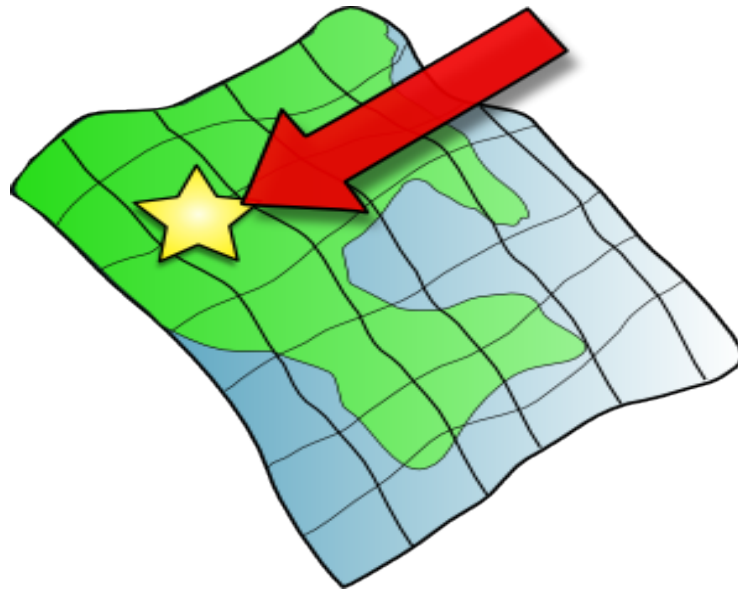


**Excellence Christian School
Curriculum Guide**

Principal, Dr. Erika Lee



Backwards Mapping our Way to Student Success

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The Lower School Curriculum Overview (Grades K3-4)

Each lower school classroom is self-contained (with the exception of 4th grade which is departmentalized) with the homeroom teacher serving as the instructor for all core subject areas including: Bible, math, reading, language arts, science and social studies. Students also participate in a variety of specialty classes which include: Physical education, music, art and Spanish. Students in the Lower School participate in weekly Chapel Sessions which emphasize the importance of Christian Character and values as taught in the Word of God.

- Our K3-K5 Programs utilize the ABEKA reading program which offers a strong foundation on which to build reading and writing skills essential for school success. Students are provided with the opportunity to explore their world through phonemic awareness, reading, writing, activity time, language enrichment and Bible time. In addition, students engage in hands on science and interactive social studies lessons using the Houghton Mifflin series.
- Math Grades K5-2 utilize research based Saxon Program – provides a spiral curriculum which builds on previously taught skills and fosters mastery, problem solving, critical thinking, and real life application.
- Math Grades 3-4 utilize the Purposeful Design Series which also builds on previously taught skills and fosters mastery, problem solving, critical thinking, and real life application. In addition it provides a foundation for mastery of basic multiplication and division facts.
- We have implemented the Soar to Success Program which will provide additional learning opportunities for struggling students to reach their potential in reading comprehension. Six main reading strategies will be targeted throughout the 30 week intensive program which will reinforce the skills and strategies already being taught during the 120 minutes of Reading/Language Arts in the classroom setting. This program will be available to students in grades 1-3 who are recommended by their core teachers.
- Literature Circles will provide students in grades K3-3rd the opportunity to meet with me to read a variety of rich literature and to discuss their responses and evaluation of the text. Each week we will engage in activities to promote critical thinking, listening and speaking skills. Each piece of literature will culminate with hands on activities to bring the text to life. This program is designed to make reading enjoyable as well as practical.
- Students in grades K5-4th grade will enjoy a literature rich reading, social studies and science program published by Houghton Mifflin. This dynamic program engages students in the core subject areas by providing each student with the tools that they need to succeed. The program is built around the concept of reaching all learners through

differentiated instructional methods. A wide variety of resources are available to the teacher to match curriculum materials with each type of learner. Small group interaction is at the heart of this program which allows the students to complete expeditions and hands on lab activities at their own pace, giving the core teacher the time to meet with each group and serve as the facilitator of the discovery lesson.

- The Houghton Mifflin provides teachers with the ability to meet individual student needs in small group settings. It also fosters mastery of core reading strategies by reinforcing them in both science and social studies.
- The Houghton Mifflin series offers a wide variety of expository and narrative text to support and enhance the reading, science and social studies curriculum in grades 2-4.
- Classroom libraries are leveled to meet the individual reading needs of each student and will promote the essential reading strategies needed for reading success.



Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

Pre-K students enter the classroom setting, some for the first time, eager and ready for school. K3-K4 students are energetic and imaginative. They seek adult approval and have a natural desire to learn and do their best. K3-K4 students are becoming more self confident and are willing to try new things. All of our learning activities are presented in a way that meets the needs of these very active imaginative learners.

Phonics and Reading

The language arts curriculum provides students with the opportunity to explore written and spoken language in a print rich learning environment. Students receive developmentally appropriate instruction using a variety of methods to meet the needs of individual learners. Students are introduced to strategies that will assist them in developing strong skills in reading, listening, writing and speaking across all curricular areas.

- Recognition of name
- identify long and short vowels and consonants
- sounding of blends and one/two-vowel Words
- Reading of sentences and stories with one- and two-vowel words

Manuscript Writing

- Formation of letters, blends, and words
- Writing of first name

Poetry

- Twenty-eight poems and finger plays committed to memory

Language

Students will be able to develop their vocabularies through the exploration of various themes such as colors, modes of transportation, countries around the world, community helpers, health, safety, manners and self esteem.

- Language development
- listening skills
- discussion about transportation, countries, community helpers, health, safety and manners

Mathematics

The math curriculum engages students in activities that introduce them to number concepts using manipulatives, songs and interactive games to meet the needs of all learners. Students build a foundation for future math skill acquisition as they explore number concepts and patterns.

- Rote counting from 1- 100
- Recognize and understand concepts of 1-20
- Writing numbers 1- 20
- Recognize shapes and colors.
- Sort by shape, color and size.
- Recognize patterns
- Recognize and understand concepts of 0-20
- Differentiate single numbers from teen numbers.
- Greater than/less than
- Sequencing
- What number comes before, after, between a series of numbers
- Simple addition

Science “Exploring Our World”

Students will be able to perform simple hands on experiments. Students will learn and explore topics such as tools and machines, weights and measures, magnets, the 4 Seasons, Weather, the 5 Senses, the life cycles of plants and animals and the Water Cycle.

- Identify and name characteristics of the 4 Seasons
- Identify characteristics of Birds
- Identify characteristics of Mammals
- Identify characteristics of Reptiles and insects
- Identify tools and simple machines
- Learn to use a thermometer
- Identify animals that live in and characteristics of The Rain Forest.
- Explore wind and weather
- Identify creatures in the Sea
- Examine various seeds
- Plant seeds and observe their life cycle.
- Identify the life cycle of a butterfly and frog.
- Identify Zoo animals.
- Learn about Earth Day and Recycling



Kindergarten Curriculum

K5 students come to school ready and excited about the learning process. K5 is a year full of explorations and investigations as students engage in fun-filled, project –based instructional activities. Ongoing parent communication is at the core of student success at this very crucial stage of development. Students blossom in the areas of academics, social development and spiritual awareness.

Language Arts

The language arts curriculum provides students with a more in depth study of how written and spoken language work collaboratively to inspire lifelong readers and writers. Students are exposed to a variety of literature of various genres. Students begin building a strong foundation for writing as they are introduced to sentence structure, sequencing and brainstorming techniques. In addition, students apply the foundational phonemic awareness strategies as they engage in reading for a variety of purposes to include: for enjoyment, for information and to perform a task. Students begin by learning the sounds of the vowels and consonants and progress to reading blends and words. Students are placed in reading circles. Students enjoy reading colorful and interesting books prepared especially for their age level help develop them into strong readers.

Learning to read independently

- Identify story types (fantasy or realism)
- Use illustrations as picture clues
- Apply phonemic awareness
- Use letter and sound correlations while reading
- Retell stories by speaking, writing, or drawing
- Use new vocabulary

Reading Critically

- Use meaning, structure and visual cues
- Make predictions and draw conclusions based on text
- Relate text to similar experiences

Analyzing & Interpreting Literature

- Identify different types of literature (i.e., poetry, nursery rhymes, folktales)
- Identify literary elements (events, characters, setting, problem, solution)

- Identify literary devices (repetition, rhyme, etc.)
- Read and respond to fiction, nonfiction and poetry
- Identify the structure of drama by acting out.

Types and Quality of Writing

- Form letters properly
- Use sound/letter correlation to write phonetically
- Dictate a complete sentence
- Write to express a personal idea, to inform, or to express an opinion
- Write and illustrate with focus and for a purpose
- Write several sentences with one central idea
- Write in sequence with a beginning, middle and end
- Write using descriptive words, action verbs, questions and statements

Mathematics

The focus of Level K Mathematics is the development of an understanding of numbers and the ability to use numbers up to twenty. Students explore number concepts through the use of manipulatives and hands on activities to encourage the application of numbers in real-world situations. The Saxon math program is hands on which allow students to explore new concept through the use of manipulative, group lessons and writing skills. This multi-sensory approach to teaching will enable all children to develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of mathematics. These components allow students to revisit skills introduced daily.

- Classification
- Sorting
- Patterns
- Money
- Time
- Geometry
- Measurement
- Addition and subtraction concepts and facts to the number ten
- Identify and sequence numbers 0-10
- Identify and name shapes
- Count objects in a set
- Match with one-to-one correspondence
- Match sets and numbers
- Sort objects and identify a sorting rule
- Identify ordinal position
- Copy geoboard designs
- Copy and extend patterns
- Create a real graph

Social Studies “My World”

Students are given a chance to talk about what they know and that’s their families and friends. This is the first unit we discuss in social studies. Then students are introduced to the following units: A Big Wide World, Long Ago and Today, and Our Country, It’s A Great Place. These units are introduced with the aid of big books leveled readers and hands –on activities.

