



2023-2024

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

KINDERGARTEN thru 8th GRADE

***The Standards and Benchmarks taught in Grades K thru 8
lead the way to educational success.***

Highpoint Academy's elementary and middle school teachers are dedicated to challenging each student not only academically, but also by providing them with multiple opportunities to grow socially and emotionally. Teachers are provided all necessary resources to meet the school's academic goals and students' needs. In addition, classroom ratios are purposefully maintained low in order to better provide individualized instruction as needed.

A variety of tools/resources/experiences are employed by teachers and students to enhance learning including, but not limited to, the following:

- Savvas Realize Curriculum program (teacher resources) as well as other supplemental program resources incorporated into the curriculum (see below).
- Access to resources on Florida's CPALMS website including NGSSS information and professional development support.
- Access to SmartBoards/ClearTouch screens, computers and iPad technology is required (i.e. digital coursework and interactive program resources on the iPad) for both On Campus and Virtual Learning curriculum needs.
- Social, emotional and physical growth is attained through numerous social and physical activities. Some suggestions include: weekly BM Sessions, monthly Character Education presentations, school performances (i.e. Christmas Show; Mother's Day), and school-wide physical activities events such as Family 5K Runs and Field Days.

CURRICULUM PROGRAM INFORMATION

SAVVAS REALIZE & FLORIDA'S B.E.S.T Standards

Highpoint Academy blends [Savvas Realize's](#) core curriculum (*formerly known as Pearson Realize K-12*) with Florida's new [Benchmark for Excellent Student Thinking \(B.E.S.T\) Standards](#) to offer advanced academics and up-to-date strategies tailored to meet each student's individual needs. Students in Kindergarten thru 8th Grade enjoy a digital curriculum (iPad program), including standards-aligned content, resources, and assessments.

Florida's **NEW** **Benchmark for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T) Standards** were designed to promote reading, writing, and arithmetic skills across all subject areas, and to replace the standards based

on common core for mathematics. The new standards will require teachers to provide regular Progress Monitoring throughout the school year: Beginning, Middle, and End of Year and allow for more instructional time and less standardized prep/testing time. These standards and additional resources are available on the [CPALMS](#) website which is Florida's official source for the standards, course information, assessment information, and serves as the dissemination platform for professional development and digital resources. Together with the SAVVAS curriculum, B.E.S.T Standards, and resources available on the CPALMS website, teachers and students are provided with support in a variety of ways and with resources and tools that have been engineered and optimized for all learning forums, including distance learning.

Highpoint's individualized curriculum covers the eight required content areas: *English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, World Languages (Spanish), Fine Arts, and Health Education*. Each content area has state standards and benchmarks outlining specific content, knowledge, and skills that students are expected to learn in school by the end of every grade level. Teachers plan lessons that provide students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of these standards and benchmarks throughout the year.

Our Curriculum also incorporates fun-based learning that seamlessly integrates the components of **STEAM** - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math - with the 4C skills of Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity to real world applications. Teachers are provided all the necessary guidance and support to ensure they have the tools needed to instruct students effectively and lead a high-quality program.

[SAVVAS REALIZE CURRICULUM](#)

[BENCHMARK FOR EXCELLENT STUDENT THINKING \(B.E.S.T\) STANDARDS](#)

[CPALMS WEBSITE FOR STANDARDS AND RESOURCES](#)

[CURRICULUM COURSE DESCRIPTIONS](#)

[LITERACY](#)

• ***K-5th Grade:*** Savvas Realize's [myVIEW LITERACY](#) Curriculum for Grades K-5 helps teachers prioritize instruction to support higher levels of reading and writing. The program provides them with the necessary tools to meet curriculum goals for students including the following:

- Increasing text complexity in reading
- Providing accessible rigor
- Balancing fiction and informational texts
- Building content-area knowledge
- Emphasizing "close" reading
- Focusing on informative/explanatory, argumentative/opinion, and narrative writing
- Implementing performance assessments
- Integrating media and 21st century skills

- Boosting confidence, motivating students and engaging them through independent practice with technology
- **6th-8th Grade:** Savvas Realize's [myPERSPECTIVES ELA](#) program for 6th-8th Grades is a curriculum that values the perspective of the “learner”, collectively and individually, and provides next-gen learning experiences that promote higher achievement. It is designed to help teachers guide students to develop the competencies needed for high school readiness through interactive learning by blending print and technology in a student-centered, teacher-inspired classroom.

