

Southwest Charter School – Curriculum Framework Overview

Grade Level	Annual Theme	Place-based Focus	Science	Art	Civics & History	Fieldwork & Community Connections
Kindergarten	Water	SW Neighborhood	Physical properties of water, NW water animals (salmon, water birds, etc.)	Visual Arts: water inspired art, the use of water in art (paints, clay); Music: music inspired by water, rivers	Mapping of home, school	<i>Possibilities include:</i> Ash Creek, Fanno Creek, Woods Creek, Moonshadow Park, Gabriel Park, Tryon Creek/Park, Woods Park, local Water Storage Tanks/Reservoirs, local art galleries/musicians
First Grade	Earth	SW Neighborhood	Rocks, soil, neighborhood land animals (squirrels, racoons, etc.), terrestrial insects, earthworms, habitats, seeds	Visual arts: Introduction to landscape art and artists, ceramics; Music: music inspired by nature	Mapping of neighborhood; family history	<i>Possibilities include:</i> Building/maintaining worm bin for school garden and neighborhood; growing seedlings for school garden; visits to local habitats such as Woods Park, Gabriel Park
Second Grade	Sky	SW Neighborhood	Weather, Birds, Animal/plant respiration, flying insects	Visual Arts: Drawing/photography of water, clouds, sunsets; Audubon's birds; Music: songs/music about and inspired by air, weather, birds	Introduction to basic democratic principles & practices; family histories, neighborhood history	<i>Possibilities include:</i> Creation and monitoring of school-based weather station (with fifth grade students); feed data to local news station, school web site; OMSI Weather Station, Local News Station Weather Dept, DEQ Clean Air Station, Clean Air Monitoring Station, Local art galleries/musicians
Third Grade	Water	Portland	Water cycle, watersheds, NW water animals (salmon, water birds, aquatic insects, etc.), ocean	Visual Arts: Drawing/Photography of the Fountains of Downtown Portland;	Basic introduction to Portland & Oregon government systems, notable Oregonians; mock elections	<i>Possibilities include:</i> Water as Art (Fountain Tour of downtown), Bull Run Reservoir, "Clean" water systems of Portland, Tualatin River, Willamette River, Columbia River, Bonneville Dam, Portland Water Bureau Facilities, Port of Portland
Fourth Grade	Earth	Oregon	Portland/Oregon geology, volcanology, plants	Visual Arts: Sculpture using rock or plant materials; Music/performing arts: play about Oregon's geologic, natural, or human history	Mapping of Portland/Oregon; history of Oregon	<i>Possibilities include:</i> Waste management systems, local oral history project; Oregon History Center; visits to/from Oregon artists/galleries; school garden; Oregon Garden

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Kindergarten	Five Senses; Personal Hygiene	Readings/writings about local neighborhood, rivers, oceans, water flora/fauna; daily journals	<i>Investigations</i> math curriculum with additional examples derived from Kindergarten themes	Special trip: Swimming	Kindness & Respect
First Grade	Circulatory System	Readings/writings about local neighborhood, animals, seeds, gardens; family history charts, stories, scrapbooks; daily journals	<i>Investigations</i> math curriculum with additional examples derived from 1st grade themes	Special trip: SW Trail hike	Wonder & Patience
Second Grade	Respiratory System	Readings/writings about local neighborhood, different cultures represented in neighborhood, seasons, weather phenomena, birds; reports on democratic principles; daily journal	<i>Investigations</i> math curriculum with additional examples derived from 2nd grade themes	Special trip: Ice Skating	Generosity & Gratitude
Third Grade	Musculoskeletal System	Readings/writings about water, salmon, aquatic life; mock election/campaign materials; reports on government systems; daily journal	<i>Investigations</i> math curriculum with additional examples derived from 3rd grade themes	Special trip: Canoing/kayaking	Loyalty & Service
Fourth Grade	Digestive System & Nutrition	Readings/writings about Oregon living or geologic history, notable Oregonian biographies; Oregon history play; Oral history project; daily journal	<i>Investigations</i> math curriculum with additional examples derived from 4th grade themes	Special trip: Gorge hike; games popular in early Oregon history; Native American games	Hope & Courage

