

New Covenant Christian School Curriculum Guide

Pre-Grammar Stage (Pre K-3 through Second Grade)

Grammar Stage (Third through Sixth Grade)

Introduction

Each piece of curriculum we use at New Covenant is carefully selected based on its own integrity, educational value and how well it fits with our classical educational philosophy. We believe in using time-tested, traditional, multi-sensory teaching methodologies that make learning fun and effective. We also believe in integrating our teaching as much as possible by selecting classic works of literature that enrich other components of our educational program, using history to teach geography, and focusing on writing assignments that are based on history, science or the Bible.

This guide has two sections:

1. An overview of the main pieces of our curriculum with a brief explanation of our reasoning in selecting each piece.
2. A grade-by-grade overview of the materials covered in each subject area.

Overview of Our Main Curriculum Pieces

Sing, Spell, Read and Write

Used in our four-year old preschool program, *Sing, Spell, Read & Write* is a program built on carefully sequenced, systematic, and explicit phonics instruction. With over 25 years of proven classroom success and developed by Sue Dickson, a well-known educator with 27 years of primary grade experience, *Sing, Spell, Read & Write* uses music as the primary instructional vehicle. This fun and engaging preschool reading program will develop the readiness and early literacy skills children need with age-appropriate activities.

Saxon Phonics and Spelling

Saxon Phonics and Spelling integrates explicit, systematic phonics instruction with spelling and reading fluency and is used for kindergarten through second grade. *Saxon Phonics* is research-based, using an incremental approach to learning phonics and reading, building skill upon skill and incorporating generous amounts of review. The program is multi-sensory, using visual, auditory and kinesthetic techniques to reach every type of learner in the classroom. Saxon also incorporates recognition of high-frequency sight words to aid in reading fluency. Two sets of readers are included with Saxon (decodable readers and fluency readers). These are used along with our already rich literature program. The decodable readers provide practice in phonetic decoding (sounding out words) while the fluency readers help build a child's reading fluency progressively.

Words Are Wonderful

Words are Wonderful is a vocabulary and reading comprehension program from Educators Publishing Service (EPS) based on research and state standards that affirm the importance of integrated and systematic word study. As a program that integrates vocabulary instruction with reading and

language skills, *Words Are Wonderful* helps students understand and immediately apply new vocabulary words and reading comprehension skills. It is a four book series for grades three through six. As students discover the joy and power of words, they learn that words are made up of meaningful parts—roots, prefixes, and suffixes—and learn how to unlock the meaning of unfamiliar words. Latin root words are examined, encouraging integration between our Latin instruction and vocabulary.

Words are Wonderful includes ample oral-language practice and interactive activities and exercises to build vocabulary and vocabulary skills. The series also emphasizes using context clues and basic word elements to help students make connections among words and infer the meanings of unfamiliar words.

Mastering Spelling **by Globe Fearon (Pearson Learning Group)**

With the *Mastering Spelling* curriculum, students improve spelling skills as they build confidence across all subjects. NCCS uses this series in grades three through six because it teaches spelling skills through phonics, structural analysis and word study. Language-based skills in grammar, usage and vocabulary are refined as the children progress through these consumable workbooks.

Shurley Grammar

The *Shurley Method* has been used to successfully teach students for nearly 30 years. Founded on the principles of retained learning, this effective way of teaching English has been developed by Brenda Shurley, Ruth Wetsell and Teddie Faye Raines. *Shurley* uses repetition and student-teacher interaction to help students learn difficult English concepts and skills.

Shurley Grammar is the end result of twenty years of using actual classroom situations combined with an understanding of the learning needs of students to develop this exciting grammar curriculum. A concrete set of

questions about each word in a sentence is used to teach students how all the parts of a sentence fit together. Students always have a clear picture of how to write complete sentences

With *Shurley*, students are constantly exposed to "see it, hear it, say it, do it" activities that meet the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning styles of students. The teacher models each new concept in *Shurley Grammar* for the students. Then, the students actively participate with the teacher as the concepts are practiced. Repetition might be in the form of chant or song. The *Shurley Grammar* methodology fits beautifully with this "poll-parrot" stage of the trivium and is used in grades one through five here at NCCS.

Applications of Grammar/Book 1 Basics for Communicating Effectively

In order to help our beginning "logic" stage students apply the skills that they have learned in the grammar stage, we move to a Christian Liberty Press grammar book. This workbook format helps students with the basics of communicating effectively and transitions them from "skills based" to more practical writing. A supplemental text for our sixth graders is *Warriners Grammar*.

Institute for Excellence in Writing

We use the *Institute for Excellence in Writing* materials beginning in the second grade. This program allows the teacher to introduce one concept at a time, model it extensively and give numerous examples before requiring independence. Students are expected to practice writing daily. Students will acquire writing skills that last a lifetime as they creatively experiment with writing and learn organizational skills based on a specific structure.

Combined with the strong skill foundation established with *Shurley Grammar*, teachers can spend less time going over beginning grammar and editing skills and more time introducing and enhancing advanced grammar and writing skills.

Saxon Math

Saxon Math is unique because the entire program is based on introducing a topic to a student and then allowing the student to build upon that concept as they learn new ones (incremental approach). Topics are never dropped but are instead increased in complexity and practiced every day, providing the time required for concepts to become totally familiar.

This incremental approach to math differs from most traditional programs which are "chapter-based." In these traditional texts, students are presented with and expected to learn an entire mathematical concept in one day. The homework for that day consists of twenty or thirty problems, all of which deal with that concept. The topic is then only reviewed prior to a test, if at all. Saxon textbooks, however, divide concepts into smaller, more easily grasped increments. A new increment is presented each day and students work only a few problems involving the new material. The remaining homework consists of practice problems involving concepts previously introduced. Thus, every assignment (and every test) is a cumulative review of all material covered up to that point.

Purposeful Design

Our sixth graders use the *Purposeful Design – Intermediate Course A* published by ACSI for their study in mathematics. Algebra and geometry strands are developed in a sequential, thorough manner that builds on the concepts and skills presented in the grammar school years. Students are challenged with real-life connections in each of the following areas: concept understanding, skill development, mathematical thinking and strategies for problem solving.

