

# DSD RE-4 Adopts Core Knowledge for K-8

The Core Knowledge approach puts knowledge at the heart of schooling.

**Specific and Sequenced:** Most curriculum standards provide general goals and objectives but offer teachers little guidance about the specific knowledge students should learn in each grade. In contrast, the Core Knowledge approach is to specify, in a clear grade-by-grade sequence, what students need to know.

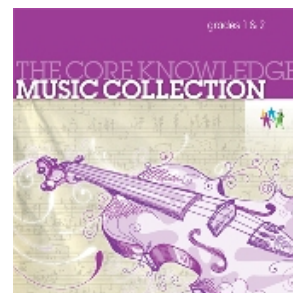
**Excellence and Equity:** Only specifying the knowledge and skills that all children should share can we guarantee equal access to that knowledge. Educational excellence and equity require that every child in a democracy have access to important shared knowledge and language.

**Starting Early:** It's important to begin building strong foundations of knowledge in the early years. The Core Knowledge approach focuses on preschool through grade eight. In these early years, especially the preschool and elementary grades, schools can do the most to help children lay the groundwork for language development and future success.



## The Core Knowledge Sequence

What do students need to know? To answer that question, we undertook a long process of research and consensus-building to develop the Core Knowledge Sequence.



The Core Knowledge Sequence is a

**1**

**ABOUT CORE KNOWLEDGE**

Page 1-2

**2**

**WORD FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Pages 3

**3**

**RESEARCH-BASED**

Page 4

## PRESS RELEASE

detailed outline of recommended content knowledge and skills to be taught in language arts, history and geography, visual arts, music, mathematics, and science from preschool through grade eight. The Sequence complements the general skills and objectives typically found in state and local curriculum guides.

Find out more about the [Core Knowledge Sequence](#)—what it is, how it was developed, and how you can use it in your classroom, school, or district.

## Blueprint for Knowledge-Based Schooling

The Core Knowledge Sequence provides the blueprint for knowledge-based schooling.

Knowledge-based schooling puts the emphasis of early education on teaching and

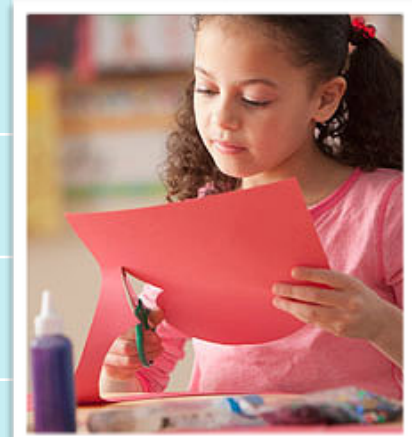


learning an enabling core of broadly shared knowledge—enabling because it builds strong foundations for later learning and opens doors to effective participation and mutual understanding in the wider society. Learn more about the thinking behind [knowledge-based schooling](#), and read about [schools using Core Knowledge](#).

## Resources for Knowledge-Based Schooling

Both the realities of cognitive science and the ideals of social justice support the need for knowledge-based schooling. Cognitive science confirms these facts:

- Children can advance educationally only when they have the expected prior knowledge.
- They can become better readers only by building extensive knowledge of the world.
- They can become effective members of the wider society only by sharing the knowledge taken for granted by literate writers and speakers in that society.



By making the Core Knowledge Sequence and other curricular materials freely available, we work to put into practice the principle that every child in a democracy should have access to shared, enabling knowledge and language.

## Why are we implementing this program?

Superintendent Richard

In 2018 our district underwent a curriculum audit. Through this process, it was determined by our leadership that a vertically aligned and comprehensive curriculum was needed. Through research and studies of best practices, the leadership team presented the Core Knowledge Sequence of learning to the school board. The board voted to adopt this program for grades K-8.

We are very excited to see this program come alive for our students and teachers. It has been said by many great educators, "Students who are privileged to go through the Core Knowledge Sequence, will be more than prepared to attend any high school in the world."

The teachers will have some of the best tools in education available to them. The resources are research-based and enhance student engagement.

There are some misconceptions for this program. Please allow me to address some of these:

**Misconception #1:** Core Knowledge is the same as Common Core.

This is not true. Core Knowledge Sequence came to be in the 1980's and has been developing over time. It is a vertically aligned sequence based on building knowledge from early childhood and building academic concepts upon this foundation.

**Misconception #2:** It does not align to the state standards.

This misconception is presented by some as a deficiency of the program. The program does align; however, it is done in a fashion that provides stronger connections and more effective learning for the students. The material is presented in a cross-curricular fashion which is always best for students.

**Misconception #3:** It is a program for charter or private schools.

Although many charter and private schools have adopted this sequence, it is more widely used in public schools. This graphic was taken from the Core Knowledge website:



**Misconception #4:** Phonics is not taught in CK.

Phonics is the method for teaching reading. The beauty of the CK program is that reading is taught in all modalities. Children use action and movement in blending and chaining sounds. It is an interactive and engaged method. Students LOVE learning to read with CK!

The opportunity our students and teachers will experience is absolutely amazing. We look forward to this for them.

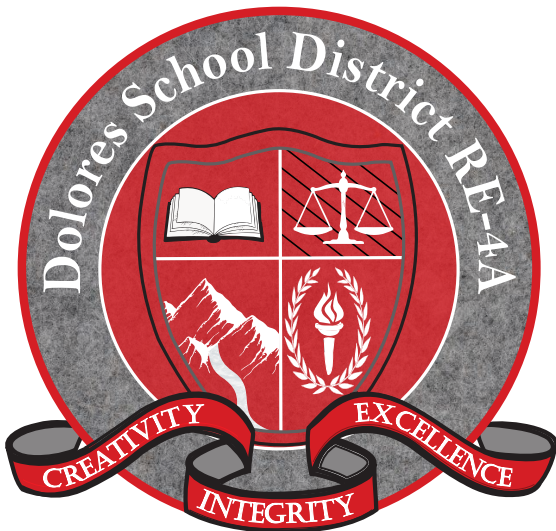
Please feel free to email any questions or comments to our superintendent:

[lrichard@dolores.k12.co.us](mailto:lrichard@dolores.k12.co.us)

## Core Knowledge schools make a difference!

Across the country, children are building strong foundations of knowledge in content-rich classrooms. Here you can learn about how Core Knowledge is making a difference!

- See and hear from [people who are putting Core Knowledge to work](#) in their classrooms.
- Read about recent [honors and awards received by our schools](#) for their commitment to excellence and to closing the achievement gap.
- Learn about various [research studies](#) on the effectiveness of Core Knowledge.



**Contact the District Office for More Information:**

**Dolores School District RE-4A  
100 N. 6th Street  
Dolores, Colorado 81323**

**970-882-7255**