Oak Meadow K-12 Curriculum and Distance Learning School
WELCOME

Oak Meadow was founded in 1975 by Lawrence and Bonnie Williams, parents who wanted to find an educational option to traditional schooling for their four young children. Together they created an experiential, student-centered curriculum that honors the natural development of children. At the same time, they helped pioneer the modern homeschooling movement. 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 independently, and 500 students enroll in our 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.
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent Use</th>
<th>Distance Learning School</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elementary (K-4)</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Middle School (5-8)</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High School (9-12)</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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 Enrichment Package (optional)*

*Craft kit available for separate purchase.*

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

**Enrichment 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**

### Language Arts / Social Studies
- Uppercase letters
- Letter sounds and shapes
- Stories, poetry, and songs

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

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

### 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.
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 Enrichment 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Arts</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Upper- and lowercase letters A-Z</td>
<td>• Classic fairy tales</td>
<td>• Phases of the moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Long and short vowel sounds</td>
<td>• Daily and monthly cycles</td>
<td>• Constellations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fairy tales and poetry</td>
<td>• Yearly calendar</td>
<td>• Life cycle of the seed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Word families</td>
<td>• Seasonal animal behavior, tracks, and hibernation</td>
<td>• Animal observations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Printing words</td>
<td>• Deciduous and coniferous trees</td>
<td>• Weather and cloud formations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Phonics</td>
<td>• Navigating with a compass</td>
<td>• Four processes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mapmaking and reading maps</td>
<td>• Ordinal numbers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Using a globe</td>
<td>• 2, 5, 10 times tables</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Translating story problems into equations</td>
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<td>• Missing numbers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Mental Math</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Counting/sorting</td>
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<td>• Form drawing</td>
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<td>• Odd and even</td>
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<td>• Number bonds</td>
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<td>• Multistep problems</td>
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<td>• 3 times tables</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Mental math</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Relationships between math processes</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Equations in vertical format</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Cumulative property of addition</td>
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</table>

### Second Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Arts</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Fairy Tales</td>
<td>• Goods and services</td>
<td>• Diurnal and nocturnal animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Form drawing</td>
<td>• Marketplace exchanges</td>
<td>• Forms of matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Printing words</td>
<td>• Saving and spending</td>
<td>• Pond and forest life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Independent reading</td>
<td>• • Saving and spending</td>
<td>• Seed dispersal</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Pollination and bees</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Planting and charting plant growth</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Scientific inquiry</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Life cycle of a butterfly</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 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.
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 Enrichment Package (optional)
Intermediate Recorder
Tuck-Me-In Tales
Four Fun Friends
Just So Stories
Ben and Meg
Fables

Craft kit available for separate purchase.
# Second Grade Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Arts</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Art</th>
<th>Music</th>
<th>Crafts</th>
<th>Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Semester</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Independent reading</td>
<td>• Folklore of Ancient China</td>
<td>• Animal observation and research</td>
<td>• Four processes</td>
<td>Students explore color through watercolor painting and crayon drawing as they illustrate the many stories and poems presented in language arts.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Writing short paragraphs</td>
<td>• Ancient Mali and Sundiata</td>
<td>• Charting data</td>
<td>• Vertical and horizontal equations</td>
<td>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.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Consonant blends and word families</td>
<td>• Ancient Celts</td>
<td>• Interdependence in nature</td>
<td>• Missing numbers</td>
<td>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 <em>Crafts for Early Grades</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Poetry</td>
<td>• Family customs and traditions</td>
<td>• Sorting and classifying</td>
<td>• Writing numbers in expanded forms</td>
<td>The book <em>Healthy Living from the Start</em> 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.</td>
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<td>Second Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Fables and other classic stories</td>
<td>• Cardinal and ordinal directions</td>
<td>• Place value</td>
<td>• Location value</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Summarizing stories</td>
<td>• Map reading and using a globe</td>
<td>• Number patterns</td>
<td>• Number bonds to 20</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Descriptive writing</td>
<td>• Climate regions</td>
<td>• Form drawing</td>
<td>• Multistep mental math</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Memorization and recitation</td>
<td>• Continents and oceans</td>
<td>• Mental math</td>
<td>• Multistep problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Sight words</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Semester</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Animal stories and fables</td>
<td>• Vowel/consonant combinations</td>
<td>• Vertebrates and invertebrates</td>
<td>• Times table up to 12</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Dramatic storytelling</td>
<td>• Creative writing</td>
<td>• Warm- and cold-blooded animals</td>
<td>• Borrowing in subtraction</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Independent reading</td>
<td>• Comparison writing</td>
<td>• Food chain</td>
<td>• Greater than / less than</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Summarizing stories</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Vowel combinations</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Life of a frog</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Animal behavior and communication</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Animal classification</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Kindness and reciprocity</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Animal classification</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Honesty and tall tales</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Life of a frog</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Qualities of good leadership</td>
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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 Enrichment Package (optional)
- Advanced Recorder
- Oak Meadow First Cookbook
- Folk Tales
- D’Nealian Handwriting Cursive
- The Wizard of Oz
- The Velveteen Rabbit
- Charlotte’s Web
- Pippi Longstocking
- Winnie the Pooh
- Little House in the Big Woods
- The All-New Woodworking for Kids

