

General Overview of GCS' Curriculum

The backbone of curriculum at Grace Christian School (GCS) is a version of the Core Knowledge Sequence. Core Knowledge outlines content to be taught in language arts, social studies, mathematics and sciences.

The Sequence provides foundational guidance in what is best for a child to learn in American schools. It is a guide to coherent content from grade-to-grade and is designed to encourage steady academic progress as children build their knowledge and skills from one year to the next.

Grace Christian School coordinates Christian curricula and the Core Knowledge Sequence in order to achieve a God-centered worldview. Materials used at GCS are A Beka, Purposeful Design, Progeny Press, and ACSI along with Houghton Mifflin, Scott Foresman, Educators Publishing Service, Modern Curriculum Press, BMI, Parson/Prentice Hall, McDougal/Littell and Educational Services, along with a wide selection of trade books for literature.

Four Year Old (K4) and Five Year (K5) Old Kindergarten Overview

The Kindergarten classroom is always filled with joy, fun, creativity, and a wealth of knowledge. At this level a student will gain their core foundation for their educational experience. All students will learn to recognize upper and lowercase letters and sounds, achieve number recognition up to 20, along with one to one correspondence, some blends, and a varying number of sight words.

K4 students will develop strong fine motor skills, hand eye coordination, and large motor skills.

The K5 children will learn to:

- Recognize 100 plus sight words
- Skip count by 2's, 5's, and 10's
- Add, subtract, use simple graphs
- Identify letters, sounds, and 30 blends
- Write three to five sentence paragraphs by the end of the year using periods, question marks, exclamation points, and capitals at appropriate times

Also introduced are science topics such as habitats, weather, plant life and growth, five senses, healthy habits, animals in changing environments, recycling and more. In social studies students learn about the Indians, Founding Fathers, numerous national holidays, maps, Christopher Columbus, current events, Pilgrim's and more.

First Grade Overview

LANGUAGE ARTS: Students learn how to write in complete sentences with appropriate capitalization at the beginning and period at the end of the sentence. Students also learn to capitalize days of the week, months of the year, learn and use suffixes and prefixes, recognize and work with rhyming words and know how to alphabetize words. Students also learn opposites, same-meaning words, same-sounding words, compound words and contractions. They will be able to organize sentences into simple paragraphs and stories at a first grade level. Lastly, they will comprehend reading material on a first-grade level or above.

The goal is for students to be able to write clearly and concisely. Students will also read fluidly words, sentences, and paragraphs in order to comprehend the meaning of the text. The curriculum used is ABeka Language 1 Seatwork Text, Letters and Sounds 1 Phonics Text, Spelling 1, Leveled Readers, Writing Strands Level 2.

MATH: Students will learn basic addition and subtraction facts to 12; add and subtract 2-digit numbers; sort, identify, classify, skip-count numbers, count to 100; greater than, less than; understand place value to 10's; identify equal parts, halves, thirds, fourths; know customary and metric units of length, capacity, weight; tell time to the hour, half-hour, quarter hour; counting money to quarters; and shapes. They will explore multiplication by making equal groups and exploring sharing type division.

The goal is for students to begin to understand the language and symbols of mathematics. They will understand that math is linked to every facet of life from history to music. The curriculum: ACSI Mathematics Grade 1

SCIENCE: Students cover a variety of topics spanning four broad categories: Earth, Physical, Life Science and the Human Body. Students will observe seasonal changes, study weather and precipitation, study the rotation and revolution of the earth and be introduced to the planets of the solar system.

The goal is for students to develop critical thinking skills using the scientific method in a fun, hands-on atmosphere. The curriculum is Purposeful Design, Science Level 1.

BIBLE: Students cover Bible truths that emphasize God's relationship to people. Discussions focus on the nature of mankind, repentance and personal faith, and God's Word as truth.

The goal is for every student to develop a Christian worldview. The curriculum used is Purposeful Design Bible. Grade 1

SOCIAL STUDIES: Students will know what symbols we use to represent America and freedom. They will be introduced to some key people in American history that helped to bring about our independence. Students will take a "road trip" across America visiting sites across our beautiful country. They will end with visiting children of other countries around the world and learning about their culture.

The goal is to develop a sense of patriotism and pride in our country as students learn about our flag, its freedoms, symbols, people, history, and its places. The curriculum is Abeka, "My America and My World" Grade 1

Second Grade Overview

LANGUAGE ARTS: Students will learn how to recognize and write a complete sentence, question and exclamation; be able to capitalize days of week, months, special holidays, the word I, and names of people; put correct punctuation at end of a sentence; be able to read, write, and comprehend sentences and short stories; know and use suffixes and prefixes; know compound, rhyming, opposite, same-meaning, singular and plural, singular possessive words and contractions. They will alphabetize words.

The goal is for students to be able to write clearly and concisely. They will write their thoughts in an imaginative and grammatically correct manner. Students will also read fluidly words, sentences, and paragraphs in order to comprehend the meaning of the text. They will build on the knowledge they learned from first grade.

The curriculum: ABeka Language 2 Seatwork Text, Letters and Sounds 2 Phonics Text, Spelling 2, Leveled Readers, Writing Strands Level 3

MATH: Students will know basic addition and subtraction facts to 18; add and subtract 2 and 3-digit numbers with and without grouping; sort, identify, classify, skip-count numbers, odd/even, symmetry; greater than, less than; ordinal numbers; reading & writing numbers to 9,999; understand place value to

1000's; identify equal parts, halves through eighths; know customary and metric units of length, capacity, weight; tell time 5-minute; counting money to dollar; shapes, solid figures; lines & angles. They will learn repeated addition and multiplication to 5.