Our curriculum provides students with an interactive, engaging, and relevant learning environment through readings, meaningful activities, and purposeful performance tasks. Through the use of the **myPerspectives** program, students are encouraged to collaborate socially as well as to take ownership of their learning through goal setting, choice, and reflection.

MATH

- **K-5th Grade:** Savvas Realize's [enVisionmath2.0](#) is a comprehensive mathematics curriculum. It offers our teachers the flexibility of print, digital, or blended instruction (hybrid) resources and tools and provides content that is standards-focused, coherent, and includes the rigor needed to meet grade level standards. Using this curriculum, our teachers are able to plan a variety of different lessons and employ a multitude of learning strategies and interventions to empower students and measure academic growth. Some strategies include planning for project-based learning, using visual learning tools, as well as customizing instructional and assessment options.
- **6th-7th Grade:** McGraw Hill's [Reveal Math Course 1 & 2](#) is a comprehensive mathematics curriculum that builds on the effectiveness of the enVision series used in Grades K thru 5th. It helps students develop problem solving skills through interactive experiences and visual learning. Personalized math practice, built-in interventions, and customizable content deepen understanding and help students improve their achievement. Teachers use the interactive learning aids, video tutorials, and 3-Act Mathematical Modeling to help support their students. They also use the program to assign personalized practice activities and plan lessons using differentiation resources for instructional flexibility.
- **8th Grade:** McGraw Hill's [Reveal Algebra I](#) is an all inclusive mathematics curriculum that incorporates new, engaging, and relevant content in Algebra I, geometry, and Algebra II concepts. The program provides a truly active classroom experience through digital delivery. With purposefully integrated technology and plentiful opportunities for students to explore, collaborate, and reflect, it increases both student engagement and students' confidence in their own math abilities. The program includes a multitude of resources that enable teachers to customize learning , instruction, practice and assessments as well to meet each students individual needs.

SCIENCE

Savvas Realize's [INTERACTIVE SCIENCE](#) program for Kindergarten thru 8th Grade is a complete science curriculum. Teachers are provided with lessons, science experiment ideas and activities in order to engage students in science inquiry; STEM activities; and problem-based, hands-on learning. This program supports teachers integrating reading and writing skills with content Leveled Readers, Vocabulary Smart

Cards, and writing for different purposes. Teachers are equipped to track student progress through the many digital assessment options provided.

Our curriculum incorporates both print and digital resources that meet state standards and benchmarks. **INTERACTIVE SCIENCE** provides teachers with all the necessary support and resources to produce high-quality science experiences with suggested strategies and guidance. Students are exposed to numerous opportunities to explore real-life STEM issues through hands-on, investigative, and collaborative activities which promote higher-order critical-thinking skills.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- **K-5th Grade:** Savvas Realize's [myWORLD INTERACTIVE SOCIAL STUDIES](#) program, including Florida History for 4th Grade, is a curriculum that encourages active inquiry while introducing civics, economics, geography, and history concepts. Students develop critical thinking, problem solving, and communicating skills.

Our Kindergarten thru 5th Grade curriculum is student-centered and helps teachers achieve instructional goals. Teachers plan activities including Project-Based Learning experiences that develop skills for active, responsible citizenship. **myWORLD INTERACTIVE** provides students and teachers with multiple resources and opportunities for learning that ensures access and equity for all students. It provides teachers the tools they need for culturally responsive teaching and to meet differentiated instructional needs.

- **6th-7th Grade:** Savvas Realize's [myWORLD INTERACTIVE WORLD GEOGRAPHY](#) curriculum is a program that helps teachers inspire students to develop global competencies for active, informed citizenship. Teachers emphasize project-based learning to explore the world's places, systems, and cultures and plan lessons that promote critical thinking, problem solving, evidence-based reasoning and communications skills.

