



The Lord has created all children with unique abilities, gifts and talents, and He has a plan for each of their lives. It is the desire of our school to partner with parents to train and mold students to love, follow, and serve the Lord. The integration of faith and learning enables students to develop a biblical worldview to filter their ideas, thoughts, and actions. Students in GRACE's elementary program are challenged with hands-on learning, differentiated instruction, and an active, collaborative learning environment. Strong academics provide students with a solid foundation for pursuing higher education and a chosen career path. Community outreach projects, fine arts, integrated technology in the classroom, and special activities provide opportunities for students to grow and mature.

Expected Student Outcomes

We expect GRACE Christian students to grow to:

- Be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ
- Be academically prepared for the college or career of their choice
- Be engaged in impacting their world positively through their own unique talents and abilities
- Develop a Biblical worldview and thorough knowledge of Scripture to share and defend their faith
- Possess the critical thinking skills, creativity and confidence to handle opportunities and adversities
- Demonstrate the character of Christ in all areas of everyday life
- Love and serve others consistently

Subject Area Overview

TK – 5th Grade Curriculum

Bible

Bible is a core subject taught daily at each grade level. Chapels are held weekly and students participate in outreach and mission opportunities throughout the year, which may include prayer support, handwritten letters to military personnel or a visit to a local nursing home. The TK-6 Student Council sponsors a number of campus-wide projects, including Operation Christmas Child, Stop Hunger Now, and a winter coat drive. March is designated as the annual Missions Month and a special project is selected to focus on annually.

English/ Language Arts

Students discover the joy of reading with a balanced literacy program, including guided reading, shared reading, read-alouds, and language arts instruction with grammar, writing, and spelling. Early literacy instruction begins in transitional kindergarten and progresses in kindergarten and first grade as students develop fluency and comprehension skills and participate in daily reading groups and literacy centers. Readers grow in their accuracy, fluency, expression, and comprehension. Second through fourth grade emphasizes robust reading instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension with inquiry and higher order thinking and cross-curricular selections. Students in grades K-4 are assessed for individual growth in reading with the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment system. Students develop and strengthen their writing skills and learn formats including narrative, expository, and persuasive writing. Reading, writing, and literature instruction follow standards and objectives for each grade level.

Math

GRACE utilizes a research-based program for math founded on best practices that highlights problem solving as the focus for mathematical learning. Students will develop a strong depth of understanding with a concrete, pictorial, and abstract learning progression that teaches concepts with consistent models that are developed and extended through the grades. Student will gain mastery of concepts with scaffolded, hands-on learning and visual models and will learn to reason, problem solve, communicate, and think critically and mathematically.

History

History comes to life for students with engaging, hands-on and interactive lessons that integrate civics, culture, economics, geography, and history. A timeline approach is followed and a variety of materials are utilized to teach grade level objectives and to challenge students to evaluate concepts in the light of Scripture.

Science

Hands-on and interactive learning is foundational to science instruction in the elementary grades. All grade level content is presented from a biblical worldview. Grades TK-1 utilize a unit-based approach, and grades 2-5 incorporate all areas of science, including life, physical, and earth sciences, and health. Instruction in all grades is discovery based and an emphasis is placed on the exploration of scientific concepts. Grades 3-5 are taught by a science instructor and classes are conducted in the science lab.

TK – 5th Grade Enrichments

Art (TK-5) and Music (TK-5)

All students in transitional kindergarten through fifth grades participate in general art and music class once a week. Correlation of art and music history with the period of grade level history being studied is included in both enrichment classes. Students are taught a basic understanding of art elements and use a variety of media incorporated into projects throughout the year. Children are encouraged to explore their own creativity. A band elective is offered to fourth and fifth grade students, and an elementary chorus elective is offered to students in third through fifth grades.

