



St Vrain Valley School District Curriculum and Core Knowledge Sequence Compare and Contrast

To compare and contrast the St Vrain Valley School District Curriculum and that of Core Knowledge schools it is essential to have a set of criteria on which to base such a comparison. To that end, we have decided to utilize practices listed in the Standards Based Philosophy/Practices draft document created by the St. Vrain Valley School District Department of Assessment and Curriculum. Specifically, the answer to the question: “What do students need to know, understand, and be able to do?” will be used as the lens for analysis.

What do students need to know, understand, and be able to do?

Core Knowledge: Every child should learn the fundamentals of science and the world around us, basic principles of government, important events of world history, essential elements of mathematics and of oral and written expression, widely acknowledged masterpieces of art and music from around the world, and stories and poems passed down from generation to generation.

SVVSD: SVVSD has identified and adopted content standards and grade level benchmarks, concepts, and skills in all content areas for every grade level. Specific curricular materials are utilized and aligned with these standards. (Literacy By Design, Lectura, Investigations, FOSS Kits, and Lucy Calkins, etc.)

Core Knowledge: Core Knowledge provides an outline of content to be learned grade by grade.

SVVSD: Grade level benchmarks, evidence outcomes, concepts and skills, expected for all students are identified and described by the District. Please refer to our documents Resources and Matrices for District Standards.
(http://www.stvrain.k12.co.us/academicsPrograms/Standards_2005/)

Core Knowledge: The Core Knowledge Sequence is distinguished by its specificity. It is a detailed outline of specific content to be taught in language arts, history, geography, mathematics, science and the fine arts.

SVVSD: Pacing guides and other curricular tools are available to assist teachers to plan effective instruction that focuses on essential benchmark information, concepts and skills. Currently these pacing guides are available for reading, writing, and math. The Department of Assessment and Curriculum is currently working on the Standards Based Alignment Plan, which will address this need.

Core Knowledge: One goal of the Core Knowledge Foundation is to provide all children, with the shared knowledge they need to participate fully in a literate culture and civic life. Schools are to supply students with broad, subject rich knowledge—history, geography, science, literature, and the arts in order to become stronger readers.



SVVSD: Literacy By Design and Lectura offer science and social studies themes with fiction and nonfiction selections. There are four science and social studies units for each grade level.

Core Knowledge: Whenever appropriate, the same subject is covered in literature, history, science and art, so that students can create connections and see varied perspectives. This is a strength of the Core Knowledge program particularly with the integration of fine arts and social studies with literacy.

SVVSD: Currently, the Department of Learning Services is working on a science/ELD/literacy project.

Core Knowledge: The Core Knowledge Foundation does not produce or recommend a specific assessment program, but does encourage regular assessments. This flexible approach to testing—allowing schools to create or choose their own assessments—is meant to accommodate the variety of ways in which the sequence can be taught.

SVVSD: A Spring-to-Spring literacy Assessment plan is implemented. Curricular Unit and theme tests are utilized for science and math.

For additional information on the St. Vrain Valley School District Standards:

<http://tinyurl.com/svvsdstandards>

For additional information on The Core Knowledge Sequence: www.coreknowledge.org.