- Understand the responsibilities of belonging to a group
- Identify a national holiday
- Analyze spatial relationships
- Political Science
- Identify rights and responsibilities of citizenship
- Recognize an authority figure
- Demonstrate understanding of conflict resolution
- Recognize a map symbol
- Identify a location on the globe
- Examine economic choices
- recognize goods and services
- Differentiate between wants and needs
- Identify a need
- Determine sequential order of events
- Apply the concept of reusing
- Understanding modes of communication
- Economics
- Analyze the concept of scarcity
- Identify a U.S. patriotic symbol
- Identify a historical figure
- Identify elements of patriotism
- Recognize a patriotic symbol

Science “Exploring Our World”

Students are introduced to the wonders of the natural world in which they live. Students learn about such units as Life Science; plants and animals and their characteristics. They explore and make new discoveries in when discussing the unit Earth Science, where they learn all about the earth and the sky. These are just a few exciting units they will experience. Leveled books along with a colorful big book and plenty hands on activities help keep our eager kindergartener engaged.

- Identify habits required to maintain health
- Identify organisms that are similar in structure
- Understand that the sense provide external cues to the environment
- Differentiate between natural and artificial objects
- Identify basic structures and their functions in organisms
- Predict animal behavior
- Understand the effects of human behavior earth
- Understand the effects of climates on habitats
- Recognize a map symbol
- Identify a location on the globe
- Understand the locations of objects in the sky
- Identify sources of energy for Earth
- Recognize seasonal changes
- Use observations to identify similarities
- Interpret simple graphs of data
- Use basic measurement instruments
- Determine a basic property of materials
- Predict changes due to pushing or pulling
- Recognize the effects of light on objects
- Determine relative position of objects
- Identify examples of different states of matter



First Grade Curriculum

First graders have the wonderful opportunity of exploring his/her world through cooperative group activities, engaging lessons and more independent practice time to master concepts. Small group instruction is at the heart of the instructional program in order to meet the needs of all learners.

Language Arts

Phonics is an essential tool for reading and spelling. First Graders are introduced to building blocks of reading such as sound recognition, blends, digraphs, diphthongs, and phonics' rules. Learning to read for different purposes is an important skill to learn in first grade. First graders are introduced to focusing more on learning to read and reading for enjoyment, then gradually building reading strategies, vocabularies, recalling facts and details, fluency, critical thinking, and comprehension skills. Reading in content areas such science and social studies is also an important part of this curriculum.

Learning to read independently

- Use pictures and text to make predictions about content
- Use pictures and text to help decode unknown words
- Use beginning and ending sounds to help decode unknown words
- Use short and long vowel sounds to decode words
- Understand fiction and non-fiction
- Reread for understanding
- Develop fluency (speed and accuracy)

Reading Critically

- Distinguish between essential and nonessential text
- Make predictions and draw conclusions based on text
- Formulate questions related to text

Analyzing & Interpreting Literature

- Identify different types of literature (i.e., poetry, nursery rhymes, folktales)
- Retell story including literary elements (events, characters, setting, problem, solution)
- Identify literary devices (repetition, rhyme, etc.)
- Read and respond to fiction, nonfiction and poetry
- Relate text to similar experiences

Types and Quality of Writing

- Retell story by drawing, then writing
- Compose narrative and information writing using relevant illustrations
- Compose fact and opinion on given topic
- Write and illustrate with focus and for a purpose
- Write using whole sentences
- Write in sequence with a beginning, middle and end
- Use correct letter formation and spacing
- Use nouns, verbs and descriptive words correctly

Learning to Learn

- Discuss and locate topics of interest for research
- Use table of contents and glossary
- Locate information using provided resources
- Describe appropriate listening, speaking and turn-taking behaviors
- Exhibit persistence in completing tasks

Social Studies “School and Family”

First graders are introduced to Civics and Government, Economics, Geography and History through calendar based themes. Both expository and narrative texts are used to introduce basic Social Studies concepts. Students go on to explore these concepts through Language Arts and Literature connections. The family, school and neighborhood are explored from the perspective of the four basic areas of the Social Studies. Big maps, globe, manipulative, leveled readers, and cross curricular are used to ensure student’s learning/mastery.

- Recognize a geographic concept
- Identify symbols on a map
- Apply an understanding of cardinal directions
- Determine relative location
- Associate a natural resource with a use
- Identify wants and needs
- Analyze ways to achieve wants
- Recognize an example of goods and services
- Analyze pricing of goods
- Interpret a graph
- Analyze change overtime
- Interpret a timeline
- Differentiate between past and present
- Identify a major event in U.S. history

- Demonstrate understanding of conflict resolution
- Identify an appropriate form of action
- Recognize an authority figure
- Identify a historical figure
- Identify a national symbol

Science “Exploring Our World”

First graders are introduced to life, earth, and physical science. They will be exploring about life science through observations, predictions and hands on activities to widen their knowledge about God’s creations. Students will engage in hands on activities as they explore the world around them through scientific inquiry and investigation.

- Group things into categories of living and non-living
- Understand life cycle of organisms
- Predict animal behavior based on an understanding of structure and function
- Group organisms based on given structures
- Understand life cycle of organisms
- Predict organisms’ habitat based on an understanding of structure and function
- Predict organisms’ habitat based on an understanding of structure and function
- Identify natural resources that are use to make everyday objects
- Identify materials that can be broken down into soil
- Analyze ways to recycle
- Understand basic weather measurements
- Understand the locations of objects in the sky
- Use evidence to predict the location of objects in the sky
- Use basic measurement instrument
- Interpret simple graphs of data
- Recognize different states of matter
- Understand how to determine basic properties of materials
- Relate the force required to move objects to the mass of the objects
- Predict changes due to pushing or pulling

Mathematics

The focus of Level 1 Mathematics is the development of number sense, the mastery of addition and subtraction concepts. Students integrate and connect strands of mathematical concepts on a daily basis. In addition, students communicate, reason and make connections with the real world. The concept of elementary mathematics is important to the child’s stage of mental development. First graders are introduced to number facts, number sense and operations, geometry and measurements and computations of whole numbers. First graders will be using manipulative to ensure practical application in their daily lives.

- Count forward and backward from an initial number
- Identify ordinal positions
- Locate whole number in a number line
- Identify plane figures
- Addition facts using symbolic notation
- Addition of whole numbers in context
- Subtraction facts using symbolic notation
- Subtraction of whole numbers using symbolic notation
- Estimate or measure length using non-standard measure
- Match number names and notation
- Calculate the value of sets of coins (dimes and pennies)
- Solve problems involving place value
- Solve problem involving elapsed time
- Addition facts in context
- Subtraction facts in context
- Compare and order numbers and sets of 100
- Identify a number that is 100 more or less than a given number
- Identify figure with the same size and/or shape
- Solve problem involving calendar concepts
- Identify appropriate tools or units of measurement
- Identify components and properties of geometric figures
- Read and interpret tables and graphs
- Solve problems involving fractional concepts



Second Grade Curriculum

Second graders have a natural desire to learn and do their best. Their curiosity to “wonder” stimulates their curiosity to know and find out more. The classroom is an integral discovery zone and laboratory for learning. The parent-teacher partnership is vital in helping Second Graders succeed academically, spiritually and socially. Teachers guide and help strengthen each child’s intrinsic motivation through interesting, challenging and fun learning activities. It is a teacher’s role to foster and encourage every student to develop an appreciation for life-long learning.

Reading/Language Arts

Second graders are ready to apply what they know about the meanings of letters, as they continue to practice phonics skills taught in first grade. They are now ready to strengthen their fluent reading skills in order to help them better comprehend fiction and non-fiction text. By the second half of the year, students develop their analytical abilities as they begin the ‘read to learn’ and apply fundamental reading strategies to more complex reading passages. Students are introduced to the language of writing as they learn and practice basic grammar mechanics and usage. Students also learn the steps in the Writing Process. They learn to write basic sentences and short narratives.

Learning to read independently

- Previews text (title, headings, chapters, cover, table of contents) to set a purpose for reading, recognize author’s purpose and make predictions
- Use sight word vocabulary
- Use knowledge of phonics and word analysis to decode new words
- Use initial and final sounds, and long and short vowel sounds, to decode words
- Develop knowledge of phonics (digraphs, blends, etc.)
- Use context cues to understand new words
- Reread to self-correct miscues
- Retell and summarize ideas in nonfiction and fiction
- Clarify ideas and understandings through rereading and discussion

Reading Critically

- Distinguish between fantasy and realism, and between fact and opinion
- Make inferences and draw conclusions based on text

- Read and understand documents
- Identify and use a variety of media
- Draw conclusion from details
- Extract implicit theme or main idea
- Select and appropriate reading strategy in a given situation
- Apply ideas from the next to a new situation
- Draw conclusions from details
- Generalize beyond text
- Determine if needed information is within text
- Select an appropriate reading strategy in a given situation

Analyzing & Interpreting Literature

- Recognize types of text (narrative, informational, etc.)
- Identify literary elements (events, characters, setting, problem, solution)
- Identify literary devices (repetition, personification, rhyme, etc.)
- Read and respond to fiction, nonfiction and poetry
- Identify dialogue
- Act out story in play format

Types and Quality of Writing

- Write with a clear focus, identifying topic, purpose and audience
- Write using content appropriate to topic
- Write showing main idea and supporting details
- Write in sequence with a beginning, middle and end, using key words for sequencing (first, next, finally)
- Revise and edit writing
- Spell frequently used words correctly
- Use capital letters and punctuation marks correctly

Learning to Learn

- Discuss and locate topics of interest for research
- Locate appropriate resources for a task
- Use traditional and electronic resources
- Describe appropriate listening, speaking and turn-taking behaviors
- Exhibit persistence in completing tasks
- Follow classroom rules
- Strive for accuracy

Social Studies “Neighborhoods”

- Apply and understanding of cardinal directions
- Evaluate ways to resolve conflict
- Recognize appropriate shelter to environment
- Identify cultural diversity

- Recognize patriotic symbols
- Analyze economic choices
- Sequence production of a good
- Recognize the purpose of an economic situation advancement
- Understand mediums of exchange
- Analyze a recycling method
- Relate a branch of government to a duty
- Identify good citizenship
- Identify people who enforce rules and laws
- Relate the importance of natural resources to technological advancement
- Evaluate how places change over time
- Identify a historical figure
- Interpret a timeline

Mathematics

Math concepts become more complex in second grade through the use of the spiral approach of the Saxon Math curriculum. Students continue to practice mathematical skills and concepts taught in the first grade, such as skip counting and time. Students learn the steps to solving word problems; these steps are applied throughout the school year and across the curriculum. They also learn to add and subtract two-digit numbers, and to understand the meaning of multiplication and division. Students are introduced to the first half of the “time table.”