Computer (TK-5)

SMARTBoards are used in all elementary classrooms to enhance curricular instruction. An iPad cart is available for students in TK-1 and laptops are available in the classroom for student use. Keyboarding and computer applications are taught in third grade. Fourth grade students are issued a laptop for in-class use. Students in fifth through twelfth grades are issued laptops for school and home use. Technology tools are used to challenge students with higher-level thinking skills, inspire students to become lifelong learners, and prepare students for digital citizenship. Students become proficient in word processing, presentations, spreadsheets, and publishing programs.

Library (TK-5)

All lower elementary classes visit the library once a week for library instruction and to check out books. Students learn library skills and selected books and activities support and reinforce grade level curricula. Special thematic events take place, including the celebration of author birthdays. Students participate in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program in the first through fifth grades. Students in fourth and fifth grades attend a media class for integration of library and technology research skills. The goal of the library is to instill a love of books and reading in our students.

Physical Education (TK-5)

All students in transitional kindergarten through fifth grade participate in physical education. Primary grades concentrate on learning and mastering non-locomotor and locomotor skills. The primary grades begin to learn manipulative skills integrated into activities and games. Upper elementary grades review and master manipulative skills and begin to apply these skills into games and specific sport activities. The elementary program is designed to assist physical development and coordination.

Spanish (TK-5)

Students in transitional kindergarten through fifth grade participate in Spanish instruction once a week. Spanish becomes an elective course in sixth grade. Students are introduced to vocabulary, pronunciation and reading skills with multi-sensory and interactive instruction.

Character Education/ STEM/ Service (TK-5):

All students in grades Tk-5 participate in a class rotation of character education, technology STEM instruction, and a community service project. Character education includes opportunities for students to grow in community with service learning, social-emotional learning, and civic education. Students learn how to become responsible, caring, and contributing citizens in a Christ-centered community. In STEM class, students will have an increased opportunity for hands-on exploration, student engagement, and use of technology to facilitate learning, including use of a Maker Space. Grade levels will select meaningful outreach opportunities within the school or community as part of their service class.

GRADE LEVEL DISTINCTIVES

Transitional Kindergarten

Bible

The focus of the Bible series is on familiar Bible lessons presented from both the Old Testament and New Testament, emphasizing God's love. Units include: In the Beginning, Jesus Loves Everyone, Families, Christmas, Going Fishing, Growing Up, Easter, Adventures with God and The Early Church. Students memorize weekly Bible memory verses.

Language Arts

Children develop phonemic awareness through a multi-sensory, kinesthetic approach to language development. Music, movement and tactile learning are used to learn letters, sounds, and blends. Students strengthen fine motor skills, prewriting, and phonemic awareness with handwriting instruction.

Mathematics

Students develop number sense by exploring colors, patterns, shapes, counting, number recognition, problem solving and measuring.

Science/ Social Studies

Children are engaged in hands-on learning with thematic weekly and monthly units for science and social studies.

Highlights

- Field trips and special events include: Community helper visitors; Pumpkin Patch field trip; Gymnastics Studio field trip; Manners Luncheon; 101 Dalmatians Day; and various concerts and school events
- Daily centers include teacher directed small groups and dramatic play
- SmartBoard in the classroom, introduction to technology with simple robots
- Weekly Enrichment classes: Art, Library, P.E., Music, Spanish, Rotation with Character Education, STEM, and Service

KINDERGARTEN

Bible

Bible stories provide foundations for living and tell events of the "Heroes of the Bible"; stories teach biblical truths of God's power, love, and salvation. Students memorize weekly Bible memory verses.

Language Arts

Children learn to read with phonics and guided reading instruction, including instruction on letter recognition and sound identification; long and short vowels; consonant sounds; rhyming words; blends; sight words; and group and individual reading instruction. Reading instruction develops early word analysis, fluency, and comprehension skills with basic phonics readers and leveled books. Writing includes the process of learning to put sounds and thoughts on paper. During the writing process, students are taught that sentences form a complete thought, begin with a capital letter, and end with a period, exclamation mark, or a question mark. Students are taught manuscript writing and learn the proper formation of each letter.