History for Little Pilgrims

This curriculum introduces students to history through a Biblical perspective. Students are shown that history is indeed "God's Story." Visual aids include maps, illustrations and timelines for each chapter bringing difficult concepts into clearer focus for our youngest pre-grammar students. *America Our*

Great Country is also used to introduce young children to some basic facts about history, geography, influential people and great leaders of the United States.

Veritas History

The *Veritas History* curriculum is produced by Veritas Academy, a classical Christian school in Lancaster. It is one of the most respected history programs among classical schools and homeschoolers. The *Veritas* program is centered around a set of 32 cards in each series, designed to be used at a pace of one card per week. Together, the cards teach history chronologically, integrating Biblically recorded history with historical events of surrounding kingdoms and nations not recorded in the Bible. As the children work through the cards, they memorize names, dates, places and events, giving them a tool for understanding how God has worked in history up to the present day. Since memorization is always easier with music, each set of cards has an accompanying history song that overviews the set of events and people. Used from second through sixth grades, this program gives our students a rich overview of the history of the world from a perspective that other programs too often ignore.

Progeny Press Study Guides

At every grade level, we teach some of our literature using study guides produced by *Progeny Press*. *Progeny Press* offers rich Biblical integration in our literature program. Their study guides for literature provide teachers and students with questions and comparisons from the firm and timeless foundation of the Bible.

Progeny Press study guides include:

- vocabulary exercises
- comprehension, analysis and application questions
- introduction of literary terms
- background information

- discussion of related Biblical themes
- suggestions for activities related to the reading

***Latin for Children,
Latin Alive, Classical Latin Creatively Taught
and Libellus de Historia***
by Classical Academic Press

The *Latin for Children* Primers are engaging, incremental, creative and filled with clear grammatical explanations, illustrations, exercises, quizzes and a sizable and useful reference section. Each text comes with a plethora of mnemonic aids (songs, chants) that enable students to learn vocabulary (over 240 of the most frequently occurring words) and grammar with ease and delight. The texts are graphically engaging, featuring a crisp, classical look professionally designed. These books are the collaborative effort of three Latin teachers, and are the fruit of six years of research and testing. We use *Primers A, B and C* for grades three through five and *Latin Alive* for grade six. As a companion to each level of the Latin Primers, we use *Libellus de Historia* which are a collections of Latin stories that parallel the *Veritas History* curriculum and are integrated with the grammar and vocabulary of the Latin Primers. Each level of reader contains glosses for new words in each chapter and a full glossary at the end of each book.

Features:

- Integrated with *Shurley Grammar*, clear explanations of grammar included in every chapter
- Latin stories integrated with *Veritas History* curricula
- 240 high-frequency Latin words in each text
- Workbook format, 32 chapters, 1 chapter per week
- Quizzes, games and puzzles in the curricula
- Each chapter contains a practical list of derivatives

Science: *Christian Schools International*

God created and designed everything from lizards to lungs, from genes to giraffes, from comets to carbon dioxide. Christian Schools International's science curriculum equips students to discover the infinite complexity and amazing orderliness of God's world, to learn about themselves as a special part of God's creation, and to recognize their role as caretakers of creation. The series provides numerous experiment and activity ideas along with up-to-date information about new discoveries.

Bible: *The Story of God and His People* By Christian Schools International

Christian Schools International's Bible curriculum presents the story of God and His people in chronological order and teaches the events in context so students understand more fully what it means to be part of God's family. The curriculum for kindergarten through second grade uses the Bible story told by the teacher as the central element. Multi-sensory follow-up activities encourage students to remember and retell the stories. The materials for third through sixth grade help students understand and imaginatively experience the context in which the Bible stories occurred. These grades focus on understanding Bible times, the books of the Bible, and the kinds of writing in the Bible.

The Young Peacemakers

"God delights to breathe His grace through peacemakers and use them to dissipate anger, improve understanding, promote justice, and encourage repentance through reconciliation." This Biblical guide to resolving personal conflict gives the children skills that might otherwise take years to learn. The program teaches through role-playing, great discussions and drama.

Handwriting

NCCS uses the time-tested Zaner-Bloser method for handwriting instruction in cursive and the Palmer method for manuscript. Cursive handwriting is introduced in third grade, but consistent instruction (a critical component of literacy development) continues throughout the grammar school years.

Music

Accent on Composers is a curriculum that introduces students to the lives and music of 22 great composers from the Medieval Era through the 20th Century.

Theory Time is used in grades one through five. *Theory Time* encourages ear training, teaches notation, scales, rhythm, intervals, sight reading and music vocabulary.

Children's Recorder Method 1 and 2 cover a wide range of musical experiences in teaching the recorder. Reading music is a focus in these books.

Drumagination is a collection of rhythm-based games and exercises that create interest, interaction and a heightened awareness of the rhythm making process.

Grade-by-Grade Overview

Pre-Grammar Stage (Pre K-3 through Second Grade)

Preschool

We believe that a child's play is his work in preschool. Our goal is to enable children to feel successful about the work that they do on any given day. Much of the work is accomplished in self-directed learning areas such as housekeeping, dress-ups, blocks, science table, and other centers. The curriculum includes the following subject areas taught using an age-appropriate, integrated approach:

Language Arts	Math
Science	Social Studies
Bible	Art
Music	Physical Education

An important goal of the Preschool is to encourage a love of reading and enjoyment of books. Our program has a library of over 1,400 books, including classics in children's literature as well as children's favorites.

In the area of Language Arts, pre-reading and pre-writing skills are developed. Children discover that letters have a purpose and that words have meaning. Children have opportunities to watch adults write their ideas in various forms including lists, charts, menus, thank-you notes, and original stories. An important goal of the Preschool is to encourage a love for reading and enjoyment of books through the sharing of classics in children's literature as well as children's favorites.

In our four-year-old program, we teach phonics and reading preparation using *Sing, Spell, Read & Write*. This explicit phonics instruction is a fun and engaging preschool reading program that develops the readiness and early literacy skills that we want to develop in our young students even before they begin kindergarten.