- Compare and order number sets to 1000
- Count forward or backward from an initial number
- Identify a number sentence that represents the inverse operation of a given number sentence
- Identify ordinal positions
- Match number names and notation
- Extend a numerical pattern
- Identify missing elements in a numerical pattern
- Estimate or measure time using analog clocks Identify a number that is 10 more or less than a given number
- Identify a number that is 100 more or less than a given number
- Identify and use field properties of addition and multiplication
- Locate whole numbers on a number line
- Solve problems involving fraction concepts
- Solve problems using appropriate strategies
- Identify possible outcomes
- Read and interpret tables and graphs
- Solve problems involving tables and graphs

- Compare the value of set of coins
- Estimate and measure length using customary metric or non-standard units
- Estimate or measure temperature using customary or metric units
- Identify geometric transformations
- Identify symmetry
- Identify the place value of a digit in a whole number
- Match pictorial models to fraction names and notation
- Match place value models to number names and notation
- Solve problems using numerical reasoning
- Solve problems using place value concepts
- Translate problem situations into algebraic equations and expressions
- Identify figures with same size and/or shape
- Solve problems involving the concept of weight
- Solve problems involving spatial reasoning
- Identify multiplication as repeated addition

Science “Exploring Our World”

Students experience science concepts through a variety of lab activities which reinforce the scientific process for investigations. Students are encouraged to make hypothesis as they discover the world around them.

- Understand that organisms have structures that help them survive
- Predict animal behavior based on an understanding of structure and function
- Understand life cycle of organisms
- Classify organisms based on similarities
- Understand the basic needs of organisms
- Recognize fair ways to test hypothesis
- Use observation skills to classify objects
- Use basic measurement instruments
- Analyze a recycling method
- Identify an ecosystem
- Understand the results of change on Earth materials
- Identify materials that can be broken down into soil
- Analyze a recycling method
- Understand basic weather measurements
- Understand locations of objects in the sky
- Recognize different states of matter
- Identify resources that are used to make everyday objects
- Recognize examples of the behavior of light

- Recognize the effects of light on objects
- Understand motion by noting changes in the position of objects
- Predict changes due to pushing or pulling



Third Grade Curriculum

Third grade students have progressed through the foundational stages of instruction and are now ready to explore concepts using a variety of instructional methods including oral presentations, projects and cooperative group work.

Reading/Language Arts

Reading and writing go hand in hand as third graders brainstorm ideas using pre-writing strategies during the writing process. Students make the reading/writing connection by reading a variety of text for a variety of purposes to include, reading to inform, to perform a task and for literary experience.

Learning to read independently

- Preview text (title, headings, chapters, cover, summary, table of contents, table, charts) to set a purpose for reading, recognize author's purpose and make predictions
- Use sight word vocabulary
- Use knowledge of phonics and word analysis to decode new words
- Use initial, medial and final sounds, and long and short vowel sounds, to decode words
- Develop knowledge of phonics (digraphs, blends, vowel combinations, etc.)
- Use context cues to understand new vocabulary words in context areas
- Reread to self-correct miscues
- Retell and summarize ideas in nonfiction and fiction
- Clarify ideas and understandings through rereading and discussion

Reading Critically

- Distinguish between facts and misleading information in media
- Make inferences and draw conclusions based on text
- Read and understand documents
- Identify and use a variety of media
- Interpret character traits, motivation, or behavior
- Draw conclusions from details
- Extract implicit theme or main idea
- Form a hypothesis from ideas in the text
- Make predictions based on text
- Provide support from conclusions
- Distinguish important from less- important ideas
- Draw conclusions form details

- Identify characteristics of genre
- Select an appropriate reading strategy in a given situation
- Set purpose for reading
- Use graphics to support or verify information from text

Analyzing & Interpreting Literature

- Recognize types of text (narrative, informational, poetry, etc.)
- Identify literary elements (events, characters, setting, problem, solution, theme)
- Identify literary devices (repetition, personification, rhyme, rhythm, etc.)
- Read and respond to fiction, nonfiction and poetry
- Identify variations in dialogue
- Identify structures in drama (dialogue, acts, scenes)

Types and Quality of Writing

- Write with a clear focus, identifying topic, task and audience
- Write using content appropriate to topic
- Write showing main idea and supporting details
- Write with a sense of style (varies sentence length, good word choice)
- Revise and edit writing for conventions
- Use nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, conjunctions correctly
- Spell frequently used words correctly
- Use capital letters and punctuation marks correctly

Learning to Learn

- Discuss and locate topics of interest for research
- Locate appropriate resources for a task
- Use traditional and electronic resources
- Describe appropriate listening, speaking and turn-taking behaviors
- Exhibit persistence in completing tasks
- Follow classroom rules
- Strive for accuracy

Mathematics

The third grade math program provides ongoing instruction which builds upon previous skills taught. Students will learn concepts such as using a protractor, estimating, dividing, adding and subtracting decimals and much more

- Identify the place value of a digit in a whole or decimal number
- Identify and use order of operation rules
- Identify and use field properties of additions and multiplication
- Solve problems using appropriate strategies
- Translate between visual representations, sentences, and symbolic notation
- Identify the effect of an operation
- Solve problems using estimation strategies
- Solve problems using numerical reasoning

- Solve problems using non-routine strategies
- Evaluate Expressions
- Identify steps to solve equations
- Solve problems involving patterns
- Identify the rule given a function table
- Addition of whole numbers using symbolic notation
- Addition of whole numbers in context
- Subtraction of whole numbers in context
- Subtraction of whole number using symbolic notation
- Multiplication of whole numbers using symbolic notation
- Multiplication of whole numbers in context
- Division of whole numbers using symbolic notation
- Division of whole numbers in context
- Addition of decimals using symbolic notation
- Addition of decimals in context
- Subtraction of decimals using symbolic notation
- Subtraction of decimals in context
- Multiplication of decimals using symbolic notation
- Multiplication of decimals in context
- Division of decimals using symbolic notation
- Division of decimals in context
- Round whole numbers or decimal numbers to a specified place value
- Identify least common multiple or greatest common factor for a set of numbers
- Solve problems using estimation strategies
- Identify and use field properties of additions and multiplication
- Solve problems using appropriate strategies
- Translate between visual representations, sentences, and symbolic notation
- Identify the effect of an operation
- Solve problems using estimation strategies
- Solve problems using numerical reasoning
- Solve problems using non-routine reasoning
- Solve problems using ratio and proportion
- Solve simple algebraic equations
- Read and interpret tables and graphs
- Identify a radius, diameter, or chord of a given circle
- Solve problems involving perimeter or area
- Compare and order rational numbers
- Identify alternative representations of rational number
- Solve problems using ratio or proportion
- Read and interpret tables and graphs
- Make a prediction based on experimental or statistical data
- Identify probabilities of simple events
- Identify possible outcomes
- Convert between units of measurement

- Identify appropriate units of measurement

Social Studies “Communities”

Students will explore their surrounding community and the importance of community awareness through a variety of engaging projects, discussions and assignments. Students will have the opportunity to see their community in action through field trips and presentations.

- Analyze the significance of a historical U.S figure
- Recognize Native American contributions
- Identify accomplishments of famous U.S figures
- Identify the meaning of a patriotic symbol
- Understand how communities change over time
- Evaluate ways to preserve the past
- Analyze changes caused by settlers
- Evaluate ways to preserve the past
- Analyze the effect of technology on production
- Identify the action of a U.S historical figure
- Draw a conclusion using a map and a graph
- Identify the role of government on economy
- Distinguish between needs and wants
- Predict the effect of price on market
- Analyze reasons for saving money
- Evaluate the effect of price on demand
- Analyze the need for different modes of transportation
- Identify Characteristics of and ecosystem
- Recognize symbols on a map
- Identify a cardinal direction
- Recognize a natural resource
- Identify goods and services
- Analyze a chart
- Interpret a graph
- Apply a cardinal direction
- Analyze a map
- Draw a conclusion
- Interpret a map
- Analyze the results of human interaction with the environment

Science “Exploring Our World”

Students experience science concepts through a variety of lab activities which reinforce the scientific process for investigations. Students are encouraged to make hypothesis as they discover the world around them.

