

UNIVERSITY MODEL® ELEMENTARY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



Kindergarten

The objective of the full-day kindergarten program is to build a solid foundation upon which students grow academically, physically, spiritually, emotionally, and socially. This is a critical year for the children as they transition from home or pre-kindergarten into the elementary setting. Thus, the program is designed to be academically challenging, as well as developmentally appropriate. Kindergarten classrooms at LCCS are organized and structured to support all areas of development and a wide variety of materials are used to stimulate students' curiosity, initiative, and inquiry.

Bible

In Kindergarten, students are introduced to the major components of the story of God: creation, the fall, redemption, and restoration. Students learn the big picture of how God has been working in His creation through the study of key stories. Learning the big picture provides a solid foundation for the development of Biblical theology and a Biblical worldview and the integration of God's love and truth into daily life.

Textbook: *The Jesus Storybook Bible*

Language Arts

A balanced approach to literacy, including oral and written language is progressively taught. Phonological awareness and alphabetic knowledge are emphasized and mastered. Students are introduced to over 50 sight words and are taught reading strategies that give them a solid foundation for reading. Journal writing is used to help the students put their letter knowledge and writing into practice, along with correct letter formation. Students practice public speaking skills including speaking in complete sentences, maintaining proper volume and keeping eye contact.

Textbook: *Word Journeys* by Kathy Ganske, *Kidwriting*, *Trade books*, *Teacher Created Phonemic Awareness and Phonics Activities*, *Zaner Bloser Handwriting*

Mathematics

The student is introduced to a wide variety of math concepts and skills, such as sorting, position, counting to 100, recognizing numbers to thirty-one, place value of tens and ones, time to the hour, value of coins, reading bar and pictographs, beginning measurement, patterning, geometric figures, and beginning addition and subtraction.

Textbook: *Singapore Math's Earlybird Kindergarten Mathematics*, *Teacher created materials*

Science

The students learn facts about different animals and their habitats. Dental health is discussed and experiments are observed. Changes of the seasons, fire safety, and plant growth/needs are also introduced and discussed.

Textbook: *Scholastic-Let's Find Out Newspapers*

Social Studies

Students learn about most holidays that are celebrated and the important people associated with them, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln. The students learn appropriate social skills and conflict resolution skills.

Textbook: *Scholastic-Let's Find Out newspapers*

Art

The class will be introduced to the basics related to color, line, and shape. Students will complete short projects as they learn how these concepts relate to the artwork they create. Students will find inspiration from the world around them and from grade specific literature. The students will be able to visually identify major artists and their art work. Clean-up procedures will be regimented so students begin to understand their role during part of class.

Music

Music K is designed to prepare the kindergarten student for music reading and performance. Through singing, reading, moving, playing, echoing and activities presented within the course, the students will obtain the skills necessary to provide a foundation for music literacy.

Physical Education

The student will be able to know the positive effects of regular participation in physical activity, recognize changes in body response during physical activity, and recognize and use basic movement skills and concepts.

Bible Grades 1-6

Early Elementary Bible (Grades 1-2)

In early elementary, students are introduced to the major components of the story of God: creation, the fall, and redemption. Students learn the big picture of how God has been working in His creation through the study of key stories. Learning the big picture provides a solid foundation for the development of biblical theology and a biblical worldview and the integration of God's love and truth into daily life.

Textbook: *The Jesus Storybook Bible, Summit Ministries: Building on the Rock*

Upper Elementary Bible (Grades 3-6)

In upper elementary, students learn the many parts of the story of God written in the Old and New Testaments. Students expand their knowledge of biblical stories and their meaning in the context of the larger biblical narrative. This foundation of biblical theology is paired with an introduction to major systematic doctrines about God, the world, and redemption; this combination increases understanding of salvation and its integration into daily life.

Textbook: *Summit Ministries: Building on the Rock*

First Grade

First graders at Lancaster County Christian School learn the joy of reading books independently, develop an awe of God's world around them, and learn how to be good friends. This is an exciting year for these eager, high-energy children with sensitive hearts that are open to hearing God's Word.

