

Oak Meadow

**K-12 Curriculum and
Distance Learning School**



**Oak
Meadow**

YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER IN
JOYFUL LEARNING

A young boy and girl are sitting on a large, textured rock in a desert landscape. The boy, on the left, is wearing a bright yellow-green t-shirt, black shorts, and blue sneakers with green laces. He is wearing sunglasses and is looking down at a book he is holding. The girl, on the right, is wearing a pink t-shirt with a cartoon character, black shorts, and blue sneakers with pink laces. She is also wearing sunglasses and is looking down at a book she is holding. The background shows a clear blue sky and a desert landscape with small bushes and hills.

WELCOME

Oak Meadow was founded in 1975 by Lawrence and Bonnie Williams, parents and educators who, inspired by the desire to find an educational alternative for their own children, developed a program to serve the independent learner. Pioneers in the homeschooling movement, their mission was to provide a flexible, secular education that cultivates wonder, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning. They created curriculum based upon a simple philosophy: children are sensitive and intelligent, and learning should be enjoyable. Forty years later, Oak Meadow became the first distance learning school to earn accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Today, thousands of families around the world use Oak Meadow's K-12 curriculum and accredited distance learning school. Our personalized learning approach challenges, motivates, and inspires students to take ownership of their learning and to develop an academic curiosity that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Table of Contents

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| About Oak Meadow's Curriculum | <u>2</u> | Social Studies | <u>32</u> |
| Two Ways to Use Oak Meadow | <u>3</u> | Science | <u>34</u> |
| Oak Meadow Through the Grades | <u>4</u> | Fine Arts | <u>35</u> |
| Prekindergarten | <u>5</u> | World Languages | <u>36</u> |
| Kindergarten | <u>6</u> | Health | <u>38</u> |
| First Grade | <u>8</u> | Suggested Course Schedule | <u>39</u> |
| Second Grade | <u>10</u> | Using Our Curriculum Independently | <u>40</u> |
| Third Grade | <u>12</u> | Support Programs | <u>41</u> |
| Fourth Grade | <u>14</u> | Enrollment in Our Accredited Distance Learning School | <u>42</u> |
| Middle School: Grades 5-8 | <u>16</u> | Accreditation | <u>43</u> |
| Fifth Grade | <u>18</u> | Elementary (K-4) and Middle School (5-8) | <u>44</u> |
| Sixth Grade | <u>20</u> | High School Distance Learning School | <u>45</u> |
| Seventh Grade | <u>22</u> | Signature Programs | <u>46</u> |
| Eighth Grade | <u>24</u> | Oak Meadow Staff and Faculty | <u>48</u> |
| High School: Grades 9-12 | <u>27</u> | Learn More About Oak Meadow | <u>49</u> |
| English | <u>28</u> | | |
| Math | <u>31</u> | | |



About Oak Meadow's Curriculum

The Oak Meadow curriculum provides students and families with an accessible, well-rounded, and academically complete education. When you purchase our curriculum materials, you receive everything you need to homeschool your student for an entire school year.

Curriculum materials may be purchased as a package or individually. Each coursebook includes weekly lesson plans for a full year, with a variety of assignments, activities, and readings. The **K-8 coursebooks** include assignment checklists, planners, materials lists, and learning assessment rubrics to track student progress. **High school coursebooks** provide assignment summaries, learning objectives, and prompts to help students explore topics in more depth.

The lesson plans are flexible, allowing both homeschooling and enrolled families to adapt the material to meet their student's interests and abilities. Teacher manuals, craft kits, and supplementary materials are available for further guidance and enrichment.



Two Ways to Use Oak Meadow

Independent Use

Elementary (K-4)

Purchase the curriculum and follow the weekly lesson plans for a comprehensive experience, or adjust the lessons to fit your child's individual needs, interests, and skill level. The curriculum in each grade covers all subjects and is written to the home teacher, and the resource material provides guidance to help you teach your child successfully.

Middle School (5-8)

As the home teacher, you will continue to oversee the weekly lesson plans, but the curriculum is now written directly to the student, allowing the child to increasingly take more responsibility for completing the work. At this level, you can purchase a full curriculum package or select individual subjects. Teacher manuals are available.

High School (9-12)

Motivated, independent students can follow the course materials on their own or, with their home teacher's guidance, customize lessons to match their interests and learning goals. Teacher manuals are available for most courses. Oak Meadow offers a recommended course schedule for a typical college prep academic program, or students can take individual courses to complement other studies. Our college counseling service is available at an hourly rate.

Distance Learning School

While the parent of an enrolled student is the primary teacher for the child, the Oak Meadow teacher supports the parent in the teaching process, including customizing lessons as desired. The teacher reviews your child's work on a regular basis and completes written assessments. Semester- and year-end narrative evaluations become part of your child's official cumulative record maintained by the Oak Meadow registrar.

Students may enroll fully or in individual subjects in the middle grades. Parents shift from their role as primary teacher, and the student now communicates directly with their Oak Meadow teacher. As in the early grades, teachers suggest supplemental activities to accompany the lessons and can adjust the curriculum to your child's specific needs and interests.

Enrollment in our high school program provides more structure than homeschooling, one-to-one teacher support in each course, and an accredited transcript. Students may enroll full time and earn an Oak Meadow diploma, or take individual courses for enrichment, credit recovery, or transferable credit. We offer creative ways to earn credit, such as our Life Experience Elective Credit, Advanced Study Project, and dual enrollment. College counseling is included with tuition.

Elementary: *Grades Pre K-4*

Because young children learn naturally through imitation and action, our K-4 curriculum features a great deal of healthy activity and movement. The lessons are rich in experiential learning and actively engage the student's mind, body, and imagination.

Your children will experience a multisensory education as they explore letters, numbers, color, song, rhythm, and verse while learning about themselves and the world around them.

In each grade, we offer weekly lesson plans with a variety of assignments and activities integrated across subject areas. Lessons focusing on community, culture, and the natural world are interwoven with creative, hands-on assignments in both academic and artistic disciplines.

Parents who are teaching their children at home for the first time are often eager to learn as much as they can to ensure the success of their homeschooling journey. To support this learning process for both parent and child, we offer two helpful books: *The Heart of Learning*, which describes the unfolding development of children and how to set up a learning environment that supports and nurtures each child's natural rhythms and curiosity; and *Oak Meadow Guide to Teaching the Early Grades*, which includes information about the art of teaching reading, writing, math, social studies, painting, drawing, music, storytelling, and handcrafts.



PREKINDERGARTEN

Our preschool curriculum is creative and imaginative, introducing your family to the fundamental principles of learning.

You and your child will engage in morning circle activities, singing, fingerplay, sand and water play, nature walks, bedtime rituals, and storytelling as you establish rhythms for learning that will benefit your child throughout the schooling years.

Curriculum Materials

The Heart of Learning

Learning Processes

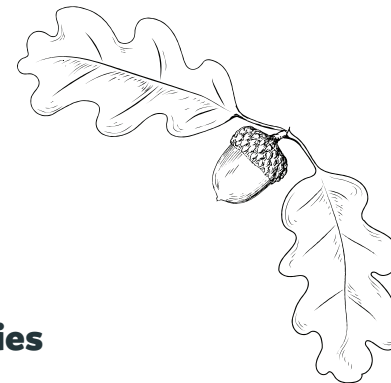
Toddlers Sing CD

Beeswax Crayons (block)

Preschool Paint Kit



KINDERGARTEN



Oak Meadow's kindergarten curriculum reflects the openhearted and imaginative way that young children meet the world.

A rich tradition of oral language and classic stories provides the backdrop for your child's first exploration into the world of **literacy**. Each week students are immersed in a language-rich environment as they listen to stories, recite poetry, and learn new songs. Familiarity with individual letters is achieved through activities that engage the student artistically, physically, and musically. Emphasis is placed on integrating the sounds and shapes of each letter in preparation for first grade.

In **Math**, students are gently introduced to the world of numbers through play-based activities, crafts, and storytelling. Math skills are fostered through working with patterns, grouping and sorting, and learning to draw geometric shapes.

Science, Arts and Crafts, Music and Movement, and **Health** round out the kindergarten experience. Each week students participate in nature walks, watercolor painting, puppetry, storytelling, circle songs and games, cooking, gardening, movement activities, and imitative games.

Projects, Crafts, Activities

Leaf prints
Flower pressing
Sewing hand puppets
Baking bread
Making musical instruments
Finger knitting
Alphabet board
Beeswax numbers

Curriculum Materials

Kindergarten Coursebook and Resource Book
*K-3 Essentials Package (optional)

Craft kit available for separate purchase.

*K-3 Essentials Package

Our K-3 Essentials Package is an optional, one-time purchase of supplemental materials to support and enhance the teaching process throughout the early grades.

