



ATHLOS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

10100 NOBLE PARKWAY NORTH • BROOKLYN PARK, MN • 55443 • 763.777.8942



ACADEMIC CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT GUIDE 2019-2020

Athlos Leadership Academy is a Pre-K through 8th grade public charter school that believes in providing students with a challenging and comprehensive high school preparatory education through high standards for academic scholarship, fitness and nutrition, character development and student leadership opportunities.

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in our academic programming at Athlos Leadership Academy (ALA). This handbook is designed to provide you with information about our curriculum, assessments, academic programs, and grading system. If you have any questions about our school-wide academic program please contact us at 763-777-8942 and ask to speak to the Dean of Education and Classroom Community- Lower School or Dean of Education and Classroom Community- Middle School. If you have a student enrolled with us and have questions about your student's grades or assignments, please contact your student's classroom teacher. We are excited that we can provide your student/s with a rigorous and meaningful curriculum.

Our Mission

Athlos Leadership Academy is a Pre-K through 8th grade public charter school that believes in providing students with a challenging and comprehensive high school preparatory education through high standards for academic scholarship, fitness and nutrition, character development and student leadership opportunities.

Policy Information

For more information about Athlos Leadership Academy and district policies, please visit our school website at www.athlosbrooklynpark.org. Select policies can be viewed under "Our School".

Website

Athlos Leadership Academy uses its school website www.athlosbrooklynpark.org as a primary means of communication. Curriculum and assessment updates can be found under "Curriculum". After annual approval, calendars for state and district assessments will be posted under "Curriculum". Information regarding individual classrooms will be posted on classroom pages. Classroom webpages have an option to subscribe so that readers can receive notifications whenever our teachers update their webpages. We encourage all of our families to become subscribers to our classroom webpages to stay informed on assignments and classroom happenings.

Contact information

Athlos Leadership Academy
10100 Noble Parkway North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
763-777-8942 (phone)
763-315-0601 (fax)

info@athlosbrooklynpark.org (email)

www.athlosbrooklynpark.org.

Gradebook and Grading Scales

Included in the following pages, you will find information about grading systems and grading scales that Athlos Leadership Academy (ALA) uses in its Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade classes.

Our classroom teachers will keep parents informed about upcoming assignments that will be entered in the gradebook. This information will be shared through the school website. In addition, individual classrooms may have other means of communication that they choose to use beyond the website. We encourage our families to reach out to their homeroom teacher (PK – 5th) or specific content teachers (6th – 8th) if you are seeking information beyond what is being posted on the website. We want to ensure that you are well informed and well supported in helping your student/s succeed.

Viewing the gradebook

The gradebook can be viewed through the Campus Parent Portal. We ask every parent/guardian to create a Campus Parent Portal login. If your family does not have internet access at home, on smartphones, at work, or at your local library, we will work with you to arrange alternate means of communication.

Through Campus Parent Portal, you can go online at any time to check attendance, grades, lunch purchases, and report cards. In addition, when a student's teacher has graded an assignment or assessment and has entered it into the gradebook, the grade will come up in the parent portal for your viewing. Campus Parent Portal may be viewed at any time. If you need help setting up your Campus Parent Portal account, please contact our front office staff at 763-777-8942.

Viewing upcoming assignments

Teachers will communicate upcoming assignments through their webpages. As well, each 6th-8th grade core course will distribute a syllabus each trimester so that parents and students can plan for the trimester together. If any additional assignments are assigned, these will be communicated on classroom webpages. We encourage all families to subscribe to the classroom webpages of their child's teachers. This will send you a notification each time an update is made on the webpage so that you can stay informed of upcoming assignments. Our 4th through 8th graders are also expected to use their Athlos planner on a daily basis. It is the student's responsibility to complete the planner for each content area in order to be organized in their daily work. You may check your student's planner each night for upcoming assignments.

