



**Middle School**  
*(5th-7th Grades)*  
**Philosophy and Curriculum**

Kehoe-France Northshore is an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, offering the Middle Years Programme (MYP). These schools share a common philosophy—a commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education that Kehoe-France Northshore believes is important for our students.

As an authorized school for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP), our fifth through seventh-grade students connect their subjects and the real world through a challenging curriculum framework aligned with Louisiana state standards.

The students are the center of learning in a Kehoe-France middle school classroom. Students develop the knowledge and skills needed to take responsible action for the future. Action, learning by doing and experiencing, and service are valued components of the MYP, preparing our students for further education, the workplace, and lifelong learning.

Our teachers work with students to guide them to their fullest potential. They receive ongoing professional development to enhance their pedagogy and constantly reflect on their teaching practices to better student learning.

**The Daily Curriculum**

*LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE*

The English language arts curriculum for 5th through 7th grade emphasizes explicit skills instruction in reading and writing, aligned with Louisiana state standards. Students read and comprehend various literature genres, including Greek literature, historical and realistic fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Word relationships and vocabulary building continue to be supported. Students read, write, and reflect on the literature being studied and connect this to real-world issues, helping develop critical thinking skills. Students learn to write for different purposes and develop their points of view. They learn through the writing process, using writing strategies and applications. Teachers guide students through the process, emphasizing written and oral English language conventions and spelling. Foundational grammar skills are reviewed and expanded on. This comprehensive approach ensures students are well-equipped with the language and literacy skills necessary for academic success and effective communication.



### *INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES*

In this subject, students inquire into historical, technological, cultural, political, geographical, and religious factors that have influenced individuals and societies locally and globally. The curriculum aligns with Louisiana state standards.

- 5th Grade: Students study the development of the United States from the Age of Exploration to 1763. They learn about colonial government founded on Judeo-Christian principles, the ideals of Enlightenment, and English traditions of self-government. The focus includes the causes, course, and consequences of early explorations through the War of Independence.
- 6th Grade: Students expand their understanding of history by studying the people and events that ushered in the dawn of major Western and non-western ancient civilizations. They consider why civilizations developed where and when they did, why they became dominant, and why they declined. Students analyze interactions among cultures, contributions, and links between the contemporary and ancient worlds.
- 7th Grade: Students study American history from the arrival of early Americans to the present day, including the wars the United States participated in after the Civil War. They also learn about the United States' governmental and economic systems. Research-based projects allow students to demonstrate their grasp of the historical concepts investigated.

### *MATHEMATICS*

Mathematics is an important foundation for further studies and real-life situations. The curriculum aligns with Louisiana state standards. In the middle school math program, students use the knowledge and skills they develop to communicate mathematically, apply reasoning to solve problems, and demonstrate confidence in their mathematical abilities.

- 5th Grade: Focus on addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions and decimals. Students become fluent in multi-digit addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They learn and use common measuring units to determine length and area, recognize volume as an attribute of three-dimensional space, and use formulas to determine the volume of simple geometric figures. Students use grids, tables, and charts to record and analyze data.
- 6th and 7th Grades: Instruction focuses on developing and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; understanding the system of rational numbers, including negative numbers; writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; developing an understanding of statistical thinking; and working with two- and three-dimensional figures to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume.



### *SCIENCE*

The middle school science program allows students to investigate, observe, research, and experiment with scientific inquiries. The curriculum aligns with Louisiana state standards.

- 5th Grade: Students learn that living things grow and change, are diverse and interdependent, and interact with their changing environment. They study the earth, our universe, and how energy and matter interact, causing change in our physical world.
  - 6th Grade: The emphasis is on physical science, with life and earth science concepts included within the context of physical science. Students gain knowledge and understanding of living and non-living environments.
  - 7th Grade: The emphasis is on life science. Students learn that all living things are composed of cells containing genetic instructions specifying traits. Within earth science, they learn about Earth's systems and the impact of human activities on the environment.
- Middle school science students build an awareness of the need to collaborate and communicate effectively. They learn the scientific process and participate in investigations and experiments, developing skills to create and carry out these investigations, evaluate evidence, and reach conclusions.

### *SPANISH*

Language acquisition objectives develop respect for and understanding of other languages and cultures, providing students with the skills to facilitate further language learning. The language skills acquired during middle school help students participate in simple conversations, read, write, comprehend text, and respond appropriately to prompts. The curriculum aligns with state standards, emphasizing reading, speaking, writing, and listening.