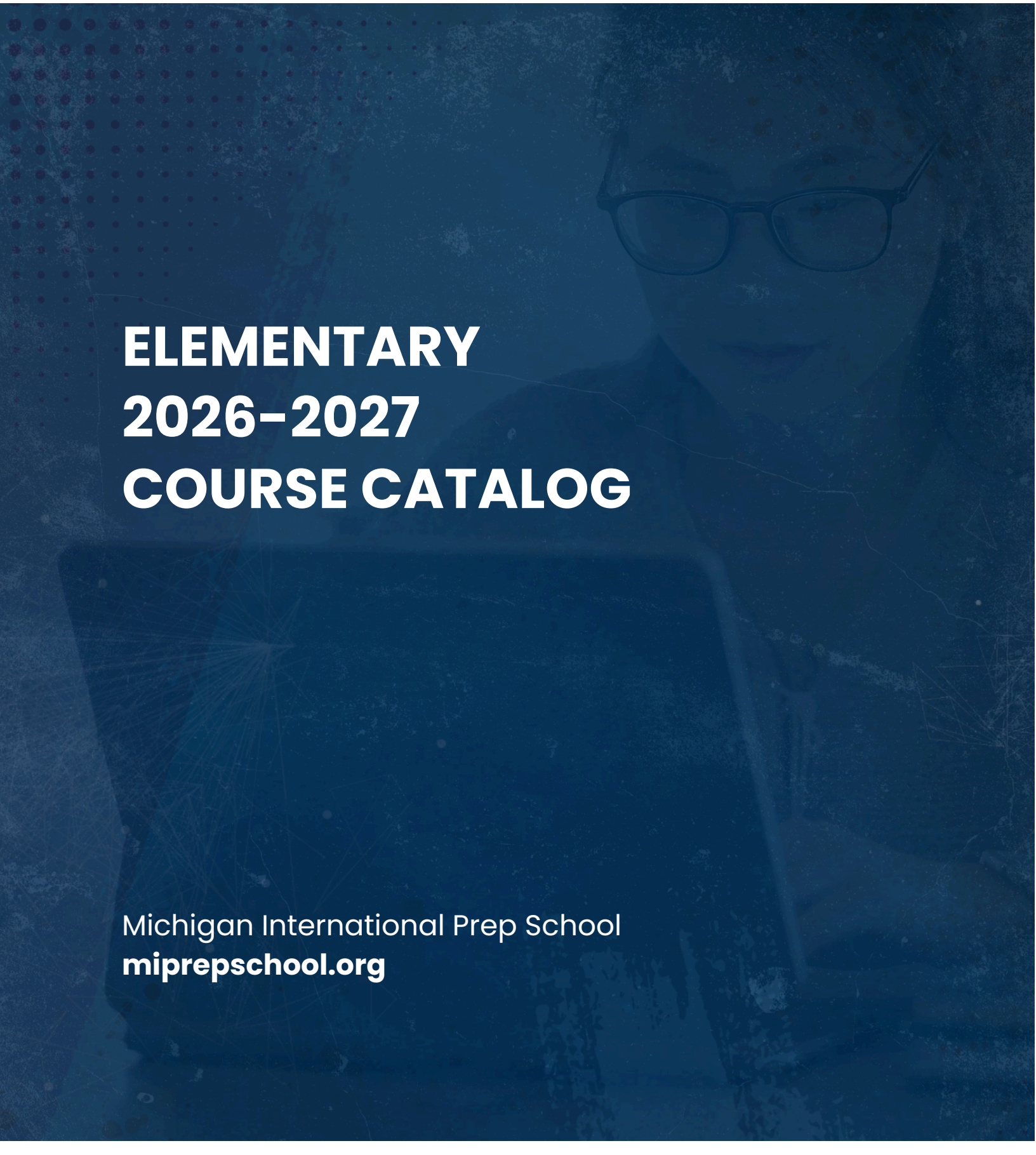
MICHIGAN
INTERNATIONAL
PREP SCHOOL



ELEMENTARY
2026-2027
COURSE CATALOG

Michigan International Prep School
miprepschool.org

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Learn about the expectations, course descriptions, and curriculum overview for elementary students at Michigan International Prep School.