Math skills are developed through a hands-on and discovery approach using games and group activities. Specific skills emphasized include grouping and classification, one-to-one correspondence and counting.

Science activities are aimed at encouraging observation, comparison, exploration, testing, inquiry, and problem-solving. The children's senses are stimulated by participating in many activities. They will notice cause and effect as well as keep simple records. Major themes include weather, plants and animals, seasons, healthy habits and magnets.

Social Studies activities focus on learning about self and others, home, family, holidays, transportation and the immediate, as well as the larger community including other cultures. Parents, as well as other community members, are invited into the classroom to share their special talents, occupations and other information.

Art expression and creativity are encouraged through a variety of mediums. Craft projects are included to further develop fine motor skills as well as to provide added experience in following directions.

The goals of the music experience are to develop appreciation, participation, and responsiveness. Musical competencies such as pitch, volume and contrasts are also taught. Many different types of music are used including classical, spiritual, stimulating background music, Christian songs, cultural music, children's tunes and transitional songs.

Physical education and movement aid children in developing motor abilities and gaining skills in body control, rhythm, tempo, timing, following directions, group participation and strengthening muscles.

Curriculum-directed field trips enhance the learning experience.

Christian values such as honesty, kindness, and obedience are woven into the fabric of the curriculum. Bible stories, beginning experiences in prayer and praise time are an integral part of the preschool day. In addition, a member of the New Covenant Presbyterian Church pastoral staff visits the class on a monthly basis for a short devotional.

Kindergarten

Phonics: *Saxon Phonics and Spelling K*. The primary goal of *Saxon Phonics and Spelling K* is for all kindergartners to be able to recognize and know the primary sounds of all the letters of the alphabet. Although this is the primary goal, it is very common for children to inquire about learning to read once they begin to learn a few letter names and sounds. For this reason, this program includes reading instruction. Student “readers” include controlled vocabulary based on introduced letter sounds.

Reading/Literature

A. Read Aloud Books

Ping

A House for Hermit Crab

Look Out Kindergarten

Into the Sea

The Adventures of Chatter the Squirrel

The Adventures of Paddy the Beaver

The Family Christmas Tree Book

Little Women for Kindergarten

How Big is a Million?

Love is a Family

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

Meet the Orchestra

The World of Dick and Jane

B. Independent “Readers”

An Ant Nap

The Hill

Tim’s Lost Fan

The Milk Spills

Bugs on the Run

Cat Masks

Can You Yip?

Dan’s Van

Max and Fox Fix a Box

The Not Big Quilt

Trucks, Trucks, Trucks

The Bath

Here at the Zoo

Farm Pets

The Big Fish

Math: *Saxon 1*, Lessons 1-100. Using this curriculum, Kindergarteners will:

- ✓ skip count by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's
- ✓ compare and order numbers
- ✓ identify place value to 100
- ✓ identify ordinal position to tenth
- ✓ identify a sorting rule
- ✓ identify and extend patterns
- ✓ solve routine and non-routine problems
- ✓ master all basic addition facts and most of the basic subtraction facts
- ✓ add and subtract two-digit numbers without regrouping
- ✓ use comparison symbols
- ✓ picture and name fractions
- ✓ identify a fractional part of a set
- ✓ measure using inches, feet and centimeters
- ✓ compare volume, mass and area
- ✓ tell time to the half hour
- ✓ order events by time
- ✓ count pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters
- ✓ identify and draw polygons
- ✓ identify geometric solids
- ✓ tally
- ✓ identify events as certain, likely or impossible
- ✓ create, read and write observations from real graphs, pictographs and bar graphs

Bible: *God's Wonders*. Students are introduced to the remarkable works of God on behalf of His chosen people. Texts used include Susan Hunt's *Hiding God's Word in Little Hearts*, *Kid's Devotional Bible* and *Beginning with God* (a study of God, the Bible and the Trinity by Nancy Gorrell).

Science and History: Kindergarteners study the history of man from creation through the establishment of the church, the founding of our nation and America today. Their study includes information about our fifty states and about particular people groups and great leaders. Science is approached through *A Just Ask Book* from Weekly Reader. Topics include answers to questions that fascinate our youngsters: "Why does it snow? Why is grass green? What is a cloud?" They are treated to a wonderful basic study of God's creations.

Music: Kindergarten students receive music instruction twice per week. Our goal is to instill in them a love for music, a sense of rhythm, the awareness of pitch, and initial music theory such as recognizing the treble and bass clefs.

Art: Kindergarten artists begin the year studying Henri Matisse, a French artist that used lots of bright colors and patterns. We explore shapes with Eric Carle and lines with Cy Twombly. For Christmas we use our art to celebrate the birth of Jesus and at Easter we make art about His resurrection. The annual NCCS auction in the spring features the students' group projects inspired by art history.

P.E.: Kindergarten students receive instruction in physical education once per week. Our physical education program emphasizes glorifying God with your body, demonstrating good character and team sportsmanship and doing your best in all things. The kindergarten physical education program focuses on introducing and developing gross motor skills such as throwing, catching, and kicking a ball, skipping, and balancing. Jump ropes, a parachute, and handkerchiefs are utilized to practice skills related to balance, changing speeds, and moving to a rhythm. Team sports are introduced using skill games. Students will begin to develop their knowledge of warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities. They will also be introduced to very simple strength and endurance building activities.

First Grade

Phonics: *Saxon Phonics and Spelling 1*. *Saxon Phonics and Spelling 1* is a success-oriented program that enables most children to develop a solid foundation in phonics and thus become successful readers and spellers. The goal of the program is for all first graders to be able to read not only assigned materials but anything else they might choose to read once they experience the pleasure of success in reading.

Reading/Literature:

- A. Read-Aloud Books:** Beginning in September, these “first favorites” are enjoyed by the students as their teacher reads them aloud. A variety of skill sheets are used to develop comprehension ability.