Grading Scales

At Athlos, we have different grading scales for different age groups. Our Pre-Kindergarten program has one grading scale. (PreK students will not have grades in the gradebook until the end of each trimester since the final assessments are meant to gauge growth over the trimester.) Our Kindergarten through 5th grade classrooms are on a second grading scale and our 6th through 8th grade classes use our middle school grading scale. The grading scales and keys are listed below:

Pre-Kindergarten Grading Scale

M –Proficient based on current trimester benchmark
P –Progressing based on current trimester benchmark
N –Not yet

Our Pre-Kindergarten students are graded in the following skill areas:

Literacy Skills
Mathematical Skills
Self-Regulation
Approaches to Learning
Social Interaction
Emergent Literacy
Language and Communication
Mathematical Thinking

Gross Motor Development
Fine Motor Development
Fine Arts
Music
Art
Technology

Kindergarten through 5th Grade Grading Scales

Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies Scale
80-100%= M “Meeting Standards”
65-79%= P “Progressing Toward Standards”
0-64% = N “Needs Improvement”

Technology, Art, Music, Physical Education, Health,
80-100%= + “Understands essential concepts”
60-79%= / “Progressing toward the understanding of essential concepts”
0-59%= - “Has an emerging understanding of essential concepts”

Middle School Grading Scales- 6th grade through 8th grade

(All subjects.)

A 93-100%
A- 90-92%
B+ 87-89%
B 83-86%
B-80-82%
C+ 77-79%
C 73-76%
C- 70-72%
D+ 67-69%
D 60-66%
F 0-59%

Retake Policy- Grades 6-8

In grades 6-8, students are expected to be prepared for all assignments and assessments that are graded. Retakes will only be approved for tests. A student may only request a retake opportunity if the student has completed and submitted all of the homework from the unit prior to the retake date. Retake tests may not be identical to the initial test. Students will not receive time at school to study for retake tests. This must take place at home. Retakes will be administered during an appropriate time of the day in an appropriate setting.

Report Cards PK-8

Progress reports will go home three times per year. Reports will be printed and sent home approximately one week after the end of the trimester for Trimester 1 and Trimester 2. For Trimester 3, all assignments and make-up tests will be due by at least one week before the last day of school to allow time for grades to be entered and posted by the last day of school. Report cards will go home with students on the last day of school. Structured learning, though, will continue up through the last day of school. All students will be expected to be present at school through the last day.

Courses

Athlos Leadership Academy offers the following courses. ALA will notify families in any changes to course offerings.

The following courses are listed on our K-5 report cards. Information on our specific curriculum is located in the Curriculum section of this guide.

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Technology
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Health

The following courses are listed on our 6-8 report cards

6th

- English Language Arts 6
- Mathematics 6
- Minnesota Studies
- Physical Science
- Art, Music, Physical Education, Health, Technology

7th

- English Language Arts 7
- Mathematics 7
- United States Studies
- Life Science
- Art, Music, Physical Education, Health, Technology

8th

- English Language Arts 8 or HP English Language Arts 8
- Algebra 1 or HP Algebra 1
- Global Studies
- Earth Science
- Art, Music, Physical Education, Health, Technology

Differentiated Instruction

Athos Leadership Academy strives to meet the needs of all of our students. We provide coursework, challenges, and supports to meet the needs of our high achievers as well as our students in need of academic support. Academic support for our students may be handled in the following ways:

Achievement Intervention Specialists (AIS)-

At Athlos Leadership Academy, we have several teachers assigned to the role of Achievement Intervention Specialist. These teachers provide math and reading supports to our K-5 students who are performing well below grade level. Service

decisions are made collaboratively between AIS teachers and administrators. AIS teachers may be scheduled to “push in” and support students in their classroom, or may be scheduled to pull students to work on specific skills in the AIS rooms.

English Learner (EL) K-8

Athlos Leadership Academy is enriched by an incredibly diverse student population, many of whom speak languages other than English at home. Our English Learner (EL) program serves many of these students. Our teachers follow Minnesota standards for English language development and use an educational model representing social, instructional, and academic language guidelines. EL instruction is only made available to students who qualify for English Learner services.

