNG STUDENTS learn the basics, acquire study and problem-solving skills, and develop a love of learning that will last a lifetime.

Elementary students are introduced to the building blocks for success in school—reading, writing, and mathematics. The well-rounded curriculum weaves in science, social studies, technology, art, and physical fitness.

Students work with hands-on resources, including workbooks, kits, and virtual tools supplied by Connections Academy. We also offer exciting electives, activities, and clubs to encourage students to explore personal interests. Students can take world language courses, learn basic music concepts, challenge themselves in the Quiz Bowl, and much more.

**Learning Coach Participation**
Experience shows that most elementary students require a high level of oversight. While each student’s needs and capabilities will vary, the typical Learning Coach for students in grades K–5 is involved for about five hours per day. Activities may include:

- Setting a schedule with varied activities and breaks
- Assisting with lessons
- Monitoring student grades and understanding of concepts
- Communicating frequently with the teacher

**Online and Offline Activity**
Since the majority of the work is done offline, including reading books and writing, students have a very flexible schedule. A minimum of 30 hours per week is spent learning, and about 15 to 30 percent of the school day is centered on interactive online courses.

**Expert Elementary Teachers**
Students in grades K–5 are assigned one expert elementary teacher who brings it all together by motivating students online and personalizing lessons. A school counselor is also available.

To read more about courses for grades K–5, turn to page 28.
Emily Pascu

Emily Pascu receives the personal attention she needs to thrive at Oregon Connections Academy. Previously at a small private school, Emily struggled with reading yet needed extra challenge in other subjects. Her mother, Nafeesa, says: “After one month with Connections Academy, Emily began to respond and do better in reading. Her teachers are always there to support us, answering questions, providing extra practice when needed, and praising her hard work.”

Emily and her family like having a more flexible schedule. “I can work at my own pace and still have time for scouting, dance, or playing outside. I’ve made lots of friends through my activities,” Emily explains. Her mom appreciates that Emily can work ahead or take school on the road. “Emily has been able to accompany her father when he travels for work, attend a choir convention, and act in plays—all without falling behind in school.”
GRADES 6–8: ON THE PATH TO SUCCESS

STUDENTS ENTER A NEW WORLD of academic growth and personal discovery in middle school.* Connections Academy helps them reach their potential and prepare for the limitless opportunities available now and in the future.

In grades 6–8, students sharpen their language arts, math, and critical-thinking skills through a blend of online and offline work. They also deepen their understanding of history and science. Through exciting electives, students learn new skills, find art in everyday life, and examine new technologies. They can also join enriching clubs and learn about robotics, explore careers, or write for the Monitor, our student blog. Advanced students can even start earning high school credits early.†

Learning Coach Participation

The role of the Learning Coach changes as the student becomes more independent and takes increased ownership of his or her learning. We recommend that the Learning Coach base his or her time commitment on the student’s progress. For middle school students we find that the typical Learning Coach spends about 2–3 hours per day overseeing learning. Activities may include:

• Supporting the transition to more independent learning
• Assisting with some lessons
• Monitoring student grades and understanding of concepts
• Communicating with teachers and referring students to teachers as needed

Online and Offline Activity

We provide students with a prescribed schedule, which requires a minimum of 30 hours per week. Students work with teachers as needed to create more accommodating schedules. About 50 to 75 percent of the school day is centered on interactive online courses.

Subject-Specific Teachers

Connections Academy middle school students begin working directly with subject-specific teachers and a homeroom or advisory teacher who monitors and assists with all subjects. A school counselor is also available.

To read more about courses for grades 6–8, turn to page 35.

* Grades 7–8 in some schools.
† Not available in all schools. Requires the school counselor’s approval.
Advanced learner Jon-Marc Coote wasn’t being challenged in his previous, traditional school, so he and his family decided to switch to online learning. At Georgia Connections Academy, he is able to take gifted and talented courses and work at a pace that suits his academic abilities. His dad, Mark, says, “Jon-Marc is now doing ninth grade math. In his previous school, he would get bored because he couldn’t work ahead. Now that he is much more challenged, he gets really excited about school.”

