



Specialist 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 cross-curricular connections are made in the classroom. This transdisciplinary process helps all our students grow and learn more deeply.

STEM (1st through 4th Grade)

STEM education allows 1st through 4th grade students 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. Integrating 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 problems. The skills that students learn in STEM support them in their learning across disciplines.

TECHNOLOGY (PK3 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 are 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 web browsers, tools like email and search engines, and digital citizenship. Our goal is for students to have a strong foundation of technology literacy to support their academic careers at Kehoe-France and beyond.

Technology engagement for our younger learners in PreK-3 through Kindergarten includes exploring digital and non-digital objects/devices to learn and test their functionalities. Young learners innovate by using the objects/devices in new contexts as they learn functionality. These young learners develop thinking skills throughout the exploration process and learn to make connections while playing in an inquiry-based environment.

DESIGN (5th through 7th Grade)

The key design concepts are community, communication, development, and systems. Inquiry and problem-solving using the design cycle help 5th through 7th grade students develop knowledge, skills, and understanding to create and test solutions to problems. Students use and apply technology to communicate and represent ideas. Students gain respect and understanding of others' viewpoints by working independently and



collaboratively in design. Through design, students realize and appreciate past and present innovations and their impact on our world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PreK-3 through 7th Grade)

In physical education, students develop an understanding of maintaining 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 effective collaboration and communication. Students can make informed decisions by exploring various concepts and promoting awareness of physical and health development. The goal is to learn about and through physical activity to develop enjoyment and the confidence needed to maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

SPANISH (EC-2 through 4th Grade)

Students begin attending Spanish classes twice a week when they are two years old. Young learners have a natural ability to learn languages. The focus is on verbal skills in the early years through interactive games, play, storytelling, art, and songs. The language learning skills that students acquire during elementary school through repetition and spiraling will help develop the skills needed 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 print and non-print media collection 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 teaching and learning approach ensures students think, grow, share, and create. Beginning in preschool, students visit the library once a week. Students learn library citizenship and engage in group reading activities. They learn how to use resources from the library to find information. Developing research skills is a lifelong skill that is an integral part of their schooling. Students use a variety of mediums to answer questions or solve problems. They learn to form opinions based on real-world issues. Students share information in their own words, listen actively to others, contribute questions and ideas during group discussions, and recognize the importance of information.



PERFORMING ARTS (EC-2 through 7th Grade)

Students begin attending music classes at two 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. 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 expression and interests by learning art elements. 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 various art-making tools and techniques. Students will be exposed to the classical and contemporary periods and explore the world using art-making. They learn that art is a means of communication, expressing 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 understand the importance of valuing, caring about, and acting on core ethical values such as respect, justice, citizenship, and responsibility for self and others. Students also gain awareness of the qualities, abilities, character, and characteristics that make up their identities. The school counselor is available to offer guidance and support to all students.