

ELEMENTARY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANCASTER COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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.

Resources: *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, teacher-created activities

Language Arts

A balanced approach to literacy, including oral and written language is progressively taught. Phonological awareness and alphabetic knowledge are emphasized and mastered. Writing is used to help the students put their letter knowledge and letter writing into practice, along with correct letter formation. During Show and Tell, students practice public speaking skills including speaking in complete sentences, proper volume and eye contact.

Resources: *Reading Street Language Arts Curriculum*; *Tradebooks*; *Kidwriting*; *Zaner Bloser Handwriting*; teacher-created phonemic awareness and phonics activities; *Word Journeys* by Kathy Ganske

Math

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.

Resources: *Singapore Math*, *Math Connects*

Science

The students learn facts about different animals and their habitats. Dental health is discussed and experiments are observed. The student will understand how life cycles work as related to apple trees, butterflies, and frogs. Butterfly larvae are part of the classroom experience. The water cycle is also introduced to the students. Changes of the seasons, fire safety, and plant growth/needs are introduced and discussed. Various fieldtrips highlight the curriculum.

Resource: *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. Various fieldtrips complement the curriculum.

Resource: *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. 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

This class 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

Students rehearse locomotor and stability skills, learn manipulative skills and creative movement skills, and develop fitness awareness. Students participate in the President's Fitness test and the Kraus and Webber test for strength and flexibility.

Library

Students are introduced to the library and learn about the different aspects of a school library. Students will learn about library rules, procedures, and how to care for books. Students will learn about the roles of authors and illustrators. Students will begin to differentiate between fiction and non-fiction. Alphabetizing skills will also be taught. Each class will consist of a themed story time with a corresponding activity page. Students will then have the opportunity for quiet reading and book check out.

S.M.A.R.T. (Traditional students only)

Kindergarten students participate in a morning program called Stimulating Maturity through Accelerated Readiness Training (S.M.A.R.T.). S.M.A.R.T. is a ten-minute class which uses a multi-sensory approach to learning. The program develops and enhances the physiological and neurological readiness skills that students need to do well in school. The activities are designed to develop and improve the students' large and fine motor skills, visual perception, and eye-hand coordination. The activities used for the program are fun and yet challenging for the students.

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.

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.

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

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.

Resources: *Reading Street Language Arts Curriculum*; *Reading A-Z*; *Leveled Readers/Trade Books*

Spelling: *Word Journeys*; *Reading Street Language Arts Curriculum*

Handwriting: *Zaner Bloser*

Writing: *Six +1 Traits of Writing*

Math

Students learn to read, write, and count numbers up to 100, including skip counting. They 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.

Resources: *Singapore Math's Primary Mathematics*

Science

Students will study topics and participate in hands-on activities relating to life science, physical science, the human body, and earth science. Various field trips complement the curriculum.

Resources: *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. Students will learn map skills such as reading a compass rose, keys, and using maps. Both fiction and nonfiction related stories will be covered in connection with the LA curriculum. Various field trips complement the curriculum.

Resources: *Houghton Mifflin/Harcourt Social Studies*; various trade books

Art

Students will be introduced to a variety of art materials and how to apply them. Through in class projects, students will learn to be able to identify and create Portraiture, Still-lives, and Landscapes. The class will begin to develop a basic art vocabulary. Students will learn about the proper care and maintenance of the art supplies they will be using to complete projects throughout the school year.

Music

Music is designed to provide students in the first grade with experiences to prepare them for reading music. Through singing, playing simple instruments, moving, writing, and a variety of other activities

presented within the course the students will demonstrate their growth in music literacy. The text and other materials provide the student with songs and activities to build singing and coordination skills as well as to introduce new concepts in reading music. As the student learns to match pitch and use expression, he or she is reminded to use the skills and talents to glorify our Heavenly Father.

Physical Education

Students rehearse locomotor and stability skills, learn manipulative skills, creative movement skills, and develop fitness awareness. Students participate in the President's Fitness test and the Kraus and Webber test for strength and flexibility.

Library

We will review library procedures, book care, and alphabetizing skills. Students will learn the parts of a book and the meaning of call numbers. Students will continue differentiating between fiction and nonfiction as well as learning how to arrange fiction books in alphabetical order by the author's last name. Each class will consist of either a themed story time or library skill introduction and practice. Students will have time each class period for book selection and independent reading.