Intervention Blocks Grades 1-5

Our 1st through 5th grade schedules contain intervention blocks throughout the week. During these blocks of time, our classroom teachers provide students with extra supports in the areas of reading and math. The goal of intervention time is for students to receive the interventions that they need in order to meet grade-level standards. During our intervention blocks, our students who are working at or above grade level are able to work on assignments and activities that promote continued learning.

Special Education

Special education services are made available after a comprehensive special education evaluation and full collaboration and agreement between the student’s teachers and family. The school then collaborates to create an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) with two purposes: to set reasonable learning goals for the student, and to state the services that we propose to provide to the student. Special education services will only begin with parent approval.

6-8 Intervention Math and Intervention Reading Courses

Students in grades 6-8 who are struggling to meet state standards either in class or on MCAs may be required to take Intervention Math and Intervention Reading on top of their regular Language Arts and Math courses. These courses will support the learning of our middle school students by providing them with additional lessons and interventions in skill areas where they are showing deficiencies. Students may be scheduled in intervention courses during their specials rotations. Students and families may not opt out of the intervention course requirements.

Enrichment Services

Enrichment services are provided by classroom teachers. Students performing above grade level in various core subject areas may be provided with enrichment activities and experiences as time allows in the daily schedule pending a student’s completion and proficiency in the content currently being taught. This may include challenge activities, lesson extensions, projects, etc. These activities or lessons may take place as post-lesson extensions, small group lessons, as independent work time activities, as homework extensions, or as activities taking place during other appropriate times of day. Students will not receive extra credit points for enrichment activities. Enrichment activities will be made available on a student by student basis when the student is performing above grade level in the core content areas. Enrichment services will not provide students an opportunity to work through the core curriculum at an accelerated pace compared to classmates. Accelerated curriculum is only provided in cases when a student has been approved by administration for grade-level acceleration through the school’s acceleration and retention policy. The goal of enrichment instruction is to support students in thinking *deeper* and *broader* as opposed to accelerating through content. The Gifted Coordinator will serve as a resource to classroom teachers in partnering in brainstorming and seeking out enrichment activities that align to core content areas.

REACH Program

Students who qualify for gifted programming will be eligible to take part in the school’s REACH Program which is led by the school’s Gifted Coordinator. The program is for students in grades 2-8.

ALA Guidelines for Assessing and Identifying Students for Participation in Gifted Services (REACH Program)

The school has adopted the CogAT battery as the indicator for placement in the school's gifted program. The CogAT is scheduled to take place one time per school year in the fall. The CogAT measures a student's verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal reasoning abilities. It is an English Learner friendly assessment that uses tools such as picture prompts instead of verbal prompts. CogAT does not measure factors such as effort, attention, motivation, or work habits which contribute to school achievement as well.

Each fall, students in grades 2-8 will be selected to take the CogAT to determine eligibility for the REACH program. Results of the CogAT will determine placement in the REACH program.

HP Algebra I and HP English Language Arts- Grade 8.

HP (High Performance) Algebra I sets students on the path of an accelerated math sequence in area high schools. The content in our HP Mathematics course aligns with the content in the District 279 HP Algebra I courses. HP placement is determined based on standardized test results (MCA), student grades, in-class performance, and recommendations from Athlos administration. Students must keep up on in-class assignments and homework to continue in an HP placement for Algebra I and English Language Arts. As well, it is the expectation that our HP students have superb in-class behavior and participation. In addition to the grade-level standards and curriculum, our HP courses require advanced assignments and projects. HP students will be graded on the advanced coursework. Report cards will indicate HP placement.

