



TMSA ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND CURRICULUM



THE
main street
ACADEMY

A FULTON COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOL

T M S A A C A D E M I C S T A N D A R D S A N D C U R R I C U L U M

EdisonLearning and The Main Street Academy believe that educational reform calls on educators to redesign their instructional programs so that every student achieves high academic standards. Teacher instructional methods, the structure of the learning environment, and complex and relevant ideas and materials can stimulate curiosity, creativity, and higher-order thinking in children. At The Main Street Academy, learning will be a process of discovery and constructing meaning from knowledge, information, and experience. Georgia's Performance Standards will inform all curriculum and assessment development. As needed, we will supplement Georgia state standards with national standards and this will ensure that our students are academically competitive in all core subjects at every grade level. Clear and concise academic objectives will be identified by the school at each grade level and mastered by students at each grade level. All students enrolled will evidence progress toward the achievement of all standards by demonstrating proficiency on internal and external assessments in each subject area. By aligning our curriculum with Georgia and national standards, The Main Street Academy curriculum truly will be world class.

The Main Street Academy will be utilizing the research-based curricula of EdisonLearning to provide instruction proven successful in communities around the country, particularly working in schools with high-percentages of at-risk students. (See chart below for particular curricular programs proposed for use in the School.) The rationale for choosing the academic program we have is: 1) we wanted academic programs and support resources that have been shown via academic performance to be successful with students regardless of their circumstances and setting; 2) we wanted programs that aligned with our instructional philosophy, school schedule, and that were rich enough in



resources to be used flexibly to meet the needs of all learners. These programs and Edison’s approach have gotten superior results for EdisonLearning’s students in inner city Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Atlanta, St. Louis, and other communities, large and small, urban and suburban, middle and low income.

Subject Areas	Source	Curriculum Name	Reason for Choosing
Mathematics	McGraw Hill Companies	<i>Everyday Mathematics</i>	Innovative, research-based program that builds mastery of basic skills and deep understanding of math concepts through a spiraled curriculum, manipulatives, and problem-solving.
English / Language Arts	McGraw Hill Companies	<i>Open Court Reading; Foundations</i>	<i>Open Court is a comprehensive reading-language arts programs with strong research bases in effective approaches to acquisition of literacy skills, development of phonics, and a rich and culturally diverse anthology of authentic literature.</i> Foundations: Early intervention reading program to support primary and elementary students struggling with basic skills.
English/ Language Arts	Houghton-Mifflin; Sopris	<i>Write Source; Step-Up to Writing</i>	Writing: Focuses on writing as a complete process across a wide range of genres, supports differentiation in learning grammar, spelling and writing mechanics and does so via authentic writing experiences. Oral Lang: effective program for additional practice in editing and revising sentences for spelling, grammar and mechanics.
Science	Delta Education	DSM & FOSS Science Unit Kits	Hands-on science kits correlated to state-specific content needs. Allows flexibility in meeting varying state requirements with research supported instructional units.
Social Science	Teacher’s Curriculum Institute	<i>Social Studies Alive and History Alive</i>	Innovative program that uses “considerate texts” to ensure access and interest to all students; clearly organized and well-written to grade level skills.
Character Education	Heartwood Institute	Heartwood	Culturally diverse cross-genre stories to support discussion of universal ethical values.



World Language	McGraw-Hill	<i>Viva el Espanol; Hola, Adelante, and Que Tal; Paso a Paso</i>	Provides essentially contextualized thematic lessons situated within the backdrop of real-life situations that students would likely encounter. These lessons draw upon best pedagogical practices and are standards-based, requiring students to perform specific tasks within a given situation.
Art	Davis Publications	<i>Adventures in Art</i>	Leading program in field with a culturally and aesthetically diverse range of works, a strong cross-curricular strand, and applications to hands-on art activities.
Music	Pearson Education	<i>Making Music</i>	Renowned K-12 music program with supportive resources, strong music appreciation and content and skills focus.
Health / Phys. Ed.	Pearson Education	Dynamic Physical Education	Focus on personal discipline, wellness, and personal fitness.

