



**Elementary School**  
*(1st - 4th Grades)*  
**Philosophy and Curriculum**

Kehoe-France Northshore stands out for its academic and liberal arts curriculum, emphasizing the development of social skills and character among students. We aim to foster each child's intellectual, emotional, and social growth. During the formative years, a love of learning is cultivated, and Kehoe-France Northshore encourages students to embrace and enjoy the journey.

As an authorized World School for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP), our first through fourth-grade students are encouraged to ask questions, investigate curiosities, and collaborate to consider multiple solutions. Our degreed, certified teachers work in classrooms with low student-teacher ratios, providing individualized attention and instruction and promoting an inquiry-based approach to learning. We believe in active student involvement in their learning process. In addition to focusing on fundamentals, our students are prepared to apply their learning to real-world situations. Teachers receive professional training in the International Baccalaureate program and other educational areas.

**The Daily Curriculum**

As part of the IB PYP, each classroom in the first through fourth grades explores six units of inquiry centered around themes that promote transdisciplinary, conceptual learning. We believe in interconnected learning and encourage students to make these connections. Our goal is to explore subjects in both traditional and innovative ways.

*ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS*

Our first- and second-grade language arts program integrates reading, language, spelling, and writing. Skills taught include phonics, structural analysis, comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, study and research skills, spelling, writing, and grammar usage and mechanics. Cursive handwriting is taught beginning in second grade. Students learn that listening, reading, and writing are all ways to communicate ideas, and communication is the goal of all language arts. Literature and language-rich activities ensure that all students develop the skills to become fluent readers, writers, listeners, speakers, and thinkers. As students move into third and fourth grades, they apply knowledge of phonics, letter patterns, syllabication, and word parts to achieve fluent oral and silent reading. Comprehension strategies and skills are applied to various fiction and non-fiction genres. Word-learning strategies and relationships among words continue to be taught, and students build vocabulary through reading. They also build on prior knowledge of the writing process and strategies, emphasizing written and oral English language conventions and correct spelling.



### *MATHEMATICS*

The vertical alignment of our mathematics program incorporates a balanced approach. Instruction includes investigating concepts, building conceptual understanding, developing, reinforcing, mastering computational and procedural skills, and applying mathematics to problem-solving situations. As students build foundational knowledge, they gain an understanding of place value and number relationships, add and subtract, and use simple multiplication concepts. They also measure, classify, collect, and analyze data. In third and fourth grades, students extend their skills to deepen their understanding of math concepts and relationships. They begin more complex processes of estimating, describing, and using patterns to solve problems. They are exposed to the first theoretical mathematics concepts in preparation for more advanced learning.

### *SCIENCE*

Our science program focuses on developing and using basic process skills such as observing, investigating, hypothesizing, analyzing, evaluating, and applying an understanding of the scientific process. Students explore the world through hands-on and virtual investigations and STEM activities connected to their physical, life, and earth sciences curiosities. They develop observational skills using their senses to gather and record information, identify and reflect on patterns, make predictions, and test to refine their ideas. Students explore how objects and phenomena function, identify parts of systems, and understand cause-and-effect relationships. They examine changes over time, recognize multiple variables affecting change, and appreciate different perspectives and ways of organizing the world. Students demonstrate care and respect for themselves, other living things, and the environment. They communicate ideas or provide explanations through their scientific experiments and those of others.

### *SOCIAL STUDIES*

Students build a fundamental understanding of anthropology, geography, history, civics, and economics from first through fourth grade. They use geographic and technological tools to organize and interpret information about people, places, and environments relating to the United States and the world. Students explore government structures, responsible citizenship, and collaborative problem-solving. They study global leaders and cultures, diverse groups, religions, traditions, and their contributions to the global community. Additionally, students learn economic concepts such as goods and services and supply and demand within their school, community, and globally. Emphasis is placed on connecting past and present understanding how local, regional, and national government and traditions have developed and impacted society.