Materials

Guide to Teaching the Early Grades
The Heart of Learning
Crafts for the Early Grades
Circle Time Songs CD
Healthy Living From the Start

Kindergarten Overview

First Semester

Second Semester

Language Arts / Social Studies

- Uppercase letters A-R
- Letter sounds and shapes
- Stories, poetry, and songs

- Stories, poetry, and songs
- Family history
- Uppercase letters S–Z
- Letter sounds and shapes
- Emotions
- Local community

Science

- Nature through the five senses
- Falling leaves and special trees
- Animals: similarities and differences
- Plant growth: seeds and sprouts
- Weather: seasonal changes

- Stars and constellations
- Animal behavior
- Pet/animal care
- Plant growth
- Weather: seasonal activities

Math

- Numbers 1-6
- Geometric shapes
- Pattern recognition
- Opposites
- Comparing quantities

- Numbers 7-10
- Sorting and grouping
- Sequencing and counting
- Geometric shapes
- Comparisons and patterns

Arts and Crafts

Throughout the year, students engage in a multitude of art and craft activities including crayon drawing, watercolor painting, sewing, baking, nature crafts, collage, crafts from recycled materials, carpentry, model building, and working with clay.

Music and Movement

Over the course of the year, students participate in activities that help develop musical ability, bilateral awareness, rhythm, hand-eye coordination, and dexterity. Sample activities include making and playing homemade musical instruments, reciting poetry, singing and finger plays, dancing, and playing catch and other kinesthetic games.

Health

The book *Healthy Living from the Start* provides the basis for a year-long health course. Families explore topics relevant to their child's growth and development including nutrition, the growing body, hygiene, community, emotions, and safety.

FIRST GRADE

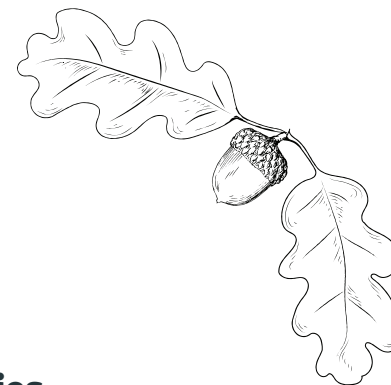
Oak Meadow's lively and engaging first grade curriculum will help you guide your child toward solid reading and math skills while encouraging an active, inquisitive mind.

Literacy skills are developed through a language-rich curriculum that focuses on stories, poems, and songs. Students progress through learning how to print upper- and lowercase letters to a study of word families and consonant blends. The imagination is sparked through fairy tales, nature stories, and traditional verses as your child develops the necessary skills and confidence to read independently.

In **Social Studies**, students begin to develop a sense of time and place as they encounter classic tales, make their own calendars, and draw maps of their neighborhoods. Cultural diversity is explored through community connections and a developing sense of good citizenship.

In the **Math** curriculum, stories are integrated into the study of numbers, and objects from nature collected on a walk become part of learning the four mathematical processes. Students also explore sequences, patterns, counting money, and geometric shapes.

Science, Arts and Crafts, Music, and Health round out the first grade experience. Each week students engage in observations of the natural world, express themselves through painting and crafts, develop their recorder-playing skills, and conduct inquiries into topics related to their healthy development.



Projects, Crafts, Activities

Make a book of stories with summaries and illustrations
Create your own store and marketplace
Make a map of your state
Make a weather vane
Identify animal tracks
Learn to knit
Build a birdhouse

Curriculum Materials

Grade 1 Coursebook and Resource Book

*K-3 Essentials Package (optional)

Beginning Recorder

Word Families

Charlie the Ranch Dog: Stuck in the Mud

Charlie the Ranch Dog: Charlie's New Friend

Charlie the Ranch Dog: Charlie's Snow Day

Frog and Toad Are Friends

Frog and Toad Together

Mouse Soup

Mouse Tales

Craft kit available for separate purchase.

First Grade Overview

First Semester

Second Semester

Language Arts

- Upper- and lowercase letters A-Z
- Long and short vowel sounds
- Fairy tales and poetry
- Word families
- Printing words
- Phonics

- Fairy Tales
- Form drawing
- Printing words
- Independent reading
- Writing out sentences
- Consonant blends
- Word games

Social Studies

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>HISTORY</i> | <i>GEOGRAPHY</i> |
| • Classic fairy tales | • Navigating with a compass |
| • Daily and monthly cycles | • Mapmaking and reading maps |
| • Yearly calendar | • Using a globe |

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>ECONOMICS</i> | <i>CIVICS</i> |
| • Goods and services | • Rules and playing fair |
| • Marketplace exchanges | • Family jobs |
| • Saving and spending | • Respect |
| | • Diversity |

Science

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Phases of the moon | • Seasonal animal behavior, tracks, and hibernation | • Diurnal and nocturnal animals | • Planting and charting plant growth |
| • Constellations | • Deciduous and coniferous trees | • Forms of matter | • Scientific inquiry |
| • Life cycle of the seed | | • Pond and forest life | • Life cycle of a butterfly |
| • Animal observations | | • Seed dispersal | |
| • Weather and cloud formations | | • Pollination and bees | |

Math

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| • Four processes | • Missing numbers | • Odd and even | • Relationships between math processes |
| • Ordinal numbers | • Mental Math | • Number bonds | • Equations in vertical format |
| • Translating story problems into equations | • Counting/sorting | • Multistep problems | • Cumulative property of addition |
| | • Form drawing | • Mental math | |

Arts and Crafts

Throughout the year, students engage in a variety of arts and crafts activities. Fine-motor dexterity and focus are developed through learning to knit, which benefits the child's developing writing skills. Highlights include making a bird feeder and nesting supply box, maintaining a seasonal display, wet paper watercolor painting, nature crafts, and creative sand and water play.

Music and Movement

In addition to regular singing exercises, students learn how to play the recorder. Instructions and simple songs are included in Oak Meadow's *Beginning Recorder* book. Movement activities focus on balance, coordination, directional awareness, and rhythmic movements such as jumping rope.

Health

The book *Healthy Living from the Start* provides the basis for a yearlong health course. Families explore topics relevant to their child's growth and development including nutrition, the growing body, hygiene, community, emotions, and safety.

SECOND GRADE

Oak Meadow's second grade curriculum expands on your child's natural intelligence and growing confidence as a reader and writer.

Reading emerges from writing, and observations of animals and nature become the subject of poems, writing, and stories. The rhythmic nature of rhyming poems becomes a natural and playful means of working with phonetic letter sounds as students develop their independent reading skills with the **Language Arts** curriculum.

In **Social Studies**, students continue to develop their understanding of history, geography, economics, and civics. Fables and folktales provide the backdrop for learning about ancient cultures and universal human themes. Students explore the meaning of good citizenship by learning about the lives of inspiring individuals.

The second grader's growing understanding of **Math** and confidence in manipulating numbers leads to work with the multiplication tables and gaining skill with the four processes. In **Science**, students continue to develop their observation skills as they explore the world of animals. Themes such as interdependence, natural rhythms, and classification provide the foundation for close-up investigations into the plant and animal kingdoms.

Through hands-on and investigative activities in **Art, Crafts, Music,** and **Health**, students engage in explorations of color and craft, develop their skills, and conduct inquiries into topics related to their healthy development.



Projects, Crafts, Activities

Copy and illustrate poems
Make books
Perform puppet plays
Grow an indoor plant
Make an ancient mask
Create a doll

Curriculum Materials

Grade 2 Coursebook and Resource Book
*K-3 Essentials Package (optional)
Intermediate Recorder
Tuck-Me-In Tales
Four Fun Friends
Old Mother West Wind
Just So Stories
Ben and Meg
Fables

Craft kit available for separate purchase.

Second Grade Overview

First Semester

Second Semester

Language Arts

- Independent reading
- Writing short paragraphs
- Consonant blends and word families
- Poetry

- Fables and other classic stories
- Summarizing stories
- Descriptive writing
- Memorization and recitation
- Sight words

- Animal stories and fables
- Dramatic storytelling
- Independent reading
- Summarizing stories
- Vowel combinations

- Vowel/consonant combinations
- Creative writing
- Comparison writing

Social Studies

HISTORY

- Folklore of Ancient China
- Ancient Mali and Sundiata
- Ancient Celts
- Family customs and traditions

GEOGRAPHY

- Cardinal and ordinal directions
- Map reading and using a globe
- Climate regions
- Continents and oceans

ECONOMICS

- Natural, human, and capital resources
- Money and economic transactions
- Scarcity and abundance

CIVICS

- Kindness and reciprocity
- Honesty and tall tales
- Qualities of good leadership

Science

- Animal observation and research
- Charting data
- Interdependence in nature

- Sorting and classifying
- Animal habits and habitats

- Vertebrates and invertebrates
- Warm- and cold-blooded animals
- Food chain
- Carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores

- Animal behavior and communication
- Animal classification
- Life of a frog

Math

- Four processes
- Vertical and horizontal equations
- Missing numbers
- Writing numbers in expanded forms
- Carrying in addition

- Place value
- Number patterns
- Form drawing
- Mental math

- Borrowing in subtraction
- Greater than / less than
- Number bonds to 20

- Multistep problems
- Multistep mental math

Art

Students explore color through watercolor painting and crayon drawing as they illustrate the many stories and poems presented in language arts.