Language Arts

Children develop a strong basis in reading through daily participation in the five components of the elementary Comprehensive Literacy Program, including Read Aloud, Independent Reading, Word Study, Guided Reading, and Handwriting and Writing.

Textbook: *SRA Open Court Reading; Leveled Readers/Trade Books*

Spelling: *Word Journeys*

Writing: *Six +1 Traits of Writing*

Handwriting: *Zaner Bloser*

Mathematics

First graders learn the basic addition and subtraction facts, basic geometric shapes and fractions, measurement, money, and time. A number sense develops as students work on place value and participate in numerous hands-on activities.

Textbook: *Singapore Math's Primary Mathematics*

Science

First graders learn about God's purposeful design through the following topics: fish, insects, animals, seasons, human body, birds, and movement.

Textbook: *ACSI Purposeful Design,*

Social Studies

Children learn that history is God's story as they study our changing world; the first Americans and the Pilgrims; rules and laws; and where people live. Students also learn how America began, with emphasis on America's godly heritage.

Textbook: *Houghton Mifflin/Harcourt Social Studies*

Music

Music one is designed to provide students in the first grade with experiences to prepare them for music reading. Through singing, playing simple instruments, moving, writing, and a variety of activities presented within the course, the students demonstrate their growth in music literacy. The classroom materials provide the student with songs and activities to build singing and coordination skills, as well as to introduce new concepts in music reading. As the students learn to match pitch and use expression, they are reminded to use their skills and talents to glorify God.

Art

The class will be introduced to the basics related to color, line, and shape. They will also be able to identify and create both portraiture and landscapes. Students will complete short projects as they learn how these concepts relate to the artwork they create. The students will be able to visually identify major artists and their art work. Clean-up procedures will be regimented and defined so students begin to understand their role during part of class.

Physical Education

The student will know the positive and negative effects and recognize changes in body response during participation in physical activity. The student will identify likes and dislikes related to physical activity; recognize positive interaction of small group activities, practice locomotor skills, manipulative skills, and space awareness. The student will know and describe scientific principles that affect movement skills (balance).

Second Grade **Language Arts**

Students will learn phonemic awareness, decoding, and comprehension skills through reading various thematic stories in different genres. Students write stories and poetry while applying the rules of grammar and mechanics. Students learn cursive writing and continue to develop manuscript handwriting formation.

Textbook: *SRA Open Court Reading; Reading A-Z; Leveled Readers/Trade Books; Explode the Code*
Spelling: *Word Journeys*
Writing: *Six +1 Traits of Writing*
Handwriting: *Zaner Bloser*

Mathematics

Students in second grade use various materials and manipulatives to learn place value up to the thousands place. They use place value knowledge for addition and subtraction with regrouping. Students learn how to tell exact time, identify two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes, and learn beginning fraction and measurement concepts as well as introducing multiplication and division concepts. Students learn the value of money and how to add and subtract money. Students apply these concepts and learn many different problem-solving strategies.

Textbook: *Singapore Math's Primary Mathematics*

Science

Students will explore the beautiful world we live in and will cover topics such as ecosystems, personal health, invertebrates, forms of light, meteorology and the five senses.

Textbook- *ACSI Purposeful Design and various trade books*

Social Studies

Students learn about government and communities, maps and world regions, natural resources, American heritage and heroes, and world cultures.

Textbook: *Houghton Mifflin/Harcourt Social Studies and various trade books*

Art

The class will be introduced to the basics related to color, line, and shape. They will also be able to identify and create both portraiture and landscapes. Students will complete short projects as they learn how these concepts relate to the artwork they create. The students will be able to visually identify major artists and their art work. Clean-up procedures will be regimented and defined so students begin to understand their role during part of class.

Music

Music Two is designed to provide students in the second grade with experiences to prepare them for music reading. Through singing, playing simple instruments, moving, writing, and a variety of activities presented within the course, the students demonstrate their growth in music literacy. The classroom materials provide the student with songs and activities to build singing and coordination skills, as well as to introduce new concepts in music reading. As the students learn to match pitch and use expression, they are reminded to use their skills and talents to glorify God.