Jon-Marc is grateful for his kind and encouraging teachers. “I have more interest in things that I didn’t have before, like math, and I think my teachers have a lot to do with that. They are always very helpful, and I can ask them as many questions as I would like,” he explains. In the future, Jon-Marc would like to attend the Naval Academy.
GRADERS 9–12: REACHING GOALS AND PREPARING TO SOAR

HIGH SCHOOL IS ABOUT SETTING GOALS AND REACHING THEM. We encourage students to aim high—and then soar. Connections Academy’s high school education features a core curriculum including math, science, English, and social studies. Electives in varied topics such as digital photography, marine science, game design, and world languages encourage students to explore and grow to become well-rounded individuals. Honors and Advanced Placement® courses provide the challenge needed for college preparation. In some states, early college credit is available. Students can also prepare for the future by joining college and career clubs or taking Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses.

Learning Coach Participation

The Learning Coach role changes as the student transitions to high school and more independent learning. We recommend that the Learning Coach base his or her time commitment on the student’s progress. We find that the typical Learning Coach at this level spends about 30 to 60 minutes per day overseeing learning. Activities may include:

- Encouraging and supporting a teen’s growing independence
- Verifying that lessons and assessments are completed
- Communicating with teachers and referring students to teachers as needed
- Attending regular teacher conferences

Online and Offline Activity

Students maintain their prescribed schedule, spending a minimum of 30 hours per week learning. Students may work with teachers to create modified schedules. About 80 to 90 percent of the school day is centered on interactive online courses.

Subject-Specific Teachers

Students are guided by outstanding subject-specific teachers and school counselors. All students meet with an advisory teacher who continues to monitor advancement and helps to develop a Personalized Learning Plan that will prepare them for success in their chosen path.

To read more about courses for grades 9–12, turn to page 41.
Samantha Hudzik switched to Ohio Connections Academy for a more structured and challenging education than was available at her previous online school.

A member of the school’s National Honor Society and gifted and talented program, Samantha now enjoys learning with teachers who encourage her to achieve her full potential. “They really help me to grow, succeed, and enrich my learning experience,” she shares.

With Connections Academy’s scheduling flexibility and accelerated graduation option, Samantha has been able to work toward her goal of graduating from college early by taking courses at Malone University. She says, “Every [Connections Academy] teacher and administrator has helped me get here.” Samantha is also actively involved in the university’s theatre program.

Samantha is set to receive her bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Communication Arts (Theatre, Film, and Media concentration) a year after graduating from high school!
Our curriculum is designed for success.

The Connections Academy program delivers a comprehensive high-quality curriculum. At each grade level, we lay the groundwork for future success by building a solid foundation in required courses, developing lifelong learning and communication skills, and encouraging exploration, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

With the best resources at their fingertips, students master core subjects: language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Our broad range of electives, gifted and talented courses, and honors and AP® classes allow students of diverse abilities to thrive and grow.

Explore Our Curriculum

- Grades K–5
- Grades 6–8
- Grades 9–12
KINDERGARTEN

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 consonants as well as long and short vowel sounds.

Reading Street, Scott Foresman

Math Mathematical thinking and problem-solving are introduced in kindergarten. 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.

enVisionMATH, Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley

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

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 its important historical figures, students research their personal histories and heroes.

myWorld Social Studies, Here We Are. Pearson

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. 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.
FIRST GRADE

Language Arts In this course, students master key foundational skills. They are exposed to a variety of fiction and nonfiction stories organized into themes such as Getting to Know Us and Our Community. Examining literature through themes helps students make connections between texts and relate reading topics to personal knowledge and interests. Students build writing fluency by responding to various prompts, and they work toward mastery of standard language conventions through daily grammar and mechanics practice. The course teaches students how to communicate purposefully by giving them the opportunity to participate in collaborative discussions and take turns talking and listening carefully to a partner.