Music

Students continue to develop their recorder playing skills by learning several new notes and mastering simple songs. Focus on breath control, tonality, and technique help enhance the student's musical abilities.

Crafts

Students engage in various hands-on activities that help develop fine-motor coordination and focus. Highlights include crocheting a scarf, working with clay, and completing crafts from Oak Meadow's *Crafts for the Early Grades*.

Health

The book *Healthy Living from the Start* provides the basis for a yearlong health course. Families explore topics relevant to their child's growth and development including nutrition, the growing body, hygiene, community, emotions, and safety.

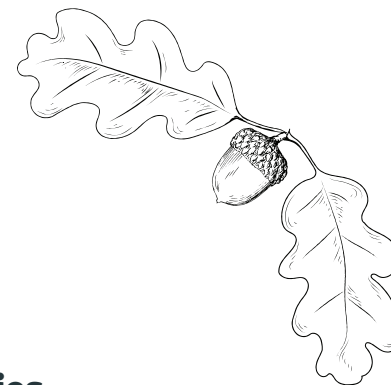
THIRD GRADE

The challenging and practical tasks of Oak Meadow's third grade curriculum encourage new skills and awareness through observation, precision, imagination, and creativity.

Classic children's literature forms the foundation of a rich and effective **Language Arts** program that develops essential grammar and composition skills. A new interest in careful work is encouraged through the introduction of cursive handwriting and basic spelling rules. In **Social Studies**, students develop a deeper understanding of history by reading about the legends, laws, and government of ancient cultures. Geography is explored as students investigate and map their own cultural heritage.

The **Math** curriculum focuses on multiplication tables, place value to the millions, and counting with money while also learning how to carry and borrow, add and subtract three-digit numbers, and solve division problems with remainders. In **Science**, students observe weather patterns, interdependence in nature, local trees, and the changing of the seasons. Students are introduced to the scientific method through simple experiments that encourage careful observation and accurate reporting skills.

Art, Crafts, Music, and **Health** activities encourage students to explore through a variety of media including watercolor, clay, carpentry, cooking, and paper marbling. Students continue to develop their skills, create their own book of music, and conduct inquiries into topics related to their healthy development.



Projects, Crafts, Activities

Write imaginative stories
Memorize poems
Learn cursive handwriting
Create multiplication designs
Play math games
Conduct a planet rotation experiment
Make a tree collage

Curriculum Materials

Grade 3 Coursebook and Resource Book
K-3 Essentials Package (optional)
Advanced Recorder
Cursive Handwriting Workbook for Kids
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon
Wishtree
The Wind in the Willows
Cooking Class
The Velveteen Rabbit
Charlotte's Web
Winnie the Pooh
The All-New Woodworking for Kids

Craft kit available for separate purchase.

Third Grade Overview

First Semester

Second Semester

Language Arts

- Sentence composition
- Paragraph composition
- Memorization and recitation
- Suffixes
- Parts of speech
- Punctuation and capitalization

- Spelling rules
- Folk talks and classic literature
- Cursive handwriting
- Reading aloud with fluency

- Syllabication
- Poetry and classic literature
- Cursive handwriting
- Reading aloud with fluency
- Story summaries

- Vowel-consonant combinations
- Journaling
- Correcting faulty sentences
- Parts of speech
- Poetry, folk tales, and classic literature

Social Studies

- HISTORY*
- Ancient cultures
 - Ancient writing systems
 - Native American creation stories
 - American Frontier

- GEOGRAPHY*
- Latitude and longitude
 - Mapping skills
 - Continents and oceans
 - Ancestry

- ECONOMICS*
- Interdependence of resources
 - Traditional jobs
 - Specialization and trade

- CIVICS*
- Forms of government
 - Laws and community rules

Science

- Movements of Earth and moon
- Gravity
- Decomposition
- Photosynthesis
- The water cycle

- Weather patterns and phenomena
- Seasonal changes
- Global climate zones

- Seasonal weather cycles
- Biomes
- Earthquakes and volcanoes
- Erosion and weathering

- Rock cycle
- Geology
- Extinct and endangered species

Math

- Commutative and associative properties
- Borrowing and carrying
- Ordinal numbers

- Telling time
- Weights and measures
- Money math
- Zeros in multiplication

- Form drawing
- Geometry
- Division with remainders

- Roman numerals
- Multistep mental math
- Temperature measurements

Art

Students explore color through watercolor painting and crayon drawing as they illustrate the many stories and poems presented in language arts.

Music

Students continue to develop their recorder playing skills by learning several new notes and mastering simple songs.

Crafts

Students engage in various hands-on activities that help develop fine-motor coordination and focus. Highlights include crocheting a scarf, working with clay, and completing crafts from Oak Meadow's *Crafts for the Early Grades*.

Health

The book *Healthy Living from the Start* provides the basis for a yearlong health course. Families explore topics relevant to their child's growth and development including nutrition, the growing body, hygiene, community, emotions, and safety.

FOURTH GRADE



Oak Meadow's fourth grade curriculum reflects the awakening intellect and independence of fourth graders.

Language Arts assignments in poetry, journal writing, and short story writing tap into the student's awareness of self, which is expanded through the study of classic children's literature. Lessons in basic grammar, parts of speech, and paragraph construction are reinforced with regular creative and expository writing assignments.

In **Social Studies**, the fourth grader's independence is reflected in a study of westward expansion and frontier life. Critical thinking and research skills are introduced and reinforced in several full-length projects on various topics of the student's choice. Through geometric patterns in nature, a sense of wonder and reverence defines and shapes science explorations. Students study basic life science, animal behavior, and astronomy through close observation and investigative activities.

The **Math** curriculum expands the skills of multiplication and division, and features a comprehensive and creative introduction to fractions and long division. Math games, geometric patterns, rounding and estimating, and story problems provide a solid foundation for advanced math skills.

Artistic expression is explored through an intensive study of perspective drawing, and students have many opportunities to apply their drawing skills in assignments across the subjects. Students are encouraged to continue playing a musical instrument, and Oak Meadow's *Recorder Duets* is offered for students who are interested in developing their recorder skills.

Projects, Crafts, Activities

Write postcards from *Stuart Little*
Make a miniature canoe
Recite poetry
Make a covered wagon
Create a pictorial timeline of the American frontier
Make a star box
Make a mobile of the solar system

Curriculum Materials

Grade 4 Coursebook
Math Coursebook
Teacher Manual
Recorder Duets
The Search for Delicious
Rachel's Journal
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
The Trumpet of the Swan
Stuart Little
Treasury for Children
Native Legends
The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street by Karina Yan Glaser
My Side of the Mountain
The Turtle of Oman
Jeweler's loupes (2)

Craft kit available for separate purchase.

Fourth Grade Overview

First Semester

Second Semester

Language
Arts

- Parts of speech
- Journal writing
- Paragraphing skills
- Revision skills
- Sentence variety
- Poetry
- Memorization and recitation

- Dialogue punctuation
- Short story writing
- Plurals and possessives
- Editing and proofreading
- Grammar rules

Social
Studies

- Topography observation and model
- Permanent and migrating animals
- Native American research paper
- Model of Native American village
- State geography and landforms
- State symbol, flag, and bird
- State history

- Colonial America
- Mapping skills
- Native American leaders
- Material culture of pioneers
- Model of pioneer settlement
- California Gold Rush
- Pony Express
- Transcontinental Railroad

Science

- Geometry and patterns in nature
- Relationship between form and function
- Charting data
- Seed dispersal
- Animal species and breeds
- Nutrition
- Basic cell structure

- Nature observations
- Constellations
- Moon and gravity
- Solar system
- Planet research project
- Measuring altitude
- Longitude and latitude
- Cardinal directions and compass navigation

Math

- Carrying and borrowing
- Division with remainders
- Multistep word problems
- Weights and measures
- Two-digit multiplication
- Roman numerals

- Adding and subtracting fractions
- Money math
- Rounding and estimating
- Long division
- Mixed numbers and improper fractions
- Equivalent fractions
- Common denominator

Art

Students learn the seven laws of drawing perspective. Each law is explored in depth and students gain ample practice in using the various techniques including tonal drawing, foreshortening, overlapping, and shading.

Students continue learning to play an instrument. Oak Meadow's *Recorder Duets* is offered to students interested in taking their recorder playing further. Opportunities and suggestions are provided for holding recitals and other performances.



Middle School: *Grades 5-8*

As students approach adolescence, they experience a growing sense of independence. Oak Meadow curriculum supports this developmental stage by encouraging students to look inward while also exploring the outer world in greater depth. They are asked to develop skills in critical thinking and creative problem solving, and to analyze and synthesize. This helps students cultivate an ability to think for themselves that will serve them well in high school and beyond.

In grades five through eight, our curriculum offers an increased emphasis on writing and scientific inquiry. Over the course of weekly lessons integrated across each subject area, students will have many opportunities to demonstrate their growing independence and initiative through a choice of projects, a wide variety of assignments, and community service involvement. Study skills are developed and reinforced with regular research assignments and extended projects, and critical thinking skills are cultivated as students are asked to interpret information, form opinions, and express their thoughts clearly and cohesively.





