

***Krause Elementary
Curriculum Course Guide
Armada Area Schools***



2025-2026 School Year

Core Course Descriptions- Readiness

Language Arts (Readiness)

Language Arts course instruction gets students on track for kindergarten readiness. This course provides hands-on experiences that engage young minds through purposeful play, active engagement, and small group experiences in the areas of reading, writing, and phonological and phonemic awareness.

Mathematics (Readiness)

Math course instruction focuses on creating and strengthening foundational math skills including the following counting and cardinality skills: counting, writing numerals, using counting to find out how many items are in a group, and comparing a set of items; skills in operations and algebraic thinking through beginner addition; skills in measurement and data by classifying objects by defining factors and pattern work; and geometry skills by naming and building shapes.

Science (Readiness)

Science course instruction provides basic beginner skills of creating a model to share learning with others and asking questions based on observations through the natural and designed world.

Social Studies (Readiness)

Social Studies course instruction is based on creating the foundational knowledge of social studies skills such as rules and their overall purpose and outcomes, family structures and how they compare and contrast, and using basic descriptions for when events took place.

Core Course Descriptions- Kindergarten

Language Arts (Kindergarten)

Phonemic Awareness:

- the ability to recognize differences in sounds
- the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate sounds, (phonemes) in spoken words
- necessary for becoming a successful reader and writer
- As children progress they will learn that words are made up of unique sequences of spoken sounds.
- strong phonemic awareness, in fact, allows them to translate the sounds they hear in their writing.
- Goal is to develop a “listening ear” for language.

Kindergarten uses many sources of curriculum to develop phonemic awareness. Two are listed below but we have too many to list. Many lessons are in the form of “games” that we will play.

Phonics:

- Phonics associates each specific sound to a symbol, the alphabet.
- What’s the difference?
 - “Phonemic Awareness” = distinguish phonemes (sounds)
 - “Phonics” = attaching a letter to sound or groups of letters in reading and writing
 - taught through oral language activities, reading, and writing

CKLA by Amplify

Heggerty by Michael Heggerty, Ed.D

CKLA Writing:

The students will be participating in daily writing activities starting with teacher guided and oral language activities. The foundation is research based and is a school wide initiative. CKLA and thematic units are taught specifically. The goal is for students to write a sentence on one topic by the end of the year. Students will also grow into confident writers and enjoy writing and learning the writing process. Oral language is needed as a foundation for both reading and writing. Please talk, talk, talk to your child every night and make them talk to you in conversation as much as possible. This is a building block for success. The year will begin with our morning message and other whole group shared writing activities that are teacher-led. Essential skills are taught and listed below.

Morning Message/whole group writing

- shared writing
- count letters, words
- punctuation (.,!?), spacing, capitals
- a sentence/complete thought
- sight words
- letter recognition
 - phonetic spelling
 - “write what you hear” (all activities)
 - stretch out sounds
 - write the letters you know
 - ask your child to read their writing
 - back to you
 - activities at home

Phonetic spelling is an important part of phonics and learning to write words. This concept is often misunderstood, but is extremely important in kindergarten. The objective is for the child to “write what they hear.” The word “house” might be spelled “hos or hows.” This is developmental and appropriate. Please encourage writing by having your child help with grocery lists, writing letters to relatives or friends and mailing them, etc.

Mathematics (Kindergarten)

Kindergarten uses Everyday Mathematics. which is used K-5 in our elementary school. This program was developed by the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project. The program is based on research about how children learn and develop mathematical power. It provides the broad mathematical background needed in the 21st century. Key mathematical ideas are repeated over time in slightly different ways. Mastery is developed over time beginning at a simple level and increasing complexity. Learning of concepts is age-appropriate, playful activities, and games. The activities are playful and meaningful. The program is focused on a hands-on learning experience with an emphasis on the learning process. Math is not done just during mathtime, it is in our world and everyday life.

Focus Concepts;

- Numbers and Numeration
- Operations and Computation
- Data and Chance
- Measurement and Reference Frames
- Geometry
- Patterns, Functions, and Algebra

Science (Kindergarten)

Students will participate in teacher led and student led observations, explorations, investigation, and analyzing data throughout the year. The units we will cover are:

- Weather / Energy
- Push and Pull
- Living Things

Social Studies (Kindergarten)

Students will participate in teacher-led and student projects, discussions, and explorations throughout the year. The units we will cover are:

- Community and History
- Economics
- Geography

Character Strong is our school wide social-emotional learning curriculum that develops character traits. It teaches students tools to regulate their emotions and conflict resolution. All of the content is designed for three outcomes: Be Kind, Be Well, Be Strong.