Computer (Traditional students only)

Students will begin the process of learning where each letter is on the keyboard. They will be able to login and logout of the schools network. They will also work on hand eye coordination using mouse skills as a foundation.

S.M.A.R.T. (Traditional students only)

Students participate in a morning program called Stimulating Maturity through Accelerated Readiness Training (S.M.A.R.T.). S.M.A.R.T. is a ten-minute class which uses a multi-sensory approach to learning. The program develops and enhances the physiological and neurological readiness skills that students need to do well in school. The activities are designed to develop and improve the students' large and fine motor skills, visual perception, and eye-hand coordination. The activities used for the program are fun and yet challenging for the students.

Second Grade

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.

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

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.

Resources: *Reading Street Language Arts Curriculum*; *Reading A-Z*; *Leveled Readers/Trade Books*

Spelling: *Word Journeys*; *Reading Street Language Arts Curriculum*

Handwriting: *Zaner Bloser*

Writing: *Six +1 Traits of Writing*

Math

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 are introduced to fraction, measurement, multiplication, and division concepts. Students learn the value of money and how to count coins. Students apply these concepts and learn many different problem-solving strategies.

Resources: *Singapore Math's Primary Mathematics*

Science

Students will explore various topics and participate in hands-on activities relating to life science, physical science, the human body, and earth science. Various field trips complement the curriculum.

Resources: *ACSI Purposeful Design*

Social Studies

Students learn about government and communities, maps and world regions, natural resources, American heritage and heroes, and world cultures. Various field trips are used to complement the curriculum.

Resources: *Houghton Mifflin/Harcourt Social Studies*

Art

Students will be introduced to a variety of new art materials and how to apply them. The class will continue to build upon the prior year's art vocabulary while creating artwork that shows discernment. Students will be able to identify the elements of art and use them in their art work. Maintenance and regimented clean-up will continue to develop each student's stewardship.

Music

The students are instructed in music reading skills, expression, pitch matching, and knowledge of form and tone color. Through a variety of activities presented within the course, the students will demonstrate their growth in these areas of skill and knowledge. The text and other materials provide the students 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 the skills and talents to glorify our Heavenly Father.

Physical Education

Students rehearse locomotor and stability skills, learn manipulative skills, creative movement skills, and develop fitness awareness. Students participate in the President's Fitness test and the Kraus and Webber test for strength and flexibility.

Library

Students will review skills learned in previous grades. They will be introduced to additional parts of a book. Students will read several Newbery and Caldecott award books. They will continue to practice alphabetizing and putting books back correctly on the shelves. Each class will consist of a themed story time or will focus on developing a library skill. Students will have time for book selection and independent reading.

Computer (Traditional students only)

Students will learn to increase their knowledge of proper typing techniques. They will be able to identify each row and be able to identify each key on the keyboard. They will learn to login to the schools network and save projects to a collective hard drive.

Spanish (Traditional students only)

Students will learn the whole alphabet, taking time to focus on the pronunciation of each letter. They will learn simple commands through games and songs.

Third Grade

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.

Resources: *Summit Ministries: Building on the Rock*

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 using comprehension strategies to help students understand the text. 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.

Resources: *Reading Street Language Arts Curriculum; Reading A-Z; Leveled Readers/Trade Books*

Spelling: *Word Journeys*

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

Handwriting: *Zaner Bloser*

Phonics: *Reading Street Language Arts Curriculum*

Math

Third grade students use a variety of hands on tools to order and estimate numbers through the hundred-thousands before moving on to review regrouping to the thousands place. They also review the concepts of multiplication and division, with a strong focus on memorizing these facts and learning three-digit multiplication and long division. Students learn about fractions and basic units of measurement.

Resources: *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 magnets, light and sound waves, and the nervous and musculoskeletal systems.

Resources: *ACSI Purposeful Design, 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. Students will also be introduced to a variety of cultures as they seek to learn more about the people God created.

Resources: *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 jobs

within the art community and create projects related to their discoveries. Students will learn their role in the maintenance of art supplies and the art room.

Music/Recorder

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), learning to sing basic harmonic structures (i.e. 2 part 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

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 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.

