



THE ACADEMY

Special Diploma Track

Curriculum Guide

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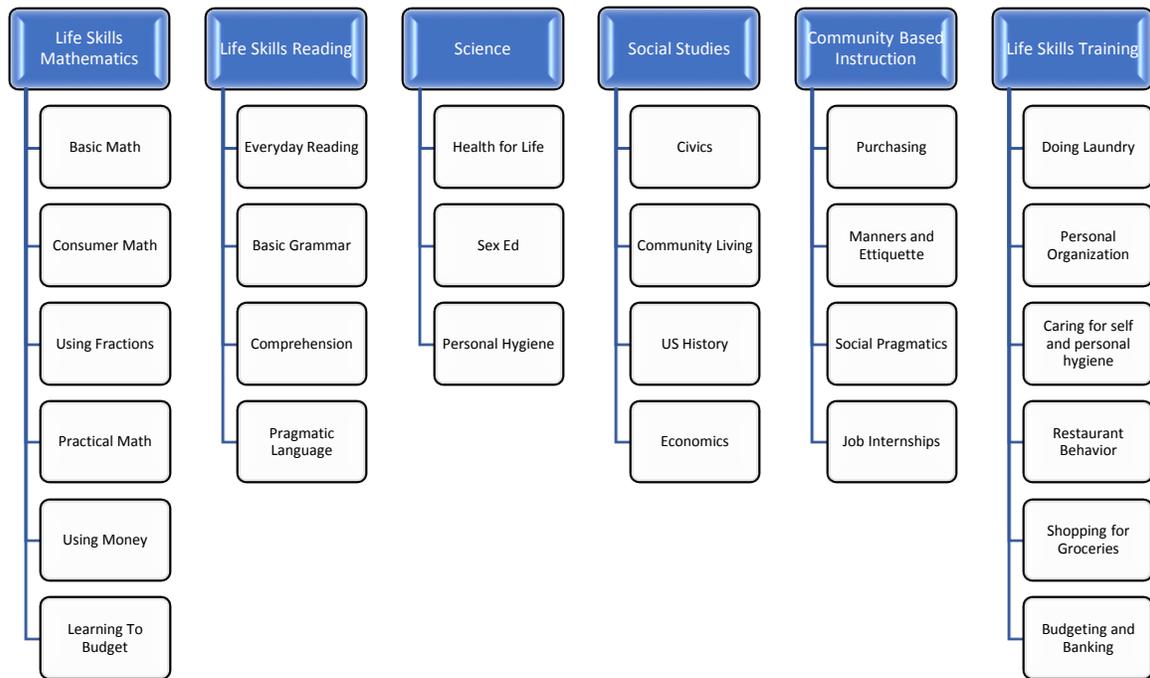
Schoolhouse Preparatory

2014-2015

THE ACADEMY

Students on the special diploma track are enrolled in the “Academy”. This is a self-contained program intended for students who cannot complete the required course work for graduation due to their academic and cognitive challenges. Under the direction of the teacher and teacher assistant, students engage in meaningful lessons which prepare them for transitioning into adulthood and independent living. The student ratio is 8 students to a teacher and a teacher assistant. The courses offered include Career and Life Skills Math, Basic English, Science, Social Studies, Community Based Instruction (CBI), and Life Skills Training. This is not a High School Diploma. However, this certificate can be used for vocational training programs.

- 1) Students enrolled in this program have the option of remaining enrolled at Schoolhouse Preparatory through age 21.
- 2) They will participate in all senior activities including the senior graduation ceremony. Students that choose to remain through age 21 will participate in a vocational career training program.
- 3) Students have the option of taking any of the elective classes offered at Schoolhouse Preparatory.
- 4) Students are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of work experience.

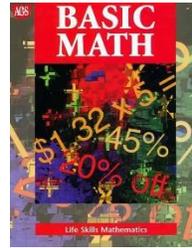


LIFE SKILLS MATHEMATICS

Course Title: Life Skills Mathematics

Textbook Title: Life Skills Math

Textbook Publisher: AGS



BASIC MATH

This fundamental worktext provides instruction examples, and practice on basic math operations, including whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percents, and measurements. **Reading Level is 3.3**

CONSUMER MATH

Presents math skills through everyday applications so students can make wise consumer decisions. Students learn how to write checks, keep accurate balances, check monthly statements, and make comparisons on interest rates. Up-to-date prices make this worktext an excellent aid in becoming a wise consumer. **Reading Level is 3.4**