- Identify examples of populations

- Identify the basic units of a food web
- Identify examples of inherited traits
- Interpret graphic information about natural environments
- Identify methods of disease transfer in humans
- Evaluate evidence for a conclusion about adaptations of organisms
- Identify the function of types of organisms in ecosystems
- Apply an understanding of the advantages required for natural selection
- Identify the basic units of organisms
- Identify the structure of an organism required for a given function
- Identify the levels of complexity in organisms
- Draw a conclusion based on data of animal responses
- Apply an understanding of the type of questions that can be answered by experimentation
- Recognize statements of hypotheses
- Use observation skills to infer sequences of events
- Identify appropriate units of measure for length
- Use a graph to draw a conclusion about growth patterns
- Identify a model of a solar event
- Use a model to predict the effects of aquifers
- Use a model to apply an understanding of the rock cycle
- Evaluate evidence for a conclusion about Earth's form
- Apply an understanding of sequencing of rock layers
- Use a model to infer the effects of Earth's motions
- Use a model to apply an understanding about Earth's crust
- Use information to infer weather conditions
- Use information to infer the effects of gravity at different locations
- Infer the type of precipitation in a given situation
- Identify the source of an atmospheric gas
- Apply an understanding of the type of questions that can be answered by experimentation
- Recognize statements of hypotheses
- Use observation skills to infer sequences of events
- Identify appropriate units of measure for length
- Use a graph to draw a conclusion about growth patterns
- Draw a conclusion based on data of planet characteristics
- Identify examples of kinetic energy
- Apply an understanding of heat transfer
- Interpret a model of a state of matter
- Predict the effects of forces on an object
- Compare differences in light and sound
- Make an inference based on an understanding of changes in properties of matter
- Make a prediction based on an observation of properties of matter
- Identify complete electrical circuits
- Make an inference based on an understanding of waves
- Identify changes in energy forms in a given system
- Identify a characteristic of a substance in water

- Apply an understanding of the type of questions that can be answered by experimentation
- Recognize statements of hypotheses
- Use observation skills to infer sequences of events
- Identify appropriate units of measure for length
- Use a graph to draw a conclusion about growth patterns
- Apply an understanding of the type of questions that can be answered by experimentation
- Recognize statements of hypotheses
- Use observation skills to infer sequences of events
- Identify appropriate units of measure for length
- Use a graph to draw a conclusion about growth patterns



4th Grade Curriculum

Fourth grade is a time of transition, during which students become more independent and more aware of their learning styles. Students are encouraged to take more risk in terms of stretching their way of thinking outside of the traditional box. Critical thinking and problem solving are at the heart of the instructional program.

Reading/Language Arts

Students are introduced to a variety of genres to include myths, legends, adventures, mysteries, fantasies, and biographies. Students learn how to organize information into well developed essays using the writing process. In addition, students continue to apply the foundational reading strategies while reading more complicated text.

Learning to read independently

- Preview text (title, headings, chapters, cover, table of contents) to set a purpose for reading, recognize author's purpose and make predictions
- Use sight word vocabulary
- Use initial, medial, and final sounds, short and long vowel sounds, and syllabication rules to decode new words
- Use context cues to understand new words
- Recognize, use and understand the meaning of key vocabulary
- Reread to self-correct miscues
- Summarize ideas, themes, or procedures in nonfiction and fiction

Reading Critically

- Read and understand informational text and documents in all content areas
- Differentiate fact from opinion
- Identify stereotypes and exaggeration
- Distinguish between essential and nonessential information
- Identify text structures, including cause/effect, problem/solution, comparison/contrast
- Distinguish between facts and misleading information
- Multiple-Meaning Words
- Determine explicit causes or effects of events
- Draw conclusions from details
- Extract implicit theme or main idea
- Interpret character traits, motivation, or behavior
- Make predictions based on text

- Provide support for conclusions
- Analyze author's tone
- Determine explicit causes or effects for events
- Determine implicit supporting details
- Distinguish important from less-important ideas
- Determine author's intended audience
- Ask clarifying questions
- Distinguish fact from opinion
- Determine explicit sequence or actions
- Determine unknown words from context
- Identify meanings of spoken words from a variety of subject areas and other sources
- Determine explicit causes for effects of events
- Make predictions
- Extract implicit main idea or theme
- Recognize fact and opinion
- Determine explicit supporting details
- Select an appropriate strategy for a given situation
- Determine explicit supporting details

Analyzing & Interpreting Literature

- Analyze author's purpose or viewpoint
- Recognize types of text (narrative, informational, etc.)
- Identify literary elements (events, characters, setting, problem, solution)
- Identify literary devices (rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, simile, metaphor, personification)
- Identify and interpret the effects of sound and structure in poetry
- Identify and explain the structures of drama

Types and Quality of Writing

- Write with a clear focus, identifying topic, purpose and audience
- Write using content appropriate to topic
- Write showing main idea and supporting details
- Write multi-paragraph piece using appropriate transitions
- Write with sense of style (varied sentence length, type; good word choice)
- Spell frequently used words correctly
- Use capital letters and punctuation marks correctly
- Use nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions correctly
- Write in complete sentences including simple and compound combinations

Learning to Learn

- Discuss and locate topics of interest for research
- Locate appropriate resources for a task
- Use traditional and electronic resources

- Describe appropriate listening, speaking and turn-taking behaviors
- Exhibit persistence in completing tasks
- Strive for accuracy
- Exhibit cultural sensitivity
- Exhibit flexibility in thinking and planning

Mathematics

Students build on foundational math skills as they utilize their critical thinking skills to solve complex word problems.

- Extend a numerical pattern
- Identify missing information necessary to solve problems
- Round whole numbers to a specified place value
- Solve problems using appropriate strategies
- Solve problems involving patterns
- Read and interpret tables and graphs
- Analyze tables and graphs
- Solve problems involving the concept of time
- Solve problems involving money
- Draw a reflection across a line of symmetry
- Make and read a Venn diagram
- Multiply a two-digit number by a single-digit number
- Draw a graphing grid
- Make a pictograph
- Read and write large numbers
- Multiply three and four digit numbers by single digit numbers
- Identify missing addends for 100
- Write numbers in expanded form
- Compare and order rational numbers
- Match pictorial models to fraction names and notation
- Solve problems using fraction concepts
- Identify geometric solid figures
- Identify parallel and perpendicular lines
- Solve problems involving perimeter or area
- Estimate or measure temperature using customary or metric units
- Division of whole numbers using symbolic notation
- Division of whole numbers in context
- Addition of decimals using symbolic notation
- Addition of decimals in context
- Subtraction of decimals using symbolic notation
- Subtraction of decimals in context
- Addition of fractions using symbolic notation
- Subtraction of fractions using symbolic notation

Social Studies “States and Regions”

Students study both the local community and Maryland history. Local and state government concepts are also introduced. Students engage in interactive and cooperative group activities and projects to bring the concepts of the units to life.

- Analyze how communities change over time
- Recognize intermediate directions
- Apply map skills
- Draw a conclusion from a map
- Identify information from a chart
- Analyze the effect of human interaction on the environment
- Analyze a graph
- Identify supply and demand
- Analyze how communities change over time
- Recognize intermediate directions
- Apply map skills
- Draw a conclusion from a map
- Identify information from a chart
- Analyze the effect of human interaction on the environment
- Analyze a graph
- Identify supply and demand
- Analyze how communities change over time
- Recognize intermediate directions
- Apply map skills
- Draw a conclusion from a map
- Identify information from a chart
- Analyze the effect of human interaction on the environment
- Analyze a graph
- Identify supply and demand
- Identify an economic concept
- Evaluate the impact of taxes on everyday life
- Identify responsibilities of local governments
- Analyze rights and responsibilities of citizenship
- Apply map skills
- Recall the importance of a political document

Science “Exploring Our World”

Students experience science concepts through a variety of lab activities which reinforce the scientific process for investigations. Students are encouraged to make hypothesis as they discover the world around them.

- Identify organisms by given characteristics
- Identify changes in organisms’ life cycle
- Identify parts of a natural environment

- Infer methods of seed dispersal based on the form of fruits
- Identify characteristics common to major groups of organisms
- Recognize characteristics of organisms useful for a given habitat
- Apply an understanding of functions of structures in organisms
- Identify the role of given organisms in an ecosystem
- Identify the results of a motion of Earth
- Identify sources of energy for Earth Systems
- Make a prediction based on observations of changes in the earth/moon system
- Use a model to apply an understanding of planet
- Apply an understanding of the processes involved in the water cycle
- Make an inference supported by given fossil evidence
- Make an inference from data of star characteristics
- Analyze models of light behavior
- Predict the effects of forces on an object
- Identify a source of heat in a changing system
- Identify causes of sound
- Identify forces that cause motion
- Make an inference based on an understanding of changes in properties of matter
- Identify a result of friction
- Apply an understanding of the functions of electrical circuits
- Identify basic characteristics of matter
- Predict changes in motion caused by magnetic forces
- Predict the results of heat transfer in objects
- Identify basic characteristics of matter
- Interpret graphs of data



The Upper School Curriculum Overview (Grades 5-8)

- Students participate in a variety of structured learning environments which promote critical thinking, problem solving and real-life application.
- The Language Arts/English program provides students with the opportunity to explore a variety of rich literature of differing genres at progressively challenging levels. Students learn the importance of the reading-writing connection and are able to use their writing skills to communicate effectively through poetry, essays, narratives, letters and other creative writing opportunities. Grammar lessons are strategically interwoven into the writing program to reinforce the importance of mechanics, spelling and grammar usage as they relate to effective written and verbal communication.
- The mathematics program builds on the foundation established in the elementary curriculum and fosters the understanding, mastery and application of mathematical concepts. Students engage in a rigorous course outline which range in difficulty from Course 2, Pre-Algebra and/or Algebra I.
- The upper school science curriculum is designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore the scientific world while developing an appreciation for God and his creation. Students will advance their knowledge and application of the scientific process as they explore concepts in earth, life and physical science. Students will apply the concepts learned in the classroom setting to hands on laboratory activities in the science lab.
- The social science program offered to ECS students is an engaging and interactive view into the past. Students develop an understanding and appreciation for past contributions to our world and use varying points of view to analyze historical events. In addition, students make connections between historical events and the implications in modern society.
- ECS also offers a wide variety of specialty and elective classes to enhance the overall development of each learner. Physical education, music and Spanish are offered as well as Chorus, and Art.
- Our school curriculum is designed so that each grade level builds upon the knowledge taught in the previous grade level to ensure mastery of each concept taught. It is with this philosophy that we approach instruction as more than a means of conveying information to our students, but as a means of engaging them in the process to make certain that they become actively involved in their own acquisition and application of knowledge.



5th Grade Curriculum

The fifth and sixth grade classes are departmentalized during which students are introduced to the concept of switching classes for various subjects. The language arts and history programs are taught by one teacher and the math and science programs are taught by another teacher. This exposure to different teachers and teaching styles is in preparation for the upper school transition.

Reading/Language Arts

The fifth grade reading series assists students in making the reading and writing connection through reading a variety of texts of differing genres. Students will focus on specific reading strategies each week to support fluency and comprehension.

