

Curriculum: We provide our students with opportunities to be active learners. As they are learning a new concept, it is important for them to test their understanding. This allows a teacher to see what a child knows and understands and what they need to work on. At SCS, we see mistakes as a learning opportunity. We create an environment where students feel comfortable taking risks, making mistakes and receiving feedback. Learning takes time. Students need room to explore their understanding of concepts and to practice skills until they are truly secure in them. Often new learners grasp a concept and then lose it again. This means that they are still developing their understanding and will need to revisit the concept. Our teachers work together to ensure that our curriculum follows a coherent scope and sequence across the grades.

Math: Seacoast Charter School has adopted a math program called Investigations, researched and written by Technical Education Research Center (TERC). TERC is a nonprofit research and development organization whose mission is to improve mathematics, science, and technology teaching and learning. TERC, founded in 1965, is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. TERC staff includes researchers, scientists, and mathematicians, and curriculum and professional development specialists who ground their work on inquiry-based approaches that deepen all learners' understandings. We chose this program because of its emphasis on building a coherent approach to understanding the big ideas in math and building mastery in essential concepts. We believe that we can use this program effectively as we work to meet the new Common Core Standards in Mathematics.

Reading: At SCS, students spend time each day engaged in actual reading—either by reading independently or listening to a book read aloud. We focus on reading across the curriculum, and reading a wide range of genres. For example, in social studies and science, students read expository texts and reference books to gather information for their research projects. While we believe there is value in learning to use the internet for research, we believe it is also important to know how to gather information from actual books. By the end of the year, our students are quite comfortable using an index and table of contents.

Writing: We believe that students need to write in order to become better writers. Our approach to writing follows the John Collins Writing program, which is a multi-draft process in which students learn to edit their work for style, content and mechanics. They write across the curriculum and in a variety of genres including friendly letters, personal narratives, research writing, and fiction. Students are responsible for revising and editing their work, and they keep writing portfolios in order to manage their various projects, reflect on progress, and set goals for future learning.

Core Knowledge: We follow the Core Knowledge Curriculum for Social Studies and Science. We find that students are naturally curious and ask many questions. We teach them how to find answers to their questions through research or by conducting experiments. Below is a list of some of the topics that will be covered this year in their Social Studies and Science classes:

Social Studies Curriculum:

<u>First and Second</u>	<u>Third</u>	<u>Fourth</u>	<u>Fifth and Sixth</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · What is a Civilization? · Mesopotamia · Ancient Egypt · Asia · The Americas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Mesopotamia · Ancient Egypt · Ancient Greece · Ancient Rome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Middle Ages · Islam · Ancient Africa · US History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Maya, Inca, Aztec · Renaissance · Exploration · Early Russia · Constitution · Westward Expansion · Pre-Civil War · Civil War

Science Curriculum:

First and Second	Third and Fourth	Fifth and Sixth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Life Science (Earth, Environment, Habitat) · Nature Cycles · Human Body (Body Systems) · Insects · Electricity · Magnets · Inventors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Human Body (Circulatory and Respiratory) · Chemistry · Electricity · Geology · Meteorology · Science Biographies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Plate Tectonics · Oceans · Astronomy · Energy, Heat and Energy Transfer · Human Body (Lymphatic, Immune and Reproductive Systems) · Science Biographies