PRACTICAL MATH

This worktext covers practical skills dealing with financial transactions, banking, and establishing credit. Students learn the basics of budgeting, banking services, loans, completing income tax returns, and purchasing insurance. **Reading Level is 3.5**

USING MONEY

The skills covered in this worktext are divided into four sections: Coins and Currency, Working with Money, Counting Money, and Word Problems. *USING MONEY* provides a review for students who have difficulty understanding currency or for those new to the American currency system. **Reading Level is 3.5**

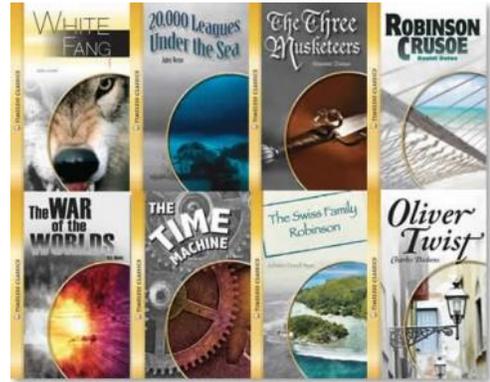
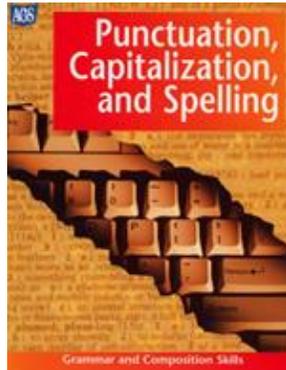
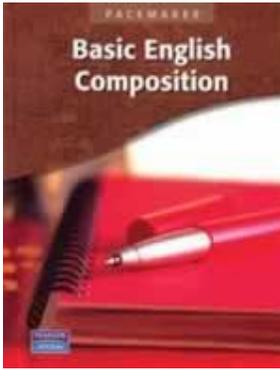
LEARNING TO BUDGET

Helps develop practical budgeting and money management skills using real life situations. Six units include Developing Money Management Skills, Planning a Budget, Practice with Budgets, Fixed and Variable Expenses, Keeping a Cash Record, and Budgets and Cash Records. **Reading Level is 3.2**

USING FRACTIONS

This worktext review all the basic concepts of fractions and provides an understanding of the uses of fractions in real life situations. Units include mixed fractions, operations, and percents. **Reading Level is 3.9**

LIFE SKILLS READING



Course: Writing

Textbook Title: Basic English Composition

Publisher: AGS

This course offers thorough instruction in the fundamentals of writing sentences and paragraphs. Students learn how to write for various purposes, both within and outside the classroom.

Course: Grammar

Textbook Title: Punctuation, Capitalization, and Spelling

Publisher: AGS

This course teaches students critical written communication skills. It is divided into four components:

- **Punctuation, Capitalization and Spelling:** Teaches the basics of mechanics, including the rules of punctuation, capitalization and spelling.
- **Writing Sentences and Paragraphs:** Students learn to write proofread, and revise descriptive narratives, persuasive paragraphs and business and personal letters.
- **Building Vocabulary Skills:** teaches students the meanings of unfamiliar words and terms related to everyday living skills.
- **Using Parts of Speech:** provides students additional practice with language structure and parts of speech and their usage.

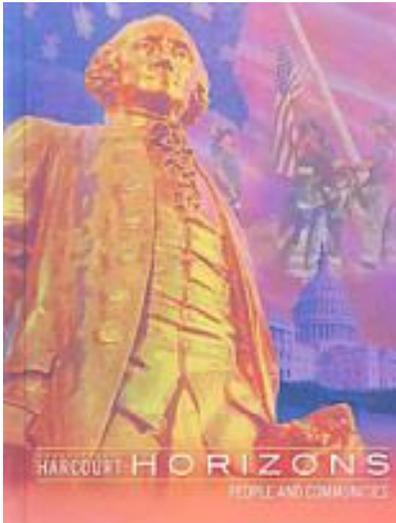
Course: Everyday Reading

Textbook: Timeless Classics

Publisher: Saddleback

The Timeless Classics series is designed for the struggling reader and adapted to retain the integrity of the original work. Each novel is only 80 pages long and developed for high interest at a lower reading level.