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Fifth Grade	Sky	United States	Water Cycle (weather focus); air quality; solar system; light	Visual arts: air/weather art, dynamic sculpture, the "Big Sky" painters; photography; Music/performing arts: making/playing wind instruments	US history, US geography, space-based satellite imagery of earth; mock elections; mock court	<i>Possibilities include:</i> Creation and monitoring of school-based weather station (with second grade students); PDX, Hillsboro Airport; OMSI planetarium; mock local/national elections; wind ensemble
Sixth Grade	Water	North & South America	Physics of water; water management systems; aquatic ecosystems; adaptations of aquatic plants/animals	Visual Arts: The "Ocean Artists," Hokusai's "Great Wave," Drawing/photography of water/rivers/oceans; "Liquid Art": fountains, water sculptures, water dynamic art; Music/performing arts: Dance/music inspired by water: plays about water related	Geography/mapping of North/South America; introduction to history and governments of Canada & Mexico; current & historical connections between Oregon & Canada & Mexico	<i>Possibilities include:</i> "Dirty" water systems of Portland, Sitka Center, Crater Lake, Pacific Ocean, Coastal Ports; Hatfield Marine Science Center
Seventh Grade	Earth	Europe & Africa	Human uses of the land: agriculture, forestry, mining, etc.; geology; soils science; volcanology; paleontology and paleobotany; animal adaptations to life on land; ecology & ecosystems	Visual arts: gemstone and beaded jewelry, sculpture, landscape artists (Ansel Adams, etc.), architecture, Native American ceramics/basketry/jewelry, "map" art; Music/performing art: drums and percussion instruments	Geography/mapping of Europe & Africa; introduction to history and governments of selected countries in Europe & Africa; current and historical connections between Oregon & Europe & Africa	<i>Possibilities include:</i> Waste management systems, World Forestry Center, tree farms, local farms; management of school garden with 1st and 4th grade; Oregon Garden/Gordon House; Japanese Garden; Chinese Garden; John Day Fossil Beds
Eighth Grade	Sky	Asia, Australia & Antarctica; Universe	Physics of flight; space, space travel and the universe; physics of light	Visual arts: photography; kinetic art (e.g. Calder's mobiles); Music/performing art: string instruments	Geography/mapping of Asia, Australia, Antarctica; introduction to history and governments of Australia, Antarctica and selected countries in Asia; current & historical connections between Oregon & Asia, Australia & Antarctica	<i>Possibilities include:</i> Evergreen Aviation Museum; Wind Generator Fields (NW Natural); OMSI Planetarium; air quality monitoring project

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Fifth Grade	Reproductive System	Readings/writings about US history, notable American biographies, water, space, light, flight; mock election & mock court materials; school-based weather station web site; daily journal	<i>Investigations</i> math curriculum with additional examples derived from 5th grade themes	Special trip: Snow sports; games popular in early American history; Native American games	Diligence & Perseverance
Sixth Grade	Immune System	Readings/writings about notable water artists; North & South American stories, poetry, biographies, authors, artists; water quality monitoring web site content	<i>Connected Math</i> curriculum with additional examples derived from 6th grade themes	Special trip: Waterfall hike in Gorge; games from Canada, Mexico, Central & South America	Honesty & Justice
Seventh Grade	Nervous System	Reading/writings about agriculture, mining, geology, ecology; Europe & African stories, poetry, biographies, authors, artists; civics reports; school garden reports for school web site; daily journal	<i>Connected Math</i> curriculum with additional examples derived from 7th grade themes	Special trip: Rockclimbing; games from Europe & Africa	Forgiveness & Compassion
Eighth Grade	Endocrine System	Readings/writings about flight, space travel; Asia & Australian stories, poetry, biographies, authors, artists; air quality monitoring reports for school web site; daily journal	<i>Connected Math</i> curriculum with additional examples derived from 8th grade themes	Special trip: Sea kayaking/whitewater rafting; games from Asia & Australia	Responsibility & Leadership