Math In this course, students learn mathematical concepts related to addition and subtraction, measuring lengths, time, and representing and interpreting data. They also learn about counting, determining place value, comparing two-digit numbers, using models to add and subtract, reasoning with shapes, and working with parts of figures. Students use problem-solving, reasoning, communicating, representing, and making connections to form mathematical concepts. The course supports the development of students’ mathematical thinking by building both conceptual knowledge and procedural fluency.

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 careers in science.

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, economics, culture, and history. Students also study charts, maps, and music to help explain the concept of communities and extend it to the larger world.

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 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 completing the activities described in the lessons, students have the option of participating in yoga or an individual or team sport.

Learning Buddies help guide students through language arts, math, and science lessons.
SECOND GRADE

Language Arts In this course, students develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills essential for future success. Students expand their vocabularies while using an array of strategies—including main idea, problem and solution, and author's purpose—to comprehend complex texts. A variety of stories are organized into relevant themes such as Friends and Family, Live and Learn, and Our Life/Our World. Students enjoy daily independent reading routines. Additionally, they use the writing process to produce various compositions, including narrative texts, informative texts, and opinion texts. Students also master standard language conventions through daily grammar and mechanics practice. Engaging activities and discussions help students become proficient listeners and speakers.

Wonders, McGraw-Hill

Math In this course, students learn mathematical concepts related to addition and subtraction, even and odd numbers, time, and money. They also learn about length measurement, graphs and data, shapes and their attributes, and place value using models. Students use problem-solving, reasoning, communicating, representing, and making connections to form mathematical concepts. The course supports the development of students’ mathematical thinking by building both conceptual knowledge and procedural fluency.

enVisionmath®2.0, Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley

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

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.

myWorld Social Studies, Pearson

State History Students are introduced to the history of their state. They trace the timeline from the early history of 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, or fourth grade depending on 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 they can make and games from 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 team sport.
THIRD GRADE

Language Arts In this course, students use critical-thinking and reading comprehension skills to analyze texts. Using a multi-draft reading approach, students make connections between their readings and the world. They will be asked questions such as “How can learning help us grow?” and “What are ways people can take action?” Through the five-stage writing process— prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing— students practice writing quality sentences and well-organized compositions. Daily reading and writing activities help students continue to master spelling, grammar, and language skills. Students will also learn the strokes of cursive handwriting.

Wonders, McGraw–Hill

Math In this course, students learn mathematical concepts related to multiplication and division, patterns, rounding, and mental math. They also learn about 2-D shapes, area, perimeter, fractions, interpreting data, time, mass, and capacity. Students use problem-solving, reasoning, communicating, representing, and making connections to form mathematical concepts. The course supports the development of students’ mathematical thinking by building both conceptual knowledge and procedural fluency.

enVisionmath®2.0, Scott Foresman–Addison Wesley

Science Students explore topics through hands-on experiences, virtual labs, and interactive activities. They develop inquiry skills such as planning and conducting investigations, organizing and analyzing data, and drawing conclusions—and especially how to ask questions and make predictions. Students gain experience with the engineering design process, focusing on brainstorming, planning, and design. They develop knowledge across a number of topics in Earth, physical, and life science and come to understand structure, function, stability, and change concepts throughout the course.

Interactive Science, Pearson

Social Studies This course focuses on the theme of community, with an emphasis on geography, U.S. history, civics, and economics. Students compare communities and learn about the settlement of North America. They study the foundational documents of the United States and learn about the three branches of government. They learn about national, state, and local government and a citizen’s rights and responsibilities. Students explore the growth of the United States and learn about basic economics. They complete the course by comparing cultures from around the world.

myWorld Social Studies, Pearson

State History Students are introduced to the history of their state. They trace the timeline from the early history of 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, or fourth grade depending on 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 team sport.

This textbook is available in an electronic format. Students in some schools may also receive printed texts.

A gifted and talented course is available at some schools. Gifted and talented math courses include above-grade-level content that may not be noted in the course summaries.

This course is new, revised, or expanded.

