

# Mount Laurel Curriculum Updates and Revisions

Summer 2024

# Mount Laurel Curriculum Revisions

The following courses have been updated and revised to best meet the needs of Mount Laurel students.

- Social Studies Curriculum Revisions for Grades 3, 5, & 8
- Financial Literacy for Grades 7-8
- School Counseling
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- World Language: Mandarin
- Elementary Library Media
- Reading Units of Study for Grades K-4
- Reading in Grade 7 (finished from Summer 2023)
- Reading, Writing and Phonics (2023 standards alignment)
- Science for Grades 3 - 5, 8
- STEAM for Grades 5 and 8
- Mathematics for Grades K-2



## Financial Literacy: Grades 7 & 8

“An investment  
in knowledge  
pays the  
best interest.”

— Benjamin Franklin

# Financial Literacy: Progression of Units

*Trimester Course in 7th and 8th Grade*

## Financial Literacy 7

- Unit 1: Financial Psychology & Responsibility
- Unit 2: Economic & Government Influences
- Unit 3: Planning and Budgeting

## Financial Literacy 8

- Unit 1: Managing Credit Profile and Debt
- Unit 2: Risk Management & Insurance
- Unit 3: Financial Institutions & Investing



# Financial Literacy Objectives: By the End of...

## 7th Grade

- Setting financial S.M.A.R.T. goals and creating an action plan to achieve those goals, taking into consideration...
- ◆ Responsible financial decision-making
  - ◆ Economic and government influences on Income
  - ◆ Planning and balancing a budget with fixed and variable costs

## 8th Grade

- Analysis and response to the article, "*Bankrupt at 23*," taking into consideration...
- ◆ Influences on credit profile/score
  - ◆ Managing debt
  - ◆ Assessing insurance needs and different policies
  - ◆ Avoiding fraud
  - ◆ Evaluating financial products
  - ◆ Differentiating between when to save and when to invest
  - ◆ Knowing the importance of financial planning

# School Counseling

- Updates to resources and activities for curriculum
- Counselors continue to identify and develop strategies and supports
- In addition to Career-Readiness, reviewed lessons addressing specific behaviors:
  - Bullying
  - Social Media
  - Kindness & Respect
  - Well-being

# English as a Second Language (ESL)

Continue to build capacity for ESL to emphasize push-in support for Multilingual Learners (MLs).

- Targeted support for MLs at the newcomer and beginner language levels
- Provide strong foundation in Basic Interpersonal Communication
- Thematic Units
  - Personal Identity - “All About Me”
  - “Survival” Skills
  - School & Community

# World Language: Mandarin

## New World Language Course

- Trimester Course at Harrington Middle School for Grade 8
- Provide an introduction to history, heritage and cultural contributions of China
- Students will build basic conversational skills in Mandarin
- Explore using Mandarin in the written form



# Elementary World Language

- Piloted in 3 schools with additional Elementary Spanish teacher added
- Kindergarten through fourth grade
- 1 trimester of Spanish instruction in each elementary school
- Integrated into the Related Arts schedule

# Elementary Library/Media: Integration Trimesters

Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
Countryside Springville	Parkway Fleetwood	Hillside Larchmont

- Classes will be scheduled for 40-minute library integration lesson visits on a regular basis (about once a week).
- This may take place during literacy, science, or social studies.
- Classroom teachers will remain with their class in the library to allow for different models of co-teaching to take place with the library/media specialist.
- Book check out will be included during this time.



# Library/Media K-4: Realigned Scope & Sequence

- More closely aligned with other grade level units (reading, writing, science, social studies)
- Allows for cross-curricular work and interdisciplinary connections

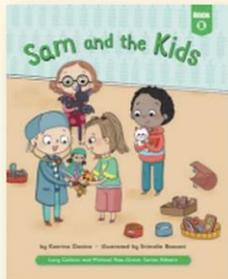
<b>K</b>	Launch W1-4	Authors and Illustrators W5-9	Re-launch W10-14	Authors, Fiction, and Library Organization W15-24			Nonfiction W25-29	Poetry W30-33	Comparing Fiction and Nonfiction W34-40		
<b>1</b>	Launch W1-7		Authors and Illustrators W8-12	Fiction W13-17		Nonfiction W18-22	Fiction: Caldecott and Other Book Awards W23-27	Digital Citizenship W28-29	Poetry W30-33	Research, Inquiry, and Information Literacy	Career Readiness and Life Literacies
<b>2</b>	Launch W1-7		Fiction W8-13		Nonfiction W14-19		Recognizing the World Around Us w20-26	Digital Citizenship W27-29	Poetry W30-33	Research, Inquiry, and Information Literacy W34 - 36	Career Readiness and Life Literacies W37-40
<b>3</b>	Launch		Digital Citizenship	Nonfiction	Fiction	Research, Inquiry, and Information Literacy		Poetry W30-33	Career Readiness and Life Literacies		
<b>4</b>	Launch		Digital Citizenship	Nonfiction	Fiction	Research, Inquiry, and Information Literacy		Poetry	Career Readiness and Life Literacies		