The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper

Curious George by H. A. Rey

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff
Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey
Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans
Stone Soup by Marcia Brown

B. Read-Aloud Chapter Books

“C” is for Cupcake by Carolyn Haywood
Robert Rows the River by Carolyn Haywood
Winnie the Pooh by A. A. Milne
Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown
Henry Huggins by Beverly Cleary
Prairie Friends by Nancy Smiler Levinson and Stacey Schuett
Mr. Popper’s Penguins by Richard and Florence Atwater
The Moffats by Eleanor Estes
The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes
Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink

C. Student Reading: These classic children’s books are read by our first graders beginning in October.

Frog and Toad Together by Arnold Lobel
Grasshopper on the Road by Arnold Lobel
Owl at Home by Arnold Lobel
Mouse Soup by Arnold Lobel
Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish
Nate the Great and the Lost List by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
Abe Lincoln’s Hat by Martha Brenner
Clara and the Book Wagon by Nancy Smiler Levinson
The Drinking Gourd by F. N. Monjo
Henry and Mudge and the Forever Sea by Cynthia Rylant
Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie by Peter and Connie Roop
The Bears on Hemlock Mountain by Alice Dalgliesh
Miss Rumphius by Barbary Cooney

Grammar: *Shurley Grammar 1*

Math: *Saxon 2*. Using this curriculum, first graders will:

- ✓ skip count by 1's, 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's, 10's, 25's and 100's
- ✓ compare and order numbers
- ✓ identify ordinal position to tenth
- ✓ identify sorting and patterning rules
- ✓ solve routine and non-routine problems
- ✓ master all basic addition and subtraction facts
- ✓ identify commutative and associative properties of addition
- ✓ identify place value in a three-digit number
- ✓ master multiplication facts to 5
- ✓ add and subtract two-digit numbers
- ✓ picture and name fractions
- ✓ measure to the nearest half inch, centimeter and foot
- ✓ compare volume
- ✓ compare and measure mass
- ✓ measure perimeter and area
- ✓ tell time to five-minute intervals
- ✓ count pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters
- ✓ show change from \$1.00
- ✓ multiply by 0
- ✓ identify geometric solids
- ✓ identify lines of symmetry
- ✓ identify angles
- ✓ tally
- ✓ create, read, and write observations from real graphs, pictographs, bar graphs, Venn diagrams and line graphs

Bible: *God's Plan*. Students learn that God has a purpose for His people, which continues throughout history. The emphasis is on Old Testament times.

Science: Christian Schools International, *Science 1*

Creation: First Quarter: Sun, Moon and Stars
Second Quarter: Seasons
Third Quarter: Plants
Fourth Quarter: Animals

History: *Harford County and Maryland*. Students learn about our county and our state. They will learn the geography, history and symbols of Maryland.

Geography: As they study the geography of Harford County and Maryland, children will begin to learn basic geography skills, including how to read a map and how to recognize major land features.

Music: First grade students receive music instruction twice per week. In addition to reviewing and reinforcing concepts learned in kindergarten, first grade students will learn to identify notes by name, time signatures and begin work in dynamics. They will also continue work on ear training and create a heightened awareness of rhythm through various games and activities.

First grade students participate in the preparation for and performance of the New Covenant Christian School Christmas concert. Song selections are memorized and the students learn how to conduct themselves in a performance situation.

Art: First grade artists learn about pointillism with George Seurat. Students will create painted monkeys to give to the Zimbabwean students Ms. White will be teaching this fall during her short-term missions trip. For Christmas we explore Lewis Comfort Tiffany's stained glass windows. In the winter we make abstract and realistic trees like Piet Mondrian. We make imaginary surrealist animals like Salvador Dali. Throughout the year, students work diligently at home drawing in their sketchbooks and present their work to their class quarterly. The annual NCCS auction in the spring features the students' group projects inspired by art history.

P.E.: First grade students receive specialized physical education once per week. They also have two, 15-minute recess periods per day for additional physical activity. Our P.E. program teaches children how to glorify God with their bodies by working hard, playing fair and demonstrating Christian character. Students learn basic rules and skills for a variety of sports including soccer, basketball, softball, and track and field. Games are utilized to introduce the skills of each sport. Students are expected to learn basic rules of the sports. Gross motor skills such as balancing, hopping, and jumping are also developed. Equipment such as soccer balls, basketballs, and jump ropes are utilized in developing skills such as jumping, kicking, and throwing. Students will begin to develop their knowledge of warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities. They will also be introduced to very simple strength and endurance building activities.

Second Grade

Phonics: *Saxon Phonics and Spelling 2*. *Saxon Phonics and Spelling 2* begins with a review of basic vowels and consonants, and then builds on the reading and spelling rules introduced in *Saxon Phonics and Spelling 1*. Extended instruction in prefixes, suffixes, and syllable division patterns enables children to decode and understand text that they choose to read on their own.

Reading/Literature

A. Read-Aloud Books

Ginger Pye by Eleanor Estes

Baby Island by Carol Ryrie Brink

A Toad for Tuesday by Russell Erickson

Pinocchio by Carlos Collodi

My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett

B. Student Reading

Blaze and the Lost Quarry by C. W. Anderson

Mr. Putter and Tabby Pour the Tea by Cynthia Rylant

The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner

A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams

The Courage of Sarah Noble by Alice Dalgliesh

Betsy and the Boys by Carolyn Haywood

The Cabin Faced West by Jean Fritz

Childhood of Famous Americans: Meet George Washington

by Joan Heilbroner

Velveteen Rabbit by Marjorie Williams

Through studying these great works of children's literature, students will learn about basic literature concepts like the main idea (theme), plot, cause and effect, setting and characters. They will also learn to relate literature to their own personal experiences and to make predictions about stories and characters and learn the basic parts of a book.