As part of Highpoint's Geography curriculum, teachers plan lessons that include Project-Based Learning experiences introducing students to new geographical topics, ideas, and figures. Teachers are provided all the tools and resources needed to introduce students to different geographical information, political issues, people, location, and climate all in an age-appropriate manner.

- **8th Grade:** Our 8th Grade American Government/Civics curriculum is [McGRAW HILL'S: CIVICS & ECONOMICS](#) program. This curriculum plan helps teachers prepare students for citizenship by showing them how people, the economy, and government work to create a society. The main program focus is on the "big ideas" including content from the National Civics and Economics Standards. Using these tools, our teachers plan and instruct lessons that provide students with opportunities to examine real-world topics as examples to make real-life connections to the learning goals.

HEALTH EDUCATION

- **K-5th Grade:** The HEALTH curriculum for K-5th Grade is integrated within Savvas Realize's Science program.

- **6th-8th Grade:** The [SAVVAS HEALTH](#) curriculum for 6th-8th Grade provides Highpoint teachers the tools necessary for helping our students develop and enhance healthy behaviors for life. Since part of Highpoint’s school philosophy includes a huge emphasis on being physically active and eating clean, healthy foods, this program provides teacher and students with numerous resources to help meet that goal. Teachers use the SAVVAS HEALTH curriculum, including a digital textbook and video program with digital resources, to assist in classroom discussions and in helping students’ master important health education skills.

The curriculum contains age-appropriate content for middle school students including the following health topics:

- School Safety
- Nutrition
- Media Literacy
- Exercise & Fitness
- Drug Prevention
- Mental and Emotional Health
- Cyberbullying
- Online Safety
- Cell Phone Safety
- Decision Making
- Human Anatomy/Biology (Body Systems)
- Responsible Thinking
- Family Engagement

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students in Kindergarten thru 8th Grade are provided with two scheduled Physical Education classes a week and recess/outdoor breaks to surpass the minimum Florida requirements of 150 minutes of physical education a week.

Each grade’s standards and benchmarks are available on the CPALMS website. The physical education teacher plans age appropriate lessons on the four core “Strands” for Physical Education which are:

- **Movement Competency** (*i.e. rhythm and dance; striking an object with upper/lower body, etc.*)
- **Cognitive Abilities** (*i.e. Identify safety rules and procedures for selected physical activities.*)
- **Lifetime Fitness** (*i.e. recognize moderate/rigorous fitness activities; recognize healthful benefits that result from regular participation in physical activities.*)
- **Responsible Behaviors and Values** (*i.e. Identify ways to cooperate with others regardless of personal differences during physical activity.*)

SPANISH (*World Language Education*)

K-8th Grade: [SANTILLANA’S DESCUBRE EL ESPANOL ANTOLOGIA](#) readings accommodate students at various language proficiency levels with its collection of authentic stories from renowned authors of the Spanish-speaking world.

The goal of Highpoint Academy's Spanish program is to instill in our students an appreciation of the Hispanic culture by emphasizing on cultural traits, oral and auditory expression, and fostering in them a sense of pride and enthusiasm for their language of origin. Students reinforce their grammar and composition skills by utilizing our Santillana's Anthologies collection, USA curriculum program, storybooks (in Spanish), as well as other Spanish applications suggested by their teacher on their iPads.

Students also participate in several school-wide activities as part of the Spanish curriculum including Hispanic Heritage presentations at our Hispanic Heritage event (for Kindergarten thru 8th Grade), Teatro Highpoint (for 3rd thru 8th Grade), and "PM Spanish" Program (for all grades) reinforcing conversational Spanish skills and providing students an opportunity to practice.