Science courses vary by state.
FOURTH GRADE

**Language Arts** In this course, students use critical-thinking and reading comprehension skills to analyze texts. Using a multi-draft reading approach, students make connections between their readings and the world. They will be asked questions such as “How can a challenge bring out our best?” and “How do different writers treat the same topic?” Through the five-stage writing process—prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing—students practice writing quality sentences and well-organized compositions. Daily reading and writing activities help students continue to master spelling, grammar, and language skills. Students will also learn the strokes of cursive handwriting.

*Wonders, McGraw–Hill*

**Math** In this course, students learn mathematical concepts related to place value, adding and subtracting multi-digit whole numbers, strategies for multiplication and division, factors, multiples, algebra, and patterns. They also learn about calculating fractions; comparing decimals; interpreting data; classifying and measuring angles, lines, and shapes; and converting units of measurement. Students use problem-solving, reasoning, communicating, representing, and making connections to form mathematical concepts. The course supports the development of students’ mathematical thinking by building both conceptual knowledge and procedural fluency.

*enVisionmath®2.0, Scott Foresman–Addison Wesley*

**Science** Students explore topics through hands-on experiences, virtual labs, and interactive activities. They develop inquiry skills such as planning and conducting investigations, organizing and analyzing data, and drawing conclusions based on evidence—especially how to collect and analyze data. Students gain engineering design experience by testing and improving a design solution. They develop knowledge across a number of topics in Earth, physical, and life science. Concepts such as scale, proportion, and quantity are integrated throughout the course.

*Interactive Science, Pearson*

**Social Studies** In this course, students cover themes of social studies: geography, U.S. history and government, and economics. They also use a regional approach to examine these themes. Students learn to use different types of maps and other geographic tools and to apply geographic skills and concepts. The course emphasizes how geography influences the role of the individual in the community, and how things change over time. (Course content may vary by state.)

*myWorld Social Studies, Pearson*

**State History** Students are introduced to the history of their state. They trace the timeline from the early history of 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, or fourth grade depending on 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. Students also have the option of participating in yoga or an individual or team sport.
FIFTH GRADE

Language Arts In this course, students use critical-thinking and reading comprehension skills to analyze texts. Using a multi-draft reading approach, students make connections between their readings and the world. They will be asked questions such as “What kinds of experiences can lead to new discoveries?” and “How do we decide what’s important?” Through the five-stage writing process—prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing—students practice writing quality sentences and well-organized compositions. Daily reading and writing activities help students continue to master spelling, grammar, and language skills. Students will also learn the strokes of cursive handwriting.

Wonders, McGraw–Hill

Math In this course, students learn mathematical concepts related to place value, adding and subtracting decimals, using models to multiply and divide, the coordinate plane, algebra, patterns, and relationships. They also learn about 2-D figures, operations with fractions, volume, converting measurements, interpreting data, and equivalent expressions. Students use problem-solving, reasoning, communicating, representing, and making connections to form mathematical concepts. The course supports the development of students’ mathematical thinking by building both conceptual knowledge and procedural fluency.

enVisionmath®2.0, Scott Foresman–Addison Wesley

Science Students explore topics through hands-on experiences, virtual labs, and interactive activities. They develop inquiry skills such as planning and conducting investigations, organizing and analyzing data, and drawing conclusions—especially when it comes to how data collection provides evidence to make conclusions. Students also compare and analyze multiple solutions to a design problem. Students develop knowledge across a number of topics in Earth, physical, and life science. Concepts such as understanding systems and system models are integrated throughout the course.

Interactive Science, Pearson

Social Studies In this course, students trace the history of the United States from the earliest Americans to the 21st century. Students examine factors that impact settlement, immigration, migration, technological advancements, and the role of government. Students use maps to chart the growth of the nation. They compare, make generalizations, draw conclusions, sequence events, and interpret primary and secondary sources. They also learn how geography has affected culture and historic events, and they study the factors that impact economic growth.

myWorld Social Studies, Pearson

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. Students also have the option of participating in yoga or an individual or team sport.

This textbook is available in an electronic format. Students in some schools may also receive printed texts.

A gifted and talented course is available at some schools. Gifted and talented math courses include above-grade-level content that may not be noted in the course summaries.