Mathematics

Kindergarten consists of classroom learning experiences structured around the Investigate-Discover-Explore-Apply format. Investigate invites your child to sing, clap, rhyme and discuss colorful, playful scenes presented in the Big Book while the teacher systematically elicits related math talk. Discover provides hands-on work in small groups or pairs to allow children to act out or engage actively with the new math idea. Explore reinforces and enhances concepts as children go one step further with the concept. Apply provides children the opportunity to work independently with paper and pencil to practice the new concept or skill.

Science

Topics are explored from a biblical perspective in earth science; physical science; technology and life science and include weather; plants and animals; matter and how things work.

History

Kindergarten history explores aspects of self, others, families and communities across the world. Students develop awareness of the similarities among individuals in the classroom as well as within the school, community and world. Students begin to develop the ability to think like a historian as they acquire knowledge of history to understand the past and present.

Highlights

- Field trips include: Museum of Life and Science; Downtown Cary; Pumpkin Patch; Newby Farm; end of year picnic
- Special events include: Penguin Day; Thanksgiving Feast; Christmas Around the World; 100th Day Celebration; Mother's Day Tea; Kindergarten Graduation program
- Weekly Enrichment classes: Library, P.E., Music, Art, Spanish, Rotation with Character Education, STEM, and Service
- SmartBoards in all classrooms, iPad Cart, technology with simple robots

FIRST GRADE

Bible

Students learn Bible truths that emphasize God's relationship with people. Familiar Bible events are taught in chronological order beginning with Creation and ending with Paul's missionary travels. Students examine the relationship between God and His followers. By the year's end, students are encouraged to evaluate their relationship with Christ. Students memorize weekly Bible memory verses.

Language Arts

Students become successful, independent readers and master the application of phonetic rules and develop early word analysis and comprehension skills. Guided reading groups are held throughout the week and students grow in fluency and comprehension skills with leveled books. Students learn basic grammar and are taught different types of writing, how to utilize the writing process, and are introduced to selected poems and authors. First grade students move through pre-writing activities and build awareness through modeled and directed writing, and begin to write simple narrative stories. Concepts such as beginning, middle, end, character, problem, solution, elaborative detail and descriptive segments are introduced. Manuscript writing instruction is taught and reinforced.

Mathematics

In first grade math, students will focus on building problem-solving skills and strategies; counting, comparing and writing numbers to 100; adding and subtracting 1-digit and 2-digit numbers; classifying and sorting shapes and patterns; measuring length and weight; and using calendars, time and money.

Science

Life, physical, earth sciences, and health are studied. Units include the solar system; geography; harvest; safety and health; dental hygiene; basic nutrition; matter; movement and sound; rocks and minerals; habitats and food chains; and insects and spiders.

History

This curriculum begins with an in-depth study of our modern community and compares and contrasts with ancient civilizations. History is explored with books, activities, re-enactments, role-play and field trips. Students learn about modern communities and ancient civilizations including Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Students also learn about several famous African Americans and United States Presidents.

Highlights

- Field trips include: Art Museum; Raleigh Farmer's Market; Poe Health Center; Ronald McDonald House, Planetarium
- Special events include: Ancient Egypt Feast; Christmas Adornaments; Olympics event; Bugfest
- Weekly Enrichment classes: Library, P.E., Music, Art, Spanish, Rotation with Character Education, STEM, and Service
- SmartBoards in all classrooms; iPad Cart

SECOND GRADE

Bible

The curriculum focuses on two or three-week units of Bible characters and their defining character traits. A mission's family in Central America is featured. Students memorize weekly Bible memory verses.

Language Arts

Reading groups continue in second grade and reading instruction focuses on decoding; fluency; expression; comprehension and vocabulary development. Leveled books and chapter books are utilized. Writing instruction emphasizes constructing complete sentences and introduces the implementation of elaborative detail. Grammar instruction focuses on identifying the parts of speech in a sentence. Students are introduced to cursive writing mid-year and apply the four Keys to Legibility: shape, size, spacing, and slant.