FIFTH GRADE

The fifth grade curriculum awakens the student's intellect and introspection through the lives of great people in history.

In **English** and **Social Studies** we combine geography, literature, and early American history to create an experience that challenges students to draw parallels across subjects. Studying the biographies of famous Americans prompts students to formulate their own opinions, make inquiries, explore, and experiment. Students write book reports and do research, concentrating on grammar, spelling, punctuation, and the parts of speech.

In **Science**, students engage in investigations and experiments that cultivate essential scientific skills such as forming a hypothesis, conducting observations, and taking field notes. The lessons emphasize the scientific method, conservation ecology, meteorology, anatomy, and astronomy and lay the groundwork for more extensive scientific studies in the upper grades.

The **Math** curriculum presents a substantial review of all four basic processes and fraction concepts, with an emphasis on word problems and practical problem solving. Students will strengthen their foundational skills in preparation for moving into more advanced computational skills.

Projects, Crafts, Activities

Memorize a Patrick Henry speech
Write a persuasive essay on the American Revolution
Write a play about Andrew Jackson
Plan a trip across the United States
Make a quill pen
Make a wetland model
Make a simple microscope

Curriculum Materials

English and U.S. History Coursebook
Science Coursebook
Math Coursebook and Math Workbook
Teacher Manual
The Story of Harriet Tubman: Freedom Train
Ben and Me
Johnny Tremain
Little House on the Prairie
Sarah Morton's Day
The Witch of Blackbird Pond
If You Sailed on the Mayflower in 1620
Children of the Wild West

Craft kit available for separate purchase.



Fifth Grade Overview

First Semester

Second Semester

English

- Dependent and independent clauses
- Compound and complex sentences
- Capitalization and punctuation
- Sentence types
- Direct quotations and in-text citations
- Prefixes and suffixes
- Verb tenses

- Plurals and possessives
- Five-paragraph essay
- Citing sources
- Homophones
- Creative writing
- Descriptive writing
- Antonyms and synonyms
- Biography

Social Studies

- Early navigation and exploration
- Mayflower Compact
- Map making
- Colonial life in North America
- Taxation without representation
- American Revolution
- U.S. Constitution

- Westward Expansion
- Indian Removal Act
- Native American leaders
- U.S. Civil War
- Abolition and the Underground Railroad
- Women in U.S. history

Science

- BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE*
- Scientific inquiry
 - Indicator species
 - Wetlands model
 - Metric conversions
 - Ecosystem diversity
 - Biomes
 - Water cycle
 - Astronomy
 - Renewable and non-renewable sources
 - Energy conservation

- BASIC LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE*
- Weather patterns
 - Classification systems
 - Human body structures and systems
 - States of matter
 - Types of energy
 - Principles of physics

Math

- Place value and rounding
- Measuring time, adding and subtracting time
- Borrowing across zero
- Borrowing from a borrowed digit
- Bar graphs and line graphs
- Roman numerals
- Squares and square roots
- Perimeter and area
- Two-digit divisors

- Expanding and reducing fractions
- Rate and distance
- Lowest common denominator
- Multiplying fractions and mixed numbers
- Dividing fractions and mixed numbers
- Adding and subtracting decimals

SIXTH GRADE

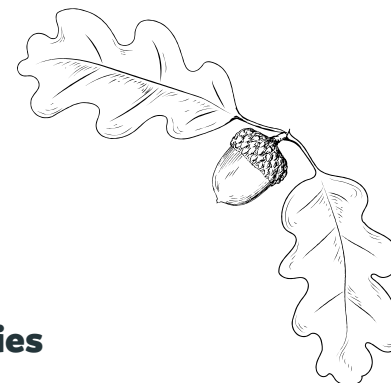
Oak Meadow's sixth grade curriculum engages the emerging adolescent with dramatic stories of struggle and exploration.

Ancient Civilizations provides the foundation for an integrated experience that weaves together the history, geography, literature, government, and art of ancient cultures. Critical and independent thinking are encouraged by challenging students to understand opposing viewpoints and varying perspectives of different cultures and time periods.

In **English**, grammar lessons and activities are woven into writing assignments and students expand their vocabulary and composition skills. **Art** explorations include sculpture, drawing, calligraphy, mosaics, marbling, costume making, and mask making.

Sixth graders study **Life Science**, learning about plant cell division and reproduction, classification systems, invertebrates and vertebrates, animal life cycles, ecosystems, and the human body. Students use the scientific method to analyze their findings and make connections between the overarching themes of the course. Students develop skills in objective observation and accurate recording of data.

The **Math** curriculum begins with a comprehensive review of all previous skills, including multidigit division and multiplication, and fraction concepts and processes. Students work with decimals, percentages, ratios, probability, missing numbers, factoring, and order of operations, as well as gain a solid introduction to the metric system and basic geometry.



Projects, Crafts, Activities

Write a research paper on ancient Egypt
Draw a freehand map of the world
Interview a person from the Stone Age
Compose an adventure for Robin Hood
Make a miniature Renaissance fresco
Make up math problems using the Mayan number system
Research carnivorous plants
Dissect flowers

Curriculum Materials

English Coursebook
Ancient Civilizations Coursebook
Basic Life Science Coursebook
Math Coursebook and Math Workbook
Teacher Manuals
The Adventures of Robin Hood
D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths
Rainbow People

Craft kit available for separate purchase.

Sixth Grade Overview

First Semester

Second Semester

English

- Note-taking and citations
- The writing process
- Direct and indirect quotations
- Writing a research report
- Short story writing
- Expository essay
- Comparative essay

- Persuasive essay
- Using supporting details
- Creative writing
- Writing dialogue
- Verb tenses
- Prefixes, suffixes, and base words
- Parts of speech

Social Studies

- Early human culture
- Ancient cultures of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East
- Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire
- Ancient systems of government, religion, and philosophy

- Celtic and Germanic tribes
- Europe in the Middle Ages
- Innovations and art of the Renaissance
- Early cultures of North America
- Ancient civilizations of the Aztec, Maya, and Inca
- Early navigation and exploration

Science

- Scientific method and experimentation
- Cell structure and cell division
- Plant structure and reproduction
- Photosynthesis
- Soil and nutrients
- Classification of living things
- Plant and animal kingdoms

- Animal life cycles
- Food chains and food webs
- Ecology and ecosystems
- Global climate change
- Human nutrition
- Human body structures and systems

Math

- Two-digit divisors
- Reducing fractions to lowest terms
- Lowest common denominator
- Multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers
- Multiplying and dividing decimals
- Dividends of less than one
- Measurements of distance, weight, and volume

- Calculating percentages
- Converting between fractions, decimals, and percentages
- Ratios and probability
- Perimeter, ratio, and diameter
- Area of irregular shapes
- Equations with missing numbers
- Exponents
- Order of operations

SEVENTH GRADE

Seventh graders gain a global perspective through a study of world history from ancient empires to the present.

While immersed in **World History** subjects such as Far Eastern empires, the Industrial Revolution, and the Civil Rights Movement, students will reflect and write about the people behind these events. Studying the literature of the time encourages a flexibility of thinking and perspective.

The **English** curriculum emphasizes composition skills and helps students express themselves clearly and creatively in writing. Students continue to develop their grammar skills through a detailed study of sentence structure and common writing pitfalls. Art activities include art history, world music, pen and ink drawings, and collage.

In **Earth Science**, students make observations and perform experiments in astronomy, geology, meteorology, matter, and energy. Emphasis is placed on learning about Earth's natural resources and practical solutions to current environmental issues. In conjunction with experiential activities, students write persuasive essays and conduct research. The optional accompanying lab manual guides students through the lab activities, and each unit ends with a student-designed project.

The **Math** curriculum explores signed numbers, rules for equations, formulas, functions, proportions, and variables and coefficients in two-step problems. Students learn to calculate the area of a circle and triangle, and to classify and construct angles and triangles. In addition to gaining new skills, students engage in a comprehensive review of all previous skills.

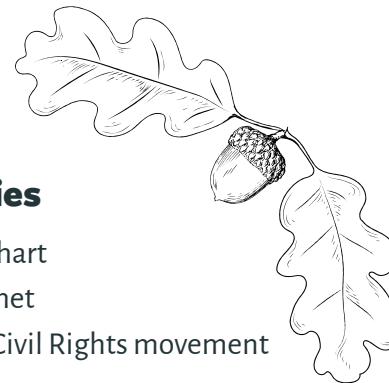
Projects, Crafts, Activities

Write a biography of Amelia Earhart
Memorize a Shakespearean sonnet
Learn a freedom song from the Civil Rights movement
Keep a sky journal
Create a Middle Eastern meal
Construct a model rocket

Curriculum Materials

World History Coursebook
English Coursebook
English Manual for Middle School
Earth Science Coursebook
Earth Science Lab Manual
Math Coursebook and Math Workbook
Teacher Manuals
A Single Shard
Counting on Grace
Brown Girl Dreaming
Out of the Dust
Aleutian Sparrow
Esperanza Rising
Shelf Life: Stories by the Book
Catherine, Called Birdy
Code Talker
Poetry Speaks Who I Am

Craft kit and lab kit available for separate purchase.