Physical Education

The student will identify and engage in physical activities that promote physical fitness and health, identify likes and dislikes related to participation in physical activity, recognize positive and negative interactions of small group activity, recognize and use basic movement skills and concepts, know the function of practice, know and describe scientific principles that affect movement, recognize and describe game strategies using appropriate vocabulary.

Third Grade

Language Arts

Students will read theme-based stories in various literary forms such as picture books, nonfiction stories, and trade books. A strong emphasis is placed on phonics. Students are introduced to the writing process. In their own writing, they will incorporate grammar and spelling rules and will continue to develop their cursive writing skills.

Textbook: *SRA Open Court Reading; Leveled Readers/Trade Books*

Spelling: *Word Journeys*

Writing: *Six +1 Traits of Writing, Easy Grammar*

Handwriting: *Zaner Bloser*

Phonics: *Explode the Code*

Mathematics

Third grade students order and estimate numbers through the hundred-thousands before moving on to review regrouping to the thousands place. They also learn the concepts of multiplication and division, with a strong focus on memorizing these facts. Students are also introduced to fractions and basic units of measurement.

Textbook: *Singapore Math's Primary Mathematics*

Science

Through a variety of interactive activities, students strengthen their observational skills and begin identifying the complexity of God's Creation through a life science study of plants, rocks and soils, changes in the earth's surface, the solar system, and ecosystems. They learn about His order through a physical science study of matter, motion and force, magnets, and the nervous and musculoskeletal systems.

Textbook: *ACSI Purposeful Design (YEAR), ACSI Systems*

Social Studies

Third graders focus on how, when, and where communities are formed as well as how they change over time. They will look at current communities as well as historical communities, both locally and around the world. They will also spend time learning about governments, focusing on the U.S. Government and comparing and contrasting it with international governments.

Textbook: *Houghton Mifflin/Harcourt Social Studies*

Art

Students will be introduced to new art materials and how they relate to the materials used in the previous grades. They will continue to apply these lessons to the elements of art while slowly beginning to understand the principles of design. Their art vocabulary will be expanded through in class discussions related to artwork created by the masters. The class will be introduced to several cultures around the world and create projects related to their discoveries. Students will learn their role in the maintenance of art supplies and the art room. Clean up procedures will be regimented and defined so students understand their role in the class.

Music

Class time is devoted to exploring and composing, listening and analyzing, singing and performing, reading and interpreting a musical score as it pertains to the treble clef. Specific components of 3rd grade music include aural recognition and performance of meter in 2 and 3, expressive interpretation (soft, loud, crescendo/decrescendo) and learning to sing basic harmonic structures (i.e. 2 pt rounds and 2 partner songs and rhythmic/melodic ostinatos), and vocal/instrumental timbre from a wide variety of musical styles and genres. The study of recorder is an integral part of the 3rd grade general music curriculum which includes learning the names of the treble clef lines/spaces, basic rhythm, reading a

musical score, correct fingering/finger placement, caring for a musical instrument and playing together in an ensemble.

Physical Education

The student will be able to identify and engage in physical activity that promotes physical fitness, identify reasons why regular participation in physical activity improves motor skills, recognize positive and negative interaction of small group activities, recognize and use basic movement skills and concepts, recognize and describe the concepts of motor skill development using appropriate vocabulary, identify and use principles of exercise to improve movement and fitness and recognize game strategies. They also learn the basics of the following sports: football, softball, soccer, basketball, street hockey, handball, indoor soccer, gymnastics, lacrosse, volleyball, frisbee, and track and field. The student will participate in the President's Challenge Test.

Computers

Students will begin a base knowledge of the basic components of computer and peripheral devices. Typing skills will be learned and students will work through the use of a typing program. Evaluation of their typing speed and accuracy will be a part of their overall grade. Students will learn how to use new software as part of their class projects.