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VISION STATEMENT

To create an individualized educational pathway that inspires a passion for learning, cultivates a global awareness, and prepares students for a smooth transition into the workforce.

MISSION STATEMENT

Michigan International Prep School serves students and families first!

MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL PREP SCHOOL

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Our program features live lessons in core subjects such as Math, ELA, Science, STEM, and Social Studies across all grade levels. We provide individualized support through small group sessions, one-on-one tutoring, and dedicated mentor check-ins to ensure each student receives the attention they need. Our robust intervention programs, combined with social and emotional support groups, foster a well-rounded learning environment.

We also emphasize the importance of parental involvement and student preparedness, ensuring a collaborative and engaging educational experience. With opportunities for creative arts, virtual field trips, and a focus on consistent student engagement, MIPS Elementary is dedicated to empowering students to reach their full potential.

Elementary Parent Resources

Elementary Staff Bios

Highlights

- Whole group live lessons with a teacher or asynchronous options
- Small group support and instruction at student's level
- Dedicated mentors to provide support for families
- Robust intervention program
- Field Trip & In-person activities and opportunities
- Social and emotional support groups
- Weekly progress reports to help students stay on pace

Platforms, Curriculums, Resources, & Assessments:

- Lincoln Learning
- Buzz
- Google Classroom
- Orton-Gillingham (OG)
- EnVisions+
- Literacy Footprints
- Lincoln Learning
- Heggerty Phonemic Awareness
- Bridges Math Intervention
- MIPS Created Curriculum
- Risas y Sonrisas Spanish for Kids
- iReady
- Acadience

MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL PREP SCHOOL

CORE COURSES

Language Arts	2 semesters
Required Core Course Grades K-5	Lincoln

These courses comprehensively develop students' reading, writing, spelling, speaking, and listening skills. The program progresses developmentally from foundational skills for emerging learners to sophisticated expression and critical analysis.

- **K:** Develops skills in reading, writing, spelling, speaking, and listening. Students learn the alphabet, sight words, basic grammar, mechanics (capitalization, punctuation, printing, sentence formation), and early comprehension skills such as identifying story elements, summarizing, and comparing/contrasting.
- **1st:** Develops emergent reading skills, interprets diverse texts for main ideas and details, and expands vocabulary using morphemic and contextual analysis. Writing will focus on improved grammar, longer sentences, and producing opinion, informational, and narrative pieces. Research skills will be introduced through the use of book parts and digital publishing tools.
- **2nd:** Students begin to transition from focusing on core reading skills to using those skills to comprehend and interpret texts. They will build phonemic awareness and word recognition across genres. They will analyze texts for theme, viewpoint, and author's purpose. Writing covers narrative, argumentative, and informative essays, plus creative pieces, utilizing transitions. Students will also develop research skills by synthesizing multi-source information for reports.
- **3rd:** Students will enhance reading fluency, complex text analysis (tone, figurative language, genre), and grammar (parts of speech, tenses, structure). Students develop speaking and listening skills through oral presentations. Writing instruction includes drafting and revising scripts and autobiographies. Research skills cover note-taking, organization, and gathering information from print and electronic sources.
- **4th:** Students develop strong writing skills across genres, covering the complete writing process and advanced grammar, including complex sentence structure. This year also emphasizes reading comprehension via comparative literature, builds research skills through short projects, and refines speaking skills with multimedia presentations.
- **5th:** Students develop foundational reading and analysis skills through diverse texts, focusing on inferential thinking, comparing accounts, and interpreting figurative language. Writing tasks include a thesis essay, persuasive letter, speech, and script. Students also refine research skills (source usage, plagiarism, bibliography) and practice fact-based presentation skills.

Math	2 semesters
Required Core Course Grades K-5	Platform: Buzz

Elementary Math is a two-semester course that utilizes the EnVisions+ curriculum to enhance students' mathematical skills and problem-solving strategies. The curriculum progresses across the elementary grades, moving from foundational skills to more abstract reasoning and quantitative modeling.

