

Good evening—

My name is Mark Wise. I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy. I have taught in both public and private schools in several states, but like many of my colleagues, when I moved back to this area a number of years ago I chose to work at Lyles-Crouch because of the Core Knowledge Curriculum.

**Core Knowledge is**—a “traditional” approach to teaching with a **content-rich curriculum**, which continuously builds background knowledge in students and promotes critical thinking skills and student engagement. Core Knowledge is a stand-alone comprehensive educational program. Not a supplement to one’s curriculum.

Core Knowledge provides students with a rich content vocabulary that enables them to comprehend and interpret historical and literary material. It is rich in both non-fiction and fiction resources.

There is a:

- **Continuous, chronological sequence**
- **Spirals** from one grade to the next—which makes opting into LCTA possible for students coming to us from a non-CK school
- **Rich content—Core Knowledge is for all students!** It supports struggling students, enriches classroom instruction, and challenges high achievers.
- **Students make connections**
- **Students apply knowledge**
- **Students LEARN so much!**
- **Exposure to “classic “ literature at a young age**
- **Exposure to sayings/idioms**
- **Provides opportunities to write**
- **Integrated across the curriculum**
- **Correlated to science/social studies topics**
- **Phonics rich and Explicit vocabulary Instruction**

Core Knowledge at LCTA embraces the Virginia SOLs, but also includes topics in history, science, and literature that students would otherwise never learn! Core Knowledge has been proven through research to bridge the “knowledge gap.” We see evidence of this every year at Lyles-Crouch when we look at our students’ performance on the SOLs. The Core Knowledge program at Lyles-Crouch truly does level the playing field- giving students in all groups, from all backgrounds, equal access to increased rigor and higher levels of education.

Core Knowledge is a curriculum just like the IB and dual language programs and should be similarly recognized. Please protect and preserve Core Knowledge at Lyles-Crouch. And **yes, we would love for other schools to adopt this curriculum** and make provisions for students to gain admission into it. We are open for visits and sharing how this program works.

I would like to end with the words from a great American who fought for equal rights. Malcolm X knew of struggles and injustices but his wise words about learning are so important. **“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”** We want to keep empowering all students through the Core Knowledge Curriculum.

Thank you!