Fourth Grade

Language Arts

Students read a combination of short stories from an anthology and trade books, while implementing reading strategies and analyzing literature elements. In the anthology component, students read story selections and excerpts, biographies, and folktales. Students learn grammar rules and practice legible handwriting. Students learn about and practice using the 6 + 1 Traits of writing and the writing process as they practice writing various fiction and nonfiction pieces, and revising and editing them. Students learn phonetic-based spelling words with a focus on spelling structure.

Textbook: *Houghton Mifflin Reading; Leveled Readers/Trade Books; 6 + 1 Traits of Writing; Easy Grammar; Spelling: Word Journeys, Zaner Bloser*

Mathematics

Students order, compare, and estimate whole numbers through the millions place. They add, subtract, multiply, and divide numbers through the thousands place. Special attention is given to working on mastering math facts in all four operations. The focus is on refining multi-digit multiplication skills and learning how to tackle long division. They explore geometry and identify shapes (2-D & 3-D), triangles, quadrilaterals, angles, perimeter, and area. They review both systems of measurement, also. They learn how to manipulate fractions and decimals by comparing them. Math strategies, manipulatives, and word problems are heavily emphasized.

Textbook: *Macmillan McGraw-Hill Math Connects*

Science

Fourth grade science explores selected topics in life science, physical science, earth science, and the human body. Life science focuses on stability – the design, order, diversity, and systems of life. In physical science, themes that are explored include energy and heat, light and sound, motion and force, and matter and its uses. In earth science the focus is on the balance of the lithosphere (the earth's solid surface), the hydrosphere (the earth's water and water cycle), the atmosphere, and the universe. The human body section highlights the cardiovascular, digestive, respiratory, and urinary systems, as well as health and wellness. Emphasis is placed on God's purposeful design in His creation of these four facets of science. Science is studied by a variety of methods in these units.

Textbook: *ACSI Purposeful Design*

Social Studies

In fourth grade social studies, students will focus on Pennsylvania history and geography and United States regions and geography. Students learn about Pennsylvania's land features, its history, its participation in historical events, and its important people in government. United States geography is studied in the five regions that make this nation so diverse. The land and people of each region is studied with facts that make each region distinct. Student also memorize the 50 states and capitals in this unit.

Textbook: *Scott Foresman (Pennsylvania) & Scott Foresman (Regions)*

Art

Students will be introduced to new art materials and how they relate to the materials used in the previous grades. They will continue to apply these lessons to the elements of art while slowly beginning to understand the principles of design. Their art vocabulary will be expanded through in class discussions related to artwork created by the masters. The class will be introduced to several cultures around the world and create projects related to their discoveries. Students will learn their role in the maintenance of art supplies and the art room. Clean up procedures will be regimented and defined so students understand their role in the class.

Music

Class time is devoted to exploring and composing, listening and analyzing, singing and performing, reading and interpreting a musical score as it pertains to the treble clef. Specific components of 3rd and 4th grade music include aural recognition and performance of meter in 2 and 3, expressive interpretation (soft, loud, crescendo/decrescendo) and learning to sing basic harmonic structures (i.e. 2 pt rounds and 2 partner songs and rhythmic/melodic ostinatos), and vocal/instrumental timbre from a wide variety of musical styles and genres. The study of recorder is an integral part of the 4th grade general music curriculum which includes learning the names of the treble clef lines/spaces, basic rhythm, reading a musical score, correct fingering/finger placement, caring for a musical instrument and playing together in an ensemble. In addition, string and orchestra opportunities are available for grades 4-8.

Physical Education

The student will identify ways to monitor the body's response to moderate to vigorous activity, describe factors that affect their physical activity preferences, identify factors of a relationship between regular participation in physical activity and the degree of motor skill development, identify positives and negatives to group interactions (teamwork), apply the concepts of motor skill development to basic sport and activity skills, describe the relationship between practice and skill development and the principles of exercise. They also learn the basics of the following sports: football, softball, soccer, street hockey, handball, basketball, indoor soccer, gymnastics, lacrosse, volleyball, frisbee, and track and field. The student will participate in the President's Challenge Test.