Craft kit available for separate purchase.
# Third Grade Overview

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<th>Language Arts</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Sentence composition</td>
<td>• Spelling rules</td>
<td>• Syllabication</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Paragraph composition</td>
<td>• Folk talks and classic literature</td>
<td>• Poetry and classic literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Memorization and recitation</td>
<td>• Cursive handwriting</td>
<td>• Cursive handwriting</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Suffixes</td>
<td>• Reading aloud with fluency</td>
<td>• Reading aloud with fluency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Parts of speech</td>
<td>• Story summaries</td>
<td>• Story summaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Punctuation and capitalization</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Vowel-consonant combinations</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Ancient cultures</td>
<td>• Latitude and longitude</td>
<td>• Interdependence of resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ancient writing systems</td>
<td>• Mapping skills</td>
<td>• Traditional jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Native American creation stories</td>
<td>• Continents and oceans</td>
<td>• Specialization and trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• American Frontier</td>
<td>• Ancestry</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Movements of Earth and moon</td>
<td>• Weather patterns and phenomena</td>
<td>• Seasonal weather cycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gravity</td>
<td>• Seasonal changes</td>
<td>• Biomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Decomposition</td>
<td>• Global climate zones</td>
<td>• Earthquakes and volcanoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Photosynthesis</td>
<td>• The water cycle</td>
<td>• Erosion and weathering</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The water cycle</td>
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<th>Math</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Commutative and associative properties</td>
<td>• Telling time</td>
<td>• Form drawing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Borrowing and carrying</td>
<td>• Weights and measures</td>
<td>• Geometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ordinal numbers</td>
<td>• Money math</td>
<td>• Division with remainders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Zeros in multiplication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students explore color through watercolor painting and crayon drawing as they illustrate the many stories and poems presented in language arts.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Music</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students continue to develop their recorder playing skills by learning several new notes and mastering simple songs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crafts</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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 <em>Crafts for the Early Grades</em>.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The book <em>Healthy Living from the Start</em> 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.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Form drawing</td>
<td>• Rock cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Geometry</td>
<td>• Geology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Division with remainders</td>
<td>• Extinct and endangered species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Roman numerals</td>
<td>• Temperature measurements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Multistep mental math</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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*
- *Heidi*
- *The Trumpet of the Swan*
- *Stuart Little*
- *Treasury for Children*
- *Native Legends*
- *The Sign of the Beaver*
- *Jeweler’s loupes*

Craft kit available for separate purchase.
## Fourth Grade Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Arts</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parts of speech</td>
<td>State geography and landforms</td>
<td>Dialogue punctuation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal writing</td>
<td>State symbol, flag, and bird</td>
<td>Short story writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraphing skills</td>
<td>State history</td>
<td>Plurals and possessives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revision skills</td>
<td></td>
<td>Editing and proofreading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence variety</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grammar rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorization and recitation</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topography observation and model</td>
<td>Colonial America</td>
<td>California Gold Rush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent and migrating animals</td>
<td>Mapping skills</td>
<td>Pony Express</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American research paper</td>
<td>Native American leaders</td>
<td>Transcontinental Railroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model of Native American village</td>
<td>Material culture of pioneers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Model of pioneer settlement</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geometry and patterns in nature</td>
<td>Seed dispersal</td>
<td>Nature observations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship between form and function</td>
<td>Animal species and breeds</td>
<td>Constellations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charting data</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>Moon and gravity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basic cell structure</td>
<td>Solar system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Planet research project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrying and borrowing</td>
<td>Adding and subtracting fractions</td>
<td>Mixed numbers and improper fractions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division with remainders</td>
<td>Money math</td>
<td>Equivalent fractions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multistep word problems</td>
<td>Rounding and estimating</td>
<td>Common denominator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weights and measures</td>
<td>Long division</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-digit multiplication</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman numerals</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Music</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 grade 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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Math</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Semester</strong></td>
<td><strong>Second Semester</strong></td>
<td><strong>First Semester</strong></td>
<td><strong>Second Semester</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| • 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 | • 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** | **Social Studies** | **Math** | **Science** |
| • Basics in Environmental Science  
  • Scientific inquiry  
  • Indicator species  
  • Wetlands model  
  • Metric conversions  
  • Ecosystem diversity  
  • Biomes | • Basic Life and Physical Science  
  • Weather patterns  
  • Classification systems  
  • Human body structures and systems  
  • States of matter  
  • Types of energy  
  • Principles of physics | • 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 |
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