Seventh Grade Overview

First Semester

Second Semester

English

GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION

- Paragraph and sentence structures
- Dependent and independent clauses
- Prewriting techniques
- Confusing word pairs
- Citing sources and plagiarism
- Spelling rules and frequently misspelled words

LITERATURE

- Analysis of literary themes
- Analogy, metaphor, and simile
- Story predictions
- Plot and character development
- Poetry

GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION

- Types of nouns and pronouns
- Verb tenses
- Shifts in tense and person
- Subject/verb agreement
- Dangling and misplaced modifiers
- Parallel construction
- Writing a business letter

LITERATURE

- Free verse
- Citing textual evidence
- Story structure
- Family stories
- Biographies and autobiographies

Social Studies

- Empires of Asia
- European Age of Enlightenment
- French Revolution
- Industrial Revolution

- Slavery and U.S. Civil War
- Nationalism and Imperialism
- World Wars

- Influential people in history
- United Nations
- Cold War
- Conflicts in Asia and the Middle East

- Information Age
- Technology

Science

- Variables and controlled experiments
- Movement of Earth and moon
- Astronomy
- Geology
- Weathering and erosion
- Plate tectonics
- Student-led scientific inquiry

- Global climate change
- Meteorology
- Water cycle
- Atmosphere pressure and wind patterns
- Earth's resources
- Human population growth

- Biodiversity and habitat loss
- Student-led scientific inquiry

Math

- Order of operations
- Factors and prime numbers
- Simple and compound interest
- Equations with missing numbers
- Metric units of measure
- Signed numbers
- Rules of equations
- Probability and probability in a series
- Using a calculator

- Circumference and area of a circle
- Constructing triangles and calculating area
- Applying and transforming formulas
- Applying functions to find unknown values
- Ratios and proportions
- Bisecting lines and angles
- Volume of geometric solids
- Roots and exponents of fractions and negative numbers
- Scientific notation
- Graphing a line for an equation

EIGHTH GRADE

Oak Meadow's eighth grade curriculum introduces students to the concepts of civics through a study of good citizenship, independence and interdependence, and community building.

Students explore local, national, and international issues in the **Civics** curriculum. Governing structures and laws are studied through current events and landmark cases of the United States Supreme Court, and students learn to identify valid arguments on both sides of an issue and develop their own well-reasoned opinions. Students gain experience in evaluating the validity of a claim and differentiating between fact and opinion. They engage in practical activities such as community service projects and interviewing local community leaders to explore how to make a difference on a local level.

In **English**, students read current and classic literature and poetry while building their vocabulary and expanding their grammar and composition skills. Through an exploration of literary themes, students reflect on universal human experiences. Weekly assignments in literary analysis, grammar, and expressive writing provide ample practice for the student preparing to enter high school.

The **Physical Science** curriculum focuses on the principles of physics, including mass, matter, force, energy, sound, light, color, electricity, magnetism, and mechanics. Students conduct experiments, perform mathematical calculations, analyze and report on their findings, and support conclusions with evidence. Emphasis is placed on developing objective observation skills, using accurate scientific terminology, and demonstrating accurate measuring and recording of data.

In **Math**, eighth grade students study Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$ which introduces decimals, percentages, algebraic equations, graphing, ratios and proportions, and negative coefficients and exponents.

Projects, Crafts, Activities

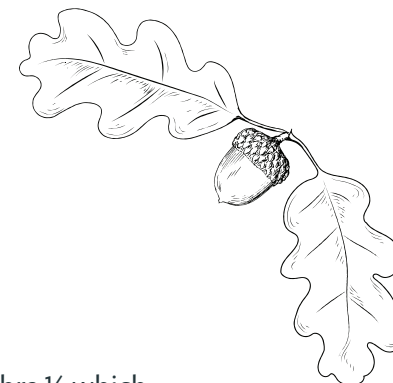
Evaluate a Supreme Court ruling
Participate in a community service project
Interview a member of the fire department
Write a science fiction story
Create your own radio or television advertisement
Research hybrid vehicles

Curriculum Materials

English Coursebook
Civics Coursebook
Physical Science Coursebook
Physical Science Lab Manual
Saxon Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$
Teacher Manuals
The Elements of Style
Leave This Song Behind

100 Ways to Improve Your Composition and Creative Writing
The Giver
A Wrinkle in Time
Echo
Moon Over Manifest
Criss Cross
Baseball in April

Lab kit available for separate purchase.



Eighth Grade Overview

First Semester

Second Semester

English

COMPOSITION

- Vocabulary development
- Figurative language
- Concise writing
- Comparative essay
- Persuasive writing
- The writing process

LITERATURE

- Plot and character development
- Textual evidence
- Story themes
- Foreshadowing
- Story structures
- Poetry

COMPOSITION

- Timed essay
- Writing a book review
- Timeline of biographical events
- Interviewing skills
- Writing in verse

LITERATURE

- Story predictions
- Literary comparisons
- Summarizing a plot
- Biography/autobiography
- Differing character perspectives

Social Studies

- Qualities of good citizenship
- Community leaders
- Decision making
- Immigration and citizenship
- Disability awareness
- Personal and public health

- Political heritage and governing structures
- Landmark cases of the U.S. Supreme Court
- Civic debate

- Voting rights and responsibilities
- Branches of the U.S. federal government
- State and local government
- Media influence and news literacy
- Civic involvement
- Earth stewardship

- Community service project
- Landmark cases of the U.S. Supreme Court
- Civic debate

Science

- Controlled experiments
- Periodic table of elements
- Mixtures and compounds
- Force vectors
- Mass, weight, and gravity

- Laws of motion
- Types of energy
- Student-led scientific inquiry

- Properties of waves
- Electromagnetic spectrum
- Reflection, absorption, and refraction of light
- Electric charge and electrical current
- Measuring and controlling electricity

- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Mechanical advantage
- Principles of aerodynamics
- Student-led scientific inquiry

Math: Algebra ½

- Graphs
- Decimals
- Percentages
- Measuring length, area, and volume
- Algebraic equations
- Rate word problems
- Scientific notation

- Ratios and proportions
- Graphing inequalities
- Negative coefficients
- Estimating roots
- Angles and triangles
- Negative exponents
- Permutations



High School: *Grades 9-12*

Our high school curriculum is rigorous and grounded in academic standards. It is also flexible, creative, and thought provoking. Students are given many options for directing their learning, incorporating their interests, and choosing how to engage with the lesson content. They explore, reflect, consider multiple perspectives, form opinions, and support their ideas with evidence and reasoning. Oak Meadow students learn to articulate their ideas with clarity and confidence so they are prepared for college, career, and beyond.

Course Descriptions

Oak Meadow delivers a meaningful academic experience through imaginative, engaging courses and creative projects. Courses are challenging but flexible so you are empowered to make your learning your own.

While most courses are available to all students, a select few are open to enrolled students only (noted with *). Course availability is subject to change.

Visit oakmeadow.com for full course descriptions, course length, recommended grade levels, prerequisites, course materials, and sample lessons.



English

New course: Composition I: The Writer's Craft (One Semester Course)

This single-semester course is designed to provide a strong foundation of writing skills for high school, college, and career. The course offers multiple ways for students to develop as readers and writers. Students will study a variety of authors and practice different styles of writing and writing for different purposes. Extension revision instruction and practice is integrated throughout the course, letting each student find and refine their unique voice.

Composition: Expression and Understanding* (Full Year Course)

In the first semester, The Art of Expression, students will explore a variety of reading and writing assignments to help them understand their own individual perspective, strengths, challenges, and skills. They will gain tools for understanding themselves and others, and practice the skills needed to articulate arguments and viewpoints. In the second semester, The Act of Understanding, students explore their individual curiosities in a semester-long inquiry project.

Literature & Composition: The Hero's Journey (Full Year Course)

This introductory literature and composition course features ordinary people who find themselves in circumstances that require extraordinary acts, and how these acts relate to the archetypal hero's journey. Lessons provide historical background on the setting and author, and discussion points for exploring literary themes and issues with family and peers. Students develop a wide range of composition skills throughout the course, using multiple techniques and formats.

Literature & Composition II (Full Year Course)

Students engage in a wide variety of writing assignments, such as compare and contrast essays, archetypal stories, and vignettes. Students read classic

novels and poetry, examining story structure, theme, and style. The course emphasizes literary analysis and encourages students to hone their own writing style and voice.

American Literature (Full Year Course)

In this course, students explore the thoughts and feelings of the men and women who helped create and define the unique heritage and culture of the American people. Active reading and critical evaluation is emphasized. Students refine composition and presentation skills by writing essays (expository, interpretive, contrast and compare), magazine columns, travel guides, interviews, editorials, and speeches. Students also explore the works of modern American poets and write a literary research paper.