This course is new, revised, or expanded.

Science courses vary by state.
ELECTIVE COURSES

Chinese (I and II)
Grades 3–5

Discovering Music (I, II, and III)
Grades 3–5

Experiencing Music (I, II, and III)
Grades K–2

Gifted and Talented Literature Study
Grade 2

Home Life

Sign Language

Spanish (I and II)
Grades 3–5

WebQuest

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Arts and Crafts

Book and Digital Storytelling Club

Brainteasers Club

Chess Club

Math Club I

Math Club II

Movie Club

Music Club

Pen Pals

Pens and Lens: Student Literary Magazine

Quiz Bowl

Robotics Club

Science Sleuths: Weird Science

Science Sleuths: Wild Weather

Sports Club

Clubs and activities are subject to change.
LANGUAGE ARTS 6–8

Language Arts 6 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.

Language Arts 7 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.

Language Arts 8 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.

This textbook is available in an electronic format. Students in some schools may also receive printed texts. A gifted and talented course is available at some schools. Textbooks may vary by state.
**MATH 6–8**

**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*, Prentice Hall

**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.

*Mathematics: Course 2*, Prentice Hall

**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.

*Mathematics: Course 3*, Prentice Hall

**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 the 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
SCIENCE 6–8

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 concepts relating to the various fields of science, and they begin to 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

This textbook is available in an electronic format. Students in some schools may also receive printed texts.

A gifted and talented course is available at some schools.

Gifted and talented math courses include above-grade-level content that may not be noted in the course summaries.

An honors course is available.
SOCIAL STUDIES 6–8

Social Studies 6 Students study political, economic, and social changes from world history in Social Studies 6. They use their critical-thinking skills to make connections between historical events, such as the rise and fall of empires, the rise and spread of major world religions, and the rise of democracy. They also analyze long-term changes and recurring patterns in world history. In addition to history, students also study the geography, culture, and government structures of the areas of focus. Thinking as historians, they analyze timelines, read primary source documents, form hypotheses, and draw conclusions.

myWorld Interactive: World Geography, Pearson

Social Studies 7 Students study political, economic, and social changes from world history in Social Studies 7. They use their critical-thinking skills to make connections between historical events, such as the spread of cultures, the development of new technologies, and the modernization of government and economic systems. They also analyze long-term changes and recurring patterns in world history. In addition to history, students also study the geography, culture, and government structures of the areas of focus. Thinking as historians, they analyze timelines, read primary source documents, form hypotheses, and draw conclusions.

myWorld Interactive: World History, Pearson

Social Studies 8 In this course, students study the history of the North American continent. The course covers the early cultures that thrived in the Americas for thousands of years, the European exploration and colonization of the continent, and the subsequent rise of the United States. Students learn about the Civil War and the Reconstruction that followed. The course traces the advances made over the last century and a half and the role the United States has played in a changing world.

American History, Pearson

This textbook is available in an electronic format. Students in some schools may also receive printed texts.

This course is new, revised, or expanded.

State history or alternative social studies courses may be offered in grades 6–8 depending on state requirements.
ADDITIONAL REQUIRED COURSES 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.

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.

Health and Physical Education Students determine current personal fitness levels and learn to improve them. This provides students with the foundation for lifelong health and physical fitness. They learn safety rules for exercise, how different activities target different body parts, how to set and reach a goal, and how to make healthy choices. Activity options 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.
ELECTIVE COURSES

Chinese (I and II)
Exploring Music (I, II, and III)
Home Life
- Introduction to Online Learning
- Middle School Career Exploration I
- Middle School Digital Art and Design
- Middle School Journalism
  Sign Language
  Spanish (I and II)
  WebQuest

This course is new, revised, or expanded.

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Art Club
Arts and Crafts
Book and Digital Storytelling Club
Brainteasers Club
Broadcast and Theater Arts Club
Career Club
Chess Club
Debate Club
Gaming and Technology Club
Math Club I
Math Club II

The Monitor: Student Blog
Movie Club
Music Club
Pen Pals
Pens and Lens: Student Literary Magazine
Poetry Corner
Quiz Bowl
Robotics Club
Science Club
Sports Club

Clubs and activities are subject to change.
THE CONNECTIONS ACADEMY
HIGH SCHOOL ADVANTAGE

Connections Academy online schools are a great match for today’s teens as they prepare for careers of the future.