# Elementary Reading: Revised in Grades K-4

- Builds upon our core program (Units of Study in Reading), which was adopted and implemented during the 2023-2024 school year.
- Aligns with the revised 2023 New Jersey Student Learning Standards.
- Further develops instructional practices rooted in current research.



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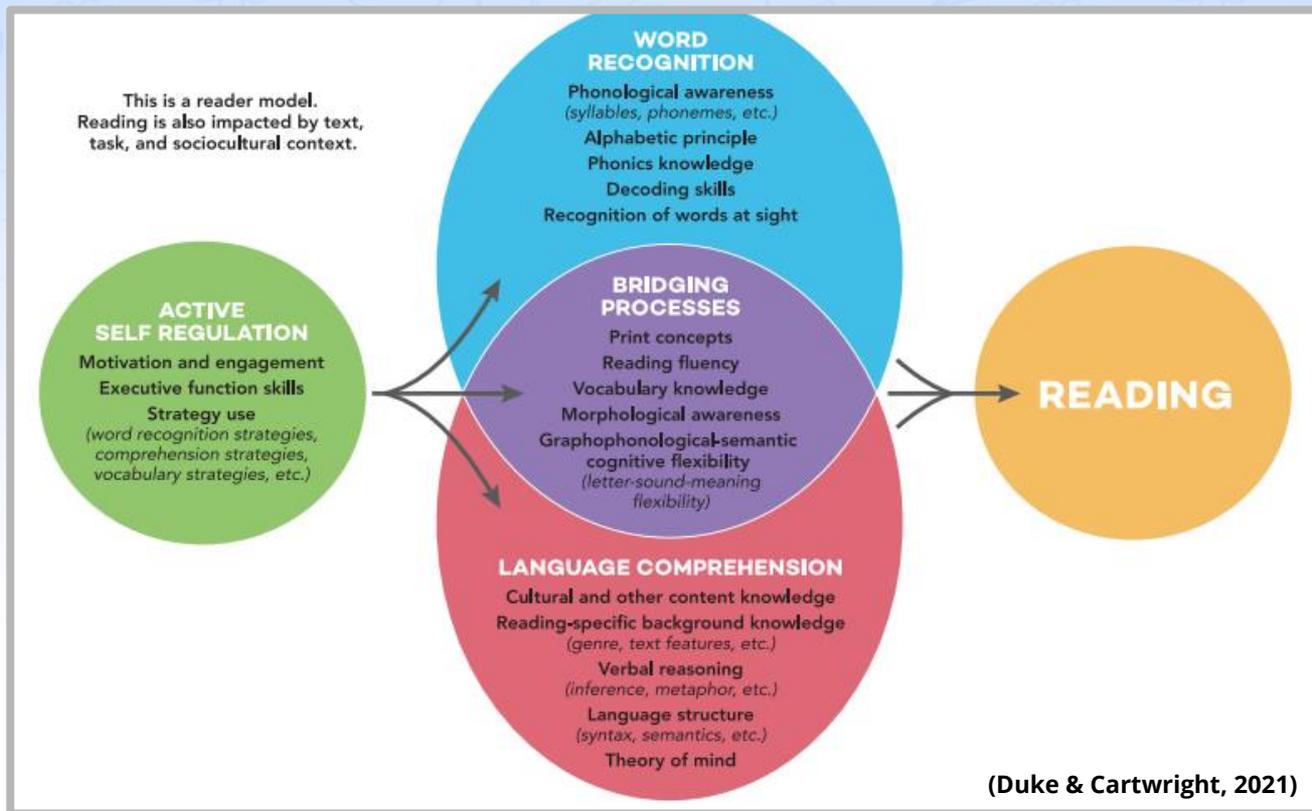
Fiction



Nonfiction



# The Active View of Reading



# Reading Units of Study K-2

<b>K</b>	<b>We Are Readers</b>	<b>Sharing Reading</b>	<b>We Are Superpowers</b>			
<b>Grade 1</b>	<b>Launching</b>	<b>Building Good Reading Habits</b>	<b>Word Detectives</b>	<b>Learning About the World</b>	<b>Readers Have Big Jobs to Do</b>	<b>Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons</b>
<b>Grade 2</b>	<b>Becoming a Big Kid Reader</b>	<b>Becoming Experts</b>	<b>Tackling Longer Words and Longer Books</b>	<b>Reading Nonfiction Cover to Cover</b>	<b>Stepping into the World of the Story</b>	<b>Growing Knowledge Together</b>