Mathematics

In second grade math, students will focus on building problem-solving skills and strategies; counting, comparing, and writing numbers to 1,000; adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing using bar models; measuring length, mass, and volume in metric units; telling time; and recognizing bills and coins.

Science

Units of study include Earth's natural resources (rocks and minerals); weather; properties of matter; energy; forces and motion; sound; dinosaurs; and plants and animals.

History

A timeline study from a Christian perspective of the Native Americans to the founding of the independent nation. Content includes Geography with map skills; American History; Government; Economics and Culture.

Highlights

- Field trips include: Art Museum; Hill Ridge Farms; Mordecai House; NC History Museum; Lewis and Clark Expedition; local zoo; in-house field trips with Science Made Fun
- Special events include: Colonial Christmas crafts; Boston Tea Party; Patriot Day
- Enrichment classes: Library, P.E., Music, Art, Spanish, Rotation with Character Education, STEM, and Service
- SmartBoards in all classrooms, Chrome Book Cart, Accelerated Reader

THIRD GRADE

Bible

The emphasis of study is on the Life of Christ, Acts, and Paul's missionary journeys. Students will not only acquire skills and knowledge but also grow in faith demonstrated by their behavior. Lessons train students to develop a biblical worldview and grow in spiritual knowledge, skills, and life application. Students memorize weekly Bible memory verses.

Language Arts

The reading curriculum spans reading genres incorporating comprehension strategies and skills, vocabulary, and spelling. Classic and modern stories provide students a well-rounded exposure to literature genres. Read-a-loud and chapter books correlate with history units. Instruction in writing teaches students the structure of good writing and techniques to effectively express themselves. Narrative and expository paragraphs are emphasized. Students are instructed to write in cursive legibly utilizing basic strokes and apply the four Keys to Legibility: shape, size, spacing, and slant.

Mathematics

In third grade math, students will focus on building problem-solving skills and strategies; using models to solve real-world problems involving the four operations; making and interpreting data from bar graphs; identifying fractions of a set; finding angles and identifying lines; and understanding area and perimeter of figures.

Science

Experiments, projects, and activities enhance the curriculum as third graders explore the world around them. Areas of study include life science; earth science; physical science; and space and technology.

History

Students will learn about the founding and growth of a new nation from a Christian perspective. American history curriculum includes America's beginning; early wars; inventions and Western Expansion and the early government; economics and culture. Additional content includes geography and map skills; social studies skills including primary and secondary sources; chart and graphs; discerning fact and opinion, compare and contrast and cause and effect.

Highlights

- Field trips include: Bentonville Battlefield; Historic Oakview; Morehead Planetarium; Natural Science Museum
- Special event highlights include: Pioneer Day, Immigration Day
- Weekly Enrichment classes: Library, P.E., Music, Art, Computer, Spanish, Rotation with Character Education, STEM, and Service
- Optional: Elementary Chorus, Student Council, Book Clubs
- SmartBoards in all classrooms; laptops for in class student use

FOURTH GRADE

Bible

Tools for Bible study are presented and then traditional doctrinal subjects are discussed at the students' instructional level. Topics include God; His Word; Christ; the Holy Spirit; the Church; Salvation; and Heaven and Hell. Emphasis is on Bible doctrine and incorporates spiritual growth areas such as prayer, overcoming temptation, how to study the Bible, and sharing your faith. Students memorize weekly Bible memory verses.

Language Arts

Students are inspired with reading selections across genres with a strong inquiry base to think, question and investigate. Reading instruction focuses on word structure, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Through word structure studies, students will learn the meanings of Latin and Greek roots, function of word parts, and overall word-function in a sentence. Vocabulary words come from the weekly reading. Students learn comprehension strategies and skills. Writing instruction emphasizes developing skills and strategies to become strong writers. Students learn specific skills that all good writers possess and strengthen their writing skills in numerous areas of narrative and expository texts. In cross-curricular writing assignments, including sentence responses and essays on tests, students receive a separate grade for applied writing based on grammar and usage rules expected in fourth grade. Students make connections between reading lessons and content area subjects. Students complete mastery of cursive writing instruction.