Computer

Students will learn how the individual parts of a computer and peripheral devices work together. Typing skills will continue to be enhanced through the use of a typing program. Evaluation of their typing speed and accuracy will be part of their overall grade. Projects geared to expanding the creative aspects of the computer and its software will be highlighted.

Fifth Grade

Language Arts

5th grade Language Arts entails instruction and daily practice in reading, writing, listening, and speaking through the following focused activities: reading independently, reading with someone, listening to and discussing quality literature, working on writing, and word work. Covering a wide range of genres and themes, students read and respond to many novels throughout the year. Students will also write for a variety of purposes and audiences, including writing original creative works, informational reports, and essays, which are typically connected to topics across the curriculum. For word work, students will learn phonetic-based spelling words, learn and apply vocabulary terms, and practice grammar rules and the parts of speech.

Textbook: *Houghton Mifflin Reading. Easy Grammar, Spelling: Word Journeys, 6 + 1 Traits of Writing, Teaching Writing: Structure and Style from the Institute for Excellence in Writing, a variety of novels and short stories*

Mathematics

Students work with adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers, as well as showing place value. They will study fractions, multiples, and factors. Students add and subtract decimals and fractions. They do hands-on algebra and solve algebraic expressions. Students display and interpret data and solve equations and function tables. Customary and metric measures are studied; in addition, geometric figures and perimeter, area, and volume problems are solved.

Textbook: *Macmillan McGraw-Hill Math Connects*

Science

Students build upon their knowledge of life science by studying natural and life cycles, cells and ecological succession. They will also explore physical science to learn about matter, force, and electricity. Earth and Space science processes are studied as well as the human body.

Textbook: *ACSI Purposeful Design, Answers in Genesis Science*

Social Studies: United States History I

United States History I studies history from the early populating of the continent through European discovery, colonization, and the War for Independence, with a focus on God's providential hand at work. Through a wide range of activities including simulations, research projects, games, analysis of primary sources, and more, students will understand the challenges and blessings that have contributed to the growth and development of our country.

Textbook: *Harcourt Social Studies: The United States*

Art

Students will create artwork that expresses their point of view as a young Christian artist. They will learn how to manipulate new and interesting art material. The class will learn the role artist have on society and create projects that emulates this work. Elementary vocabulary will reach its highest point and students will be expected to communicate with the teacher using the language they have learned. The class revolves around learning the basic use and application of the elements of design. Students will have individual and group clean-up assignments that will challenge them to become more responsible.

Music

Class time is devoted to refining and strengthening musical components as a capstone for the elementary music curriculum and also as a foundation for Middle School music. Class time is devoted to advanced exploration, analysis and performance of the various music families (strings, percussion, woodwinds, and brass), as well as developing correct singing techniques. Students learn to recognize,

define, and interpret basic music elements, such as treble/bass clef note names, note/rest durations, time signature, and expressive markings. In addition, string and orchestra opportunities are available for grades 4-8.

Physical Education

Students build muscular and respiratory endurance, learn the art of interpretive dance, participate in low ropes activities and the President's Challenge, and take the Kraus and Webber test. They also learn the basics of the following sports: football, softball, soccer, field hockey, street hockey, handball, indoor soccer, gymnastics, lacrosse, volleyball, frisbee, and track and field.

Computer

Students will learn to identify all the internal components of the computer. Typing skills will continue to be enhanced through the use of typing programs. Evaluation of their typing speed and accuracy will be part of their overall grade. Projects centered on imagination will highlight the student's knowledge of programs learned within the elementary curriculum.

Sixth Grade

Language Arts

6th grade Language Arts entails instruction and daily practice in reading, writing, listening, and speaking through the following focused activities: reading independently, listening and responding to quality literature, working on writing, and word work. Covering a wide range of genres and themes, students will read and analyze short stories and novels, both individually and with others. Students will also write for a variety of purposes and audiences, including writing original creative works, presenting research, and a variety of essays, which are typically connected to topics across the curriculum. Focusing their word study on Greek and Latin word parts, students will expand their vocabulary knowledge and use. Additionally, students will practice identifying and using the parts of speech.