Learning to read independently

- Preview text (title, headings, chapters, cover, table of contents) to set a purpose for reading, recognize author's purpose and make predictions
- Use sight word vocabulary
- Use initial, medial, and final sounds, short and long vowel sounds, and syllabication rules to decode new words
- Use context to understand new words and text meaning
- Recognize, use and understand the meaning of key vocabulary
- Reread to self-correct miscues
- Demonstrate use of comprehension strategies
- Demonstrate fluency

Reading Critically

- Read and understand informational text and documents in all content areas
- Differentiate fact from opinion within and across texts
- Identify stereotypes and exaggeration
- Distinguish between essential and nonessential information
- Identify text structures, including cause/effect, problem/solution, comparison/contrast
- Evaluate author's purpose and effectiveness, and the effectiveness of a variety of media
- Predict/infer
- Question
- Monitor/clarify

- sequence of events
- text organization
- identify elements of a story, setting, characters, and plot
- categorize and classify
- cause and effect

Vocabulary

- Using a thesaurus,
- dictionary guide words
- dictionary definitions

Listening/Speaking/Viewing

- panel discussion
- literature discussion
- Resolve a conflict
- Give an Oral report
- Choral speaking

Analyzing & Interpreting Literature

- Identify and read a variety of genres and types of text
- Identify literary elements (events, characters, setting, problem, solution)
- Identify literary devices (rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, simile, metaphor, personification)
- Compare use of literary elements and devices by various authors
- Identify and interpret the effects of sound and structure in poetry
- Identify and explain the structures of drama
- Analyze drama as a source of information, persuasion, or transmitter of culture

Types and Quality of Writing

- Write with a clear focus, identifying topic, purpose and audience
- Write using content appropriate to topic
- Write with logical organization
- Write multi-paragraph piece using appropriate transitions
- Write with sense of style (varied sentence length, type; good word choice)
- Spell frequently used words correctly
- Use capital letters and punctuation marks correctly
- Use nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions correctly
- Write in complete sentences including simple and compound combinations
- announcement
- summary
- clarification composition
- business letter
- personnel essay

Learning to Learn

- Discuss, locate and limit topics of interest for research
- Locate appropriate resources for a task
- Gather, organize and select the most effective information appropriate for the topic, task and audience
- Use traditional and electronic resources
- Credit sources using a structured format
- Describe appropriate listening, speaking and turn-taking behaviors
- Exhibit persistence in completing tasks
- Note taking
- Summarizing
- Strive for accuracy
- Exhibit cultural sensitivity
- Exhibit flexibility in thinking and planning
- Remain positive and open to continuous learning

Mathematics

The fifth grade math program provides ongoing instruction which builds upon previous skills taught. Students will learn concepts such as using a protractor, estimating, dividing, adding and subtracting decimals and much more.

- Using money to illustrate place value
- Parentheses – Associative Property
- Rounding numbers using a number line
- Comparing whole numbers
- Using money to model decimal numbers
- Naming decimal Numbers
- Comparing and ordering decimals
- Estimating Arithmetic Answers
- Estimation of Sums
- Arithmetic Algorithms (addition, multiplication, division, and subtracting)
- Interpreting Pictures of Fractions and Percents
- Drawing Pictures of Fractions
- Recognizing Halves
- Fractions: fourths and tenths
- Comparing fractions by drawing
- Listing the Factors of Whole Numbers
- Problem Solving Strategies
- Finding the Missing Addend
- Missing digits problem
- Word Problems

- Ratios
- Bar Graphs
- Line Graph
- Simple Probability
- Performing Probability Experiments
- Finding an Average
- Mean, Median, and Range
- Multiplication as repeated Addition
- Line Graph
- Simple Probability
- Performing Probability Experiments
- Finding an Average
- Mean, Median, and Range
- Permutations
- Transformations
- Properties of Geometric Solids
- Translations of geometric figures
- Spatial Relationship and transformations
- Perimeter
- U.S. Customary System
- Converting units of lengths
- Measuring lengths with a ruler
- Converting units of weights and mass
- Graphing points on a Coordinate Plane
- Scales
- Elapsed-time word problems
- Multiplication Algorithm
- Division Algorithm

Science “Exploring Our World”

Students will have the opportunity to investigate and hypothesize as they engage in the scientific process.

- Interpret a simple food web
- Identify the role of given organisms in an ecosystem
- Apply an understanding of the Earth’s motion.
- Apply an understanding of soil composition
- Understand erosion
- Understand the cause of common landforms
- Identify an effect of the force of gravity on the Earth
- Understand the characteristics of matter

- Interpret data of properties of matter
- Use a model to determine motion
- Draw conclusions about motion using data
- Predict the effects of motion on an object
- Analyze weather data using a graph
- Understand precipitation
- Identify changes caused by Earth's motion
- Characteristics of the Earth's Crust
- Use a model to infer the effects of the sun on the Earth
- Identify basic characteristics involved in electrical currents
- Apply and understand the types of questions that can be answered by experimentation
- Identify a procedure that should be followed to correct a possible experimental error
- Identify quantitative relationships given in graphs
- Identify the use of basic scientific instruments
- Identify characteristics common to major groups of organisms
- Determine characteristics of an organism, given part of its life cycle
- Infer methods of seed dispersal based on the form of a given fruit

Social Studies "U.S. History"

The fifth grade history program will take students on an adventure as they explore the land around them. Expository text will be utilized to support the program and to make reading and writing connections.

- Identify a location
- Analyze causes of immigration to the U.S.
- Interpret timelines
- Analyze the responsibilities of citizenship
- Analyze changes caused by Europeans
- Recognize ways historians learn from the past
- Analyze changes caused by European Settlements
- Recognize economic institution
- Understand a economic concept
- Interpret a timeline
- Analyze maps
- Analyze special purpose maps
- Recognize physical characteristics
- Interpret a cultural group with geographic region
- Evaluate the effects of the European settlement

- Analyze the cause of the community change over time
- Recognize economic institution
- Understand the responsibilities of citizenship
- Analyze a graph
- Draw a conclusion
- Understand an economic concept
- Identify location
- Identify a demographic map
- Recognize the impact of technological innovations
- Analyze change caused European settlement
- Evaluate a compromise
- Distinguish fact from opinion
- Understand an economic concept
- Recognize an economic concept
- Understand the concept of wages
- Understand the influence of demand on the market
- Recognize the physical characteristics of a region
- Evaluate global cooperation
- Recognize the role of the government in the economy
- Evaluate a compromise
- Distinguish fact from opinion
- Analyze a function of the judicial system
- Identify a responsibility of government
- Recognize elements of the U. S. political documents
- Recall elements of the U. S. conflict
- Recall elements of the U. S. conflict
- Draw conclusions from multiple perspective
- Analyze a special purpose map
- Recognize an economic concept
- Analyze the influence of the demand of the market
- Recognize economic institution
- Analyze causes of immigration
- Analyze the cause of the community change over time
- Analyze a cause in the U.S. settlement
- Evaluate a compromise
- Recognize principles of the U. S. democracy
- Identify a responsibility of the government
- Recognize physical characteristics of a region
- Identify cultural groups with a geographic region Recognize private and public property



6th Grade Curriculum

Reading/Language Arts

The sixth grade reading series assists students in making the reading and writing connection through reading a variety of texts of differing genres. Students will focus on specific reading strategies each week to support fluency and comprehension.

Learning to read independently

- Preview text (title, headings, chapters, cover, table of contents) to set a purpose for reading, recognize author's purpose and make predictions
- Use sight word vocabulary
- Use initial, medial, and final sounds, short and long vowel sounds, and syllabication rules to decode new words
- Use context to understand new words and text meaning
- Recognize, use and understand the meaning of key vocabulary
- Reread to self-correct miscues
- Demonstrate use of comprehension strategies
- Demonstrate fluency

Reading Critically

- Read and understand informational text and documents in all content areas
- Differentiate fact from opinion within and across texts
- Identify stereotypes and exaggeration
- Distinguish between essential and nonessential information
- Identify text structures, including cause/effect, problem/solution, comparison/contrast
- Evaluate author's purpose and effectiveness, and the effectiveness of a variety of media
- Predict/infer
- Question
- Monitor/clarify
- sequence of events
- text organization
- identify elements of a story, setting, characters, and plot
- categorize and classify
- cause and effect

Vocabulary

- Using a thesaurus,
- dictionary guide words
- dictionary definitions

Listening/Speaking/Viewing

- panel discussion
- literature discussion
- Resolve a conflict
- Give an Oral report
- Choral speaking

Analyzing & Interpreting Literature

- Identify and read a variety of genres and types of text
- Identify literary elements (events, characters, setting, problem, solution)
- Identify literary devices (rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, simile, metaphor, personification)
- Compare use of literary elements and devices by various authors
- Identify and interpret the effects of sound and structure in poetry
- Identify and explain the structures of drama
- Analyze drama as a source of information, persuasion, or transmitter of culture

Types and Quality of Writing

- Write with a clear focus, identifying topic, purpose and audience
- Write using content appropriate to topic
- Write with logical organization
- Write multi-paragraph piece using appropriate transitions
- Write with sense of style (varied sentence length, type; good word choice)
- Spell frequently used words correctly
- Use capital letters and punctuation marks correctly
- Use nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions correctly
- Write in complete sentences including simple and compound combinations
- announcement
- summary
- clarification composition
- business letter
- personnel essay

Learning to Learn

- Discuss, locate and limit topics of interest for research
- Locate appropriate resources for a task
- Gather, organize and select the most effective information appropriate for

the topic, task and audience

- Use traditional and electronic resources
- Credit sources using a structured format
- Describe appropriate listening, speaking and turn-taking behaviors
- Exhibit persistence in completing tasks
- Note taking
- Summarizing
- Strive for accuracy
- Exhibit cultural sensitivity
- Exhibit flexibility in thinking and planning
- Remain positive and open to continuous learning

Mathematics

Students will be provided with ongoing instruction which builds upon previous skills taught.