World Literature (Full Year Course)

Students read the works of contemporary and historical international authors and refine grammar and composition skills through numerous writing assignments. In addition to active reading and critical evaluation of literature, students' writing instincts are further honed and challenged with a variety of essay styles, a biographical research paper, poetry, movie reviews, news articles, an analysis of symbolism and irony, and a one-act play.

British Literature: Monsters, Faeries, and Kings (Full Year Course)

This course presents a selection of works from British Literature spanning from its origins through the 20th century. The first semester begins with the earliest written work of British Literature, Beowulf, an epic poem whose hero becomes a king by defeating a family of dreadful monsters, followed by King Arthur and the Arthurian legends in *The Once and Future King*. The second semester brings magical creatures cavorting in a Shakespeare

play, then moves forward in time to explore the Hero as a child in *David Copperfield*. Written assignments include interpretive essays, creative stories and projects.

Women's Literature: Worlds of Science Fiction and Fantasy (Single Semester Course)

This course explores themes of identity, gender, race, social justice, and looks at the literary craft of world building (how a writer creates an elaborate, believable, story world).

American Literature: The Westward Journey (One Semester Course)

This course explores how the United States developed its shape and character throughout the 19th century by way of Westward Expansion. Students will gain an understanding of the experiences and perspectives of those who immigrated to the region, those whose families had lived on the land for generations, and those whose ancestors had been there for millennia. Students will develop insight into how people influence the land and how the land influences people.

Word: The Poet's Voice (Single Semester Course)

This poetry course explores the writing craft needed to produce poems that deserve to be read. Students will study various themes from nature writing to love poetry, spoken word and environmentally-themed poems, and works focused on capturing and expressing the female perspective. Students create and learn how to edit and revise their own poems and become skilled at analyzing the poetry of others. Various writing exercises allow each student to venture beyond their home to observe the world around them, record their observations, and channel what they see and experience directly into their poems.

Speak Your Truth: Poetry Part II * (Single Semester Course)

This course builds on the foundation of the poet's craft developed in Word: The Poet's Voice and expands it to include performance skills needed to recite poetry before an audience. By studying videos of selected poetry readings by well-known poets of various genres and attending local poetry readings, students explore the reading styles and techniques employed by each author. Writing exercises are designed to develop the student's poetic repertoire, drawing inspiration from personal experience, current events, nature, relationships, and the imagination to writing meaningful poetry.





Math

Algebra I (Full Year Course)

This course covers essential algebraic concepts. Emphasis is placed on applying algebraic and geometric skills to solve word problems. Topics include signed numbers, multivariable solids, factoring trinomials, and graphing non-linear functions.

Geometry (Full Year Course)

This geometry course introduces students to the basic theorems of Euclidean plane geometry and their applications, and it explores both plane and solid geometric figures. Students learn how to prove theorems by the axiomatic method and to use these theorems in solving a variety of problems. They also learn how to accomplish a variety of geometric constructions.

Math Connections (Full Year Course)

This problem-solving course focuses on topics and applications relevant to life in today's world. Every lesson includes mental math activities, journaling, textbook readings, and practice problems. Activities requiring critical thinking and the application of math skills are also part of each lesson. The course looks at math connections to art, science, history, philosophy, and more, and introduces people who have been influential in the field of mathematics. Lesson topics include set theory, number theory, personal finance, measurement, probability, statistics, and logic.

Algebra II (Full Year Course)

Students integrate topics from Algebra I and Geometry as they begin the study of trigonometry. The course provides opportunities for continued practice of the fundamental concepts of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry to enable students to develop a foundation for the study of Advanced Mathematics.

Advanced Mathematics (Full Year Course)

Advanced Mathematics prepares students for the study of mathematics at the college level through a presentation of standard pre-calculus topics, including substantial new material on discrete mathematics and data analysis.

Calculus I (Full Year Course)

Calculus I focuses on all the topics normally covered in an Advanced Placement AB-level Calculus program. The text begins with a thorough review of those mathematical concepts and skills required for calculus. In the early problem sets, students practice setting up word problems they will later encounter as calculus problems. The problem sets contain multiple-choice and conceptually-oriented problems similar to those found on the AP Calculus examination.

Calculus II (Single Semester Course)

This course picks up where Calculus I ended and completes the final 1/3 of the Saxon textbook, Calculus with Trigonometry and Analytic Geometry. Together, the Oak Meadow Calculus I and Calculus II courses cover the topics on the AP Calculus BC syllabus. (Note: Calculus I and II use the same textbook.)

Social Studies

Ethnic Studies: Power and Perspective (Single Semester Course)

Critical race and ethnic studies emphasize the intersections of forms of social differentiation, including race, ethnicity, class, gender, ability, and sexuality, and examine how these forms of differentiation provide advantages for some groups and disadvantages for others. This course looks beyond cultural identity to consider inequality, power, and social change while examining how race and racism are foundational to the formation of the United States and spread their influence beyond borders.

U.S. History (Full Year Course)

This course explores U.S. history from the earliest settlements to the dawn of the 21st century. Using an interdisciplinary approach, students are encouraged to integrate information, discover patterns, and develop critical thinking skills in their responses to significant issues and events in American history.

World History (Full Year Course)

This World History course moves far beyond the simple learning of historical facts. It asks students to think deeply about what we can learn from the past and apply to the present to create a better future. This course looks at world history through a multi-faceted lens, helping students connect course topics with literature, art, geography, psychology, sociology, economics, science, and technology.

United States Government: By the People, for the People (One Semester Course)

In this single-semester course, traditional topics related to U.S. government (the Constitution, three branches of government, federal and state governments, etc.) are covered, as well as lessons on media and bias, research methods, evaluating resources, philosophies of government, citizenship, landmark cases of the U.S. Supreme Court, infrastructure, and tribal government. Reflection and discussion prompts are included, as well as background information on lesson topics to supplement research/textbook reading.

World Geography (Full Year Course)

The study of world geography involves understanding the natural forces that shape our planet and the interactions between people and their environment. This course looks at how human activity can modify the surface of the Earth itself and inform the region's culture and inhabitants over time, using information from disparate sources like maps, statistics, news reports, and literary accounts, and integrating it into a comprehensive understanding.

World Religions: Finding Common Ground* (Single Semester Course)

This project-based course asks students to consider one of the greatest puzzles of world history: How can members of diverse religions come together as one community in which the specific practices of each are



honored? Students research a wide variety of world religions and, using their findings, design an interfaith center that takes on this question, aided by frequent teacher feedback and discussion.

Psychology: The Journey Toward Self-Knowledge (One Semester Course)

This engaging and rigorous psychology course is designed to help students become more aware of themselves as unique individuals. Delving into their own experiences, students are encouraged to be scientists in the process of exploring themselves and their place in the universe. They will examine a variety of topics including memory, biology of behavior, stress, learning and conditioning, developmental stages, defense mechanisms, and personality theory.

Media Literacy: Critical Analysis of Media and Culture (Single Semester Course)

Media Literacy is about learning how to critically engage and make sense of the media all around us. In addition to introducing students to the history and use of media, this course will help develop analytical tools that students can use to examine media content, intent, context, and subtext.



A Sense of Place: The Geography of Global Change* (Full Year Course)

In this project-based course, students will learn and utilize geography skills and perspectives to explore vital real-world challenges related to our use and reliance upon natural, cultural, and economic resources. Students will gain a broad understanding of the world in which we live and the many forces that are shaping how we and our world will change in the near future.

Foodways: Sustainable Food Systems (Single Semester Course)

This single-semester course explores the many interconnected systems that work together to bring food from the farm to our tables. Learning about sustainable food systems will help students to understand how our food choices impact our communities and the wider world, allowing them to make more effective and intentional decisions about what they eat.



Science

Environmental Science for a Changing World (Full Year Course)

This course introduces fundamental ecological concepts and explores the interactions between all living things including humans and our environment. Students learn about the biosphere, major biomes, ecosystems, chemical cycles, and the role of living things in ecosystems. In addition to learning about environmental problems, students explore practical alternatives for protecting the environment and moving toward a sustainable future.

Biology: The Study of Life (Full Year Course)

The labs and activities included in the course explore important science skills in data collection, modeling, and exploration. Necessary materials are included in the Oak Meadow Biology Lab Kit.

Human Anatomy and Physiology (Single Semester Course)

This one-semester course covers topics related to human anatomy including circulation system, immune system, skeletal and muscular systems, and reproduction and development. Labs and activities help students fully explore lesson topics. A lab kit is available.

Chemistry with Lab (Full Year Course)

Students will get a rigorous hands-on introduction to the tools, terms, and practices of the study of chemistry. The course includes engaging and thought-provoking lessons, affording students a chance to read, write, and reflect on chemistry principles and their real-world applications.

Physics (Full Year Course)

This course combines traditional physics instruction with modern quantum theories of the nature of the universe. The subject is taught at an introductory level, which will allow the average student to grasp the concepts of Newton's laws, statics, dynamics, thermodynamics, optics, DC circuits, waves, electromagnetics, and special relativity.