STUDENT SUPPORT  Licensed or certified school counselors support students in the areas of academic development, personal and social growth, and career exploration and future planning. This includes:

• Helping students maximize academic achievements and set goals for college and/or career
• Assisting with college applications and providing official transcripts for those applying to college
• Providing guidance for students entering the workforce or the military

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS  The counseling team holds national LiveLesson sessions focused on students’ development during high school and beyond. Weekly sessions cover academic achievement, personal and social development, and college and career readiness. The College & Career Readiness Programs include the the Career Fireside Chat series that takes a sneak peek at various career paths. Guest speakers explain their careers and the academic and professional journey that led them to their current position. Another series, Chat with a Grad, allows students to chat with Connections Academy graduates about life after high school.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES  Connections Academy offers a wide range 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 classes, depending on the individual college’s policies.

• AP Art History
• AP Biology
• AP Calculus AB
• AP Calculus BC
• AP Computer Science A
• AP English Language and Composition
• AP Environmental Science
• AP English Literature and Composition
• AP Human Geography
• AP Macroeconomics
• AP Microeconomics
• AP Psychology
• AP Spanish Language
• AP Statistics
• AP United States Government and Politics
• AP United States History

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 can submit a High School Home School Credit form. Counselors will use this to determine placement.

NCAA AND CALIFORNIA A–G COURSES  Most of our high school core courses and many electives are approved by the NCAA Eligibility Center. Also, many courses are certified as fulfilling the “a–g” subject requirements for freshman admission to the University of California. Visit ConnectionsAcademy.com/CourseApprovals for more details.

ACT/SAT PREPARATION COURSES  Students can prepare for college by enrolling in the College Prep with ACT/SAT courses, which utilize online resources from Schmoop and the College Board/Khan Academy. Students can take several practice tests and Teachlet® tutorials devoted to other critical aspects of the college application process, including writing effective personal essays and understanding the financial aid process.

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE  To celebrate the successful completion of high school, most Connections Academy schools hold live graduation ceremonies.
ENGLISH 9–12

**English 9** Classic and contemporary works of American, British, and world literature in a variety of genres are introduced. Students analyze short fiction, nonfiction, and poetry selections. Students also read and analyze novels and other major literary works. 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**

**The Essential Guide to Language, Writing, & Literature, Perfection Learning**

**Writing with Power, Perfection Learning**

**English 10** The timeless themes in world literature are emphasized in English 10. A classic literature selection introduces each region, followed by short fiction, nonfiction, poetry, 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 and to develop their research process and oral communication skills.

**Reading the World, Perfection Learning**

**Writing with Power, Perfection Learning**

**English 11** Students focus on the literary movements that comprise American literature and trace the chronology of national literature from the early American and colonial period through the contemporary period. Students read selections from the Native American oral tradition; seminal historical documents and essays; and 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.

**American Short Stories, Perfection Learning**

**A Multicultural Reader: Collection Two, Perfection Learning**

**Writing with Power, Perfection Learning**

**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**

**Writing with Power, Perfection Learning**

**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 between 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 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.

**Writing America: Language and Composition in Context, AP Edition, Pearson**

**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 between 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.

*How to Prepare: AP Exam English Literature and Composition, Barron’s Educational Series*
SCIENCE 9–12

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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*

**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.

*Environment: The Science Behind the Stories, Pearson*

**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.

*Physical Science: Concepts in Action, Prentice Hall*

**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*

This textbook is available in an electronic format. Students in some schools may also receive printed texts.

An honors course is available.

This course is new, revised, or expanded.
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. (This course is not offered at all schools.)

Mathematics: Course 3, Prentice Hall

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.

