



## **Arthur Academy Charter Schools' Instructional Model**

Arthur Academy charter schools are driven by our instructional model. This model is a way of teaching that also defines our charter school option. It is what draws students and is what attracts teachers to work at the schools.

Providing this model is based on the belief that a powerful way of teaching exists that is not being utilized in most schools, and therefore our charter schools offer it as a choice.

The instructional model is called Mastery Learning. It uses a series of programs called Direct Instruction (DI) for teaching reading, language arts and math in grades k-6 where all learning is arranged very incrementally so that students can be successful in mastering everything that is taught as they progress through the programs. It starts with well-designed curriculum materials and follows through with exact plans for how all lessons are presented and communicated.

DI curriculum materials break down all general objectives into very small teaching progressions within each lesson. All activities are very carefully sequenced so that they can be easily learned, mastered and gradually accumulated towards larger objectives. The activities are presented to children in very exacting, interactive ways so that children are motivated and so that they all will learn.

This model is academically focused right from the beginning, in kindergarten. It is based on the belief that academic learning can be highly motivating by itself when taught clearly, systematically and enthusiastically. It has been observed that children are excited and gain self-confidence when learning academic skills and knowledge in these programs.

To complement these programs, Core Knowledge programs are used for teaching subjects of history, geography, science, music, art, and literature through high-interest themes and projects. Core Knowledge complements DI by teaching more open ended, inquiry material. This kind of content, where skills are applied in new areas, is increased at each grade level. Together, these two programs provide the best of both approaches to teaching, specifically sequenced instruction and more open-ended discovery instruction.