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

### 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

### 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

### 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

## Second Semester

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

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

### Math
- 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
First Grade

First 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
Lab Investigations: Earth Science
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Math</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Semester</strong></td>
<td><strong>Second Semester</strong></td>
<td><strong>First Semester</strong></td>
<td><strong>Second Semester</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Paragraph and sentence structures&lt;br&gt;• Dependent and independent clauses&lt;br&gt;• Prewriting techniques&lt;br&gt;• Confusing word pairs&lt;br&gt;• Citing sources and plagiarism&lt;br&gt;• Spelling rules and frequently misspelled words</td>
<td><strong>LITERATURE</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Analysis of literary themes&lt;br&gt;• Analogy, metaphor, and simile&lt;br&gt;• Story predictions&lt;br&gt;• Plot and character development&lt;br&gt;• Poetry</td>
<td><strong>GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Types of nouns and pronouns&lt;br&gt;• Verb tenses&lt;br&gt;• Shifts in tense and person&lt;br&gt;• Subject/verb agreement&lt;br&gt;• Dangling and misplaced modifiers&lt;br&gt;• Parallel construction&lt;br&gt;• Writing a business letter</td>
<td><strong>LITERATURE</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Free verse&lt;br&gt;• Citing textual evidence&lt;br&gt;• Story structure&lt;br&gt;• Family stories&lt;br&gt;• Biographies and autobiographies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Studies</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Empires of Asia&lt;br&gt;• European Age of Enlightenment&lt;br&gt;• French Revolution&lt;br&gt;• Industrial Revolution</td>
<td><strong>LITERATURE</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Slavery and U.S. Civil War&lt;br&gt;• Nationalism and Imperialism&lt;br&gt;• World Wars</td>
<td><strong>Social Studies</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Variables and controlled experiments&lt;br&gt;• Movement of Earth and moon&lt;br&gt;• Astronomy&lt;br&gt;• Geology&lt;br&gt;• Weathering and erosion&lt;br&gt;• Plate tectonics&lt;br&gt;• Student-led scientific inquiry</td>
<td><strong>Social Studies</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Influential people in history&lt;br&gt;• United Nations&lt;br&gt;• Cold War&lt;br&gt;• Conflicts in Asia and the Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Order of operations&lt;br&gt;• Factors and prime numbers&lt;br&gt;• Simple and compound interest&lt;br&gt;• Equations with missing numbers&lt;br&gt;• Metric units of measure&lt;br&gt;• Signed numbers&lt;br&gt;• Rules of equations&lt;br&gt;• Probability and probability in a series&lt;br&gt;• Using a calculator</td>
<td><strong>Science</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Global climate change&lt;br&gt;• Meteorology&lt;br&gt;• Water cycle&lt;br&gt;• Atmosphere pressure and wind patterns&lt;br&gt;• Earth’s resources&lt;br&gt;• Human population growth</td>
<td><strong>Science</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Circumference and area of a circle&lt;br&gt;• Construction triangles and calculating area&lt;br&gt;• Applying and transforming formulas&lt;br&gt;• Applying functions to find unknown values&lt;br&gt;• Ratios and proportions&lt;br&gt;• Bisecting lines and angles&lt;br&gt;• Volume of geometric solids&lt;br&gt;• Roots and exponents of fractions and negative numbers&lt;br&gt;• Scientific notation&lt;br&gt;• Graphing a line for an equation</td>
<td><strong>Science</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Biodiversity and habitat loss&lt;br&gt;• Student-led scientific inquiry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 ½ 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
Lab Investigations: Physical Science
Saxon Algebra ½
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Math: Algebra ½</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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  |
| • 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  |
| • 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  |
| • Graphs  
• Decimals  
• Percentages  
• Measuring length, area, and volume  
• Algebraic equations  
• Rate word problems  
• Scientific notation  |
| Second Semester |
| COMPOSITION | • Timed essay  
• Writing a book review  
• Timeline of biographical events  
• Interviewing skills  
• Writing in verse  |
| LITERATURE | • Vocation and responsibilities  
• Branches of the U.S. federal government  
• State and local government  
• Media influence and news literacy  
• Civic involvement  
• Earth stewardship  |
| • Voting rights and responsibilities  
• Branches of the U.S. federal government  
• State and local government  
• Media influence and news literacy  
• Civic involvement  
• Earth stewardship  |
| • Properties of waves  
• Electromagnetic spectrum  
• Reflection, absorption, and refraction of light  
• Electric charge and electrical current  
• Measuring and controlling electricity  |
| • 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.
Composition: Expression and Understanding*