Additional Courses

Art, Music, Technology, and Health

Athlos students explore various educational experiences in the specialist classrooms by creating, performing, and interpreting various learning concepts within the realms of Integrated and Fine Arts which includes Art, Music and Technology. In Art, students learn about the elements and principles of design through appropriately challenging projects at each grade level. Students experience a variety of media, techniques, and art styles throughout the year that help them discover their own personal style as well as strengthen their creative problem-solving skills and motor skills. In Music, students will foster an appreciation for all types of music, develop skills in music literacy according to state and national grade standards, and practice healthy vocal techniques that students can carry with them throughout their entire musical life. In Technology, there is a wide range of skills the students will develop as well as applications they will explore. They will have the chance to learn technical and research skills and discover creative ways to share information. Health is also included as part of our offerings.

Fitness/Physical Education

The Athlos Athletic Curriculum is not about training athletes nor does it encourage a negative competitive environment. It is a professionally developed plan of age-appropriate developmental goals that apply to every child at every athletic level. Science shows a real connection between physical fitness and academic achievement. All students participate throughout the week in our professionally developed, age-appropriate fitness program. Activities range from individual/group conditioning to team competitions that teach leadership and life lessons.

Homework

Homework is an extension of what is taught in the classroom and an opportunity for students to apply skills and concepts learned. We ask parents to stress that homework is a student's responsibility. Homework will be given on a regular basis. The amount and type of homework varies with the age of the student and the requirements of each teacher. Please contact the classroom teacher if you have any questions or concerns about your student's homework. All students that are in the 4th-8th grades are required to use their Athlos planner on a daily basis. When family emergencies prevent your student from completing assignments or if your student frequently does not understand or cannot complete the homework assignments, please notify the classroom teacher immediately so that you and the teacher can partner in ensuring student success.

Textbooks and Instructional Materials

School textbooks, media resources, and other instructional materials are provided for student use in the classroom. Students are responsible for taking care of the school materials and supplies they use. If applicable to a specific grade

level or content area, student textbooks and/or materials may be sent home. Students will be charged for any damage to books, technology and/or materials beyond regular wear and tear including both in and out of the building. Students will also be charged for any books or materials that are not returned. Damage to school property must be paid for by students and/or their parents. Administration will assess the replacement costs of all damaged materials.

Academic Curriculum

Athlos Leadership Academy's board-approved curriculum is chosen through a thorough review process to ensure that our students are provided with high-quality instruction. As a public charter school, Athlos Leadership Academy is required to implement curriculum and a learning program that will support students in meeting Minnesota standards and benchmarks across all core subjects. A curriculum overview and any updates to our curriculum can be found on the school website under Curriculum.

We understand and respect that there may be times when family beliefs may conflict with our chosen curriculum. By policy, parents have the right to review our curriculum. Please view Policy 6.5 on the website for full details. Parents wishing to review instructional materials to be provided to a student shall make a written request to Athlos Leadership Academy regarding the specific materials they wish to review and shall make their request as specific as possible. Athlos Leadership Academy's principal or designee will arrange an opportunity for review of the requested material. If a parent objects to the content for the student, they are to notify Athlos Leadership Academy of the specific objection in writing.

Please note that by policy, school personnel are not required to offer alternative instruction. The school may propose alternative instruction that is reasonable within available resources upon proper notification from a parent to Athlos Leadership Academy of the specific objection to the content in the instructional materials. Any alternative instruction shall be for the specific content of the objection only. Alternative instruction may be provided by the parent if the alternative instruction, if any, offered by school personnel does not meet the concerns of the parent. Athlos Leadership Academy is not required to pay for the costs of alternative instruction provided by a parent. School personnel may evaluate and assess the quality of the student's work produced as part of alternative instruction. School personnel will not impose an academic or other penalty on a student merely for arranging alternative instruction under this policy.

Any objection to the content of instructional materials or provision of alternative instruction for any one student shall not interfere with the rights of other students to receive the regular instructional content.

If you have any questions about our curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Athlos teachers are happy to schedule time to meet with you to look through our curriculum so that we can partner in supporting our students.

