

The Journey to Become a Core Knowledge School

David Patterson, Ed.D.

Steven Carney

December 15, 2012

[WCSRC 2012 Charter School Conference](#)

<http://www.wacharterschools.org>



Today's presentation is brought to you by...

- Rocklin Academy
 - Highly Successful Core Knowledge Schools in CA
- Athlos Academies
- David Patterson
- Steven Carney



We Know!

- Your **Education Program** is the single most important structural decision you will make about your school.
- Core Knowledge is central to our students' outstanding academic success.



Our Workshop Objectives

- Review why a content-rich curriculum sequence in every classroom is critical to high academic achievement, especially for student populations traditionally at risk.
- Understand how Core Knowledge supports exceptionally strong literacy development.
- Understand how Core Knowledge embodies and exceeds Common Core.
- Learn about the extensive Professional Development and Instructional Resources available to implement Core Knowledge.



Key Information

- Core Knowledge Sequence – free at:
http://www.coreknowledge.org/mimik/mimik_uploads/documents/480/CKFSequence_Rev.pdf
- Summary of the Core Knowledge Sequence Pre K – 8th grade
- Creating a Curriculum for the American People
- New Holland Core Knowledge Academy



What is Core Knowledge?

- The idea behind the *Core Knowledge Sequence* is simple and powerful: knowledge builds on knowledge.
- Engaging, challenging, and content-rich curriculum that builds and grows from year to year.
- Provides a core curriculum built on 4 C's:
 - Content-Specific
 - Coherence
 - Cumulative
 - Context-Rich



Content-Specific

- Clearly specifying important knowledge in language arts, history and geography, math, science, and the fine arts.
- Content that is worthy of a domain or field of study.
- Focuses on Classics rather than Comics.
 - Abraham Lincoln vs. Captain Underpants
 - Rich and engaging non-fiction and literature
- Content reflects a belief in high expectations.



Coherence

- Shows how subjects connect and that knowledge builds on knowledge.
- Follows a detailed outline of specific content and skills to be taught in each subject matter (geography, music, science, etc.).
- Understands pre-requisite vocabulary terms before concepts that contain them.
- Micro to macro or visa versa depending on subject, but sequence is **intentional**.



Cumulative

- Provides a clear outline of content to be learned grade by grade so that knowledge, language, and skills build cumulatively from year to year.
- Content learned within a grade AND across grades.
- This sequential building of knowledge not only helps ensure that children enter each new grade ready to learn, it also helps prevent the repetitions and gaps that so often characterize current education.



Content-Rich

- By clearly specifying important knowledge in language arts, history, geography, math, science, and the fine arts, the *Sequence* presents a practical answer to the question, “What do our children need to know?”.
- Builds cross-curriculum connections intentionally.
- Provides rich and meaningful content to learn.

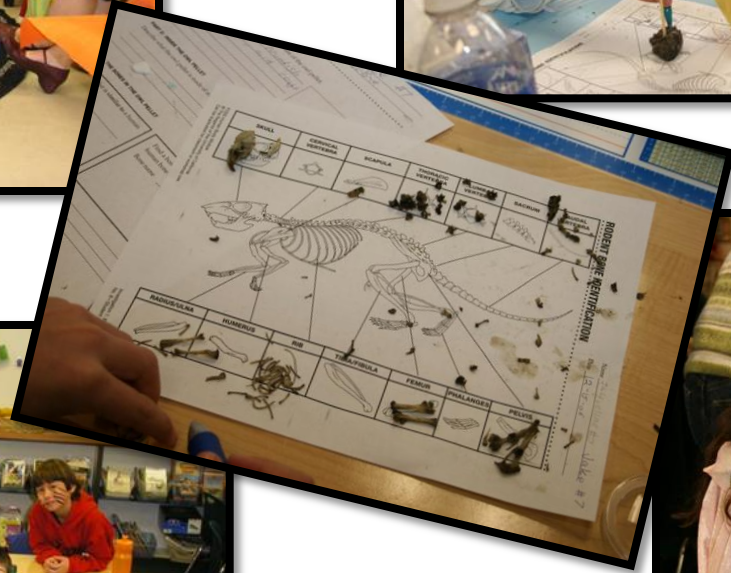


Core Knowledge in Action

It is:

- Rich and meaningful
- Mastery of subject matter
- High expectations for all
- Intentional support of language development
- Scaffolding and feedback to meet individual needs
- Opportunity to apply knowledge learned
- Opportunities for practice





Benefits of Core Knowledge For Students

- Provides a broad base of knowledge and a rich vocabulary.
- Motivates students to learn and creates a strong desire to learn more.
- Provides the knowledge necessary for higher levels of learning and helps build confidence.
- Provides a strong foundation of knowledge for success in high school and beyond.



Benefits of Core Knowledge For the School

- Provides a plan for coherent, sequenced learning from grade to grade – Common Core Turbocharged!
- Promotes a community of learners- adults and children.
- Becomes an effective tool for lesson planning and communication among teachers and with parents.



Benefits of Core Knowledge For Parents and the Community

- Provides a clear outline of what children are expected to learn in school.
- Encourages parents to participate in their children's education both at home and in school.
- Provides opportunities for community members to help obtain and provide instructional resources.
- Provides a strong foundation of knowledge for success in high school and beyond.



High Quality Resources

- Support structures are essential!
- Core Knowledge has a wide range of resources
- Support for school level implementation
 - Affordable
- Outstanding support for classroom teachers
- Support for parents



Staying in Touch & Resources

- David Patterson Ed.D.
davidpatterson@athlosacademies.org
or
dpatterson@rocklinacademy.org
- Steven Carney (WA State)
stevencarney@me.com
- Visit Rocklin Academy (Northeast of Sacramento) 916-632-6580
www.rocklinacademy.org
- Core Knowledge Foundation
www.coreknowledge.org
- Athlos Academies
www.athlosacademies.org



THANK YOU!

- **Questions?**