Forensic Science (Single Semester Course)

This hands-on laboratory and project-based learning course will lead students through a foundation of law and criminal justice, the history of forensics, and modern scientific advances in the field. Hair, fibers, DNA, ballistics, serology, poisons, drugs, arson, explosions, fingerprinting, forgery, and entomology are studied in detail. The scientific method, data analysis, and powers of observation and critical thinking to solve a problem are addressed in all aspects of the course.



Fine Arts

Integrated Drawing (Full Year Course)

This experiential course is designed to help students of all skill levels learn to draw. Students learn the basics of perspective, shading, proportion, color, and compositional balance.

Drawing and Design (Full Year Course)

Students are introduced to the primary concepts of drawing and design using exercises and readings designed to enhance artistic skills and appreciation. These drawing and design principles develop a student's capacities to think creatively and to develop an eye for aesthetics.

Painting (Full Year Course)

This course introduces painting in terms of color and design, and explores representational skills as well as non-representational and abstract elements. Students will develop basic skills and creative thinking. They are asked to explore their creative thoughts in a written journal and conduct self-evaluations.

Introduction to Photography: The Eye, the Shutter, the Light, the Color (Single Semester Course)

This course will teach such fundamental concepts as frame, focus, and composition, while also exploring the more interpretive side of photography.



PORTRAIT OF MY BROTHER

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



World Languages

Latin I (Full Year Course)

Using a reading-based approach, students are introduced to Latin I grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure through a fictional storyline based on an actual household in Pompeii during the days prior to the great eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Latin II * (Full Year Course)

Latin II focuses on translation of works written in Latin. In addition, using readings and activities in a wide variety of topics, students learn more about the culture of the Roman people.

Latin III * (Full Year Course)

Latin III continues the translations of the Latin II works based more closely on historical fact. The setting is the 1st century A.D. both in Britain and in Rome.

Spanish I * (Full Year Course)

In this introductory Spanish I course, students are introduced to grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure while learning about the culture, history, and geography of a wide range of Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish II * (Full Year Course)

Spanish II is an intermediate-level course that uses both textbook and online material. Students begin to develop strong vocabulary and grammar skills through a study of culture, cultural readings, and writing.

Spanish III * (Full Year Course)

Students move to a higher level of the spoken and written language and become comfortable using Spanish in a wide variety of conversational and written activities. More advanced vocabulary and grammatical structures provide the basis for “real-life” activities that deepen the appreciation for different cultures throughout the Spanish-speaking world.



French I * (Full Year Course)

In this introduction to the study of French, the student will acquire listening, speaking, and writing skills through practice with vocabulary, dialogues, and stories. This course includes a strong focus on the life and culture of the French-speaking countries.

French II * (Full Year Course)

French II is an intermediate-level course that is studied both with a textbook and online. Each chapter contains sections on vocabulary, grammar, culture, cultural readings, writing, and review exercises.

French III * (Full Year Course)

This updated course consists of the student text and online access to links with valuable resources. Features include interactive activities, games, cultural videos, and electronic tutors.

Level IV Language Study * (Full Year Course)

Oak Meadow offers advanced study in all languages through an individualized tutorial developed in partnership with the language teacher. These full year courses give the student experience in reading literature, writing compositions, and exploring the culture through personal and creative projects.



Health

Integrated Health and Fitness (Full Year Course)

This course offers an in-depth evaluation of health and wellness, exploring all aspects of health including physical, emotional, and social well-being. It covers anatomy and body systems as a basis for understanding the body. It also takes a refreshing look at diet: while examining in detail the components of food, we also simplify the elements of diet to make it accessible. Some of the many topics covered are personal health care, drugs, sexuality, aging, alternative medicine, and the environment and health. An integral part of the course is fitness: students engage in a regular aerobic and strength building fitness program using a heart rate monitor as a tool.



Suggested High School Course Schedule

Course Credit Distribution

While this chart outlines the required course credit distribution for enrolled students seeking an Oak Meadow diploma, it is also a useful strategy for independent homeschoolers who are pursuing a typical college-preparatory education.

Required Course Credits

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| English | 4 credits |
| Math | 3 credits (4 recommended) |
| Social Studies | 4 credits |
| Science | 3 credits (4 recommended) |
| Fine Arts | 1 credit |
| World Language | 2 credits |
| Health | 1 credit |
| Fitness/PE | 1 credit |
| Advanced Study Project | 0.5 credits |
| Electives | 2.5 credits |

Sample Oak Meadow Course Schedule

This sample schedule is reflective of typical college-prep course selections. Oak Meadow provides this guide for enrolled students (note: families work with an educational counselor to create personalized schedules); independent homeschoolers will find it a useful template for their own planning.

Grade 9

| |
|------------------------------------|
| Composition: The Art of Expression |
| World History |
| Environmental Science |
| Algebra I |
| World Language I |
| Fine Arts/Elective |
| Fitness/PE |

Grade 11

| |
|--|
| American Literature |
| A Sense of Place: The Geography of Global Change |
| Chemistry with Lab |
| Algebra II |
| Integrated Health and Fitness |
| Electives |

Grade 10

| |
|--|
| Literature & Composition: The Hero's Journey |
| U.S. History |
| Biology: The Study of Life |
| Geometry |
| World Language II |
| Fine Arts/Elective |
| Fitness/PE |

Grade 12

| |
|-------------------------|
| British Literature |
| Media Literacy/Elective |
| Physics |
| Advanced Math |
| Advanced Study Project |
| Electives |

Using Our Curriculum Independently

Family Role

Families are responsible for maintaining a portfolio of their student's work and satisfying state homeschool reporting requirements. Families typically submit an "Intent to Homeschool" letter to their local school district and must comply with their state's department of education guidelines for reporting student progress. International students should check with their Ministry of Education.



Educational Counselors

Our educational counselors are available to assist and support families who are interested in our curriculum. Because they speak with so many families on a daily basis, our educational counselors are well versed in the kinds of questions you may have about Oak Meadow, homeschooling, and distance learning in general. Our team can guide you through the process of selecting the appropriate grade level to getting started and organized to course selection and academic planning for the high school student.

Support Programs and Resources

Foundations in Independent Learning

This six-module online teacher training program was developed by Oak Meadow and designed for parents and teachers who are supporting independent learners.

Homeschool Support

We offer a consultation service with an experienced Oak Meadow teacher via personalized phone conversations to support your homeschooling journey. Topics might include organization, pacing, planning, teaching multiple grades, and more.

Portfolio Evaluation Program

For families with students in grades K-4, this program includes a one-hour consultation with an Oak Meadow teacher at the beginning of each semester, a review of selected assignments at the end of each semester, and a comprehensive narrative evaluation upon completion. This is a way to get valuable assistance from an experienced teacher at important check points throughout the year and to have an assessment to submit to your state.

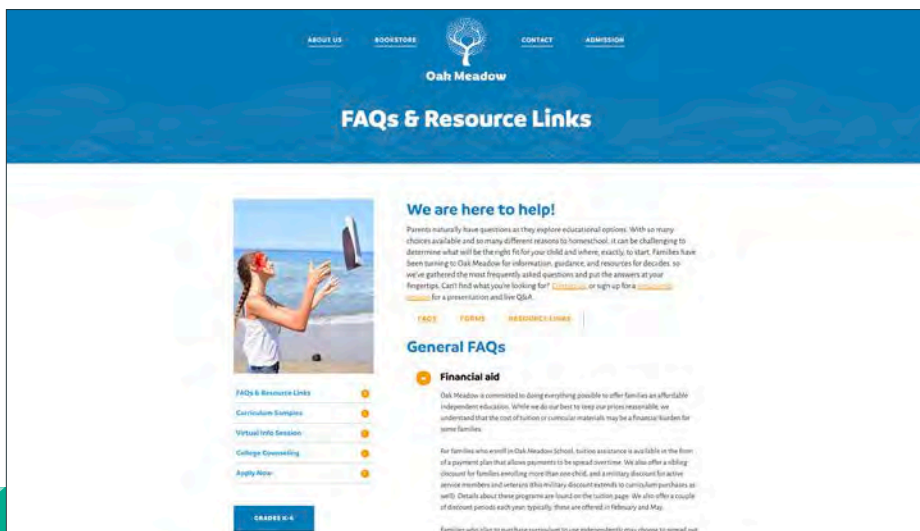


FAQs & Resource Links on the Oak Meadow Website

Find answers to our most frequently asked questions, as well as articles and free printables with information that ranges from getting organized to finding your homeschool rhythm to motivating middle schoolers.

Oak Meadow's Social Media Sites

Our social media expert posts and shares lots of informational, supportive, and fun homeschooling inspiration on our Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest pages.





Enrollment in our Distance Learning School

Our distance learning school is a unique model that combines the best of both worlds: an affordable independent school education and the freedom of homeschooling. When you enroll your child with Oak Meadow, you join a vibrant community of interesting, motivated, and dedicated teachers, parents, and students. Visit the admission page on our website for information about applying to Oak Meadow's accredited distance learning school.