The goal is for students to build on what they learned in first grade and add to that knowledge more of an understanding of the language and symbols of mathematics. Curriculum: ACSI Mathematics Grade 2

SCIENCE: Students will have covered a variety of topics spanning four broad categories: Earth, Physical, Life Science and the Human Body.

The curriculum is Purposeful Design Science Level 2

BIBLE: Students will cover truths that focus on character traits of Biblical characters. Each week students will concentrate on a different person studying how they can emulate those Godly traits in their daily lives.

The goal is for every student to apply Biblical principles from the lives of Bible characters to their own life. The curriculum is ACSI Bible Grade 2

SOCIAL STUDIES: Students will know what symbols we use to represent America and freedom. Students will learn about our holidays and why we have them. Students will be introduced to American history and how we became an independent nation. They will discover how the early pioneers contributed to the way we became a nation today. Students will finish the year by learning the 50 states and where they are located.

The goal is to instill a love of history in students and a desire to be loyal to be patriotic. The curriculum is Abeka Our America Grade 2

Third Grade Overview

LANGUAGE ARTS: students study spelling patterns to improve their writing skills. Grammar is also reviewed as a way to develop their writing skills. Students work on improving our reading skills by frequent read alouds. We work on our comprehension of reading, making connections and relations between text to text, text to self, and text to world to interpret themes and solutions to problems.

The third grade also learns how to write in cursive throughout the year. Materials used: A Beka Language Series Grammar & Writing, Purposeful Design Grade 3 Spelling, Wordly Wise 3000, SRA Reading Laboratory 1&2, D'Nealian Cursive Handwriting

MATH: Students work on solidifying their addition and subtraction facts, all while learning and taking on more difficult matters such as multiplication and division. Students also delve into geometry, algebra, fractions, decimals, time and money. Materials used are Purposeful Design Math, Flashcards, and manipulatives

SCIENCE: Students explore units on Physical Science, Earth and Space Science, and the Human Body. Students look at all of God's Creation in a way where we see Him through all that he has created. The materials used are Purposeful Design Science Level 3; supplemental: Scott Foresman Grade 3 Science Program

BIBLE: Students learn about the life of Christ, His followers, and Christ's teachings. Students hear of the importance of having a relationship with Christ and living a Christ-like life.

Students also memorize scripture verses weekly, so we can “Hide God’s Word in our hearts, so that when we are old, we may not depart from it.” The materials used are ACSI curriculum for third grade, Tyndale Kids: The One Year Book of Devotions for Kids (ages 8-12).

SOCIAL STUDIES: Students learn about the development of the United States and the original thirteen colonies, the Ancient Roman world, and the Viking era (the Earliest Americans). The materials used are Pearson Learning Group: History & Geography, A Beka: Our American Heritage, supplemental maps

Fourth Grade Overview

LANGUAGE ARTS: Develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening and thinking; Progress through the stages of the writing process to develop a central idea, and write for a variety of audiences and purposes; Learn to read, write and comprehend a variety of materials; Develop skills in grammar and usage, vocabulary development and response to literature.

MATH: Develop confidence and proficiency in performing the four operations of mathematics using multi-digits; Employ everyday measurement, money, and time to solve real life situations; Be familiar with fractions, decimals and geometry; Develop the skills to question, solve problems and make wise decisions.

SCIENCE: Understand the main idea, interpret data and apply science to life science, earth science, physical science and the human body through observation, predicting, making and using models, experimenting and critical thinking.

BIBLE: Know there is a triune God; Gain an understanding of doctrines and truths and to personally apply them; Understand the worth of every human being as created in the image of God; Know, understand, and apply God’s Word in daily life

SOCIAL STUDIES: Develop knowledge and an understanding of people, events and movements in history and the cultures of other people and places; develop an appreciation of languages and cultures of other people, and encouraging Christian hospitality for those less fortunate.

Fifth Grade Overview

LANGUAGE ARTS: Develop confidence in written expression and become fluent, creative thinkers and writers; Skilled in reading, writing, speaking, listening and thinking; Read, write and comprehend a variety of materials; Appreciate literature and understand how it shapes the students’ beliefs and values; Learn how to utilize resources to find, analyze and evaluate information; Develop skills to question, solve problems and make wise decisions

MATH: Develop a deep understanding and appreciation of the four operations of mathematics, and expand these to include fractions, decimals, geometry and measurement; Utilize critical thinking skills and study skills to achieve success

SCIENCE: Delve deeper into life science, physical science, earth science and the human body; Learn to treat their bodies as a part of God’s creation; Appreciate the natural environment and practice responsible stewardship of God’s creation; Prepared to practice the principles of healthy, moral living; Understand that work has dignity as an expression of the nature of God; Think critically and independently, solve problems creatively, and ask questions of themselves and the world around them

BIBLE: Understand and commit to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; Understand the worth of every human being as created in the image of God; Know, understand, and apply God’s Word in daily life; Articulate and defend the Christian world view while having a basic understanding of different world

views; Value intellectual inquiry and engage in open, honest exchange of ideas; Think critically and independently

SOCIAL STUDIES: Understand the origins of the United States; Comprehend conflicts leading to freedom; Develop a knowledge and understanding of people, events and movements in history and the culture of other peoples and places; Develop an appreciation of cultures of other people, and encouraging biblical hospitality for those less fortunate; Value intellectual inquiry and engage in the open, honest exchange of ideas; Embrace and practice justice, mercy and peacemaking in society.