Students will utilize higher level critical thinking skills to solve word problems and use strategic thinking to solve computation problems.

- Identify the place value of a digit in a whole or decimal number
- Identify and use order of operation rules
- Identify and use field properties of additions and multiplication
- Solve problems using appropriate strategies
- Translate between visual representations, sentences, and symbolic notation
- Identify the effect of an operation
- Solve problems using estimation strategies
- Solve problems using numerical reasoning
- Solve problems using non-routine strategies
- Evaluate Expressions
- Identify steps to solve equations
- Solve problems involving patterns
- Identify the rule given a function table
- Addition of whole numbers using symbolic notation
- Addition of whole numbers in context
- Subtraction of whole numbers in context
- Subtraction of whole number using symbolic notation
- Multiplication of whole numbers using symbolic notation
- Multiplication of whole numbers in context
- Division of whole numbers using symbolic notation
- Division of whole numbers in context
- Addition of decimals using symbolic notation
- Addition of decimals in context
- Subtraction of decimals using symbolic notation
- Subtraction of decimals in context
- Multiplication of decimals using symbolic notation

- Multiplication of decimals in context
- Division of decimals using symbolic notation
- Division of decimals in context
- Round whole numbers or decimal numbers to a specified place value
- Identify least common multiple or greatest common factor for a set of numbers
- Solve problems using estimation strategies
- Identify and use field properties of additions and multiplication
- Solve problems using appropriate strategies
- Translate between visual representations, sentences, and symbolic notation
- Identify the effect of an operation
- Solve problems using estimation strategies
- Solve problems using numerical reasoning
- Solve problems using non-routine reasoning
- Solve problems using ratio and proportion
- Solve simple algebraic equations
- Read and interpret tables and graphs
- Identify a radius, diameter, or chord of a given circle
- Solve problems involving perimeter or area
- Addition of fractions using symbolic notation
- Addition of fractions in context
- Subtraction of fractions using symbolic notation
- Subtraction of fraction in context
- Multiplication of fractions using symbolic notations
- Multiplication of fractions in context
- Division of fractions using symbolic notation
- Compare and order rational numbers
- Identify alternative representations of rational numbers
- Solve problems using ratio or proportion
- Read and interpret tables and graphs
- Make a prediction based on experimental or statistical data
- Identify probabilities of simple events
- Identify possible outcomes
- Convert between units of measurement
- Identify appropriate units of measurement
- Read and interpret tables and graphs
- Make a prediction based on experimental or statistical data
- Identify probabilities of simple events
- Identify possible outcomes

Social Studies “World Cultures and Geography”

Students will engage in hands on interactive project –based learning activities as they explore the cultures and geography of the world.

- Understand a result of the Columbian Exchange
- Recognize the role of a historical figure in advancing democracy
- Recognize ways historians learn about the past
- Identify an important action of a President
- Draw a conclusion based on an artifact
- Analyze the effects of geography on early societies
- Draw a conclusion based on an artifact
- Analyze the effects of geography on early societies
- Draw a conclusion from a timeline
- Identify US land acquisitions
- Analyze the impact of a technological innovation
- Analyze a result of U.S. immigration
- Identify a physical feature on a map
- Identify intermediate direction
- Identify a geographical feature
- Draw a conclusion from a graph
- Recognize physical features on a map
- Interpret a special purpose map
- Apply information from a map
- Draw a conclusion using a map and a graph
- Analyze the effect of human settlement on the environment
- Evaluate the effects of human migration
- Analyze the purpose of labor unions
- Recognize differences between public and private property
- Understand opportunity cost
- Recognize consumers and producers
- Identify supply and demand
- Analyze the role of government in the economy
- Associate a natural resource with a product
- Draw a conclusion about economic efficiency
- Identify economic terms
- Analyze factors that influence salaries

Science “Exploring Our World”

Students experience science concepts through a variety of lab activities which reinforce the scientific process for investigations. Students are encouraged to make hypothesis as they discover the world around them.

- Identify examples of populations
- Identify the basic units of a food web
- Identify examples of inherited traits
- Interpret graphic information about natural environments
- Identify methods of disease transfer in humans
- Evaluate evidence for a conclusion about adaptations of organisms
- Identify the function of types of organisms in ecosystems
- Apply an understanding of the advantages required for natural selection
- Identify the basic units of organisms
- Identify the structure of an organism required for a given function
- Identify the levels of complexity in organisms
- Draw a conclusion based on data of animal responses
- Apply an understanding of the type of questions that can be answered by experimentation
- Recognize statements of hypotheses
- Use observation skills to infer sequences of events
- Identify appropriate units of measure for length
- Use a graph to draw a conclusion about growth patterns
- Identify a model of a solar event
- Use a model to predict the effects of aquifers
- Use a model to apply an understanding of the rock cycle
- Evaluate evidence for a conclusion about Earth’s form
- Apply an understanding of sequencing of rock layers
- Use a model to infer the effects of Earth’s motions
- Use a model to apply an understanding about Earth’s crust
- Use information to infer weather conditions
- Use information to infer the effects of gravity at different locations
- Infer the type of precipitation in a given situation
- Identify the source of an atmospheric gas
- Apply an understanding of the type of questions that can be answered by experimentation
- Recognize statements of hypotheses
- Use observation skills to infer sequences of events
- Identify appropriate units of measure for length
- Use a graph to draw a conclusion about growth patterns
- Identify examples of kinetic energy
- Apply an understanding of heat transfer
- Interpret a model of a state of matter
- Predict the effects of forces on an object
- Compare differences in light and sound

- Make an inference based on an understanding of changes in properties of matter
- Make a prediction based on an observation of properties of matter
- Identify complete electrical circuits
- Make an inference based on an understanding of waves
- Identify changes in energy forms in a given system
- Identify a characteristic of a substance in water
- Identify appropriate units of measure for length



Bible Curriculum

The ECS Upper School Bible Curriculum is designed to equip students with general knowledge and comprehension of Old Testament and New Testament Bible stories, Biblical doctrine and attributes of God, Bible study skills; and the ability to relate biblical principles and information to everyday life situations.

5th-8th Grades

Students focus on establishing the following skill areas: identifying the authors of the New Testament, understanding sequencing the Epistles, applying spiritual gifts in daily life, and drawing conclusions from geographic Bible references.



Upper School English Curriculum

English Grammar, Spelling, Literature, and Writing is a course that teaches the students the fundamentals of grammar and mechanics, enhances the spelling and vocabulary of the students, allows the students to study the literary elements of literature, and improves the writing skills of students through literary and essay writing.

- Determine explicit supporting details.
- Categorize, classify, compare and contrast details from text.
- Determine implicit details, action or sequence of events.
- Draw conclusions from details.
- Extract implied theme or main idea
- Determine unknown words from context through the use of context clues.
- Determine explicit cause or explanation for events
- Determine explicit supporting details
- Determine explicit sequence or action
- Determine the main idea of the context of the read within assigned literature and supplemental activities.
- Use graphic organizers to compare and contrast characters, themes, and events within a story.
- Use story events to answer comprehensive questions that are both implicit and explicit in nature.
- Compare the genres of fiction and nonfiction, within literature.
- Use the literary elements to dissect the intricate parts of works of literature.
- Use inferences to determine the implicit meaning of the author in literature
- Use the skill of summary to highlight the main points of literary works
- Usage of explicit information within literature (i.e. – title, colors, pictures) and authorial background to understand the meaning of a literary work
- Draw conclusions from details
- Extract implicit main idea or theme
- Form hypotheses from ideas in text
- Interpret character traits, motivation, or behavior
- Make predictions

- Analyze author's purpose, assumptions, or viewpoint
- Analyze text structure or elements
- Identify, differentiate or analyze characters of genre
- Determine unknown words from context
- Determine explicit supporting details
- Categorize, classify, compare, contrast
- Determine important from less-important ideas
- Draw conclusions from details
- Provide conclusions from details
- Provide support for conclusions or outcomes
- Determine author's intended audience
- Select an appropriate reading strategy in a given situation
- Set a purpose for reading
- Focus upon reading the text for understanding and clarity to determine main points of discussion
- Summarize main points of the text for comparison of multiple texts within a given genre.
- Examination of context clues to understand vocabulary words within text.
- Examination of context clues for understanding overall implied meaning of text.
- Comparison of types of genres (fiction vs. nonfiction).
- Distinguishing main idea within context of literary works.
- Analyze author's tone for indication of attitude towards given subject matter.
- Usage of graphic organizer to compare similarities and differences within ideas within the text.
- Provide life application to various works of genre within literary texts.
- Analyze implicit details indicated within the text.
- Application of literary devices in the understanding of texts of literature.
- Making inferences to determine contextual direction of the events within the text
- Making inferences to determine conclusion of text
- Identify incorrect spelling or common homophones in context
- Apply phonetic principles to recognize incorrect spelling or phonemes within words
- Identify misspelled words in which the incorrect spelling reflects errors in applying structural principles
- Recognize correctly spelled words
- Use synonyms and antonyms to foster understanding of vocabulary words
- Teaching dictionary skills through researching the definitions of spelling words.
- Apply vocabulary and spelling words in sentence and context usage.