Library

Review of previously taught library skills are an integral part of this course. Emphasis on parts of a book in this grade include the table of contents, the glossary and index. Students are introduced to the Dewey Decimal System and will learn how to shelve non-fiction books. Class will consist of either a themed story, a chapter book read aloud or a library skill. Students will have time for book selection and independent reading.

Computer

Students will be able to identify each key on the keyboard without looking. They will experiment with new programs and create projects based on in class demonstration. Each class will take the time to learn how and why file management matters electronically.

Spanish (Traditional students only)

Through the use of songs and various interactive games, students will review the alphabet and learn words beginning with each letter. They will learn simple vocabulary such as the colors and numbers. Special emphasis is placed on correct pronunciation and Spanish accent.

QUEST (Traditional students only)

The QUEST program is designed to inspire and stimulate gifted children with exploratory and creative subject matter. Subjects change quarterly and are drawn from various content areas. An assortment of methods are employed to bring a unique view to the material, while simultaneously providing students with a high level of interaction with each other and the content. Past subjects have included: aerodynamics, the Appalachian trial, missionary biographies and the study of pie. Admission into the QUEST program is dependent on ability, achievement test scores, and teacher recommendation.

Fourth Grade

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.

Resources: *Summit Ministries: Building on the Rock*

Language Arts

Students will read a combination of short stories and trade books, while implementing reading strategies and analyzing literature elements. The students will incorporate grammar rules as they practice writing fiction and nonfiction pieces. A focus on spelling structure will also be emphasized.

Resources: *Reading Street Language Arts curriculum; Reading A-Z; Leveled Readers/Trade Books, 6 +1 Traits of Writing*

Spelling: *Word Journeys*

Handwriting: *Zaner Bloser*

Mathematics

Fourth grade math builds upon the concepts introduced in third grade. Students order, compare, and estimate numbers through the millions. Students will review and practice multi-digit multiplication and long division to gain mastery in both skills. The relationship between fractions and decimals is studied, and the students begin using fractions and decimals in operations. Measurement and geometry are expanded upon. Students will practice using bar modeling in problem solving to provide the foundations of algebraic thinking.

Resources: *Macmillan McGraw-Hill Math Connects; Singapore Math*

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.

Resources: *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.

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

Art

Students will continue to learn about new and exciting ways to create art. Expanding on the knowledge gained from the lower elementary art classes, students will continue to increase perspective on the

principles of design. The students' art vocabulary will be expanded to include jobs and cultural references. Class projects will explore various jobs in art and cultures from around the world. Students will have individual and group clean-up assignments that will challenge them to become more responsible.

Music

Class time is devoted to building upon 3rd grade music with a more in depth exploration, analysis and performance of the following musical elements: identification of syncopation and complex rhythms, performance and conducting of meter in 2,3, and 4; harmony performance (3 part rounds, 3+partner songs, descants, and more complex melodic and harmonic ostinatos), instrumental timbre as it relates to the small instrumental ensembles within a wide variety of musical styles and genres.

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.

Library

Students will explore the Dewey Decimal System more in depth. Students will learn to use the online catalog to search for books. Students will look at the following genres: fairy tales, folktales, tall tales, and fables. Class time is spent hearing a themed story, listening to a chapter book read aloud or learning a library skill. There will be time for book selection and independent reading.

Elementary Band (elective)

Students in fourth through sixth grades are given the opportunity to start developing skills on various instruments from the woodwind, brass, and percussion families. Small group lessons are held and students are then matriculated into ensembles as their skills develop. Ensemble repertoire includes many styles including folk songs, sacred, classical, and popular tunes. Students are required to practice at home in between lessons.

Elementary Strings (elective)

As part of the instrumental music curriculum, students may start beginning string lessons to include violin, viola, and cello in fourth grade. Instruction will begin by learning how to hold the bow, the instrument, and then learning to play simple "fun songs" on the violin. Students will then work through levels 1 and 2 of their lesson books as they begin to develop good practice habits at home. Depending on their progress students will begin performing for school concerts.

Computer

Students will continue to learn keyboarding skills. They will strive for an improvement in their overall speed and accuracy. Students will use a multitude of programs to accomplish short lessons and exercises.