Our current curriculum and curriculum descriptions are listed below:

ALA Pre-Kindergarten and K-5 Curriculum Overview

Pre-Kindergarten

- Scott Foresman Opening the World of Learning
- Letter of the Week
- High Frequency Word Lists
- Handwriting Without Tears
- Math meeting routines and games aligned to Minnesota Early Learning Standards
- Second Step: Skills For Social and Academic Success

Kindergarten

- Scott Foresman Reading Street
- Core Knowledge Sayings and Phrases
- High Frequency Word Lists
- Fountas and Pinnell Phonics

- Guided Reading and skill-based small group instruction
- 6 + 1 Trait Writing Model
- Handwriting Without Tears
- Math Expressions
- Math meeting routines and games aligned to Minnesota Standards
- FOSS: Trees and Weather
- Delta Science Module: Properties
- Delta Science Module: Observing an Aquarium
- Social Studies units aligned to Minnesota Standards created by Athlos Leadership Academy
- Second Step: Skills For Social and Academic Success

Grade 1

- Reading and Writing Workshop guided by Wheatley Portfolio Common Core Curriculum Maps
- Words in Action Vocabulary
- Write Source
- Athlos Spelling
- Core Knowledge Sayings and Phrases
- High Frequency Word Lists
- PRESS Reading Intervention Framework
- Guided Reading and skill-based small group instruction
- 6 + 1 Trait Writing Model
- Zaner-Bloser Manuscript
- Math Expressions
- Math meeting routines aligned to Minnesota Standards
- FOSS: Pebbles, Sand, and Silt
- Animal Habitats Science unit created by Athlos Leadership Academy
- Delta Science Module: Butterflies and Moths
- Social Studies units aligned to Minnesota Standards created by Athlos Leadership Academy

Grade 2

- Reading and Writing Workshop guided by Wheatley Portfolio Common Core Curriculum Maps
- Words in Action Vocabulary
- Write Source
- Athlos Spelling
- Core Knowledge Sayings and Phrases
- High Frequency Word Lists
- PRESS Reading Intervention Framework
- Guided Reading and skill-based small group instruction
- 6 + 1 Trait Writing Model
- Zaner-Bloser Manuscript
- Math Expressions
- Math meeting routines aligned to Minnesota Standards
- Math Navigator
- FOSS: Air and Weather
- FOSS: Solids and Liquids
- FOSS: Balance and Motion
- FOSS: Plants and Animals
- Social Studies units aligned to Minnesota Standards created by Athlos Leadership Academy

Grade 3

- Reading and Writing Workshop guided by Wheatley Portfolio Common Core Curriculum Maps
- Words in Action Vocabulary
- Write Source
- Athlos Spelling
- Core Knowledge Sayings and Phrases
- PRESS Reading Intervention Framework
- Guided Reading and skill-based small group instruction
- 6 + 1 Trait Writing Model
- Zaner-Bloser Cursive
- Math Expressions
- Math Navigator
- FOSS: Sun, Moon, and Planets
- Delta Science Module: Sound
- Delta Science Module: Color and Light
- FOSS: Structures of Life
- Pearson myWorld Social Studies: We Are Connected

Grade 4

- Reading and Writing Workshop guided by Wheatley Portfolio Common Core Curriculum Maps
- Words in Action Vocabulary
- Write Source
- Athlos Spelling
- Core Knowledge Sayings and Phrases
- Guided Reading and skill-based small group instruction
- 6 + 1 Trait Writing Model
- PRESS Reading Intervention Framework
- Math Expressions
- Math Navigator
- Delta Science Module: Rocks and Minerals
- Delta Science Module: Water Cycle
- Delta Science Module: States of Matter
- FOSS: Energy and Electromagnetism
- Engineering Science unit created by Athlos Leadership Academy
- Pearson myWorld Social Studies: Regions