- Usage of spelling mastery rules for teaching strategies for effectively learning to decipher the spelling of words
- Identify definitions of words through the usage of suffixes and prefixes.
- Usage of part of speech and definitions for the understanding of words for usage in appropriate context
- Use brainstorming techniques, outlines, charts and pictures
- Determine topic relevance
- Organize information
- Combine sentences correctly
- Determine an appropriate topic sentence
- Determine extraneous information
- Determine appropriate language for audience
- Identify precise language
- Distinguish between the specific and types of part of speech such as articles, nouns, and pronouns
- Distinguishing between types of sentences and punctuation marks
- Distinguishing between complete thoughts and incomplete thoughts (i.e. sentences and fragments).
- Apply the usage of writing skills in the composition of narrative essays of writing
- Application of proofreading skills for purpose of writing skills and effectiveness
- Composition of narrative essays for telling personalized stories about the students' lives.
- Compilation of free flowing ideas through creative writing and journaling.
- Identify meanings of spoken words from a variety of subject areas and other sources
- Determine implicit details
- Extract implicit main idea or theme
- Make predictions
- Interpret literary devices
- Select an appropriate strategy for a given situation
- Determine explicit sequence or action
- Determine explicit supporting details
- Categorize, classify, compare, contrast ideas
- Draw conclusions from details
- Application of instructional directions for appropriate application to assignments
- Read aloud assignments in literature for consistency, fluency, and flow.
- Usage of listening skills for determining sequential and explicit information of a passage
- Usage of listening skills for determining extemporaneous information or irrelevant details of a literary passage



Upper School Science Curriculum

Students are provided with interactive discussions and hands-on approaches to help students learn and apply concepts in subjects. Utilize scientific tools and instruments to help children understand abstract concepts, solve problems, and develop critical thought process

- Evaluate graphic representations of data.
- Interpret information about uses of chemical substances.
- Use observations to predict characteristics of objects.
- Make a prediction based on given information
- Identify the use of tools in science
- Analyze the value and the limitations of different types of models in explaining real things and processes
- Use models and keys to scientifically identify organisms.
- Identify causes of growth in organisms.
- Identify a relationship between abiotic and biotic parts of ecosystems.
- Analyze a model to predict the effects of a change in an ecosystem.
- Apply an understanding of the importance of structural adaptations.
- Review data from a simple experiment, summarize the data, and construct a logical -and-effect relationships in the experiment
- Develop explanations that explicitly link data from investigations conducted, from historical discoveries, and appropriate readings.
- Cite evidence to support the fact that all matter is made up of atoms, which are far too small to see directly through a microscope
- Identify an interrelationship between organisms in an ecosystem.
- Recognize and provide examples that human beings like other organisms have complex body systems of cells, tissues, and organs that interact to support an organisms growth and survival
- Use information to predict soil characteristics.
- Use models to apply an understanding of weathering.
- Explain that the transfer and transformation of matter and energy links organisms to one another and to their physical setting
- Use scientific skills and processes to explain the interactions of matter and energy and the energy transformations that occur
- Use scientific skills and processes to explain the chemical and physical interactions
- Recognize the results of the position of a planet on the seasons.
- Interpret a model of a geochemical cycle.

- Use a model to identify the cause of difference in earth's temperature.
- Use information to compare characteristics of substances.
- Apply an understanding of chemical formulas.
- Identify a unit of measure associated with motion.
- Recognize chemical changes in substances.
- Identify methods of separating substances in mixture.
- Recognize and describe that environmental changes can have local, regional, and global consequences
- Identify causes of changes on Earth.
- Recognize the results of the position of a planet on the seasons.
- Recognize logical hypotheses.
- Draw a conclusion using given data.
- Evaluate experimental setups
- Analyze patterns of data to identify a problem.
- Identify constants in an experiment.
- Recognize and provide examples that human beings like other organisms have complex body systems of cells, tissues, and organs that interact to support an organism's growth and survival.
- Explain the ways that genetic information is passed from parent to offspring in different organisms
- Recognize and describe evolutionary change in species over time occurs as a result of natural variation in organisms and environmental changes.
- Analyze the value and the limitations of different types of models in explaining real things and processes
- Make an inference by comparing characteristics of organisms..
- Use models and keys to scientifically identify organisms.
- Review data from a simple experiment, summarize the data, and construct a logical -and-effect relationships in the experiment
- Develop explanations that explicitly link data from investigations conducted, from historical discoveries, and appropriate readings.
- Compare changes in plant parts using given information.
- Sequence events in cellular events.
- Evaluate given adaptations for their functions in organisms.
- Identify commonalities among groups of organisms.
- Make a prediction about a population in a given ecosystem.
- Determine the relevance of changes in mammal body functions.
- Identify parts of weather systems.
- Explain that the transfer and transformation of matter and energy links organisms
- Analyze graphic information about weather patterns.
- Draw a conclusion using given data about soil formation.
- Predict the effects of Earth changes on rock structure.
- Explain how sedimentary rock is formed periodically, embedding plant and animal remains and leaving a record of sequence in which plants and animals appeared and disappeared.

- Recognize and explain that fossils found in layers of sedimentary rock provide evidence of changing life forms.
- Cite evidence to explain the relationship between the hydrosphere and atmosphere relating atmospheric and hydrospheric conditions related to weather systems.
- Explain that the transfer and transformation of matter and energy links organisms to one another and to their physical setting
- Use scientific skills and processes to explain the interactions of matter and energy and the energy transformations that o
- Recognize and describe that environmental changes can have local, regional, and global consequences
- Pose scientific questions and suggest investigative approaches to provide answers to questions
- Demonstrate ways of thinking and acting inherent in the practice of science. The student will use language and instruments of science to collect, organize, interpret, calculate, and communicate information
- Carry out scientific investigations effectively and employ the instruments, systems of measurement, and materials of science appropriately.
- Demonstrate that data analysis is a vital aspect of the process of scientific inquiry and communication
- Use appropriate methods for. communicating in writing and orally; the processes and results of scientific investigation
- Use mathematical processes
- Continue to demonstrate the ability to use scientific skills and processes to explain composition and interactions of matter in the world in which we live.
- Explain that atoms have structure and this structure serves as the basis for the properties of elements and the bonds that they form.
- Explain why curiosity, honesty, openness, and skepticism are highly regarded in science.
- Explain how the properties of compounds are related to the arrangement and type of atoms they contain.
- Apply the basic concepts of thermodynamics to phases of matter and phase and chemical change.
- Develop explanations that explicitly link data from investigations conducted, from historical discoveries, and appropriate readings.
- Use scientific skills and processes to explain the interactions of matter and energy and the energy transformations that occur
- Explain how and why substances are represented by formulas..
- Show that chemical reactions can be represented by symbolic or word equations that specify all reactants and products involved.
- Investigate the interdependence of diverse living organisms and their interactions with components of the biosphere
- Use scientific skills and processes to explain the interactions of matter and energy and the energy transformations that occur
- Analyze the value and the limitations of different types of models in explaining real things and processes
- Use mole relationships..

- Demonstrate that adjusting quantities of reactants may affect the amounts of products formed.
- Investigate the system of classification that are adaptable to new scientific discovers
- Transfer information from food webs into different models
- Evaluate data taken from different biomes
- Make a prediction about a population in a given ecosystem
- Classify substances by common characteristics
- Identify basic components of chemical reactions
- Identify/recognize common compounds
- Analyze patterns of change in substances and their functions



Upper School History Curriculum

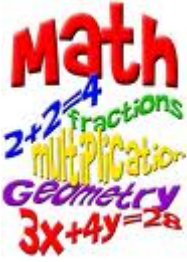
Students will discover how God has manifested His divine providence throughout history. Each grade will focus on specific time periods throughout history.

- analyze maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process and report information
- compile data of landforms, latitude and precipitation
- classify information
- compare charts
- categorize data
- correlate information
- arrange and decode
- differentiate between groups and values of people, nations and civilizations.
- identify five ways to look at Earth
- employ data
- explore how culture has developed
- calculate and conduct research of maps and globes
- investigate the Political World
- examine Country borders
- identify a line of longitude
- analyze a graph
- analyze a thematic map
- draw a conclusion about information in a chart
- draw a conclusion based on population graphs
- Understand the effect/impact of physical geography on settlement
- Analyze a cause-effect relationship
- Determine technology's effect on a physical environment
- Recognize a means of settling conflicts
- exploring causalities
- recognizing Prior Assumptions
- Evaluate culture and experience influence people's perception of place and region

- Analyze the role of political parties
- Differentiate between different systems of government
- Associate an economic system with an example
- Recall the concept of scarcity
- Recognize the role of government in the economy
- Identify a developed nation
- Draw a conclusion based on economic data
- Draw a conclusion based on information in a map
- Understand the impact of technology on workers
- cultivate and establish understand of physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth's surface
- Recall the concept of scarcity.
- Recognize the role of government in the economy.
- Identify a developed nation.
- Draw a conclusion based on economic data.
- Draw a conclusion based on information in a map.
- Understand the impact of technology on workers.
- Analyze the impact of technology.
- Analyze the role of an entrepreneur.
- Summarize information presented in a graph.
- describe the size and relative location of Africa
- examine how the location of African countries affect their economic, political and social welfare
- compare key physical features
- investigate vegetation and land use across the continent
- explore the major river of Africa
- clarifying meaning
- examine what motivate Europe to explore Africa
- examine the different challenges faced by African nations
- understanding independence
- hypothesize
- explore examine how increasing diversity in global societies results from immigration, settlement, and economic development.
- examine policies
- cultural diffusion
- analyze how diverse culture shape a pluralistic society
- identify cultural groups within a contemporary world region

- describe how migration contributes to the diversity of nations and region in East Asia
- describe religious practices
- explore landforms and waterways
- collect data on physical features
- Understanding geography on a settle in Southeastern Asia
- analyze a perspective
- identify a primary source
- understand the changing role of women in the U.S.
- analyze ideas that influenced political thinking in the U.S.
- analyze political events that shaped U.S. government
- -valuate causes of the American Revolution
- identify a cause of the Industrial Revolution
- identify factors involved in human settlement
- identify the purpose of a map
- analyze patterns of land use
- infer a result of human actions on the physical environment
- recognize factors that influence migration
- recognize information on special purpose map
- analyze geographic factors involved in the establishment of early settlements
- analyze the effect of population on characteristics of a place
- determine a factor in urban development
- Understand the result of physical processes that shape the Earth
- identify a public agenda and the groups that set it
- identify branches of U.S. government
- analyze a political document
- analyze the origins of political conflict
- analyze the principles of American democracy
- determine restraints on the power of the government
- recognize central ideas of U.S. constitutional government
- analyze how the Constitution protects the rights of individuals
- analyze issues regarding personal rights
- recognize primary responsibilities of branches of government
- apply an economic term
- evaluate effects of productivity on prices
- recognize the relationship between productivity and the standard of living
- identify basic features of mediums of exchange
- make a conclusion based on economic data

- analyze the influence of non-price factors in economic decision making
- determine characteristics of different economic systems
- make an inference based on information in a chart
- differentiate between limited and unlimited governments
- compare and contrast founding fathers philosophies
- compile data on types of economic systems
- examining types of economic systems
- analyzing Capitalist
- Analyzing Principles of Democracy
- Examining Roots of American Democracy
- investigating Founding documents
- evaluate The Bill of Rights
- explore the Powers of Government
- recognize principles of American democracy
- differentiate among features of the U.S. political system
- evaluate current events surrounding foreign policy
- evaluate the structure, powers and authority of the executive branch
- compile data on the responsibilities of national, state, and local executives
- examine how presidential powers have change over time
- explore how to become a delegate
- explore the roles and responsibilities of state and local executives, governors, county executives and mayors.