Textbook: *Easy Grammar, Vocabulary from Classical Roots – Book 6, supplemental literature from various sources, Teaching Writing: Structure and Style from the Institute for Excellence in Writing, The Reader’s Journey (Prentice Hall)*

Mathematics

Students will review whole number and decimal concepts. Students will be able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions. Students will study geometry and explore reflections, rotations, and translations. Students will be able to use the metric and customary system to convert units. Using graphs to compare data sets will also be a focus. Students will work with ratio, proportion, percent, and probability. Students will be able to calculate a variety of measurements. Students will be introduced to the coordinate plane and integers.

Textbook: *Mathematics Course 1-Pearson/Prentice Hall*

Science

Students explore the physical world of matter and atoms with their chemical changes, electrical, light, and sound energy transfers. We will also cover the plant and animal biological world in regards to how they respond to climate and other stimuli. Finally, an overview of our changing planet and the space surrounding it will be covered in this class.

Textbook: *ACSI Purposeful Design*

Social Studies

Students begin their world geography study learning core concepts. Using a hands-on approach, students study the culture, geography, government and history of the continents. Additionally, students have opportunity to meet, interview, research, and tell the stories of their international neighbors living here in Lancaster.

Textbook: *Nystrom Hands-On Social Studies Program: Our World Today*

Science

Students explore the physical world of matter and atoms with their chemical changes, electrical, light, and sound energy transfers. We will also cover the plant and animal biological world in regards to how they respond to climate and other stimuli. Finally, an overview of our changing planet and the space surrounding it will be covered in this class.

Textbook: *ACSI Purposeful Design*

English

Students will practice identifying and using the parts of speech. In writing, students will produce both creative works, as well as learning the process of writing a research paper. Students will read and analyze short stories and novels as a class, and will be expected to read extensively on their own.

Focusing their word study on Greek and Latin word parts, students will expand their vocabulary knowledge and use.

Textbook: Easy Grammar, Vocabulary from Classical Roots – Book 6, as well as supplemental literature from various sources, and Teaching Writing: Structure and Style from the Institute for Excellence in Writing, The Reader's Journey (Prentice Hall)

Music

Class time is devoted to refining and strengthening musical components as a capstone for the elementary music curriculum and also as a foundation for Middle School music. Class time is devoted to advanced exploration, analysis and performance of the various music families (strings, percussion, woodwinds, and brass), as well as developing correct singing techniques. Students learn to recognize, define, and interpret basic music elements, such as treble/bass clef note names, note/rest durations, time signature, and expressive markings. In addition, string and orchestra opportunities are available for grades 4 through 8.

Art

Students will create artwork that expresses their point of view as a young Christian artist. They will learn how to manipulate new and interesting art material. The class will learn the role artist have on society and create projects that emulates this work. Elementary vocabulary will reach its highest point and students will be expected to communicate with the teacher using the language they have learned. The class revolves around learning the basic use and application of the elements of design. Students will have individual and group clean-up assignments that will challenge them to become more responsible.

Physical Education

Students will learn to appreciate and care for their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit. Each student is created in the image of God and possesses a variety of gifts and abilities which students must discover and strengthen. Students will be taught the importance of life long fitness and will be given opportunity to perform a variety of activities. Students will participate in the President's Challenge yearly as well as other skills tests. Students will be introduced to a variety of sports and will learn proper technique, vocabulary, strategy and be given the opportunities to compete.

Computer Technology

Students will learn to identify the internal components of a computer and understand their use in the computer's operation. Typing skills will continue to be an important aspect of their computer class experience. Evaluation of their typing speed and accuracy will be part of their overall grade. Students will compare and contrast Microsoft Office with that of Google Apps. Projects related to both software packages will stress the need for students to have a diverse understanding of programs and how they relate.