Grade 5

- Reading and Writing Workshop guided by Wheatley Portfolio Common Core Curriculum Maps
- Words in Action Vocabulary
- Write Source
- Athlos Spelling
- PRESS Reading Intervention Framework
- Core Knowledge Sayings and Phrases
- Guided Reading and skill-based small group instruction
- 6 + 1 Trait Writing Model
- Everyday Math
- Math Navigator

- FOSS: Soils, Rocks, and Landforms
- Delta Science Module: Simple Machines
- FOSS: Living Systems
- Pearson myWorld Social Studies: Building Our Country

Middle School Curriculum Overview

Language Arts

- English Language Arts units guided by Wheatley Portfolio Common Core Curriculum Maps
- Core Knowledge Sayings and Phrases (Grade 6)
- Core Knowledge Foreign Phrases (Grades 7-8)
- Wordly Wise 3000 Vocabulary
- Write Source
- 6 + 1 Trait Writing Model

Mathematics

- Holt-McDougal Mathematics (Grades 6-8)
- Holt-McDougal Larson Algebra 1 (Grade 8)
- Math Navigator (Intervention Block)

Science

- Prentice Hall Science Explorer: Physical Science (Grade 6)
- Prentice Hall Science Explorer: Life Science (Grade 7)
- Prentice Hall Science Explorer: Earth Science (Grade 8)

Social Studies

- Northern Lights (Grade 6)
- Holt McDougal U.S. History (Grade 7)
- Holt McDougal World Geography (Grade 8)

Language Arts Curriculum

Scott Foresman Opening the World of Learning is a comprehensive Pre-K curriculum that prepares children for Kindergarten with ongoing assessment of research-based success predictors and playful, purposeful, and personalized instruction in early literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies content.

Letter of the Week is a Pre-K routine that introduces young learners to the letters of the alphabet through engaging activities. Students practice identifying and writing letters while learning to connect letters to their sounds.

High Frequency Word Lists are used in Pre-K, Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade to ensure students master the words they will encounter most often in their reading.

Handwriting Without Tears is a handwriting curriculum implemented in Pre-K and Kindergarten that uses engaging techniques, multisensory activities, and student-friendly language to help students develop legible and fluent handwriting.

Scott Foresman Reading Street is a comprehensive literacy curriculum implemented in Kindergarten. A research-proven program, Reading Street ensures students develop foundational reading and writing skills while being immersed in high-quality literature.

Athlos Spelling- Students will learn and practice spelling strategies using assigned spelling lists.

Core Knowledge Sayings and Phrases are integrated throughout the Language Arts curriculum in Kindergarten through Grade 8. Mastering these idioms and foreign phrases supports reading and listening comprehension.

PRESS Reading Intervention Framework- is a framework for multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) in elementary reading that complements a core curriculum and can be used with a variety of assessment programs.

Reading and Writing Workshop guided by Wheatley Portfolio Common Core Curriculum Maps provides a coherent sequence of thematic Language Arts units, six per grade in Grades 1 through 8. The units connect the skills outlined in the Common Core State Standards with works of high-quality literature and informational texts.

Words in Action Vocabulary is a vocabulary curriculum used in Grades 1 through 5 that teaches words selected from engaging read-aloud books. Words in Action combines direct instruction in word meanings with engaging activities that encourage students to use their newly acquired vocabulary in writing and speaking.

Guided Reading and Skill-Based Small Group Instruction is an instructional approach implemented in Kindergarten through Grade 5 in which the teacher works with a small group of students who demonstrate similar reading behaviors or are able to read similar levels of text.

Zaner-Bloser Handwriting is used in Grades 1 through 3 and will build on the foundation laid by Handwriting Without Tears in Pre-K and Kindergarten. Grades 1 and 2 will be instructed in manuscript and Grade 3 will be instructed in cursive.

6 + 1 Trait Writing Model is incorporated into Kindergarten through Grade 8 to guide and assess student writing performance in the traits of ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. This writing model is used in conjunction with the Wheatley Portfolio Common Core Curriculum Maps, and Reading Street, as well as in Social Studies and Science.

