

Plaza Heights Christian Academy and Little Lions Preschool Curriculum Guide

Pre-K 2's - Core Instruction

The Pre-K 2's student has milestones of development in their year as they grow to become more independent, potty trained, and developing in social interactions with their peers. Whether navigating the stairs or playing outdoors on the playground, twos are growing in their large motor skill development. Further, oral language development through interactions during calendar activities, interactive story-time, or active participation in learning centers is where these little friends begin to develop social skills that are essential moving into the three's.

Bible

Students have a Bible lesson daily. These Bible lessons explore the wonders of creation to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, emphasizing the Father's love for them. All activities in the classroom revolve around teaching Biblical truth by reinforcing Bible stories and verses through music, dramatic play and crafts.

Centers

Students engaged in interactive play through centers are exploring putting their thoughts into words and learning to express themselves to others through independent play with blocks, home-living, painting, puzzles, or crafts.

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PreK - 3's Core Instruction

The Pre-Kindergarten student has several milestones of development during this year. They will grow and become more independent as they develop fine and gross motor skills. Whether navigating stairs, playground or learning to hold a pencil and use scissors, the PreK - 3 student has multiple opportunities to build these skills. Oral language development, thinking, and problem-solving are increasing throughout the year. Additionally, students are learning the initial skills of writing as they learn spatial awareness, how to draw a person, how to write their name, and the parts of letter formation that are building blocks to writing and reading. These students also continue to grow independently as they complete tasks, explore new learning opportunities, connect and play with peers and attend to personal needs such as using the restroom on their own, unpacking their backpacks, and helping clean up after activities. Students will begin learning the basic rules, procedures, and appropriate social interactions with peers and adults. These skills are taught alongside the academic subjects for the purpose of navigating developmentally appropriate whole-child learning.

Bible

Pre-K 3 students are guided through Bible lessons that explore the wonders of creation to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, emphasizing the Father's love for them. All activities in the classroom revolve around teaching biblical truths and reinforcing weekly Bible stories and verses through music, dramatic play, and crafts.

ELAR (English, Language Arts and Reading)

Pre-K 3 students spend a great deal of time putting their thoughts into words and learning to express themselves to others through independent play, dramatic play, and conflict resolution. Bob Jones University Christian curriculum provides support for the teaching of core reading readiness skills through music, movement, and multi-sensory manipulatives. Pre-reading skills include listening to stories, retelling stories through dramatic play, class discussions, and drawing pictures. Teachers assist students in developing oral and written language skills by drawing and labeling pictures to reflect their thoughts and help translate their ideas into written language through dictation. Phonetic skills are taught in conjunction with the BJU and other supplemental resources helping to build phonemic awareness.

Math

Preschool math curriculum is integrated into daily learning in developmentally appropriate ways. Foundational math concepts are introduced using visual aids, books, songs, and manipulatives in dynamic ways. Teachers use a variety of learning opportunities to support learning which include large group time that is then reinforced through small group activities. Children develop an understanding of shapes, colors, and patterns, learn to count and recognize numerals, apply one-to-one correspondence, and group objects according to their attributes. Learning to match, order, and sequence are math skills that are also necessary pre-reading skills.

Science

Pre-K 3 students learn by doing. They learn through interactive experiences. Students have many hands-on activities relating to thematic units, including life cycles, habitats, seasons, and body parts. Teachers continue to provide a print-rich environment as they label simple diagrams of subjects discussed. Experiential opportunities

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supporting science learning are intentionally embedded through field trips, simple science experiments, and using simple scientific instruments. Through exploration of the outdoors and specimens brought into the room as well as sensory exploration of sand, water, and other tactile play, students explore the world that God gave us.

Social Studies

The Pre-K 3 social studies curriculum focuses on self, home, family, and the classroom. Students begin to develop and understanding of the world around them and how to relate to that world as we celebrate the uniqueness of God's creation and people. Students will learn the purpose of rules and be able to identify authority figures in their home, school and community. Honoring our country and our God through learning and reciting the pledges and identifying some key American symbols is also part of their learning during this year. Students will also learn about holiday traditions through class activities, discussions and dramatic play.