Core Course Descriptions- 1st Grade

Language Arts (First Grade)

Reading

Key Ideas and Details:

- Read closely to understand and make inferences using text evidence to support conclusions.
- Determine central ideas or themes and summarize the key details and ideas.
- Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Craft and Structure:

- Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text.
- Analyze the structure of texts.
- Assess point of view or purpose of a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

- Evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text.
- Compare two texts on the same topic.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity:

- Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently

Writing

Text Types and Purposes:

- Write opinion pieces, informative/explanatory texts, and narratives.

Production and Distribution of Writing:

- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge:

- Conduct short research projects based on focused questions.

Comprehension and Collaboration:

- Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas:

- Present information, findings, and supporting evidence.

Language:

Conventions of Standard English:

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Vocabulary:

- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language and word relationships.

Mathematics (First Grade)

Math

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction.
- Understand and apply properties of operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction.
- Add and subtract within 20.
- Work with addition and subtraction equations.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Extend the counting sequence.
- Understand place value.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract.

Measurement and Data

- Measure and compare lengths to the nearest whole unit.
- Tell and write time.
- Represent and interpret data.

Geometry

- Describe and compose shapes and their attributes.

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.

Science (First Grade)

The performance expectations in first grade help students formulate answers to questions such as: “What happens when materials vibrate? What happens when there is no light? What are some ways plants and animals meet their needs so that they can survive and grow? How are parents and their children similar and different? What objects are in the sky and how do they seem to move?”

Students are expected to develop understanding of the relationship between sound and vibrating materials as well as between the availability of light and ability to see objects. Students are also expected to develop understanding of how plants and animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs as well as how behaviors of parents and offspring help the offspring survive. The understanding is developed that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly the same as, their parents.

The crosscutting concepts of patterns; cause and effect; structure and function; and influence of engineering, technology, and science on society and the natural world are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. In the first grade performance expectations, students are expected to demonstrate grade-appropriate proficiency in planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data,

constructing explanations and designing solutions, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information. Students are expected to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.

Social Studies (First Grade)

In first grade, students continue to explore the social studies disciplines of history, geography, civics and government, and economics through an integrated approach using the context of school and families. This is the students' first introduction to social institutions as they draw upon knowledge learned in kindergarten to develop more sophisticated understandings of each discipline.

Core Course Descriptions- 2nd Grade

Language Arts (Second Grade)

We are implementing a new program this year across all grade levels. The program is called Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA). This program has been carefully researched and crafted in order to make every student in your classroom a reader. CKLA is divided into two strands: a Skills Strand and a Knowledge Strand. You are currently reading the introduction to Unit 1 of the Skills Strand.

Some key aspects of the skills Strand of CKLA are listed here:

- The Skills Strand provides comprehensive instruction in foundational reading skills, such as phonological awareness, phonics and word recognition, fluency, language skills (including conventions of English, spelling, and grammar), as well as reading comprehension and writing instruction.
- CKLA includes explicit, systematic phonics instruction in which students are taught the letter-sound correspondences needed to independently decode words.
- CKLA begins by teaching the most common or least ambiguous spelling for a sound (the basic code spelling). Later it teaches spelling alternatives for sounds that can be spelled several different ways. The system is kept simple at first and complexity is added bit by bit as students gain confidence and automatize their reading and writing skills.

- CKLA uses a synthetic phonics approach that teaches students to read by blending through the word. It does not teach multiple cueing strategies, use of pictures as a primary resource in decoding, or part-word guessing.