What does enrollment include?

All course materials: Enrolled students receive print and digital versions of their Oak Meadow coursebooks.

One-to-one teacher support: Our teachers provide support, assessment, narrative evaluation, and grading. They develop meaningful relationships with families and personalized learning for each student.

Administrative support services: An educational counselor will work with you through the enrollment process, including correct grade placement and course selection. Our registrar maintains complete records and transcripts and issues certificates of enrollment and high school diplomas. Our school counselor is available to help with personal, social, or emotional challenges that might arise.

College counseling: Our experienced college counselor provides information about academic planning, SAT and ACT schedules, and the overall college admission process. The college counselor will also provide written letters of recommendation.



Flexible start dates: Courses can begin anytime of the year.

Connection and community: While Oak Meadow students and families study and learn at home, they are part of a virtual school community. Our teachers lead online workshops, book clubs, and pen pal programs to bring students who would like to participate together. We send an enrolled-only newsletter to share school and student news, and high school students can join OM Awesome, an online discussion group.

How does our distance learning school work?

Once your student is accepted, your educational counselor will work with you to set a Start Date. We ship your curriculum materials immediately so you have time to review them. You will also receive a Parent Handbook (K-8) or Student Handbook (high school), which details expectations, procedures, and policies.

Your student will work one-to-one with an assigned teacher(s). Parents and students communicate with teachers via email, phone, or video chat. Parents are given access to our parent portal, the Oak Meadow Gateway, to view teacher comments and grades and to track their student's progress.

Lessons are submitted electronically on a schedule established by the teacher (submission guidelines vary by grade level). We expect work to be completed within the 5-month (one semester) or 10-month (full year) time frame. An extension policy is in place for those who need extra time.

Teachers provide written feedback (and grades for the upper levels) on all submitted work, as well as narrative evaluations and grades at the end of each semester and end of the year.

Evaluations, grades, and high school transcripts are kept on file by the Oak Meadow registrar. Diplomas are awarded to those students who complete our graduation requirements.

Accreditation & Recognition

Oak Meadow is a fully accredited school that has met strict professional standards. Because our academic records and high school credits are backed by the prestige of our accrediting agencies, our school credits are easily transferable.

- Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
- Approved Independent School in the State of Vermont



Oak Meadow is an approved chapter of the **National Honor Society**, and our courses are **NCAA and A-G approved**. Our graduates include a U.S. Presidential Scholar, professional athletes, award-winning artists, world travelers, and more. They matriculate at the top colleges and universities across the United States.



Elementary (K-4) and Middle School (5-8)

We offer enrollment in our K-8 distance learning school for families who want more structure and guidance in their home learning environment. The parent remains the primary teacher in the elementary grades, while the Oak Meadow teacher supports the parent in the teaching process. In the middle grades, the student works more directly with their teacher, with parents taking on a supporting role. Teachers can customize lessons to meet student interest and skill.

- In grades K-4, parents are responsible for submitting student work to the teacher. Teachers are happy to discuss different methods for lesson submission and evaluation; for example, you may set up a video chat to display and discuss work in real time.
- In grades 5-8, students work more independently and are expected to submit their own work to the teacher, with parent guidance as needed.
- Teachers support the home teacher as well as the student.
- The Oak Meadow registrar maintains official cumulative records and provides a certificate of completion at the end of the year.



High School

Students who enroll in our distance learning school may take a single course for transferable credit, or they can choose a course of study to meet our graduation requirements and receive an Oak Meadow diploma. Students wishing to graduate from Oak Meadow must be a full-time student for both semesters of their senior year.

- Students are assigned a different teacher for each course, submit assignments electronically, and communicate with their teachers by email, phone, or video chat. Some teachers arrange collaborative studying and learning experiences with other students enrolled in the course.
- Many students combine their extracurricular pursuits and passions with their home academic study, and teachers are prepared to help them customize their coursework and lesson submission to accommodate these other interests.
- We offer creative ways to earn credit such as Advanced Study Project, Life Experience Credit, and dual enrollment.

(See next page for more details.)



Signature Programs

Advanced Study Project

The Advanced Study Project (ASP) offers enrolled students the chance to engage in an exciting and relevant academic, professional, or hybrid study of their own design while earning credit and preparing for the challenging work of college and beyond. Students develop a specific area of interest by working with both a local mentor and an Oak Meadow faculty advisor, who guide them through the initial process of shaping and fine-tuning their proposal, developing an outline and planning sheet, all the way to the completion of the final project. Credit may be transferred to another program.

Life Experience Credit

Through our Life Experience Credit program, enrolled students can earn up to one full elective credit per year for their work experience, music lessons, sports activities, visual and fine arts projects, dance, martial arts, and more.

Dual Enrollment

Oak Meadow encourages dual enrollment and supports students who wish to pursue academic interests beyond the Oak Meadow course offerings. Courses taken at other accredited schools can be included, with approval of our high school program director and registrar, on the student's Oak Meadow transcript. Oak Meadow students frequently participate in classroom science labs, group language courses, and other classes at their local high school or community college, and through study-abroad programs.

Examples of Advanced Study Projects

by Oak Meadow students

Ariana's ASP focused on fashion design using second-hand clothing. She explored the history of the clothing industry and the associated waste of materials, then she began designing new creations from used or discarded pieces. Ariana kept careful track of her expenses, explaining how much she spent and saved in the process of recycling each article. A portfolio of drawings and photographs brought the project to life; for example, she illustrated how an old tablecloth reemerged as a beautiful 1950s-style coat.

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Quaid's family was forced to move out of their home due to mold infestation. As a result, Quaid decided to learn everything he could about mold, mycotoxins, remediation methods, and health issues caused by mold exposure. For his ASP, he created a website that told his family's story, along with an extensive list of information and resources to help people deal with the negative effects of mold exposure. Subsequently, Quaid became a part-time salesperson for a line of air filters.

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For her ASP, **Catherine** chose to learn about the professional horse business, specifically, eventing. Working as an intern at a training farm in Virginia, Catherine was involved in several aspects of horse care: taking lessons in dressage, jumping, and cross country (three aspects of eventing), training her horse, and competing. She also interviewed trainers, the barn manager, and veterinarians. Her goal is to become a professional horse trainer and to compete at the international level, and this ASP allowed her to focus on the skills needed to pursue her dream.



Oak Meadow Staff and Faculty

Educational Counselors

Our educational counselors, who serve as the Oak Meadow admission team, assist and support families through the application and enrollment process, and they typically continue as the family's advisor throughout the student's Oak Meadow career. They all have a background in education and a specialized knowledge of homeschooling.

Faculty

Our teachers are passionate about independent learning; many earned advanced degrees and taught at independent, experiential, and Waldorf-inspired schools before coming to Oak Meadow. They form a close-knit community that meets monthly as a group to discuss student progress, new courses and teaching methods, and trends in distance learning. Those who teach similar grades often communicate weekly, if not daily. Teachers provide individualized support and feedback in the form of detailed lesson comments; phone, email, and video communication; and comprehensive, narrative evaluations. Enrolled students develop warm and positive working relationships with their teachers that often last for years.

Registrar

The registrar tracks all Oak Meadow grades and coursework, evaluates transcripts for transfer students, supplies academic records upon request, reviews and pre-approves alternative courses for credit transfer, submits required documentation in support of college applications, and reviews and awards credit for extracurricular activities.

School Counselor

The school counselor works with students one-to-one to provide academic and social or emotional support. She assists students in building strong and supportive relationships among faculty and peers and advocates on the behalf of those who may require extra support. The goal is to guide students to become the healthiest version of themselves in school and to reach their unique path to success. The school counselor also works with students who have learning or emotional differences and assists in developing individualized learning plans that allow for accommodations or modifications to the curriculum.

College Counselor

With years of experience in the field, our college counselor helps you think ahead, prepare, and navigate the college admission process. This service is included with tuition for enrolled students, and offered at an hourly rate to all homeschoolers.

To Apply for Enrollment

Visit the Admission page on our website, and fill out an online application form. There is no fee to apply.

Learn More About Oak Meadow

Virtual Info Sessions

Attend a live virtual info session about Oak Meadow's comprehensive homeschool curriculum and flexible, teacher-supported distance school, followed by a Q & A session. Sign up on our website.

FAQs

Families have been turning to Oak Meadow for information, guidance, and resources for decades, so we've gathered the most frequently asked questions and provided answers on our website.

Open House

Each year families gather from all over the country to celebrate homeschooling with Oak Meadow at our annual Open House in Brattleboro, Vermont. See our website for more information.

Questions?

We're happy to answer any questions you have or to supply any information you need. Visit the Contact Us page on our website, and we will reply promptly.

Visit our bookstore

Go to oakmeadowbookstore.com to view all of our curriculum and resource materials.

Join our mailing list

Sign up on our website and receive notices about special discounts and promotions, and our monthly newsletter.



Oak Meadow: K-12 Curriculum and Distance Learning School

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