

Core Knowledge Language Arts

- Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) is the district-wide literacy curriculum for grades K-5. It is a research-based curriculum that will give students a comprehensive knowledge base for learning to read.
- CKLA will provide a more systematic approach to reading that is consistent across classrooms and schools throughout the district. The skills learned in grades K-5 will form the foundation of learning for each grade that follows.



HOW WILL IT IMPROVE MY CHILD'S READING SKILLS?

- The Core Knowledge philosophy is that “decoding (and encoding) must become automatic and fluent, and broad background knowledge and vocabulary are essential to comprehension.”
- Reading or listening to a story expands a child's world so that he or she is familiar with more places and things than what he or she has experienced personally.
- Word study will give students the building blocks to encode and decode words, so that they can “sound out” new words successfully.
- This will better prepare students for the types of questions they will see on end-of-grade tests beginning in third grade.

WHAT ABOUT READING AT HOME?

Students are encouraged to read 30 minutes per night as part of GCS Reads 30. This is a great way to support students who are already avid readers and encourage them to continue reading for pleasure. Children who are still learning to read will benefit from listening to stories as they see the words pointed out on the page.

WHAT WILL STUDENTS DO DURING CLASS?

- As in years' past, students will spend 120 minutes on literacy each day. Some of that will be small-group guided reading, and some will be used for whole-group read-alouds. This combined time will help students develop the vocabulary and broad background knowledge that is necessary for comprehension.
- The remaining time will be used to help children recognize and use letters and understand how those letters form words and sentences. This is called decoding and encoding, and it's an essential part of learning to read.