- **K:** Focuses on core concepts including number identification, rote counting to 100, comparing quantities (more/less) and basic measurements (longer/shorter), simple addition and subtraction, and an introduction to basic geometry and shape attributes.
- **1st:** Builds foundational numeracy, problem-solving, and reasoning skills. The curriculum covers fluent addition/subtraction, numbers to 100 (place value, comparison), measurement, geometry, time, and data, using hands-on, real-world activities for conceptual understanding and confidence.
- **2nd:** Focuses on mental math and problem-solving, requiring students to explain their methods. Core topics include number sense (counting to 1,000, place value, addition/subtraction), measurement (standard units, time, money), basic fractions, and data representation (line plots, picture graphs, bar graphs).
- **3rd:** The primary focus is building strong foundational skills in multiplication and division, including exploring their relationship and using the order of operations to solve word problems. Students practice multi-digit arithmetic using place value, rounding numbers to the nearest ten or hundred, and refining money skills by making change. They are also introduced to area and perimeter, and work with fractions as numbers, including generating equivalent fractions and comparing them.
- **4th:** Students refine existing skills in place value (up to 1 million), measurement, geometry, fractions, and decimals. New concepts include factors and multiples (1-100), explaining multiplication using equations and area models, converting measurements (e.g., feet to inches), and using a protractor to measure and sketch angles. The course emphasizes writing equivalent fractions, ordering, comparing, and converting between fractions and decimals.
- **5th:** This course covers abstract and quantitative reasoning, argumentation, and mathematical modeling. Key topics include fractions, decimals, exponents (powers of 10), volume calculation, shape classification, and graphing data on a plot line and coordinate plane to solve real-world problems.

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Science	2 semesters
Required Core Course Grades K-5	Platform: Lincoln Learning

The program covers physical, life, and Earth sciences, emphasizing hands-on learning, observation, experimentation, and scientific inquiry.

- **K:** This introductory course teaches emerging learners to formulate questions, predict, and investigate the natural world, using basic tools and their five senses to observe and describe plants, animals, their environments, weather types, seasonal changes, and the characteristics of force.
- **1st:** Students extend their exploration of the natural world by practicing prediction, observation, and experimentation, investigating ecosystems and habitats, identifying the basic needs of living things, learning about natural resources, and examining matter, light, sound, the water cycle, and force and motion.
- **2nd:** This course encourages students to make sense of the world by observing and experimenting with matter, energy, and physical/chemical changes, studying interdependence in ecosystems (like the role of bees and natural resource conservation), examining the water and life cycles, and developing scientific inquiry skills to make inferences and communicate findings.
- **3rd:** Students explore the natural world, learning that light and sound are energy, explaining the cycles of seasons and day/night, examining Earth's biomes and animal/plant adaptations, acting as junior meteorologists to observe and predict weather, investigating chemical reactions, energy, magnetism, and electricity, and using fossils and geologic time scales to understand Earth's past.
- **4th:** Laying a foundation for STEM, this course introduces technology and engineering concepts such as simple/complex machines and the engineering design process, while expanding knowledge in physics (waves), chemistry (atoms, conservation of mass), genetics, ecosystems, Earth's landforms/rocks/soil, and space science (solar system and Milky Way).
- **5th:** Placing emphasis on "doing science" through models, experiments, and projects like creating terrariums and electromagnets, students study plant and animal cells, photosynthesis, ecosystem roles, advanced Earth science topics (landforms, volcanic activity, atmosphere, revolution/tilt), core physics concepts (energy transformation, gravitation, Newton's laws), and use the engineering design process to solve real-world problems.

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Social Studies	2 semesters
Required Core Course Grades K-5	Platform: Buzz

This course integrates civics, history, geography, and economics, progressing from foundational concepts to complex understanding of U.S. government, world history, and advanced global concepts. It develops critical historical research skills—including source identification, fact vs. opinion, timeline use, and document analysis—to foster active, responsible citizenship.