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

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

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

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

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

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
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: Natives, Naturalists, Immigrants, and Settlers
This course explores how the United States developed its shape and character throughout the 19th century by way of the movement called the Westward Expansion. By reading and reflecting on the words, artwork, and novels that contain their stories, we will come closer to the authentic experiences of those who then lived in the United States of America. Students will develop independent projects based on their reading, their experiences, and the history of their family.

Word: The Poet’s Voice
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 *
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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

U.S. History
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
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.

U.S. Government
The U.S. Government course is based upon the premise that analyzing current information is essential to an effective citizenry. It asks students to research, compare, contrast, and think critically about government-related issues. Students learn the ideals behind the American system of government and the mechanics of its operation in preparation for taking their places as independent thinking citizens of the nation.

World Geography
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.

Religions of the World
Using a comparative approach, this course explores the rich diversity of religious life beginning with defining religion according to its role and purpose in human life. Within a cultural and historical context, students will explore a variety of human religious responses including symbol, sacred text, myth, belief, and rituals.

World Religions: Finding Common Ground*
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.
The Modern Middle East
This is an introduction to the history, religious life, and politics of the Middle East. Focusing on the region’s confrontation with the West since Napoleon’s invasion of Egypt in 1798, students will learn how European colonialism introduced modern and secular ideas into the Middle East, creating tensions with traditional patterns of belief and culture. Students will explore how the intrusive actions of Western colonizers caused the region’s political affairs to become weak and unstable. The course also looks at the conflicts between Israel and its regional neighbors, the role of Islamic revivalist movements, and the impact of oil.

Psychology
This experiential psychology course is designed to help students become more aware of themselves as unique individuals. Using their own experiences as a guide, students are encouraged to be scientists in the process of exploring themselves and their place in the universe as they examine such topics as love, beauty, joy, spontaneity, and self-actualization.

Media Literacy: Critical Analysis of Media and Culture
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.

Social Justice: Navigating Cultural Competence in the 21st Century *
In this 18-week discussion course, students will engage with multimedia ranging from videos, social media, articles, graphics, and many other tools to explore and discuss a range of social justice issues. Students will also explore and discuss the historical and modern perspective while connecting the intersections of race, class, gender, culture, religion, and many other challenging issues erupting in the U.S. and the world today.

A Sense of Place: The Geography of Global Change *
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.
Science

Environmental Science for a Changing World

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

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 *

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

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

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.
**Fine Arts**

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

**The Study of Music**
Students are introduced to both the theory and history of music from monophonic chant to modern popular music. By studying and listening to music across the centuries, students gain a broad perspective of an art form that draws all humanity together.
World Languages

Latin I
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 *
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 *
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
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 *
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 *
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 *
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 *
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 *
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 *
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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>3 credits (4 recommended)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3 credits (4 recommended)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>2 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness/PE</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Study Project</td>
<td>0.5 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>2.5 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 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 11

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

#### Grade 12

- British Literature
- The Modern Middle East
- 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 Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)
- 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 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.
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 Elective 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 Elective Credit**
Through our Life Experience Elective 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.

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**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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**Catherine’s** ASP focused on 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 Skype 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.