Upper School Mathematics Curriculum

The upper school math program provides students with a balanced approach to mathematics by: Investigating concepts and building conceptual understanding, developing, reinforcing, and mastering computational and procedural skills, and applying mathematics to problem-solving situations.

- Using a Problem Solving Plan
- Numbers and Expressions
- Variables and Expressions
- Properties
- Variables and Equations
- Ordered Pairs and Relations
- Scatter Plots
- Integers and Absolute Value
- Adding Integers
- Subtracting Integers
- Multiplying Integers
- Dividing Integers
- The Coordinate Plane System
- The Distributive Property
- Simplifying Algebraic Expressions
- Solving Equations by Multiplying
- Solving Equations by Dividing
- Powers & Exponents
- Prime Factorization
- Greatest Common Factor
- Simplifying Algebraic Fractions
- Multiplying & Dividing Monomials
- Negative Exponents
- Scientific Notation
- Writing Fractions as Decimals
- Rational Numbers
- Multiplying Rational Numbers
- Dividing Rational Numbers
- Adding & Subtracting Like Fractions
- Least Common Multiple
- Adding & Subtracting Unlike Fractions

- Solving Equations with Rational Numbers
- Measures of Central Tendency
- Ratios and Rates
- Proportional & Non Proportional Relationships
- Using Proportions
- Scale Drawings and Models
- Fractions, Decimals, & Percents
- Using the Percent Proportion
- Percent Equations
- Percent of Change
- Using Sampling to Predict
- Functions
- Representing Linear Functions
- Rate of Change
- Constant Rate of Change and Direct Variation
- Slope
- Slope Intercept Form
- Writing Linear Equations
- Solving Equations with Variables on each side
- Solving Equations with Grouping Symbols
- Inequalities
- Solving Inequalities by Adding or Subtracting
- Solving Inequalities by Multiplying or Dividing
- Solving Multistep Inequalities
- Squares and Square Roots
- Operations with Radical Expressions
- Radical Equations
- Translate problem situations into algebraic expressions and equations
- Identify equations of quadratic functions given tables of values or graphs
- Analyze data and draw inferences from tables and graphs
- Identify points on a coordinate grid
- Identify and classify solid and plane figures
- Solve problems using properties of geometric figures
- Identify the midpoint of a line segment
- Identify the properties, relationships, and geometric models
- Identify the properties of geometric figures using the coordinate plane and concept from algebra.



Enrichment Courses

We offer a dynamic Creative Arts Program here at Excellence Christian School. We believe in a well-rounded education for our students and developing the God-given talents of each of our students.

Visual Arts Curriculum

The arts have been a part of humanity from the very beginning. People create art to make connections and to construct meaning, and these connections serve as bridges to each new generation. The arts are deeply embedded in our daily life, whether we realize it or not, and are an inseparable part of our humanity.

- The arts have both intrinsic and instrumental value; they have worth in and of themselves and can also be used to achieve a multitude of purposes.
- The arts play a valued role in creating cultures and building civilizations.
- The arts are a way of knowing; students grow in their ability to comprehend the world when they learn the arts.
- The arts are indispensable to freedom of inquiry and expression.
- The modes of thinking and methods of the arts disciplines can be used to illuminate situations in other disciplines that require creative solutions.
- The arts provide forms of nonverbal communication that can strengthen the presentation of ideas and emotions.
- Attributes such as self-discipline, the collaborative spirit, and perseverance, which are so necessary to the arts, transfer to the rest of life.

Study in the Visual Arts develops students' skills of observation as they learn to examine the objects and events of their lives. At the same time, they grow in their ability to describe, interpret, evaluate, and respond to work in the Visual Arts. Through examination of their own work and that of other people, times, and places, students learn to unravel the essence of human expression and to appraise its purpose and importance.

Physical Education

Primary Level (PreK-Grade 2)

We start in building a solid foundation at the primary level. Teach children body control, body awareness, loco motor skills, rhythm skills, and object control (manipulative) skills, and give them plenty of time to practice. Students should start to understand that activity has an effect on the body (e.g., the heart beats faster and muscles get tired but stronger). We should expose students to fitness testing and practice the various tests, but we do not need to keep track of their scores yet. At this age level we can use loosely organized games to help children practice basic body control and various skills as they learn that activity can be fun. Any equipment used should be age appropriate, for example, when teaching throwing and catching, use soft, colorful, large balls to start. We might even use balloons at first. Rackets and bats should be an appropriate length and weight.

Upper Elementary Curriculum (Grades 3-4)

For successful participation in the middle school curriculum, students will need to have acquired some skills at the upper elementary level, including locomotor skills, object control (manipulative) skills, and rhythmic skills. In addition, students should receive an introduction to sports through use of small-sided lead-up games and other sport-related activities that promote the use of skills and tactics in a developmentally appropriate manner. The skills theme approach advocated is an excellent approach.

Students should also begin learning the basics of health-related fitness and should be introduced to fitness testing, with an emphasis on using the tests for educational purposes. We can introduce fourth and fifth grade students to pedometers, heart rate monitors and other technology and equipment.

We teach classes in a manner that emphasizes that activity can be fun and that students need to participate in a way that displays personal and social responsibility. Personal and social responsibility should be a lesson focus throughout the year. Following is our upper-elementary curriculum might look like:

Upper School (Grades 5-8)

Upper school is a vital transitional period. We need to help our students build on the basics that they learned in elementary school and prepare them to begin making choices in high school. Therefore, we should provide middle school students with a variety of physical activity experiences so that they can discover which activities they most enjoy (and would most likely continue to participate in as adults).

Students should also learn the skills and tactics necessary for successful participation in a variety of activities and sports. In particular, students should now be learning how to use skills and tactics in combination, in small-sided and some full-sided games.

Health-related fitness concepts and benefits should also be stressed as part of the curriculum at the middle school level. Students should now be gaining the knowledge that they will apply in the ninth grade. At the middle school level, fitness testing should begin to move from teacher assessment to self assessment. We should expose students to technology, such as pedometers, heart rate monitors, fitness testing software and fitness equipment.

We should emphasize that physical activity can be enjoyable and social. Research has consistently shown that the middle school level is a time when many previously active children become more sedentary. We don't want to lose them to computer games, television, and hanging out at the mall. Therefore, expose students to the benefits of activity, which at this age includes having fun with friends, feeling and looking good, and being more independent. Although teaching long-term health benefits is important, those benefits tend to be less meaningful to middle school students.

In addition, we should teach personal and social responsibility in physical activity settings to prepare students for appropriate participation in high school. An excellent approach is to offer a unit on team building at the start of each year in the middle school and then reinforce the learning throughout each year.

Our middle school curriculum might look something like the following, although the selection of specific sports and activities will need to be based on our facilities, equipment, teacher expertise, scheduling and other factors

Spanish

The goal of this program is to introduce students to the richness of the Spanish language as well as to help them gain an understanding of the diverse cultures and people that inhabit our world. In gaining this insight to Spanish we learn the similarities and differences that we all have as members of the family of Christ. Other goals of this class are:

- To obtain a strong intermediate knowledge of Spanish
- To introduce students to the culture, traditions and rich history of other countries.
- To open minds and hearts to the world and help develop a Christian mindset of love for the people of the world.

Students are introduced to the Spanish language and culture using interdisciplinary approach to studying language. Using history, fine art and literature of the cultures we are learning; the students will be encouraged to use critical thinking skills as well as allowing students to use an oral, written, visual and hands on approach to learning. Students also learn Bible verses in Spanish in the hopes of one day sharing their knowledge and love of God with others.

Music/Chorus/Band

Fine arts is an important component of the developmental process and is therefore essential here at ECS. Students in grade K3 through 8th grade participate in a variety of music related experiences ranging from the general music education class to piano lessons and chorus. Each grade level engages in age appropriate learning activities and is exposed to a broad range of musical objectives and musical genres. The overall goal of the music department is to teach students about a broad range of musical genres, instruments and musical techniques.

Pre K -Kindergarten Emphasis

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Melody, rhythm, dynamics, the arts and music, praise & worship

1st Grade Emphasis

Rhythm, melody, dynamics, tempo, articulation, culture and music, praise & worship

2nd Grade Emphasis

Classroom instruments, solfege (do, re, mi, fa, so, la ti, do, history and music, praise & worship

3rd Grade Emphasis

Melodic rhythm, note value, the arts and music, praise & worship, solfege (do, re, mi, fa, so, la ti, do

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4th Grade Emphasis

Musical elements: tempo, dynamics, and harmony

Musical Relationships: art, culture and worship

Musical Skills: playing, singing and listening

Musical Instruments: strings and woods

5th Grade Emphasis

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Melody, harmony, expressive controls,
the heritage of Music, the
eras of Music (Renaissance, Romantic etc.)
and instrumental and vocal genres

6th Grade Emphasis

Songs of England, songs of seasons, songs of praise, songs of Africa and the Pacific

Music/Choir Elective Middle/High School

Fundamentals, music theory, composers
and vocal genres.