# Reading Units of Study 3-4

<b>Grade 3</b>	Building a Reading Life	Reading to Learn: Main Idea and Text Structure	Mystery: Foundational Skills in Disguise	Character Studies	Reading Test Preparation	Research Clubs	
<b>Grade 4</b>	First 10 Days of Reader's Workshop	Interpreting Characters	Reading the Weather	Historical Fiction Clubs	Detail and Synthesis	Poetry Reading and Test Preparation	Power and Perspective

# Reading Units of Study Grade 7

## Grade 7

Establishing  
an  
Independent  
Reading Life

Investigating  
Characterization

Essential  
Research  
Skills for  
Teens

Historical  
Fiction Book  
Clubs

Reading  
Test  
Preparation

How to Eat  
a Poem:  
Analyzing  
Craft and  
Structure

# Science

- The following Science Curriculum and Instructional programs have been revised to:
  - Emphasize students making sense of real world phenomena
  - Cultivate student curiosity and questioning
  - Reinforce investigations as the central approach to science teaching and learning

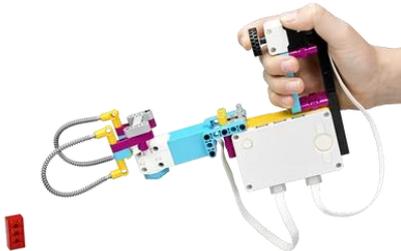
Grade 3 and Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Updated Learning Plan</li><li>● Grade 4 introduces a new life science unit “Why do Fireflies Light Up?”</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Curriculum developed in alignment with the updated NJDOE recommended scope and sequence.</li><li>● Units 1, 3, and 4 complete. <i>*Unit 2 in progress, anticipated to be completed in 2025.</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Unit 3 Learning Plan updated to improve the coherence of investigations to better position students to make sense of phenomena.</li></ul>

# STEAM

## STEAM 5

Upgraded instructional materials to *Lego's Spike Prime*.

- Integrates both Computer Science and Design Thinking.
- Supports all students in critical thinking and problem solving regardless of computer science experience.
- Contain standards aligned lessons, but also supports student autonomy and exploration.



## STEAM 8

“Designing Cities of the Future”

- Adaptation of the Future Cities instructional framework.
- Student teams are presented with societal problem and tasked to design a city of the future that addresses that problem.



# Elementary Math: Grades K-2 *New Program and NJSL 2023 Updates*

- Aligned with the 2023 New Jersey Student Learning Standards
- Rewritten utilizing the Atlas program and designed based on the new district math program, i-Ready Classroom Mathematics 2024, board approved in May 2024.
- Focus:
  - **K-1:** Play, Investigative, Number Sense
  - **2-5:** Discourse, Collaboration, Number Sense
  - Productive Struggle and Problem Solving
  - Student-Centered
  - Data-Driven
  - Fluency
  - Conceptual understanding and procedural fluency



# Elementary Math: Grades K-2 *New Program and NJSLs 2023 Updates*

- Added the Following to Each Grade Level/Unit:
  - Activities that align to the 2023 NJSLs updates:
    - Kindergarten - 7 Units
      - Indicator Changes
      - **New:** Identifying *Money* Standard
    - Grade 1 - 6 Units
      - Indicator and Text Changes
      - **New:** Compare, Notate, Find Equivalent *Money* Standards
    - Grade 2 - 5 Units
      - Indicator and Text Changes
      - **New:** Identify, Collect and Analyze *Data* Standards

# Elementary Math: Grades K-2 *New Program and NJSL 2023 Updates*

- Added the Following to Each Grade Level/Unit:
  - Unit Expectations
  - Cross Curricular, Career Readiness, and Cultural Opportunities
    - *(STEM Stories, Math In Action, Cultural Connections)*
  - Gold Correlations to i-RCL Assessments
  - Literacy Connections - focus on Authentic Math and Academic Language

**\*Career Readiness Integration: In this unit students are exploring shapes, and will act as an architect in the following activities:**

## **U4L13 Connect to Culture**

Students discuss different shapes they see used in building design. They become architects and design their own city building

## **U4 Math In Action**

In these lessons children will apply several skills to solve real-world problems related to becoming an architect to build playgrounds.

They will build playground equipment from solid shapes and will count to 10 to

choose 10 pieces of equipment for a playground. They will also collect data from classmates, and use this data to answer questions.





