

## Math

***Project M: Mentoring Young Mathematicians*** is a series of eight curriculum units designed for grades K-2 to foster inquiry and engage students in critical thinking, problem solving, and communication activities. Aligned to the State Standards for geometry and measurement, *Project M<sup>2</sup>* units focus on “in-depth” mathematics using research-based practices and standards in mathematics education and early childhood education. Level K focuses on geometry and measurement while Levels 1 and 2 focus on geometry, measurement, and numbers. Through the use of engaging characters who guide students through the curriculum, students are led to new learning environments where they can develop reasoning and communication skills related to each area of emphasis.

***Project M: Mentoring Mathematical Minds*** is a series of curriculum units developed to motivate and challenge mathematically talented students at the elementary level. *Project M* has long been recognized as one of the nation’s top programs in gifted mathematics education and is now available in Flourish. *Project M* delivers even more ways for teachers to motivate and challenge advanced students in grades 3-6. The *Project M* curriculum features explorations of simulated or real-life problems so students can actively solve them in the same ways that practicing mathematicians do.

***Math Innovations*** is a coherent and focused middle grades curriculum that aligns to State Standards and is designed to engage students in gaining a richer, deeper, and more proficient understanding of mathematics. Mathematical ideas are presented in a real-world context to help students understand how math is related and relevant to their daily lives. The curriculum consists of three levels, that address critical mathematic areas and supports student learning with a variety of real-life problem-solving scenarios that are addressed through activities, games, and investigations.



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## English Language Arts

*The Junior Great Books* program (grades 2-5) and the *Junior Great Books Round Table* (grades 6-8) combines high-quality fiction and nonfiction literature, student-centered discussion, and activities that support reading comprehension, critical thinking, speaking and listening, and writing. It provides outstanding classroom materials. It helps students get the most out of reading and interacting with their teachers and classmates, while providing instruction and support in Shared Inquiry™, a method of learning that gives teachers the approach they need to help their students succeed.

**Shared Inquiry™** is an inquiry-based approach to learning to assist students with become independent readers and thinkers. While this is used with Junior Great books, we have integrated this methodology into other areas of our curriculum (Social Studies, Science and Math). Shared Inquiry uses the following techniques:

- Balancing literary and informational texts
- Building knowledge in the disciplines
- Providing a staircase of text complexity
- Requiring text-based answers
- Focusing on evidence in writing
- Expanding vocabulary

*The Schoolwide Enrichment Model - Reading Framework (SEM-R)* is an enrichment-based reading program, based on the model created by Sally Reis and Joseph Renzulli, both pioneers in Gifted Curriculum. The program is designed to:

- Stimulate interest in and enjoyment of reading
- Promote and develop higher reading achievement
- Improve self-regulation and automaticity in reading
- Encourage students to select high-interest books that are slightly to moderately above their current reading levels
- Create independent, lifelong readers

**Project Based Learning (PBL)** is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging, and complex question, problem, or challenge. Students demonstrate their knowledge and skills by creating a product or presentation for a real audience. As a result, they develop deep content knowledge as well as critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication skills. PBL unleashes a contagious, creative energy among students and teachers.

The **Document Based Questions (DBQ) Project 6-Step Method** builds on students' curiosity and increases motivation and confidence to answer a compelling, authentic question. The DBQ Project Method provides a framework of best practices that guides teachers and students to read smart, think straight, and write clearly. The 6 steps are:

- The Hook Exercise
- The Background Essay
- Understanding the Question and Pre-bucketing;
- Analyzing the Documents
- Bucketing
- The Thrash-out and Preparing to Write
- Writing the Essay

## Digital Programs

**Prodigy** is a curriculum-aligned math game that provides personalized problems based on a student's strengths and weaknesses. Students solve math challenges to progress in the game. No personal interactions or social networking can happen inside or outside of the game.

**Reflex Math** is an adaptive and individualized system for mastering basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Students gain math fact fluency and confidence.

**iReady** is used for both reading and math diagnostic testing as well as for differentiating learning for foundational skills that students need to fine tune. Students are asked to complete lessons during the week. Teachers determine if lessons are included as part of center rotation or assigned as homework.