Spanish (Traditional students only)

Students will be introduced to additional vocabulary such as colors, fruits and animals. They will learn simple commands through games and songs.

QUEST (Traditional students only)

The QUEST program is designed to inspire and stimulate gifted children with exploratory and creative subject matter. Subjects change quarterly and are drawn from various content areas. An assortment of methods are employed to bring a unique view to the material, while simultaneously providing students with a high level of interaction with each other and the content. Past subjects have included: aerodynamics, the Appalachian trail, missionary biographies and the study of pie. Admission into the QUEST program is dependent on ability, achievement test scores, and teacher recommendation.

Fifth Grade

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.

Resources: *Summit Ministries: Building on the Rock*

Language Arts

The 5th grade Language Arts program is comprised of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Covering a wide range of genres and themes, students read and respond to many authentic texts throughout the year. Students also write for a variety of purposes and audiences. To enhance reading and writing skills, students practice spelling words weekly, learn vocabulary terms, and apply grammar concepts. Throughout all units, students engage in discussions and presentations in which they practice both communicating their thoughts orally as well as listening actively to others.

Resources: *Easy Grammar, Reading Street; Teaching Writing: Structure and Style* from the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW), 6+ Traits of Writing, a variety of novels and short stories

Math

Students will use place value to add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers and decimals. They will study fractions, multiples, and factors. 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. The coordinate plane is introduced.

Resources: *Engage NY; Macmillan McGraw-Hill Math Connects*

Science

Students study God's design for Life - the world of plants and cells. Our second unit focuses on force and work. Unit 3 has a focus on the sun, earth, and moon. Our final unit is a health unit that covers the endocrine system, skin, growth, and teeth. We will also take a look at pathogens, infectious and noninfectious diseases, and the immune system. Various field trips will complement the curriculum.

Resources: *ACSI Purposeful Design*

Social Studies: United States History

From the early populating of the continent through European discovery, colonization, the War for Independence, and the birth of our nation, our students explore and discover the principles and experiences our nation was built upon. Through a wide range of activities including research projects, simulations, analysis of primary sources, students come to understand the challenges and blessings that have contributed to the growth and development of our country.

Resources: *Harcourt Social Studies: The United States, The History of US*

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 artists have on society and create projects that emulate 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. 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 following musical elements: compound, asymmetrical and changing meters, review of harmonic elements (3 part rounds, 3 partner songs, descants, ostinatos) and the introduction of countermelodies and intervals of 3rd and 6ths, instrumental timbre as it relates to the entire concert band and symphonic orchestra within a wide variety of musical styles and genres.

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.

Library

Students will review all library skills learned up to this point. Students will continue practicing locating books and re-shelving books by using the call number. Students will be exposed to a variety of genres, books and Reader's Theatre. Class time may also consist of a chapter book read aloud or a themed lesson. Students will have time for book selection and independent reading.

Computer

Students will continue to improve their scores with weekly typing exercises and tests. They will learn about programs that they will use in middle school. The class will create projects that enhance their educational experience.

Elementary Band (elective)

Students in fourth through sixth grades are given the opportunity to start developing skills on various instruments from the woodwind, brass, and percussion families. Small group lessons are held and students are then matriculated into ensembles as their skills develop. Ensemble repertoire includes many styles including folk songs, sacred, classical, and popular tunes. Students are required to practice at home in between lessons.

Elementary Strings (elective)

As part of the instrumental music curriculum, students may start beginning string lessons to include violin, viola, and cello in fourth grade. Instruction will begin by learning how to hold the bow, the instrument, and then learning to play simple "fun songs" on the violin. Students will then work through levels 1 and 2 of their lesson books as they begin to develop good practice habits at home. Depending on their progress students will begin performing for school concerts.

Spanish (Traditional students only)

Students will review content previously taught in second, third, and fourth grades. They will review the alphabet. They will learn vocabulary such as days of the week, months of the year, parts of the body, colors and simple commands through games and songs.

QUEST (Traditional students only)

The QUEST program is designed to inspire and stimulate gifted children with exploratory and creative subject matter. Subjects change quarterly and are drawn from various content areas. An assortment of methods are employed to bring a unique view to the material, while simultaneously providing students with a high level of interaction with each other and the content. Past subjects have included: aerodynamics, the Appalachian trail, missionary biographies and the study of pie. Admission into the QUEST program is dependent on ability, achievement test scores, and teacher recommendation.