Grammar: *Shurley Grammar 2, Evan Moor, Steck-Vaughn (English for the Thoughtful Child)*

Math: *Saxon 3*. Using this curriculum, second graders will:

- ✓ skip count by whole numbers
- ✓ compare and order numbers
- ✓ identify place value
- ✓ identify ordinal position to twentieth
- ✓ identify and complete patterns
- ✓ master all basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts
- ✓ add/subtract multi-digit numbers
- ✓ multiply a multi-digit number by a single-digit number
- ✓ divide by single-digit divisors
- ✓ picture, name and order fractions
- ✓ add and subtract fractions with common denominators
- ✓ measure to the nearest quarter inch, millimeter, foot and yard
- ✓ identify the volume of standard containers
- ✓ compare and measure mass
- ✓ measure perimeter and area
- ✓ tell time to the minute
- ✓ determine elapsed time
- ✓ count money
- ✓ make change for a dollar
- ✓ identify angles
- ✓ identify lines of symmetry
- ✓ identify function rules
- ✓ graph ordered pairs on a coordinate graph
- ✓ tally
- ✓ write addition, subtraction, multiplication and division fact families
- ✓ write story problems for addition/subtraction number sentences
- ✓ create, read and write observations from real graphs, pictographs, bar graphs, Venn diagrams and line graph

Bible: *God's Promises*. Students review creation to the exile from Jerusalem. Jesus' life and teachings are studied including the parables and Lord's Prayer. A unit on Christian living is taught based on the Book of James.

Science: Christian Schools International, *Science 2*.

First Quarter: Geography

Second Quarter: Healthy Living

Third Quarter: States of Matter and the Water Cycle

Fourth Quarter: Rocks and Minerals

History: *Veritas History Cards, Set 1* - Creation through Ancient Egypt. Additional, supplemental materials are also used.

Geography: Students will continue learning basic geography skills, map reading and basic geographical features as they learn the geography of Ancient Egypt.

Music: Second grade students receive music instruction twice per week. Our program is focused on instilling a love for music by singing, becoming aware of pitch, learning a sense of rhythm and continuing in basic music theory. Music theory continues work on note recognition, line and space notes, repeated notes, skips and steps, quarter, eighth, half and whole notes, dynamics and ear training.

Second grade students will also participate in the New Covenant Christian School Christmas concert. The students will memorize select pieces and learn how to conduct themselves in a performance situation.

Art: Second grade artists learn about form and bright colors with Wayne Thiebaud. Students are painting animals to give to Ms. White's students during her short-term missions trip to Zimbabwe. At Christmas we use our art to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We use watercolors to make abstract animal landscapes like Franz Marc. We explore collage with Romare Bearden to make self-portraits. Throughout the year, students work diligently at home drawing in their sketchbooks and present their work to their class quarterly. The annual NCCS auction in the spring features the students' group projects inspired by art history.

P.E: Second grade students receive specialized physical education once per week. They also have two, 15-minute recess periods per day for additional physical activity. Our P.E. program teaches children how to glorify God with their bodies by working hard, playing fair, and demonstrating Christian character. Students learn basic rules and skills for a variety of sports, including soccer, basketball, softball, and track and field. Games are utilized to introduce the skills of each sport. Students are expected to learn basic rules of the sports. Gross motor skills such as balancing, hopping, and jump are also developed. Equipment such as

soccer balls, basketballs, and jumping ropes are utilized in developing skills such as jumping, kicking, and throwing. Students will develop their knowledge of warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities. They will also be introduced to simple strength and endurance building activities.

Grammar Stage: Third through Sixth Grades

Third Grade

Reading/Literature

A. Read-Aloud Books

Black Ships Before Troy and Wanderings of Odysseus
by Rosemary Sutcliff (stories of the Illiad and Odyssey)
Roman Ransom by Winterfeld
Little Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan
Squanto, Friend of the Pilgrims, by Clyde Robert Bulla
Mrs. Piggleswiddle by Betty MacDonald
Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson

B. Student Reading

Helen Keller and Louis Braille by Margaret Davidson
Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter
Aesop Fables by Aesop
Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillio
The Trojan War, by Emily Little
Pompeii, Buried Alive by Edith Kunhardt
Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner
Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingles Wilder
Farmer Boy by Laura Ingles Wilder

Through studying these great works of children's literature, students will sharpen their comprehension skills by:

- ◆ recognizing the author's purpose
- ◆ identifying the speaker or narrator (first and third person)
- ◆ recognizing cause and effect
- ◆ comparing and contrasting
- ◆ drawing conclusions
- ◆ making and explaining inferences
- ◆ identifying problems characters face in stories and how they solve them
- ◆ distinguishing fact from opinion
- ◆ identifying the sequence of steps in a process
- ◆ identifying the main idea and supporting elements
- ◆ recognizing a story's main features (character, setting, plot and theme)
- ◆ identifying genres: fiction, non-fiction, biography, historical fiction, fable, fairy tale, tall tale, poetry and fantasy
- ◆ understanding figures of speech: metaphor, simile, hyperbole, alliteration and idiom

Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension: *Words Are Wonderful, Book 1* introduces students to dictionary guide words and entries, homophones, compound words, words with multiple meanings, alliteration, synonyms and antonyms, prefixes, roots, suffixes, contractions, possessives, analogies, idioms, and inflectional verb endings. The selections are drawn from science, social studies (historical report and biography), stories (myth, fairy tale, folktale, and fable), and poetry, and include a first-person report, a sports report, a book report, and a journal entry.

Grammar: *Shurley Grammar 3*

Spelling: The third grade students use the Level B *Mastering Spelling* workbook. Each week the students learn new spelling rules and words through workbook activities and self study.

Math: *Saxon 4*. Using this curriculum, third graders will become proficient in the following areas:

- ✓ whole-number concepts and computation
- ✓ estimation
- ✓ patterns and sequences
- ✓ fractions, decimals and mixed numbers
- ✓ negative numbers
- ✓ properties of operations
- ✓ measurement
- ✓ percent
- ✓ square roots
- ✓ statistics
- ✓ probability
- ✓ surveys
- ✓ perimeter and area
- ✓ polygons
- ✓ angles
- ✓ congruence and similarity
- ✓ geometric solids
- ✓ volume
- ✓ symmetry
- ✓ tessellations
- ✓ transformations
- ✓ real-world connections

Bible: *The Record of God's Nation*. Students learn about the Bible as a book. The lessons concentrate on the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, focusing on the kings and prophets of Israel and Judah through the rebuilding of Jerusalem.