- **Toddlers thru Pre-Kindergarten (VPK):** *Students do Circle Time, Story Time, Art and Portfolio activities.*
- **Kindergarten thru 5th Grade:** *Students work with Student Anthologies, develop grammar skills with practice activities on IXL Spanish curriculum, and produce a Portfolio of their best work.*
- **6th thru 8th Grade:** *Students work with Student Anthologies, develop grammar and literacy skills with IXL Spanish curriculum exercises, produce "Teatro Highpoint", and create Portfolio works.*

MUSIC APPRECIATION EDUCATION

Highpoint Academy's Music Appreciation program is specifically designed by our school's music instructor, Mr. Ed Quintana. This program consists of fun, unique, and engaging interactive lessons that teach students all about a variety of important music concepts and themes, including:

- Rhythm, beat and tempo
- Reading musical notes
- Writing music
- Difference between musical instruments and the role each plays in an orchestra
- Influential musicians in history and today

Mr. Quintana creates his own digital and interactive resources specifically tailored to meet Highpoint's students' needs. Students learn to appreciate and value the role music plays within our culture as well as how music can impact people's senses and emotions. They are encouraged to listen to, create, and play music often.

The school's music instructor also provides our students with private piano lessons and is the director of the school's band. Both are part of our Enrichment Program.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Highpoint Academy's Character Education Program for Kindergarten thru 8th Grade is an integral part of the overall education that students receive and it augments the "civic responsibility" component of the regular Social Studies curriculum. Our school's program philosophy is to help students "see themselves as part of the larger human adventure in time and place," and developing "the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an

interdependent world.” The main purpose of the program is to help students think about the most fundamental human questions:

- *How should I live my life?*
- *What goals are worth pursuing?*
- *How can I be a better human being?*
- *What qualities in human beings are admirable and worth emulating?*
- *What brings about human fulfillment and what does not?*
- *Am I an honest citizen and a decent person?*
- *Do I know the difference between right and wrong?*

During the first 10 to 15 minutes of each Social Studies class, teachers and students discuss, role-play, and/or write about the core values assigned for that month. Throughout the day, the values learned are addressed and identified continuously. At the end of each month, a designated class does a presentation during our “*Behavior Modification Sessions*” (*BM Sessions*).

Teachers are provided a resource containing specific information regarding planning, topics to discuss and presentation dates at the start of each new school year.

Core Values:

- Responsibility and Trustworthiness
- Citizenship and Democracy
- Caring and Kindness
- Courage and Pursuit of Excellence
- Respect and Self Control
- Honesty and Integrity
- Courtesy and Manners
- Fairness and Cooperation

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES, PROGRAMS & TOOLS

Highpoint Academy’s Kindergarten thru 8th Grade curriculum also includes multiple educational tools that motivate students and stimulate their different styles of learning. These include:

- **IXL Learning curriculum** in Language Arts and Math for K thru 8th Grade.
- **Showbie** (application used for assignments and assessments) for 1st thru 8th Grade
- **Exploros** (Wordly Wise 3000/Vocabulary website) for 3rd thru 8th Grade
- **Writing for Learning Handwriting Series** (workbooks) for Jr Pre-K thru 5th Grade
- **Phonics/Word study** (Pearson Learning workbooks) for Pre-K thru 5th Grade
- STEM Research-based activities

“INTEREST AREAS” WITHIN THE CLASSROOM (*1st-4th Grade*)

Understanding that the physical environment within the classroom has a profound effect on each individual child and teacher, as well as, the class as a group, Highpoint’s early elementary classrooms are divided into “Interest Areas” providing students a safe, attractive and comfortable area to engage in variety of diverse activities.

The **Savvas Realize** Curriculum provides teachers with suggestions and resources (manipulatives) to utilize in their classroom for the following “Interest Areas”:

- Literacy
- Math
- Science
- Toys and Games
- Art
- Classroom Library

THE DAILY SCHEDULE

Each Kindergarten thru 8th Grade class has an individualized “Daily Schedule” that includes core instruction for Language Arts, Math, Science and Social studies. Specials classes such as Spanish (World Language), Physical Education, Art History and Music are assigned on different days throughout the week.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and new Department of Health requirements, numerous “Outdoor Breaks” are also included in the Class Schedule throughout the day. Class Schedules are available on each classroom’s website on the main Highpoint Families website.

[Link to Highpoint Families Website](#)