Mathematics (Second Grade)

Second grade uses Everyday Math by McGraw Hill. There are nine units in our series. Students use a variety of hands-on manipulatives to build their skills. The following are the topics covered:

- Addition and Subtractions Strategies
- Use Place Value Strategies to Add and Subtract
- Read and Write Numbers
- Comparing Numbers
- Use Pennies, Nickels, Dimes, and Quarters To Solve Problems
- Represent and Interpret Data
- Tell, Record, and Interpret time
- Measure, Compare, and Estimate Lengths in Standard Units
- Describe, Classify, and Compare Two and Three Dimensional Shapes
- Working With Equal Groups To Gain Foundations For Multiplication

Science (Second Grade)

Students will be conducting observations, investigations, and analyzing data, as they complete experiments throughout the year. The science units in second grade include:

- Earth Science
 - Solid Earth
 - Fluid Earth
- Physical Science
 - Properties of Matter
 - Materials Composition
- Life Science
 - Plants
 - Heredity

Social Studies (Second Grade)

Our social studies curriculum is divided into four units. Students are engaged in a multitude of projects that build knowledge and understanding of the following topics:

- Economics
- Geography
- History
- Values and Democracy

Core Course Descriptions-3rd Grade

Language Arts (Third Grade)

Language Arts courses consist of the Amplify:CKLA curriculum. This course includes reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This course builds students' knowledge and vocabulary in literature, history, geography, and science.

Mathematics (Third Grade)

Math courses reinforce addition and subtraction skills in addition to reviewing money and time. Our core focus is on multiplication fact strategy and introduction of geometry, division, fractions, and number concepts.

Science (Third Grade)

Science courses consist of knowledge of force and motion concepts, the study of the Earth's natural resources, and plant and animal traits. With each of these units of study, data collection and cause/effect relationships, and engineering practices are incorporated.

Social Studies (Third Grade)

Social studies courses consist of map skills and geography of Michigan, history of Michigan through statehood, civics and government of Michigan, economics of Michigan, and taking a stand on public issues.

Core Course Descriptions- 4th Grade

Language Arts (Fourth Grade)

We integrate all disciplines of language arts (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) to develop vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension with Amplify's program: Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA). As students are expanding their knowledge of reading and writing, they are encountering and practicing the vocabulary connected to each specific domain.

Mathematics (Fourth Grade)

In fourth grade we focus on multi-step word problems, multiplication, division, identifying and comparing fractions, converting units of measure, finding area and perimeter, and classifying two-dimensional figures.

We use Everyday Math, which is a conceptual program that requires students to explain their understanding through written words. This program also teaches students to use a

variety of methods for solving multiplication and division such as lattice, partial products, partial quotients, and the traditional algorithm.

Science (Fourth Grade)

Life Science, Physical Science, Earth Science

Students will explain how Earth's landscape has developed and changed over time. Students will describe the function of plant and animal structures. We will discover the relationship between different forms of energy and forces. For every unit, students will understand and use vocabulary related to science and engineering. Students will also design, generate, and compare possible solutions to everyday problems.

Social Studies (Fourth Grade)

We will study physical geography, economics, government, and human geography of the United States. We will explore Michigan in relation to its location to the rest of the United States including its natural resources and historical events. Social studies is broken into five "themes" of:

- Location-absolute and relative position on earth
- Place-physical and human characteristics of a location
- Movement-of people, goods, and ideas
- Region-unifying characteristics, climate, language
- Human/environment interaction-how do they affect each other

Core Course Descriptions- 5th Grade

Language Arts (Fifth Grade)

Reading and Writing

Amplify/ CKLA will be used to teach reading and writing. Built on the Science of Reading, Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) sequences deep content knowledge with research-based foundational skills. With new digital features and multimedia resources, it's now more engaging and flexible than ever. Homelinks to review material taught in class can be expected throughout the week.

- Reading Curriculum Highlights:
 - Students will be engaging in close reading strategies to dig deeper into their books in order to analyze what a text says, how it says it, and what it means. This year we will focus on identifying main ideas and themes, comparing and contrasting characters and genres, identifying point of view, analyzing text structures and citing text evidence to support inferences made in both fiction and nonfiction texts.
 - As part of their reading grade, students will be required to complete the 40 Book Challenge and earn 25 Accelerated Reader Points each trimester. In order to pace themselves to complete this challenge,

students should be reading approximately 13 books each trimester.

- While students will not be asked to complete a formal reading log, they are expected to read 100 minutes each week at home in order to fulfill the 40 Book Challenge and Accelerated Reader requirements.

Please find a copy of your child's current AR report attached. Below is the grading scale for AR. We feel that reading books at an appropriate level independently is a great way to grow as a reader. Students should have 80% accuracy on tests and track their books on the 40 Book Challenge.

Grammar

Students will not be given traditional spelling lists this year. Instead fifth graders will be engaging in a word study program in which they will gain a deeper understanding of important Greek and Latin roots that will help contribute to their vocabulary development across all subject areas. Students will receive three new roots and a list of their derivatives each week. Along with daily practice, students will take a quiz over the weekly roots on Fridays. The grammar skills that will be emphasized this year are using commas correctly, identifying and using prepositions to make their writing more engaging, forming accurate verb tenses and the use of conjunctions.