Subject Areas	Source for Core Program	Core Curriculum Program & Supplemental Resources	Reason for Choosing Core Program
Mathematics	Prentice Hall	Prentice Hall <i>Mathematics</i>	Research-based math program; focus on three mathematical themes: applied mathematics, pre-algebra, and pre-geometry. Grounds conceptual math in real-world concepts. Strong supplemental resources with core program.
English / Language Arts	Holt, Rinehart & Winston	<i>Holt's Elements of Literature; Wilson Reading; online components of core Holt program.</i>	High quality, authentic literary texts with a strong balance of fiction and non-fiction, classic and contemporary authors, a diversity of genres; strong skill focus; robust ELL support; supportive teaching strategies for easy differentiation.
English / Language Arts	Holt, Rinehart & Winston	Holt's <i>Elements of Language</i> ; online essay components of Holt's core program	Integrates well with literature program; strong grammar and vocabulary support.
Science	Prentice Hall	Prentice Hall <i>Explorer Series</i> ; ScienceSaurus; Science Daybook; Explore Online; SciLinks	Program offers an integrated approach to science learning, blending hands-on activities, traditional lab work, paper craft, and direct instruction, with resources designed for flexible use.



Social Science	Teacher's Curriculum Institute	<i>Geography Alive!, History Alive; MapMakers Toolkit; Timeliner</i>	Combination of texts and thematic units provides flexibility for customizing course sequence to local needs. Rich selection of primary and secondary resources.
World Language	McGraw-Hill	<i>Paso a Paso</i>	Provides contextualized thematic lessons situated within the backdrop of real-life situations. These lessons draw upon best pedagogical practices and are standards-based, requiring students to perform specific tasks within a given situation.
English as a Second Language Learners / ELL	Hampton Brown	High Point	Provides high-interest, multi-cultural texts with strong skill features (vocabulary development, comprehension strategies, grammar practice).
Art	Davis Publications	Adventures in Art	Leading program in field with a culturally and aesthetically diverse range of works, a strong cross-curricular strand, and applications to hands-on art activities.
Music	Pearson Education	Making Music	Renowned K-12 music program with supportive resources, strong music appreciation and content and skills focus.
Health / Phys. Ed.	Pearson Education; McGraw-Hill	<i>Dynamic Education Health & Wellness</i> (McGraw-Hill) <i>Physical Wellness</i> (Pearson);	Focus on personal discipline, wellness, and personal fitness.

In addition to the core curriculum, The Main Street Academy will be using Edison's approach to English as a Second Language (ESL) learners, including the High Point curriculum to support English Language Development instruction and practice, as well as the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) model to support ESL students in meaningful and successful participation in instruction across all content areas.

A further reason for choosing Edison and its academic program is that it is amply supported with purposeful professional development in the basics of instruction and classroom management and the specifics of implementing its chosen curriculum. The Main Street Academy instructional staff will receive substantial professional development support in both the pre-opening phase of its launch and on an ongoing basis to implement all aspects of the



Edison school design and academic program. The “start-up” professional development program combines national, regional, and site-based training events that include national Edison Leadership Team Training (a four-day conference that works with the principal and his or her leadership team to develop the leadership skills necessary to have functional leadership and house teams, where teachers serve as school leaders; this training week includes a focus on student achievement and student management), and regional Teaching Academies (a four plus day conference for all teachers that focuses on curriculum programs and instructional methodology that is framed with additional sessions for principals, novice teachers, and building based curriculum coordinators—teacher leaders responsible for on-site support of particular curricular areas).

Subject assessment usually employs a variety of assessment tools, such as formal and informal oral work; written work such as objective tests, structured short answers, untimed tests, open-book tests, stimulus/data response, essays, coursework and projects; and practical work such as knowledge and use of an apparatus, identifying and solving problems, construction of a hypothesis, testing, evaluation and analysis. The choice of assessment tool will vary depending on resources available to the school, the part of the program to which it is applied, and the objectives it aims to measure.



Instructional practices vary, ensuring that teachers meet the needs of students with diverse learning styles. Integrated units engage students in creative activities and encourage them to make mental connections between disciplines. The four academic subjects of reading and language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science are divided into strands that organize them into essential information and skills needed by all students. Permeating the strands of each subject are unifying concepts that provide links between the content that is introduced and taught in each strand, enriching the delivery of the standards-based curriculum.

The Edison Learning Curriculum is built upon national standards, often exceeding them in ways that enrich the learning process. Local needs are addressed by aligning the standards with those from the state and/or district. In addition, educators familiar with local issues and areas of interest develop integrated subject area standards-based units at individual school sites. This is just one of the features that ensure individual members of each learning community avenues for input and creative ideas. EdisonLearning Schools provides a roadmap to guide teachers as to the standards to be taught, methodology and strategies, resources and materials, and activities.