Sixth Grade

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.

Resources: *Summit Ministries: Building on the Rock*

Language Arts

The 6th grade Language Arts program is comprised of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Covering a wide range of genres and themes, students read and analyze literature from a biblical worldview. Additionally, students write for a variety of audiences and purposes, practicing informational, opinion, narrative, and reflective communication. To enhance reading and writing skills, students study spelling and vocabulary terms and apply grammar concepts in their writing. Throughout all units, students engage in discussions and presentations in which they practice both communicating their thoughts orally as well as listening with empathy and understanding to others.

Resources: *Easy Grammar, Reading Street, Vocabulary from Classical Roots, Teaching Writing: Structure and Style* from the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW), *6+ Traits of Writing*, a collection of novels and short stories

Mathematics

Students will review whole number and decimal concepts. Students will be able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and decimals. Students will study geometry, focusing on area, volume, and measurement. Students will be able to use the metric and customary system to convert units. Using the coordinate plane and graphs to compare data sets will also be a focus. Students will work with ratios, proportions, percents, and probability. Students will be introduced to integers and algebraic concepts.

Resources: *Mathematics Course 1-Pearson/Prentice Hall; Engage NY*

Science

Students will explore various areas science from a deeper perspective. They are introduced to basic biological studies that include classification of the kingdoms and phyla, cells and cell functions, and heredity and genetics. Chemistry is introduced with a study of the periodic table, matter, fluids, and motion. Environmental science is studied through a hands-on inquiry based unit.

Resources: *Choices: ACSI Purposeful Design*

Social Studies: World Geography

Students embark on a journey around the world as they study the geography and culture of the continents. Through a variety of learning activities and field trips, students have opportunities to interact with and experience the people and places they study, deepening their understanding of and God's heart and plans for people all around the world.

Resources: Nystrom Hands-On Social Studies Program: *Our World Today*, Pearson: *My World Geography*

Art: Elements of Design

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 that artists have on society and create projects that emulate 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 be more responsible.

Music

Students will learn to recognize, define, and interpret basic music elements, such as treble/bass clef note names, note/rest durations, time signature, and expressive markings. The culmination of this course is the participation in two annual elementary school concerts.

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 lifelong fitness and will be given opportunity to perform a variety of activities. Students will participate in the President's Challenge annually 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 opportunities to compete.

Library

Students will refine all of the library skills they have learned up to this point. Students will continue to explore a variety of genres and books. Students will be exposed to the research process and MLA format in preparation for Middle School. Class time may also consist of a chapter book read aloud or a themed lesson. Students will have time for book selection and independent reading.

Computer

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.

Elementary Band (elective)

Students in fourth through sixth grades are given the opportunity to start developing skills on various instruments from the woodwind, brass, and percussion families. Small group lessons are held and students are then matriculated into ensembles as their skills develop. Ensemble repertoire includes many styles including folk songs, sacred, classical, and popular tunes. Students are required to practice at home in between lessons.

Elementary Strings (elective)

As part of the instrumental music curriculum, students may start beginning string lessons to include violin, viola, and cello in fourth grade. Instruction will begin by learning how to hold the bow, the instrument, and then learning to play simple "fun songs" on the violin. Students will then work through levels 1 and 2 of their lesson books as they begin to develop good practice habits at home. Depending on their progress students will begin performing for school concerts.

Spanish (Traditional students only)

Students are given oral and written class work that includes singing, games, and basic conversation. Students get an introduction to the basic language skills of listening, reading, writing, and speaking on which an emphasis is placed. Students will also learn Bible verses and conversational Spanish. Topics covered will include the alphabet, numbers, calendar, and time.

QUEST (Traditional students only)

The QUEST program is designed to inspire and stimulate gifted children with exploratory and creative subject matter. Subjects change quarterly and are drawn from various content areas. An assortment of methods are employed to bring a unique view to the material, while simultaneously providing students with a high level of interaction with each other and the content. Past subjects have included aerodynamics, the Appalachian trail, missionary biographies and the study of pie. Admission into the QUEST program is dependent on ability, achievement test scores, and teacher recommendation.