Algebra 1, Prentice Hall

Algebra 2 Students engage in high-level mathematical discussions and apply algebraic concepts to real-world scenarios as they build on prior knowledge of functions, systems of equations, the quadratic formula, and factoring. Students also continue to study arithmetic and geometric sequences and series, probability and statistics, and trigonometric identities and equations.

Algebra 2, Prentice Hall

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.

Geometry, Prentice Hall

Precalculus In this course, students analyze various functions. They study quadratics, sequences, and series. Students expand their knowledge of trigonometric concepts and explore vectors and parametric equations. Finally, students examine concepts, including limits and derivatives, in preparation for their study of calculus. Throughout the course, lessons focus on ways in which mathematics is applied in the real world and is essential to everyday life. This, combined with an emphasis on mathematical reasoning and critical-thinking skills, prepares students for future college and career opportunities.

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 but is not provided by Connections Academy.

**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, and 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 prepares students for the AP Calculus AB exam. A TI-83+ or TI-84+ graphing calculator is required for this course but 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 prepares students for the AP Calculus BC exam. A TI-83+ or TI-84+ graphing calculator is required for this course but 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 of this course 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*

**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 prepares students for the AP Statistics exam.

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

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**SOCIAL STUDIES 9–12**

**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.

*Economics: Principles in Action*, Prentice Hall

**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 prepares students for the AP Macroeconomics exam.

*Foundations of Economics*, Pearson

**AP Microeconomics** This course introduces the ways in which people make use of limited resources. Students examine supply and demand, factors of production, the roles of labor and management, the relationship between the environment and the economy, and the impact of government policies on individuals’ economic decisions. Students also study the stock market and track the progress of various stocks. This course prepares students for the AP Microeconomics exam.

*Foundations of Economics*, Pearson

**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 show 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 cultures.

**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 the relationship between people and 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. This course prepares students for the AP Human Geography exam.

*The Cultural Landscape*, Pearson

**American Government** Students examine concepts such as democracy, federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances. The branches of government—legislative, executive, and judicial—are studied in depth. Students learn about the basic rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens; the influence of political parties, the media, and interest groups; and the structure of local and state governments. The course presents information in a context relevant to students. Activities are designed to develop students’ ability to read and evaluate different forms of information and communicate their ideas.

*American Government*, Pearson
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 prepares students for the AP United States Government and Politics exam.

Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy, Pearson

United States History Students follow the significant developments in America’s history. They explore the growth of American society from early settlement and colonization to the emergence of the United States as an independent nation. The causes and aftermath of the Civil War are discussed, as is America’s involvement in World War I. Students explore the social and economic whirlwind of the Roaring Twenties and the subsequent Great Depression; World War II; the Cold War; and the turmoil and societal changes of the 1960s and 1970s. The final part of the course explores America’s history from Watergate to the early 21st century. Throughout this course, geography and government concepts are introduced and discussed.

United States History, Prentice Hall

World History This course provides students with a comprehensive examination of world history, from ancient times through present day. Students explore prehistory and early civilization, focusing on the ancient civilizations of the Americas, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome. They study medieval Christian Europe from the early to late Middle Ages; regional civilizations including the Muslim world, Africa, and Asia; and early modern times, with a focus on the Renaissance, Reformation, and Global Age. The course explores social, political, and economic changes of the 19th and 20th centuries, including the industrial age and independence movements. Students study the impact of nationalism, imperialism, and the world wars. Finally, they explore the Cold War, new nations, and the effects of globalization.

World History, Pearson


This textbook is available in an electronic format. Students in some schools may also receive printed texts.