Science: Christian Schools International, *Science 3*

First Quarter: The Five Senses

Second Quarter: Animals (Habitats and Endangered Species)

Third Quarter: Simple and Complex Machines (with Electricity)

Fourth Quarter: The Solar System

History: *Veritas History Cards, Set 2. - Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome and New Testament. Minoan Civilization (220BC) to the fall of the Western Roman Empire (476 AD)*. Additional, supplemental materials are also used.

Geography: Students will begin to learn the names and locations of the major features of world geography including names of continents, oceans, rivers, countries, etc. They will also learn the geography of the Ancient Mediterranean World including Greece, Israel and the Roman Empire.

Latin: *Latin for Children, Primer A and Libellus de Historia, Latin History Reader A*

Music: Third grade students receive music instruction twice per week. Students begin playing the recorder in third grade. The recorder provides an easy application for the education that was learned in prior grades. Reading music is the focus.

The love for singing is also encouraged as students learn musical pieces for the New Covenant Christian School Christmas concert. Correct posture, tone and diction are the focus as students prepare for this performance.

Art: Third grade artists are exploring gesture lines and abstract painting while learning about Juan Miro. Students are painting a brightly-colored mural to encourage Ms. White's short-term missions trip students in Zimbabwe. At Christmas we use our art to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We learn about the importance of shape and detail while using colored pencil techniques to draw realistic leaves. Throughout the year, students work diligently at home drawing in their sketchbooks and present their work to their class quarterly. The annual NCCS auction in the spring features the students' group projects inspired by art history.

P.E.: Third grade students receive specialized physical education once per week. They also have two, 15-minute recess periods per day for additional physical activity. Our P.E. program teaches children how to glorify God with their bodies by working hard, playing fair and demonstrating Christian character. Students learn basic rules and skills for a variety of sports including soccer, basketball, softball, and track and field. Games are utilized to introduce the skills of each sport. Students are expected to learn basic rules of the sports. Gross motor skills such as balancing, hopping, and jumping are also developed. Students use soccer balls, basketballs, bats, etc., to develop and reinforce such skills as kicking, catching, dribbling, striking a ball with a bat, and shooting a basketball. Students will further develop their knowledge of warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities.

Fourth Grade

Reading/Literature

A. Read-Aloud Books

Gladys Aylward by Janet & Geoff Benge

The Book of Three by Lloyd Alexander

Sir Malcom and the Missing Prince by Sidney Baldwin

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes

Adam of the Road by Elizabeth Janet Gray

B. Student Reading

The BFG by Roald Dahl

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl (independent)

The Door in the Wall by Marguerite De Angeli

The Bridge by Jeri Massi

Crown and Jewel by Jeri Massi (independent)

The Mixed-Up Files of Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg

Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman

Through studying these great works of children's literature, students will sharpen their comprehension skills by:

- ◆ Asking questions and supporting answers using information found in the text
- ◆ Recalling major points in the story, and making and modifying predictions
- ◆ Describing characters using examples from the text
- ◆ Recognizing the author's purpose
- ◆ Recognizing cause and effect
- ◆ Comparing and contrasting
- ◆ Drawing conclusions using evidence from the text
- ◆ Making and explaining inferences using evidence from the text
- ◆ Identifying problems characters face in stories and how they solve them
- ◆ Distinguishing fact from opinion
- ◆ Identifying the sequence of steps in a process

- ◆ Identifying the main idea and supporting elements
- ◆ Recognizing a story's main features (character, setting, plot and theme)

Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension: *Words Are Wonderful, Book 2* builds students' vocabulary skills through independent and collaborative exercises and activities on dictionary entries, context clues, portmanteaux, homophones, compound and hyphenated compound words, similes and metaphors, idioms, words with multiple meanings, synonyms and antonyms, prefixes, roots, suffixes, and analogies. The selections are drawn from science, social studies (historical report and biography), geography, stories (myth and fable), and poetry.

Spelling: The fourth grade students use the *Level C Mastering Spelling* workbook. Each week the students learn new spelling rules and words through workbook activities and self study.

Grammar: *Shurley Grammar 4*

Math: *Saxon 6/5*. Using this curriculum, fourth graders will become proficient in the following areas:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ✓ whole-number concepts and computation | ✓ square roots |
| ✓ estimation | ✓ scale drawings |
| ✓ patterns and sequences | ✓ measurement and unit conversion |
| ✓ fractions, decimals and mixed numbers | ✓ statistics |
| ✓ percent | ✓ probability |
| ✓ word-problems | ✓ data display and analysis |
| ✓ properties of operations | ✓ perimeter and area |
| ✓ integers | ✓ volume |
| ✓ divisibility concepts | ✓ symmetry |
| ✓ prime and composite numbers | ✓ tessellations |
| ✓ ratios | ✓ transformations |
| | ✓ real-world connections |

Bible: *The Calling of God's Tribe*. Students study the life of the Israelites as slaves, nomads and conquerors of Canaan (Old Testament history). Students work on projects, write diaries and complete charts.

Peacemakers: Our fourth grade students undertake a one semester course where they learn the 12 key principles for young peacemakers. They are led through role-playing experiences, discussion, and dramatic presentations as they learn how to resolve conflict, to make wise choices and to communicate clearly in all situations.

Science: Christian Schools International, *Science 4*

First Quarter: Journeys around the World

Second Quarter: Oceans

Third Quarter: Weather, Birds

Fourth Quarter: Pond Communities

History: *Veritas History Cards, Set 3. Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation*. Additional, supplemental materials are also used.

Geography: Students will continue to learn the names and locations of the major features of world geography including names of continents, oceans, rivers, countries, etc. They will also focus special attention on the geography of Europe, integrated with their history curriculum.

Latin: *Latin for Children, Primer B and Libellus de Historia, Latin History Reader B*

Music: Fourth grade students receive music instruction twice per week. This includes continued training in playing the recorder. Application of previous year's knowledge continues to be a focus as the students master the art of reading music.

Theory Time is used to provide a deeper understanding of the notation of notes, rests, rhythms, intervals, whole and half steps, sharps, flats and major scales.

Rhythm games and exercises are incorporated in the form of rhythm shakers. The shakers allow the students to gain a deeper knowledge of beat and rhythm.