- **K:** Students explore social studies through personal timelines, examining past, present, and future. They learn basic map navigation, how the environment meets needs, and the role of rules for safety and fairness. By distinguishing goods and services and solving classroom problems, learners build a foundation for civic responsibility.
- **1st:** Students will explore the history of family and school life by comparing the past and present, investigating family narratives across generations, and learning the significance of U.S. national holidays. They will develop geographic skills by constructing simple maps and identifying how people adapt to their environments, while also learning the economic basics of scarcity, trade, and the roles of producers and consumers.
- **2nd:** Students will investigate the history and geography of their local community by analyzing how it has changed over time and how it connects to the larger state of Michigan. They will also explore the role of local government, the basics of a market economy, and their own civic responsibilities as they learn to evaluate public issues and participate in community improvement projects.
- **3rd:** Students will explore Michigan's journey from its Indigenous roots to statehood while developing essential skills in map reading and historical analysis. They will investigate how the state's unique geography and natural resources drive the economy, from local agriculture to global trade, examine the structure of Michigan's government, including tribal and state roles, the three branches of power, and the rights of citizens.
- **4th:** Students will investigate Michigan's post-statehood history, from the growth of the automobile industry and labor movements to the impact of the Underground Railroad and global migration. They will also examine the structure of the federal government and market economy, while using geographic tools to analyze how humans interact with and protect our country's natural resources.
- **5th:** Students will investigate the early history of North America by examining the complex interactions between Indigenous Peoples, Europeans, and West Africans, including the impact of the Columbian Exchange and the development of colonial regions. The course also dives into the causes and consequences of the American Revolution, the creation of the U.S. Constitution, and the fundamental rights protected by the Bill of Rights.

STEM	**2 semesters**
Required Core Course Grades K-5	Platform: Buzz

The STEM course is an Elementary Computer Science and Digital Literacy course which aims to build foundational technological skills and 21st-century problem-solving abilities. Its core objectives include achieving Essential Computer Literacy (proficiency in operations, digital tools, and responsible use), developing Technical Proficiency (basics of coding and computational thinking), and fostering Critical Thinking and STEM-Focused Problem-Solving (applying technology to real-world challenges using iterative methodologies). Elementary students will be equipped with the intellectual framework to understand, adapt to, and shape the digital world, preparing them for future success in a technology-driven society.

Structured Literacy Lab	**2 semesters**
Required Core Course Grades K-2	Platform: Buzz

This K-2 course is based on the award-winning Orton-Gillingham Plus curriculum for improving reading skills. It combines phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension instruction in research-based lessons specially formulated for online learners. "Orton-Gillingham is a highly structured approach that breaks reading and spelling down into smaller skills involving letters and sounds, and then building on these skills over time. It was the first approach to use explicit, direct, sequential, systematic, multi-sensory instruction to teach reading, which is not only effective for all students but essential for teaching students with dyslexia."

ELECTIVE COURSES

MIPS Art	**1 Semester**
Grades Offered: K-1, 2-3, 4-5	Platform: Google

MIPS Art is dedicated to self-expression, inspiration, and boosting self-confidence in creativity for budding artists (K-5). Students explore the elements of art (line, space, color, shape, texture) and learn about artists to find inspiration for creating their own artwork. The course emphasizes drawing and painting techniques, develops fine motor and critical thinking skills, and expands appreciation for global communities. Students also work on observational skills to reflect on and interpret works of art, with connections made to core subjects like Math, Science, and Language Arts.

MIPS Exploring Art	**1 Semesters**
Grades Offered: 2-3, 4-5	Platform: Google

This asynchronous course is designed for students who want a high-quality MIPS Arts course without the requirement of a live lesson. Students in all grades learn about the world of visual arts through enjoyable video lessons and assignments.

- **2nd-3rd:** Focuses on learning about the world of art through video lessons and assignments.
- **4th-5th:** Designed to deepen understanding of the visual arts. Video lessons are described as engaging and step-by-step, challenging students to think creatively and grow artistic skills, including techniques like sketching, watercolor, and 3D sculpture. A free art kit (including paints, brushes, crayons, markers, and a sketchbook) is sent to every student in this group.

MIPS Music	**1 Semester**
Grades Offered: K-1, 2-3, 4-5	Platform: Google, Buzz

This course is designed to invite students across all elementary grades (K-5) to participate in exciting musical experiences and build a foundation of musicianship. The core curriculum focuses on singing, moving to music (creatively and choreographed), the basics of music theory/knowledge, and playing musical instruments. Students explore various facets of music through singing, playing, movement, creating, reading, and listening, learning music from different cultures, composing original pieces, and developing their rhythm and singing voices.

MIPS Exploring Music	**2 Semesters**
Grades Offered: K-1. 2-3. 4-5	Platform: Google

This is an asynchronous music course for students who want a MIPS Music course without the live lesson requirement. Students learn from interactive video lessons that build upon one another as they sing, play instruments, move, create, and analyze music.