Mathematics (Fifth Grade)

Our Everyday Math program is a spiral series which involves the use of many hands-on manipulatives and focuses on multiple strategies for solving problems including non-traditional algorithms. At the beginning of each unit a parent letter will be sent home that describes what content will be covered in that unit, important vocabulary, suggested at-home activities as well as the answers to the unit's homework problems. With this series students will receive homework with each lesson to reinforce the skills taught in class. The Student Reference Book, which can also be found online and therefore accessed from home, will serve as a valuable resource, in addition to the parent letter, for completing the homework assignments. In addition to his or her Everyday Math Online accounts, each student will also be issued an IXL account this year again.

- Key Math Concepts:
 - Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing both decimals and fractions, volume, conversions, graphing ordered pairs, place value and understanding powers of ten.

Science (Fifth Grade)

In fifth grade science students will explore matter, including physical and chemical changes, ecosystems, the interactions of the biosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and geosphere, and daily and seasonal patterns. A large focus of our science curriculum focuses on the engineering and design process to generate, create and compare solutions to a problem.

Social Studies (Fifth Grade)

By applying the tools of historians, including the use of primary and secondary sources, students will explore the significant events that helped to shape our nation. Our units of study include Native American and European interactions, colonization and settlement in the Thirteen Colonies, the causes and effects of the Revolutionary War and finally the development of our nation's Constitution.

Specials Course Descriptions (Kindergarten-Fifth Grade)

Art

Krause Elementary's art program includes visual communication and production, art history and cultural context, analysis, evaluation, critique, aesthetics, and a variety of topics to encourage creativity and self expression. Students are exposed to different art-making processes such as painting, drawing, sculpting, printmaking, collage, and multi-media type projects. Students learn proper care and treatment of art, art materials, and art tools and equipment, so they can enjoy a lifetime of artistic pursuits.

Music

General music at Krause opens the door to musical concepts such as rhythm, melody, harmony, texture, and form. Students will work through Michigan Music Standards while listening, moving, singing, creating, and performing. Students of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to play a variety of instruments including bell kits, xylophones, ukuleles, keyboards, drums and more!

Physical Education

At Krause Elementary we are committed to the developmentally appropriate instruction that will allow children to acquire the physical skills, knowledge and personal social attitudes necessary to pursue a healthy lifestyle.

Through our physical education program the children will be encouraged to participate regularly in physical activity in their daily lives. They will be taught the importance of physical fitness and given many opportunities to improve their own through games and activities. We want the children to enjoy their time in this learning environment exhibiting responsible personal and social behavior that respects themselves and their classmates..

Science

Students will have opportunities to explore the world and learn how things work, while developing critical thinking and communication skills that will help them throughout their life. Students will have hands-on learning experiences every week where they develop a deep understanding of and appreciation for how scientists come up with evidence and

develop conclusions, and how engineers go through trial and error to determine what works best. I will use the Michigan Science Standards, based on the Next Generation Science Standards, as my guide. Many activities throughout the year will allow students to apply their new knowledge from the language arts curriculum recently adopted by our school. I will emphasize how some of the greatest inventions and solutions to problems came from people in history thinking outside of the box. Students will have opportunities to use many science and tinkering tools to test ideas and solve problems.

Technology Special

Students will learn several skills in accordance with the Michigan Integrated Technology Competencies for Students. Students will learn basic operations and concepts of devices such as the components of a computer, mouse skills, keyboard skills, software management, and many other basic skills. Students will learn about logins and file management. Online safety, digital identity, and digital citizenship will be addressed using Common Sense Media's digital citizenship curriculum. Students will also learn about painting and drawing programs.

Social Studies Special

The goal for social studies in Krause Elementary is to cultivate a deep understanding of both Michigan's history and the broader narrative of our country, alongside fostering social awareness and civic efficacy in students. This educational journey involves imparting the knowledge, skills, and values essential for active and responsible citizenship within a diverse, democratic society. By exploring historical events, cultural developments, and significant contributions from Michigan and the nation, students will learn to make informed decisions that benefit the public good. Furthermore, they will develop a clear understanding of their role and responsibility within their local communities, the state of Michigan, and the nation as a whole.