The love for singing is also encouraged as the students learn musical pieces for the New Covenant Christian School Christmas concert. Correct posture, tone and diction are the focus as the students prepare for this performance. Vocal parts are also introduced in select pieces as the students gain a more in-depth understanding of the art of singing.

Instrumental Music: Fourth, fifth and sixth graders are offered lessons in band instruments each week.

Art: Fourth grade artists learn about Paul Cezanne while painting fruit still-lives. Students are painting a night landscape for Ms. White's short-term missions trip students in Zimbabwe. For Christmas we study Lorenzo Ghiberti to tell story of the birth of Jesus. We make onomatopoeia pop art like Roy Lichtenstein. Throughout the year, students work diligently at home drawing in their sketchbooks and present their work to their class quarterly. The annual NCCS auction in the spring features the students' group projects inspired by art history.

P.E.: Fourth grade students receive specialized physical education once per week. They also have two, 15-minute recess periods per day for additional physical activity. Our P.E. program teaches children how to glorify God with their bodies by working hard, playing fair and demonstrating Christian character. Students learn basic rules and skills for a variety of sports, including soccer, basketball, softball, and track and field. Games are utilized to introduce the skills of each sport. Students are expected to learn basic rules of the sports and they will progress to playing the game using major rules. Students use soccer balls, basketballs, bats, etc. to develop and reinforce such skills as kicking, catching, dribbling, striking a ball with a bat, and shooting a basketball. Students will further develop their knowledge of warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities. They will also be introduced to simple strength and endurance-building activities.

Fifth Grade

Reading/Literature

Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus? by Jean Fritz

Redwall by Brian Jaques

Voyage to Freedom by David Gay

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

Through studying these great works of literature, students will sharpen their comprehension skills by:

- ◆ Asking questions and supporting answers using information found in the text
- ◆ Recalling major points in the story and making and modifying predictions
- ◆ Making inferences and drawing conclusions about characters using the text
- ◆ Identifying the main problem or conflict of the plot and how it is resolved
- ◆ Identifying the main idea and supporting details in a paragraph or selection
- ◆ Drawing conclusions using evidence from the text
- ◆ Making and explaining inferences using evidence from the text
- ◆ Identifying problems characters face in stories and how they solve them
- ◆ Distinguishing fact from opinion
- ◆ Identifying the sequence of steps in a process
- ◆ Identifying the main idea and supporting elements
- ◆ Recognizing a story's main features (character, setting, plot and theme)

Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension: *Words Are Wonderful, Book 3* builds students' vocabulary skills through independent and collaborative exercises and activities on dictionary entries, word origins, context clues,

similes and metaphors, idioms, compound words, onomatopoeia, alliteration, words with multiple meanings, synonyms and antonyms, prefixes, roots, suffixes, analogies, and footnotes. The selections are drawn from science (microscopes and microorganisms, protozoa, the blue whale, Venus flytrap plants); historical reports on ancient Greece and the Great Wall of China; biographies of Langston Hughes, Mildred Benson, Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, and Clara Barton; geography (Australia and the Great Barrier Reef; stories (folktale and legend); and poetry.

Spelling: The fifth grade students use the Level D *Mastering Spelling* workbook. Each week the students learn new spelling rules and words through workbook activities and self study.

Grammar: *Shurley Grammar 5*

Math: *Saxon 7/6*. Using this curriculum, fifth graders will become proficient in the following areas:

- ✓ simplifying expressions containing parentheses
- ✓ operations with signed numbers
- ✓ graphing functions
- ✓ powers and roots
- ✓ ratios and proportions
- ✓ percents
- ✓ fractions, decimals and mixed numbers
- ✓ divisibility concepts
- ✓ prime factorization
- ✓ estimation
- ✓ real-world connections
- ✓ functions
- ✓ unit multipliers
- ✓ statistics and probability
- ✓ frequency tables
- ✓ data collection, display and analysis
- ✓ formulas
- ✓ geometric constructions
- ✓ scale factor
- ✓ capacity and volume
- ✓ complementary and supplementary angles

Bible: *Witnesses to the Gospel*. Students learn to understand the various writings in the Bible. The lessons examine Old Testament writings, the Gospels and the New Testament letters.

Science: Christian Schools International, *Science 5*

First Quarter: Seed Plants

Second Quarter: Cells and Heredity

Third Quarter: The Human Body: Body Systems

Fourth Quarter: The Human Body: Body Systems

History: *Veritas History Cards, Set 4—Age of Exploration and American History to 1820*. Additional, supplemental materials are also used.

Geography: Students will continue learning the geography of Europe and will begin to learn American geography, integrated with their history curriculum. They will begin to learn the names of all 50 states with their state capitals and will learn to recognize major features of the geography of America.

Latin: *Latin for Children, Primer C and Libellus de Historia, Latin History Reader C*

Music: Fifth grade students receive music instruction twice per week. *Theory Time* work continues as the students explore theory on a deeper level. Students learn rhythms using eighth and sixteenth notes and rests, syncopation, major scales and key signatures. Music vocabulary and ear training also continue.

Rhythm games and exercises are incorporated in the form of rhythm shakers. The shakers allow the students to gain a deeper knowledge of beat and rhythm.

The love for singing is also encouraged as the students learn musical pieces for the New Covenant Christian School Christmas concert. Correct posture, tone and diction are the focus as the students prepare for this performance. Vocal parts are also introduced in select pieces as the students gain a more in-depth understanding of the art of singing.

Instrumental Music: Fourth, fifth and sixth graders are offered lessons in band instruments each week.

Art: Fifth grade artists begin the year painting pumpkin still-lives like Jamie Wyeth. Students are creating a painting about the creation story in Genesis to give to Ms. White's short-term missions trip students in Zimbabwe. At Christmas we make triptychs like Fra Angelico to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Students learn how to draw self-portraits while studying the art of John Singleton Copley. Throughout the year, students work diligently at home drawing in their sketchbooks and present their work to their class quarterly. The annual NCCS auction in the spring features the students' group projects inspired by art history.