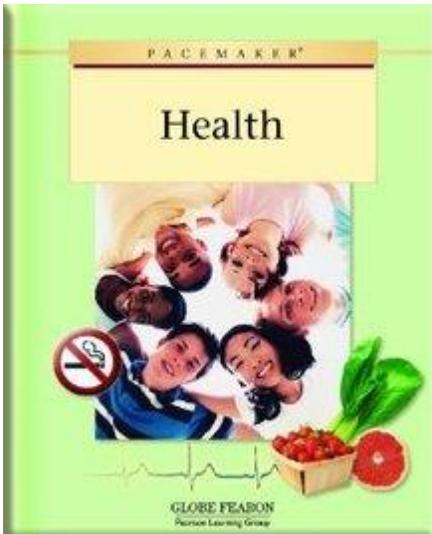
SOCIAL STUDIES



Course: Community Living
Textbook Title: People and Communities
Publisher: Harcourt

This course involves students learning about people in their communities, our government, and other people who left a mark in our society. Students are expected to apply knowledge learned to interact with others, and have a common notion on how communities come together.

SCIENCE



Course: Health for Life
Textbook Title: Health
Publisher: AGS

This course involves learning the fundamentals of nutrition and fitness, safety and injury prevention, personal health (hygiene) and wellness. Students are expected to apply the knowledge learned in their daily lives.



Community Based Instruction The Learning is in the Doing

Website: <http://schoolhouseportal.weebly.com/cbilife-skills.html>

Community Based Instruction is a critical component of the educational program of the Academy. It takes place in the community where the students are able to generalize knowledge and skills learned in the academic environment. The students benefit from age-appropriate, functional, hands-on instruction in essential life skills in a meaningful, natural setting where such skills are commonly used. It is expected that the students will live, play and, ultimately, work, in diverse environments within their community, and it is there that they will participate in typical activities across many settings.

Repetitive practice of skills learned in the classroom setting without connections to the students' real lives lacks joy and motivation. In order to energize and motivate the students', we must enhance the generalization to community and to everyday life situations. Providing access to the community for the students gives them a chance to apply what they've learned in a real life setting, so that the learning has meaning to them. Instruction is guided by students' strengths and needs. Overall, community based instruction uses consistent teaching strategies and accommodations designed to encourage the students' participation in typical activities. It gives them a broad spectrum of experiences to enhance their adaptive and social behaviors. It also provides familiarity with a variety of diverse settings, use of tools in those settings and also provides frequent opportunities (whether it be at a restaurant, movie theatre, library, etc.) to generalize their knowledge. This frequency establishes increasing confidence in knowing how to apply what they've learned from setting to setting.

For example, the students are given opportunities to develop a menu, create a shopping list, go to the store, purchase the items (determining how much money to give and how to determine what change to expect), prepare the meal and enjoy not only the food that's been prepared but enjoy the process, giving practice for real life. Another connecting example would be going to the movie:



finding a theatre, choosing a movie, purchasing tickets (and see the connection to shopping at the grocery store in knowing how much money to give and what change to expect), entering the theatre, purchasing items at the snack bar (again, the connection to purchasing movie tickets and grocery store), locating which theatre matches the ticket. The opportunities in the communities are many and diverse, but it is optimal place to reveal generalization.

Community based instruction should not be confused with “field trips.” Field trips are a one-time activity. Community-Based Instruction is direct, planned, continuous instruction. Community environments are visited repeatedly in order to provide instruction for target skills. These can include relevant instructional settings such as shopping centers, grocery stores, restaurants and public facilities such as libraries, coin laundries and post offices. Community based instruction also provides opportunities to interact with typical members of the community facilitating growth in communication and social skills.

Prior to venturing out into the community, we visit with local businesses to provide general information about Schoolhouse Preparatory and the student population in order to ensure the experience is a positive one. Instructional procedures are determined and materials are secured prior to entering community sites. Modifications (to sites, instructional materials, instructional cues, etc.) are made, as appropriate, and opportunities are also made available for reinforcement and maintenance of mastered skills.

Community Based Instruction (CBI) Domains

DOMESTIC: this domain includes the skill areas of self-care, personal grooming, wellness and nutrition, and home care, such as housekeeping, cooking and meal planning.

VOCATIONAL: the focus of this domain is to develop employability skills, such as being on time, staying on task, following rules, and calendar skills related to work.

COMMUNITY: this domain includes the skill areas of accessing transportation and community sites, such as libraries, grocery stores, shopping centers, the post office and restaurants.

RECREATION & LEISURE: the focus of this domain is to learn how to utilize public recreation options, to plan personal leisure time, and to participate in recreational activities.

Process of Implementation

- Access individual student needs
- Prioritize skills
- Plan the logistics: student grouping, staffing pattern, scheduling, transportation, cost

Community Based Instruction Business Partners

Here are a few of our CBI Business Partners:

Miami Dade Public Library/West Regional Branch,

Publix, Walgreens, Little Chefs Kitchen

Pizza Hut, US Post Office

