



SPECIALISTS CLASSES PHILOSOPHY AND CURRICULUM

These classes provide Kehoe-France Northshore students with enriching experiences and exposure to learning beyond the core subjects creating balanced and well-rounded students. Enrichment teachers collaborate with grade-level teachers to ensure there are cross-curricular connections being made in the classroom. This transdisciplinary process helps all of our students grow and learn at a deeper level.

DIGITAL SKILLS and TECHNOLOGY

MAKERSPACE (PreK-3 through Kindergarten)

Students in PreK-3 through Kindergarten participate in MakerSpace. This approach is play-based in a collaborative work space which allows students to use their creativity and helps them develop critical thinking skills. Students are given materials for making, learning, exploring and sharing that uses high tech to no tech tools.

STEM (1st through 4th Grade)

STEM education allows students in 1st through 4th grade to make connections in science, technology, engineering and math through real-world applications. It is hands-on, inquiry-based learning that develops critical thinking skills. The integration of this hands-on approach to learning engages students and allows them to work on communication and self-management skills with peers. It challenges students and pushes them to seek new information to solve a problem. The skills that students learn in STEM supports them in their learning across disciplines.

TECHNOLOGY (PreK-3 through 7th Grade)

Technology learning for 1st-7th grade students consists of learning technology, learning about technology, and learning through technology. Technology integration and implementation in the classroom is supported, strengthened, and extended through units of inquiry where students can apply technology in purposeful and authentic contexts. Students will manage and operate technology, research with technology, and understand how to safely and effectively use a web browser and tools like email and search engines, as well as digital citizenship. Our goal is for students to have a strong foundation of technology literacy to support their academic career at Kehoe-France and beyond.

Technology and our younger learners in PreK-3 through Kindergarten, engage with digital and non-digital objects/devices through exploration to learn and test their functionalities. As they learn their functionality, young learners begin to innovate as they use the object/device in new contexts. Throughout the exploration process, these young learners develop thinking skills and learn to make connections while playing in an inquiry-based environment.

DESIGN (5th through 7th Grade)

The key concepts of design are community, communication, development and systems. Inquiry and problem-solving in use with the design cycle help students in 5th through 7th grade develop knowledge, skills and understanding to create and test solutions to problems. Students use and apply technology to communicate and represent ideas. By working independently and collaboratively in design, students gain respect and understanding of others' viewpoints. Through design, students realize and appreciate the past and present innovations and the impact it has on our world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PreK-3 through 7th Grade)

In physical education, students develop an understanding of having a balanced and healthy lifestyle and learn developmentally-appropriate skills. In preschool, students focus on developing balance, hand-eye coordination, teamwork, and the importance of healthy foods and exercise. Beginning in 1st grade, students work on strengthening locomotor skills, fine and gross motor movements, teamwork and healthy lifestyle choices. Students also learn how to play different sports through the use of effective collaboration and communication. By exploring a variety of concepts and promoting awareness of physical and health development, students can make informed decisions. The goal is to learn about and learn through physical activity to develop enjoyment and the confidence needed to develop a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

SPANISH (EC-2 through 4th Grade)

Students begin attending Spanish classes at two years old twice a week. Young learners have a natural language learning ability. The focus is placed on verbal skills in the early years through interactive games, play, storytelling, art, and songs. The language learning skills that students acquire during the elementary years through the use of repetition and spiraling will help develop the skills that they will need to participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic prompts. The curriculum is aligned with state standards emphasizing reading, speaking, writing and listening.

LIBRARY (PreK-3 through 7th Grade)

The library media center's collection of print and non-print media is current, comprehensive and carefully selected according to the school's mission and instructional program. It consists of more than 20,000 volumes. A comprehensive approach to teaching and learning is used to ensure students are thinking, growing, sharing, and creating. Beginning in preschool, students visit the library once a week. Students learn library citizenship as well as engage in group reading activities. Students learn how to use resources from the library to find information. Developing research skills are lifelong skills that are an integral part of their schooling. Students use a variety of mediums to answer a question or solve a problem. They learn to form opinions based on real-world issues. Students share information in their own words. They listen actively to others, contributing questions and ideas during group discussions, and recognize the importance of information.

PERFORMING ARTS (EC-2 through 7th Grade)

Students begin to attend music classes at 2 years old. They explore, perform and create music in various styles. Students learn the fundamentals in the elementary years, such as pitch, rhythm, tonality and instrumentation. Throughout the program, they discover music's various uses and connections to the world around them. Preschool through middle school students have the opportunity to perform before an audience. For example, beginning in fourth grade, students participate in theatrical productions each year. The performing arts program at Kehoe-France Northshore for middle school students includes technique, culture, history, performance and theory. This well-rounded approach guides all students to find meaning and purpose in their pursuit of music.

VISUAL ARTS (EC-2 through 7th Grade)

At Kehoe-France Northshore, students develop their individual expression and interests through learning the elements of art. By identifying, interpreting, and describing subject matter within works of art, students also gain an appreciation for the visual arts. Students at all grade levels will use a variety of art making tools and techniques. Students will be exposed to the classical period through the contemporary period and explore the world using artmaking. They learn that art is a means of communication, a means of expression of both emotional and intellectual perspectives, and a vehicle for wondering and reflecting. Students will gain an awareness of the role of art throughout history, today, and across cultures. They will develop confidence and experience joy through creative expression.

GUIDANCE (1st through 4th Grade)

Students in first through fourth grade attend character building classes with our school counselor once each week. This class is designed to help students gain an understanding of the importance of valuing, caring about and acting on core ethical values such as respect, justice, citizenship and responsibility for self and others. Students gain awareness of their qualities, abilities, character and characteristics that make up their own identities. The school counselor is available to all students to offer guidance and support.