P.E.: Fifth grade students receive specialized physical education once per week. They also have two, 15-minute recess periods per day for additional physical activity. Our P.E. program teaches children how to glorify God with their bodies by working hard, playing fair, and demonstrating Christian character. Students learn basic rules and skills for a variety of sports including soccer, basketball, softball, and track and field. Sometimes games are utilized to introduce the skills of each sport but games will not always be used to practice skills; students will be expected to work at developing a skill. Students are expected to learn basic rules of the sports and they will progress to playing the game using major rules and some minor rules. Students use soccer balls, basketballs, bats, etc. to develop and reinforce such skills as kicking, catching, dribbling, striking a ball with a bat, and shooting a basketball. Students will further develop their knowledge of warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities. They will also be introduced to simple strength and endurance-building activities.

Some students in fifth grade will be able to tryout to play on NCCS middle school sports teams such as basketball, soccer, and volleyball.

Sixth Grade

Reading/Literature

Amos Fortune, Free Man by Elizabeth Yates
By the Great Horn Spoon by Sid Fleischman
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis
The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien

Through studying these great works of literature, students will enhance their literary analysis and appreciation by:

- ◆ Identifying defining characteristics of the various literary genres
- ◆ Understanding the elements of plot development
- ◆ Identifying cause and effect relationships
- ◆ Identifying conflict and resolution
- ◆ Recognizing stereotypes and prejudice
- ◆ Describing characters based on their speech, actions and interactions with others
- ◆ Identifying the effects of setting and culture on literature
- ◆ Comparing and contrasting works from different time periods
- ◆ Interpreting symbolism
- ◆ Understanding the use of language to convey mood
- ◆ Recognizing and analyzing the use of irony
- ◆ Identifying and interpreting specific literary techniques

Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension: *Words Are Wonderful, Book 4* builds students' vocabulary skills through independent and collaborative exercises and activities on dictionary and glossary use, word origins, words from Spanish and French, context clues, homophones, idioms, compound words, shades of meaning, words with multiple meanings, formal and informal use of language, word connotations and denotations, literal and figurative meanings, synonyms and antonyms, prefixes, roots, suffixes, analogies, and footnotes. The selections are drawn from science and technology (dolphins, ice crystals and microphotography, pearls and oysters, and wireless communication); biographies (Nobel Prize winner Norman Borlaug, Mahatma Gandhi, elephant researcher Cynthia Moss, and Morris Frank, a leader of the seeing-eye dog movement); geography (Iceland and the American Southwest); history (the first trip through the Panama Canal, the Alaskan oil spill), and a West African trickster tale.

Spelling: The sixth grade students use the Level E *Mastering Spelling* workbook. Each week the students learn new spelling rules and words through workbook activities and self study.

Grammar: *Basics for Communicating Effectively* affirms that the learning of grammatical rules and their proper usage is foundational to good communication. The distinctions between words, their relation to each other in a sentence, and the rules that govern language are the basic building blocks of writing well. The text is designed to be read carefully by the student so that he may review the grammar knowledge he has already learned and build upon it with new skills.

Math: *Purposeful Design - Intermediate Course A*. The guiding principle in this course is the belief that young people can and should understand the mathematics they are learning. Students need to see math as a thinking activity that they can master and to recognize the connection between the math they are learning in school and the math they encounter in everyday life. The text takes real-world problems and allows them to grapple with concrete examples and then see the abstract principles of mathematics that they are using.

Bible: *Light to the Gentiles*. Students closely examine the life of Christ, Paul's missionary journeys, the Revelation to John, and the history of the early church.

Science: Christian Schools International, *Physical Science: a Biblical Perspective on the Study and Care of God's World*.

First Quarter: Weather

Second Quarter: Diversity of Life

Third Quarter: Investigating Flight

Fourth Quarter: Electricity

History: *Veritas History Cards, Set 5 - American History, 1815 to the Present*. Additional, supplemental materials are also used.

Geography: Students will continue learning American geography integrated with their history curriculum. They are expected to know the names of all 50 states with their state capitals and to recognize major features of the geography of America.

Latin: *Latin Alive*. This book by Classical Academic Press is the perfect follow-up to the Latin Primers. Workbook format with games, quizzes and puzzles helps even students who are new to the study of Latin learn through the use of classical methodology.

Music: Sixth grade students receive music instruction twice per week. Students will study the lives and music of composers from the Medieval Era to the 20th Century using *Accent on Composers*. Skills such as note taking and test taking are incorporated during lectures.

Rhythm games and exercises are incorporated in the form of rhythm shakers. The shakers allow the students to gain a deeper knowledge of beat and rhythm.

The love for singing is also encouraged as the students learn musical pieces for the New Covenant Christian School Christmas concert. Correct posture, tone and diction are the focus as the students prepare for this performance. Vocal parts are also introduced in select pieces as the students gain a more in-depth understanding of the art of singing.

Instrumental Music: Fourth, fifth and sixth graders are offered lessons in band instruments each week.

Art: Sixth grade artists explore form with still-lives by Janet Fish. Students are painting birds and sky as a gift for Ms. White's short-term missions trip students in Zimbabwe. For Christmas we create angels inspired by Michelangelo to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We explore perspective drawing with Frank Lloyd Wright. Throughout the year, students work diligently at home drawing in their sketchbooks and present their work to their class quarterly. The annual NCCS auction in the spring features the students' group projects inspired by art history.

P.E.: Sixth grade students receive specialized physical education once per week. They also have two, 15-minute recess periods per day for additional physical activity. Our P.E. program teaches children how to glorify God with their bodies by working hard, playing fair and demonstrating Christian character. Students learn basic rules and skills for a variety of sports including soccer, basketball, softball, and track and field. Students are

expected to learn basic rules of the sports and they will progress to playing the game using major rules and some minor rules. Students use soccer balls, basketballs, bats, etc. to develop and reinforce such skills as kicking, catching, dribbling, striking a ball with a bat, and shooting a basketball. Sometimes games are utilized to introduce the skills of each sport but games will not always be used to practice skills; students will be expected to work at developing a skill. Students will further develop their knowledge of warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities. They will also be introduced to simple strength and endurance building activities.

Students in sixth grade will be able to tryout to play on NCCS middle school sports teams such as basketball, soccer, and volleyball.