Wordly Wise 3000 provides explicit vocabulary instruction in Grades 6 through 8. The words chosen for Wordly Wise 3000 were selected to expand grade level vocabulary and improve reading comprehension by ensuring students master words they will encounter in content-area reading, grade-level literature, and high-stakes tests, including the PSAT, SAT, and ACT.

Write Source is a writing curriculum implemented in Grades 1 through 8 that enables students to master the writing process, key writing forms, the 6 + 1 Trait Writing Model, grammar, usage, and mechanics.

Math Curriculum

Scott Foresman Opening the World of Learning is a comprehensive Pre-K curriculum that prepares children for Kindergarten with ongoing assessment of research-based success predictors and playful, purposeful, and personalized instruction in early literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies content.

Math Expressions is the core math curriculum used in Kindergarten through Grade 4. Math Expressions combines elements of the best traditional approaches to math instruction with new ways to learn math through exploration, modeling, and discussion.

Everyday Math is the core math curriculum used in Grade 5. Developed by The University of Chicago, School Mathematics Project, the *Everyday Mathematics* spiral curriculum continually reinforces abstract math concepts through concrete real-world applications.

Math Meeting Routines and Games are supplemental math activities and routines used in Pre-K through Grade 2 in conjunction with the classroom core math curriculum. The math routines ensure student proficiency in all Minnesota Math Standards and provide both intervention and enrichment activities to support a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts.

Math Navigator is an intervention program with targeted modules that get at the root causes or misconceptions that prevent student progress. Math Navigator focuses on foundational concepts to prepare students for the deep mathematical understandings of the math standards.

Holt-McDougal Mathematics is used in Grades 6 through 8. The middle school courses are defined as Course 1, 2, and 3. This curriculum offers comprehensive instruction, assessment, and intervention tools to meet Minnesota Math Standards. The features of the program provide optimal opportunities for student mastery and deep understanding of mathematical concepts.

Holt-McDougal Larson Algebra 1 is used in conjunction with Holt-McDougal Mathematics for 8th grade. This program delivers a rigorous Algebra program that takes students beyond “doing math” to “understanding and explaining” it.

Science Curriculum

Scott Foresman Opening the World of Learning is a comprehensive Pre-K curriculum that prepares children for Kindergarten with ongoing assessment of research-based success predictors and playful, purposeful, and personalized instruction in early literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies content.

FOSS and Delta Science Modules are inquiry-based science curricula implemented in Kindergarten through Grade 5. Through hands-on science investigations, students develop a deep understanding of the natural and designed world.

Science Units Created by Athlos Leadership Academy are implemented in Grade 1 and Grade 4 to meet components of the Minnesota Science Standards not addressed by FOSS and Delta Science Modules.

Prentice Hall Science Explorer is the core curriculum for middle school science. Science Explorer combines hands-on lab experiences with instruction in reading nonfiction text to ensure students master both the content and processes of physical, life, and earth science.

Social Studies Curriculum

Scott Foresman Opening the World of Learning is a comprehensive Pre-K curriculum that prepares children for Kindergarten with ongoing assessment of research-based success predictors and playful, purposeful, and personalized instruction in early literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies content.

Social Studies Units Created by Athlos Leadership Academy are implemented in Kindergarten - Grade 2 to meet the Minnesota Social Studies Standards through literacy activities, including instruction in reading nonfiction texts, as well as writing activities incorporating the 6 + 1 Trait Writing Model.

Second Step: Skills For Social and Academic Success provides developmentally appropriate activities to teach social-emotional skills in Pre-K and Kindergarten. Students develop the skills needed for success in school, including empathy, emotional management, and problem solving.

Pearson myWorld Social Studies is used in Grades 3 through 5. This curriculum connects Social Studies content with literacy instruction to engage students and advance student achievement. Grade 3 implements the We Are Connected unit, Grade 4 implements the Regions unit, and grade 5 implements the Building Our Country unit. Students actively engage by discussing, writing, and applying what they are learning using authentic activities.

