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## Curriculum Policy

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*This policy was approved by the Board of Directors on October 25, 2016.*

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to clearly lay out the curriculum used at American Academy as part of the vision and mission of the school.

### **Standards**

The school shall meet or exceed all federal, state, and district standards for each grade. In addition, the school shall meet the standards set by the programs specified in this policy. Progress against standards shall be measured and reported to the BOD as specified in the school Assessment Plan.

### **Requirements**

#### ***Base Curriculum***

The school shall implement *Core Knowledge* as the base curriculum for History and English/Language Arts. The school shall cover 80% or more of the *Core Knowledge* curriculum for each grade, as defined in the *Core Knowledge Scope and Sequence*.

#### ***Mathematics***

The school shall implement *Saxon Math* as the primary mathematics program; other programs will be used for Algebra and Geometry as needed for high achieving middle school students. Each student shall complete at least one level/course of *math* each school year, unless the retention policy applies.

#### ***Language Arts***

The school shall implement *Spalding Reading Road to Writing*, *Shurley English*, *Step Up to Writing*, *Hake Grammar*, and the *Core Knowledge literature* as the primary Language Arts programs for elementary students. The middle school will use the *Core Knowledge literature* and the *Hake English Handbook*.

#### ***Flexible Grouping***

For all grades, the school shall use flexible grouping for mathematics and reading, at a minimum. Flexible grouping is defined as grouping children at their appropriate skill level based on results from frequent assessments.

#### ***Character Education***

For all grades, the school shall teach and model the American Academy Manners and Character program.

#### ***Technology Integration***

For all grades, the school shall integrate technology into the curriculum following the ISTE standards for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning.

#### ***Science***

For all grades, the school shall implement approved and comprehensive science lessons that cover the Next Generation Science Standards.

### **Supplemental Programs**

The implementation of supplemental curriculum or programs is at the discretion of the Executive Director of Schools (EDS), or his/her designee provided that all of the above Requirements are met.

### **Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Program**

Two multi-week STEM units shall be delivered per grades pre-kindergarten through fifth each school year. In middle school, students will participate in the Engineering Academy for one trimester in place of science class.

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#### **POLICY HISTORY**

- Original:* approved by the BOD on November 7, 2005
- Revision 1:* approved by the BOD on April 3, 2006
- Revision 2:* approved by the BOD on May 15, 2007
- Revision 5:* approved by the BOD on July 15, 2010
- Revision 6:* approved by the BOD on May 17, 2011
- Revision 7:* approved by the BOD on June 13, 2012
- Revision 8:* approved by BOD on October 25, 2016

#### **SUMMARY OF REVISION 1**

*Added Character Education and Technology Integration.*

#### **SUMMARY OF REVISION 2**

*Added Shurley Grammar.*

#### **Summary of REVISION 3**

- 1) *Added Riggs Phonics*
- 2) *Added middle school Holt English*
- 3) *Added science curriculum*

#### **Summary of REVISION 4**

*Added Science.*

#### **Summary of REVISION 5**

*Updated Language Arts and Science.*

#### **Summary of REVISION 6**

- 1) *Added the STEM Program.*
- 2) *Retention clarification.*

#### **Summary of REVISION 7**

*Added FOSS Science.*

#### **Summary of REVISION 8**

- 1) *Added Hake Grammar to Language Arts for ES*
- 2) *Replaced Holt English Handbook with Hake English Handbook for MS*
- 3) *Replaced Core Virtues and the Essential 55 with the AA Manners and Character Program*
- 4) *Replaced FOSS, Holt and Glencoe with NGSS based programming*
- 5) *Changed 3 STEM units to 2 per grade in ES. Added Engineering Academy for MS*