An honors course is available.
ELECTIVE COURSES

ADVANCED PLACEMENT
AP Art History†
AP Computer Science A†
AP Psychology
AP Spanish Language†
Additional AP courses are listed within the core subjects on preceding pages.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
Entrepreneurship: Owning Your Own Business
Sports Management

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Accounting I
Accounting II
Administrative Duties and Office Management
Anatomy and Physiology
Business Communication
Business Information Systems
Business Law
Business Math
Criminal Investigation
Developmental Writing
Health, Safety, and Nutrition
Human Resource Management
Introduction to Business
Introduction to Communication

INTRODUCTION TO
Introduction to Criminal Justice
Introduction to Early Childhood Education
Introduction to Finance
Introduction to Homeland Security
Introduction to Law
Introduction to Medical Assisting
Introduction to Paralegal Profession
Introduction to Psychology
Introduction to Sociology
Introductory Astronomy
Java Programming I
Java Programming II
Leadership and Supervision in Business
Medical Law and Ethics
Medical Terminology
Principles of Management
Principles of Marketing
Public Speaking
Research Methods

ENGLISH
Journalism
Speech and Debate

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Health, Fitness, and Nutrition
Personal Fitness
Personal Fitness II
Physical Education

MATH
Algebra with Finance

SCIENCE
Earth Space Science*
Environmental Science
Marine Science*

SOCIAL STUDIES
Psychology

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT
Career Planning and Skill Development
College Prep with ACT
College Prep with SAT
Driver’s Education
Internship and Work Study
Reading and Writing for Purpose

TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING
3-D Computer Modeling
Concepts of Engineering and Technology
Emergent Computer Technology
Game Design I
Game Design II
Introduction to Computer Applications
Introduction to Graphic Design
Web Design

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
Art History
Digital Photography I
Digital Photography II
Living Music I
Living Music II

WORLD LANGUAGES
Chinese I
Chinese II
Chinese III
French I
French II
French III
French IV
German I
German II
German III
Japanese I
Japanese II
Latin I
Latin II
Latin III
Sign Language I
Sign Language II
Spanish I
Spanish II
Spanish III
Spanish IV
Spanish for Spanish Speakers

* Also offered as an honors course
† Two-semester course; must begin in fall semester
● Designates a new, revised, or expanded course

Also available in all states. See ConnectionsAcademy.com for details.
Visit ConnectionsAcademy.com/CourseApprovals to see which courses are approved by either the University of California a-g program or the NCAA Eligibility Center.

9–12

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Art Club
Book and Digital Storytelling Club
Brain teasers Club
Broadcast and Theater Arts Club
Career Club
Chess Club
College Planning Club
Debate Club
First-Generation Club
Gaming and Technology Club

The Monitor: Student Blog
Movie Club
Music Club
Pen Pals
Pens and Lens:
Student Literary Magazine
Poetry Corner
Quiz Bowl
Robotics Club
Science Club
Sports Club

Clubs and activities are subject to change.
GET STARTED!

**Steps to Prepare**

- **VISIT ConnectionsAcademy.com**
Enter your ZIP code to find out what online school options are available in your area. You can also call us at 866-257-8780.

- **CHECK the Eligibility Requirements**
Ensure that your student is eligible to participate in the school. Some restrictions may apply.

- **ATTEND an Information Session**
Meet other parents as well as teachers and administrators who can answer your questions and share tips for success. View upcoming information sessions at ConnectionsAcademy.com/Events.

- **PREPARE to Enroll**
In order to make your enrollment as smooth and simple as possible, it helps to gather some information first. Visit ConnectionsAcademy.com/EnrollmentPrep and use our helpful checklist to make sure you are ready.

NOW YOU ARE READY TO ENROLL!

**Start Enrollment**

- **ENROLL Online**
Go to ConnectionsAcademy.com/Enroll to select your school and complete the online forms to get your student’s enrollment started. This will create an enrollment account for you in our system.

- **SUBMIT the Required Documents**
Please log in to your account regularly to follow the process, submit required documents, and check your progress until completed. Our enrollment and course placement experts will review and verify your uploaded documents and let you know if more information is needed for them to verify eligibility and determine your student’s courses.

- **CONFIRM Your Plans to Attend**
The last step to complete the enrollment process is to review your student’s course assignments and verify his or her intent to attend your selected Connections Academy school.

THEN IT IS TIME TO GET STARTED!

Even before teachers are assigned, you will be provided with useful tools and orientations to help your family get ready for the first day of school.

Visit ConnectionsAcademy.com/Prepare-for-Success to learn more. Experience shows that well-prepared families and students thrive at Connections Academy!