Northern Lights curriculum is used to meet Grade 6 Minnesota Social Studies Standards. Grade 6 features Minnesota Studies as the lead discipline, but the focus includes geographic, economic, and civic understandings. Students study Minnesota history and its government, placing the state and its people within the context of the national story.

Holt McDougal: U.S. History curriculum is used to meet the Grade 7 Minnesota Social Studies Standards. Grade 7 features U.S. History (1800's to Present) as the lead discipline with a strong secondary emphasis on citizenship and government. The interdisciplinary studies approach is further enhanced with important economics and geography content that round out the study of United States history.

Holt McDougal: World Geography and Cultures curriculum is used to meet the Grade 8 Global Studies Minnesota Standards. Grade eight features geography as the "lead discipline" with a strong secondary emphasis on contemporary world history. Content drawn from citizenship and government, and economics, enriches the study of world regional geography, and further develops the interdisciplinary "studies" approach.

Pre-Kindergarten

Athlos is proud to offer a full-day prekindergarten program. ALA's prekindergarten program is a Parent Aware 4- Star Rated program and is a high-quality program that uses practices that will best prepare children for kindergarten.

The Pre-K classrooms at Athlos Leadership Academy work to better develop kindergarten readiness skills. Teachers weave literacy, math, science, creativity, and community building throughout our daily routine. We set high objectives that we work on throughout the year through rigorous instruction and activities. Our objectives are aligned with Minnesota State Early Learning Standards.

Assessments

Details and calendars for state and district assessments can be found on the school website under Curriculum-Assessments. As well, our classroom teachers will be in communication with families about upcoming state and district assessments through classroom webpages.

State Assessments

Athlos Leadership Academy follows the Minnesota Department of Education Procedures Manual for the Minnesota Assessments when making determinations of student requirements regarding assessments. The following assessments are considered state assessments that fall under rules from the Minnesota Department of Education:

MCA (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments)

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) and alternate assessment, Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS), are the statewide tests that help districts measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards and meet the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Third through eighth graders take assessments in reading and math. Fifth and eighth graders take science MCAs as well. Most students take the MCA, but students who receive special education services and meet eligibility criteria may take the MTAS.

As a public charter school, we are required to align our curriculum and instruction with Minnesota State Standards. MCA assessments are then used to measure student progress in relation to the standards they have been instructed in throughout the year.

ACCESS

The ACCESS for ELs and Alternate ACCESS for ELs are the assessments developed by the WIDA consortium and administered to English learners in order to measure progress toward meeting Minnesota's standards for English language development, developed by the WIDA consortium. Most English learners, regardless of proficiency level, are required to take the ACCESS for ELs, but English learners who received special education services and meet the participation guidelines may take the Alternate ACCESS for ELs.

Athlos Leadership Academy District Assessments

Athlos Leadership Academy's district/school assessments have been chosen as part of the school-wide board-approved assessment plan. Examples include Fountas and Pinnell and NWEA. Other assessments may be added to the district assessment plan under the directives of administration or the board. A complete list of current district assessments can be found on the website. All students will take district assessments in accordance with the board-approved assessment plan and the school assessment calendar.

Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Reading Assessment

Athlos Leadership Academy uses the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System to assess and define students' reading proficiency in Kindergarten through third grade in accordance with ALA's K-3 Literacy Plan. The benchmark system may also be used in grades 4-8 to track growth and to support instruction.

NWEA/MAP

As part of our school's assessment plan, Athlos Leadership Academy uses NWEA/MAP reading and math testing through the Northwest Evaluation Association. The data obtained through the assessment helps our teachers and administrators obtain information on how individual students and groups of students are performing academically across a variety of skills. This information helps teachers to plan instruction to support and challenge our students. Information about MAP testing can be found by visiting www.nwea.org.