
Biblical Focus

We consider it vitally important to integrate Biblical teaching throughout the curriculum every day. In addition, students have these special opportunities to learn and grow in their faith:

Devotions

Our students:

- Begin each day with a Bible story or Scripture-based lesson about the character of God, the work of His Son Jesus Christ, and His purposes for our lives;
- Enjoy daily prayer for personal needs and concerns.

Chapels

Our students:

- Join grades K-4 in a weekly chapel time for worship, learning, prayer and singing;
- Are challenged by speakers to depend upon the grace of God by faith, and to measure all claims to truth by His inerrant word as they live out their faith in Jesus Christ.

Bible Classes

Our students:

- Study the life of Jesus from His birth to ascension, and learn about the early church in the book of Acts;
- Learn a weekly Bible verse from one of the passages being studied to help remind them of the work and power of God;
- Keep a Bible notebook containing a timeline of events studied, reading selections, dialogues, and artwork;
- Integrate Bible studies with reading lessons, history, and art.

Language Arts

Reading and Spelling

Our students:

- Practice reading orally for precision, fluency, and comprehension using *Should I Share My Ice Cream?*, *A Fish Out of Water*, *Mr Putter & Tabby Pour the Tea*, *Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!*, *Upstairs Mouse, Downstairs Mole*, *The Big Blue Book of Beginner Books*, *Frog and Toad*, and other classic books.
- Learn to decode one-, two-, and three-syllable words;
- Learn 70 phonograms used in English;
- Learn the most common spelling rules.
- Learn to visualize and spell over 500 of the most commonly used words.

Writing

Our students:

- Practice handwriting using a modified D'Nealian script;
- Learn to write sentences well using copy work that is integrated with grammar concepts, poetry, history, and Scripture;
- Learn to outline, edit, and write descriptive paragraphs with correct spelling and punctuation.

Grammar

Our students:

- Learn to recognize and label these parts of speech in sentences: subject, verb, adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, objects of prepositions, predicate nouns and adjectives, and possessive nouns;
- Learn to form the present, past, and future tenses of regular and irregular verbs.

Mathematics

We use the *Singapore (Standards Ed.) math curriculum* supplemented by math fact drills.

Our students:

- Skip count, compare and order numbers;
- Master all basic addition and subtraction facts within 20;
- Add and subtract numbers within 100;
- Solve multiplication problems within 40;
- Learn mental math strategies for addition and subtractions;
- Solve and write addition and subtraction word problems;
- Use the commutative and associative properties to perform mental calculations and check results;
- Compare and manipulate 2- and 3-dimensional simple and compound shapes;
- Use place value models, expanded notation and words for numbers within 100;
- Picture and name halves and fourths;
- Count combinations of coins and bills;
- Tell time to the half hour;
- Create, read, and write observations from graphs and charts.

Science

Our students study these units:

- *Geology*: geographic features, biomes, rocks and minerals; fossils, earthquakes, volcanoes;
- *Weather*: atmosphere and air, types of weather; water cycle, storms;
- *Astronomy*: sun, earth, moon, planets, stars and constellations, comets, meteors, space travel.

History

The Ancients

Our students study:

- The Biblical account of creation from the Garden through the Tower of Babel;
- The early Mesopotamian empires of Sumer, Assyria, and Babylon;
- The conquest of northern Israel and the fall of Judah;
- The Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms of Egypt;
- The Medo-Persian Empire;
- The Phoenicians;
- The Minoans and Mycenaeans;
- Ancient India and China;
- Ancient Greek culture and history, including: the Trojan War, Greek alphabet, architecture, food, mythology, Olympic Games, the Persian Wars, and the Peloponnesian Wars;
- Alexander the Great;
- The Roman Empire including: Romulus and Remus, the Etruscans, government, mythology, architecture, roads and aqueducts, gladiators, the Punic Wars, Julius Caesar, Augustus Caesar, Christian persecution, the destruction of Jerusalem, Constantine, the division of the Empire, barbarian invasions, and the fall of the Western Empire.

Enrichment

Poetry and Recitations

Our students memorize and recite a variety of poems and other materials to enhance their studies and make them fun; selections may include the following:

Literary

- "The Swing," Robert Louis Stevenson
- "A Christmas Carol," Holland
- "The Land of Counterpane," Robert Louis Stevenson
- "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer," Whitman
- "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," Robert Frost
- "It's Snowing, It's Snowing," Jack Prelutsky
- "I Chased a Dragon Through the Woods," Jack Prelutsky
- "The City Mouse and the Garden Mouse," Christina Rossetti
- "The Naughty Soap Song," Dorothy Aldis
- "The Elf and the Dormouse," Oliver Herford
- "I've Turned into a Carrot," Jack Prelutsky
- "Bed in Summer," Robert Louis Stevenson

Historical

- "Upper Egypt, Lower Egypt"
- "Papyrus"
- "Hatshepsut"
- "King Tut"
- "The Greek Alphabet"
- "Trojan Horse"
- "Olympic Games"
- "Greek Columns"
- "Battle of Marathon"
- "Remus and Romulus"
- "Hannibal"
- "Julius Caesar"
- "Crossing the Rubicon"

Biblical

- "Old and New Testament Books" songs
- "The Apostles" song
- The Ten Commandments
- Apostles Creed
- The Lord's Prayer
- Weekly Bible verses
- Psalm 1

Art

Our students have an extended art class each week in which they:

- Learn to identify God's elements of design as seen in creation: value, color, space, shape, texture, and line;
- Use these elements to create their own works of art;
- Become familiar with the works of master artists throughout history.

Music / Drama

Students have music classes twice a week with a music specialist in which they:

- Learn to match pitch, sing the most common harmonic intervals, analyze rhythms, learn the quarter and eighth notes and the quarter rest.
- Recognize compositions from different periods of history.
- Learn about the lives of famous composers.

In the spring, music classes are replaced by 6 weeks of drama instruction culminating in a class play.

P.E.

Our students participate in a physical education class twice a week. They work to develop agility, coordination, game skills, and good sportsmanship.

Field Trips/Events

Events vary year to year and may include the following:

- National Air and Space Museum
- Hylton Planetarium
- Discovery Museum, Winchester
- Archaeological dig at Cub Run
- Plays at GMU
- Natural History Museum
- Egyptian Feast
- Greek Feast and Olympics

Performances

- Christmas Concert
- Recitatio
- Spring Concert
- Class play
- Recitations for parents