Mathematics

In fourth grade math, students will focus on building problem-solving skills and strategies; multiplying and dividing with 1-digit numbers and 2-digit numbers; using tables, graphs, data and probability; addition and subtraction of fractions and decimals; understanding relationships between fractions and decimals; studying angles, line segments, area and perimeter.

Science

Through the study of life science, earth science, physical science, and space and technology, students discover that God controls every part of the natural world. Self-exploration and direct instruction methods will be utilized. Students improve proficiency and comprehension of expository text by learning to take notes and extract important facts from their reading.

History

Students study North Carolina history and explore geographic regions; landforms; climate; and resources of the state. Students learn about the state's political institutions and how these groups respond to the needs of North Carolinians. Students study the land and its people, beginning with Native Americans up to the time of the Civil War. Students are exposed to a variety of teaching methods, including hands-on activities, projects, and cooperative groups.

Highlights

- Field trips include: Old Salem; Outer Banks overnight trip
- Special events include: Civil War Encampment; NC Legislative Building and Capitol Visit
- Weekly Enrichment classes: Media, P.E., Music, Art, Spanish, Rotation with Character Education, STEM, and Service
- Optional: Elementary Chorus, Band, Student Council, Book Clubs, GRACE Worship Team serving in chapel

- Laptops provided to all students for in-class use

FIFTH GRADE

Bible

This course focuses on Old Testament Study. Students examine all of the Old Testament to understand how each person, event, and manifestation of God's power pointed to the need for a Savior in Jesus Christ. Chronological facts and accounts found in the Old Testament are used to apply principles and lessons to the issues fifth grade students face and will encounter in the future. Students memorize weekly Bible memory verses.

Language Arts

Students experience exposure to a multi-faceted approach to language and written expression. Through phonemic awareness in spelling, vocabulary building through Latin Root study, reinforcement in grammatical foundations, and practice in composition, students build on fluency and written expression. Students learn that correct and effective writing has basic components regardless of the format for the piece.

Reading

Students analyze predictions, thoughts, questions, and character analysis, as well as identify similes, metaphors, cause and effect, opinions, and facts discovered in reading lessons. Utilizing reading response journals on their MacBook, students compare and contrast, identify new vocabulary words, and discuss literary conflict. Historical fiction and non-fiction literature selections are utilized.

Mathematics

In fifth grade, students will focus on building problem-solving skills and strategies; multiplying and dividing with 2-digit numbers, fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals; solving equations and evaluating inequalities; finding the area of two dimensional shapes, and surface area and volume of three dimensional shapes; using ratios and percent, and finding the probability of an event; applying properties of angles, triangles, and four-sided figures.

Science

Units are designed to engage students in activities that build a strong science foundation and help them develop a full understanding of the inquiry process. Students cover topics in life and earth science as well as a unit on the scientific method. Students become familiar with proper experimentation techniques with practice in the lab. In conjunction with language arts, students write their first guided research paper.

History

United States history is taught from a biblical worldview and students are guided through God's great plan for our country. Fifth graders gain understanding of the freedoms and responsibilities born from these events. Learning to apply knowledge in different ways, including speeches, role-play, and essay writing are an integral part of the study. Units include States and Capitals; World War I and II; the Holocaust; the Great Depression; and the Modern Era.

Highlights

- Field trips include: Field trip to Wilmington; in-school Wax Museum
- Enrichment classes: Library, P.E., Music, Art, Media, Spanish, Rotation with Character Education, STEM, and Service
- Optional: Elementary Chorus, Band, Student Council, Book Clubs, GRACE Worship Team serving in chapel
- Laptops provided to all students for school and home use