- **K-1st:** Students receive a free music kit that includes numerous small music instruments.
- **2nd-3rd:** Students receive a free music kit that includes numerous small music instruments.
- **4th-5th:** Students receive a free music kit that includes a recorder, rhythm sticks, and a workbook.

MIPS Beginning Piano	**2 Semesters**
Grades Offered: 5th Grade	Platform: Google

Beginning Piano offers three levels of study, each requiring a digital or acoustic piano (minimum 76 keys; 88-key digital rentals available from MIPS for a low monthly rate). Students benefit from a required weekly one-on-one virtual lesson and a 30-minute group live class with peers at the same level, plus a short weekly instructional video.

Students must practice 15 minutes a day, 4-5 days a week, to progress. Levels offered to 5th grade are: Level One (little/no experience)

Intro to Spanish	**1 Semester**
Grades Offered: Kindergarten	Platform: Buzz

Introduces primary learners to Spanish vocabulary in the context of everyday communication topics such as family, friends, school, home, numbers, food, animals, activities and the calendar. Learners explore Spanish-speaking countries, culture, and music as they learn to understand, speak, read, and write the language.

The foundational curriculum resources selected for this course will be sourced from the established educational materials provided by Spanish For Kids. This deliberate choice ensures a cohesive, engaging, and developmentally appropriate learning experience for all students. The Spanish For Kids program is recognized for its commitment to early language acquisition, employing methodologies that integrate storytelling, songs, games, and interactive activities to make the learning process both effective and enjoyable.

Exploring Spanish	**2 Semesters**
Grades Offered: 1st-2nd	Platform: Buzz

Introduces primary learners to Spanish vocabulary in the context of everyday communication topics such as family, friends, school, home, numbers, food, animals, activities and the calendar. Learners explore Spanish-speaking countries, culture, and music as they learn to understand, speak, read, and write the language. This course will utilize Spanish For Kids curriculum resources.

The foundational curriculum resources selected for this course will be sourced from the established educational materials provided by Spanish For Kids. This deliberate choice ensures a cohesive, engaging, and developmentally appropriate learning experience for all students. The Spanish For Kids program is recognized for its commitment to early language acquisition, employing methodologies that integrate storytelling, songs, games, and interactive activities to make the learning process both effective and enjoyable.

MIPS Theater	**1 Semester**
Grades Offered: K-1, 2-3, 4-5	Platform: Google

This MIPS School of the Arts course explores the fundamentals of theatre across all elementary grades (K-5) through games, vocal/movement exercises, and role-play. Students learn to use their voice, mind, and body to bring characters to life. Weekly online sessions develop performance skills as well as skills in technical areas of theatre, such as costume design and scenic design. Students have the opportunity to portray favorite story-book characters while developing skills to sculpt original stories.

Physical Education	**1 Semester**
Grades Offered: K-5	Platform: Lincoln

The one-semester Physical Education curriculum promotes active, healthy lifestyles through age-appropriate exercise, activities, and games. The program emphasizes health, nutrition, safety, rules, and social skills. Students must be active for a designated class time and log their organized activity.

- **K:** This introductory course aims to motivate emerging learners to be active by covering basic health and nutrition, safety, following directions, and friendships, while requiring 36 hours of documented, supervised physical activity.
- **1st:** Students are encouraged to live healthy lifestyles through daily activity, with a focus on core elements like safety, working with others, responsibility, identifying healthy versus unhealthy foods, and proper stretching, warm-up, and cool-down techniques.
- **2nd:** The course encourages students to discover ways to live a healthy lifestyle through better food choices and consistent activity, discussing components of health and safety, nutrition, working with others, and introducing new exercises and activities.
- **3rd:** Students learn how to live a healthy lifestyle and are motivated to be active, with content covering safety, rules, and etiquette, alongside new and challenging activities with specific instruction on the basic elements and proper execution of motions for maximum benefit.
- **4th:** This course focuses on teaching students how to live healthier lifestyles and be active every day, covering the importance of physical fitness, safety, rules, etiquette, and various challenging activities with instruction on proper execution for the most benefits.
- **5th:** Students are taught the basics for healthy and active living, focusing on safety during exercise, new activities and games, and providing instruction on the proper execution of movements for maximum benefits.