
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, and prayer;
- 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 Class

Our students:

- Study the Old Testament from Judges through Kings. Their study begins shortly after the establishment of Israel as a nation and continues through the Babylonian destruction of Solomon's Temple in 586 BC. Gideon, Naomi, Ruth, David, and Solomon are just a few of the personalities studied;
- Keep a Bible notebook containing a timeline of events studied, reading selections, dialogues and projects;
- Integrate Bible studies with reading lessons, history, and art.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading and Spelling

Our students:

- Grow in their mastery of reading, both orally and silently, using classic books such as *Sarah Plain and Tall*, *Homer Price*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *The Magician's Nephew*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Sign of the Beaver*
- Learn to be responsible for what they read by recalling main ideas and relating them using their own words;
- Learn to analyze and spell hundreds of the most commonly used words using through knowing the 70 phonograms and 28 spelling rules that explain most English words.

Writing

Our students:

- Place a special emphasis on cursive, learning to form upper and lowercase letters and to connect short words, then moving on to write sentences and whole paragraphs in cursive;
- Learn to successfully apply writing skills in sentences, paragraphs, friendly letters and fables.

Grammar

Our students:

- Learn to define and give examples of the eight parts of speech, helping verbs, synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, the four types of sentences, as well as other grammatical and compositional terms;
- Learn to use the dictionary and thesaurus to define assigned words in sentences, as well as in isolation, and integrate them into daily use in order to communicate effectively.

MATHEMATICS

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

Our students:

- Understand place value and compare numbers to 10,000;
- Round numbers within 100,000;
- Add/subtract numbers within 10,000;
- Master multiplication by 6, 7, 8, 9;
- Multiply/divide within 1000 by a single digit;
- Use mental math to add/subtract numbers within 1000;
- Compare and find equivalent fractions, find simplest fractions;
- Add/subtract fractions like fractions;
- Tell time to the minute; find time intervals; convert units of time;
- Find perimeter, area and volume;
- Solve two-step word problems with all 4 operations;

SCIENCE

Our students study these units:

- **Classification of living things**
- **Invertebrates:** Cnidaria, worms, echinoderms, arthropods;
- **Vertebrates:** Fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals
- **Human physiology:**
 - Cells, circulation, respiration
 - Body systems -- skeletal, nervous, circulatory, muscular, respiratory, digestive, endocrine, lymph, sense organs
 - Genetics
- **Plants:** cells, parts and functions, photosynthesis, trees, flowering plants

HISTORY

1600-1865

Our students study:

- King James I of England;
- the Virginia Company and the founding of Jamestown;
- John Smith, Pocahontas, and Native Americans;
- William Bradford, the Pilgrims, the Mayflower, the Mayflower Compact, Squanto, and the first Thanksgiving;
- The Thirty Years' War and Gustavus Adolphus;
- Charles I of England, Oliver Cromwell, and the English Civil War;
- Charles II of England, the Black Plague, and the Great Fire of London;
- the Enlightenment;
- Salem Witch Trials;
- Louis XIV of France;
- William Penn, the 13 Colonies, and various aspects of early Colonial America- homes, villages, food, work, school, clothing, and recreation;
- Peter the Great;
- The Great Awakening;
- French and Indian War and the Proclamation of 1763;
- the Revolutionary War, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, the Boston Tea Party and Massacre, Intolerable Acts, Paul Revere, Battle of Bunker Hill, Articles of Confederation and the Declaration of Independence;
- Lewis and Clark;
- War of 1812;
- Napoleon Bonaparte
- California Gold Rush;
- the Battle of the Alamo;

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

- "Leaves" by Elsie Brady
- "October" by Joseph Pullman Porter
- "I Ate too Much" by Jack Prelutsky
- "A Prayer in Spring," Robert Frost
- "Lines and Squares," A.A. Milne
- "Autumn Fires" by Robert Louis Stevenson
- "The Frog," Belloc
- "The Eagle," Tennyson

Historical

- History Timeline: 4000 BC to 1991 AD
- "Remember, Remember the Fifth of November"
- "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere, Longfellow
- "The Village Blacksmith," Longfellow
- "George Washington," Benet
- "O Captain, My Captain," Walt Whitman
- States and Capitals song
- Preamble to the Constitution
- The Pledge of Allegiance
- The Presidents song
- The Star-Spangled Banner
- Gettysburg Address

Biblical

- Old and New Testament Books songs
- Weekly Bible verses and longer selections

Science Songs

- Cells
- Insects
- Food Chain
- Bones of the Body
- Brain
- Body Systems
- Photosynthesis

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 whole notes, eighth and sixteenth rhythm combinations.
- Learn classic hymns of the faith.
- Recognize compositions from different periods of history.
- Learn about the lives of famous composers.

Students have drama instruction for 6 weeks 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. They also participate in the Presidential Physical Fitness Program.

Field Trips/Events

Events vary year to year and may include the following:

- National Zoo
- Life Cycle Program at Cub Run
- Homer Price Donut Day
- Colonial Day
- Mt. Vernon
- "Charlotte's Web" play at GMU
- Manassas Battlefield
- Huntley Meadows
- Teaching Garden at St. Benedict's

Performances

- Christmas concert
- Recitatio
- Grandparents Day
- Recitations for parents
- Class play