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Pre-K 4 Core Instruction

The Pre-K 4 class works to ready our students for the rigors of kindergarten both socially and academically. Physically students grow and become more independent as they develop fine and gross motor skills. Oral language and vocabulary development is increasing significantly during this time as well as students learning, thinking, and problem-solving. Students continue to grow more independent as they attend to tasks for more extended periods, follow multi-step directions, explore new learning opportunities, connect and play with peers and attend to personal needs. As students progress during this school year, they learn to be a student by practicing listening without interrupting, contributing to class discussion in meaningful ways, increasing the quality of work, cooperating with peers, learning to understand the basic rules, procedures, and appropriate social interaction with peers and adults. At Little Lions Preschool the skills listed are taught alongside the following academic subjects as we navigate developmentally appropriate whole-child learning.

Bible

The Pre-K 4 Bible class emphasizes the truth of God's Word. We believe young children can understand that God made them, loves them, and has a plan for their lives. Through Bible lessons, Purposeful Design Curriculum, students are presented with God's word as the exciting story of His involvement with mankind. The year starts with creation and moves chronologically through Old Testament themes and then introduces students to the miracles of Jesus. Common themes include: God made you, will never leave you, and cares for you. Students will learn the compassion of our Savior through His miracles and that a miracle is something only God can do. Ultimately, we want all our students to come away with the foundational understanding that Jesus wants to work a miracle in their hearts by forgiving them of their sin. Pre-K 4 students are encouraged to retell the truths they learn through artwork, drama, and real-life situations. God's standards of behavior are demonstrated, expected, and reinforced through classroom situations.

ELAR (English, Language Arts and Reading)

The Pre-K 4 language arts curriculum, Bob Jones University Christian Curriculum, is designed to introduce and expand the students' understanding of pre-reading skills in preparation for reading success in kindergarten. Students develop oral language skills through opportunities that expand vocabulary. Learning activities support extending skills as students learn to follow directions, break down words, develop phonological awareness, and engage in the initial decoding steps necessary for reading. Teachers utilize the BJU curriculum and other supporting materials helping students build and print letters while also helping them understand how letters make words and that there is a directionality to how we read and write text. Students are exposed daily to various literary works including nursery rhymes and author studies. Rich texts help expose students to opportunities to understand the author's purpose and story elements, increase vocabulary, and deepen an appreciation for different genres, rhyming schemes, and the flow of a story sequence.

Mathematics

The mathematics program for Pre-K 4 students challenges them to explore number patterns, measurement, geometry, special relationships and classification. Children develop basic counting techniques and deepen their understanding of number relationships and operations. Daily activities include a variety of whole group, small group, and independent practice, including calendar math, problem solving through the use of manipulatives, sorting and classifying objects into groups and by attributes, graphing, and developing number sense in preparation for kindergarten.

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Science

The Pre-K 4 students learn by doing. Students participate in many hands-on activities that correlate to thematic units based on the science standards. The units cover topics such as plant benefits and seasonal changes, animals and how they resemble their young, weather, seasons, and shadows. Students also learn about concepts in health by investigating the five senses, nutrition, healthy habits and safety.

Social Studies

The Pre-K 4 social studies curriculum focuses on self, home, family, and the classroom. Students begin to develop an understanding of the world around them and how to relate to that world as we celebrate the uniqueness of God's creation. Students will learn the purpose of rules and be able to identify authority figures in their home, school, and community. Honoring our country and our God through learning and reciting the pledges and identifying some key American symbols is also part of the learning during this year. Additionally, students will learn about historical figures, events and symbols, community helpers, rules and authority, and holiday traditions.

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Kindergarten Core Instruction

Kindergarten is a big year of growth where students are eager to learn and engage with their peers. Language is growing quickly as students string together six to eight word sentences and can contribute to discussions, ask questions and develop meaning about the world around them. In the Kindergarten classroom, students start taking the Iowa assessment during the Spring. This information helps inform differentiated learning opportunities in small group times and learning stations utilizing a workshop model approach. Students also engage in meaningful whole-group discussions in all content areas. Academic skills increase in rigor alongside the physical and emotional development of the Kindergarten student. Additionally, students are encouraged to persevere through and develop solutions for challenges they might face. The skills and opportunities listed above are taught alongside the following academic subjects as we navigate developmentally appropriate whole-child learning through a Biblical Worldview.

Bible

The Bible curriculum in Kindergarten, Purposeful Design, focuses on the stories of the Old and New Testament emphasizing God's care for the children. Through Bible story and memory verse activities, the goal is for every student to have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, developed and nurtured by engagement with the Bible. Kindergarteners will learn that God tells His great story in the Bible about His nature, His works, and His plan of redemption for them. They will study truths and not just Bible stories. They will learn that God's desire is for all people to have a right relationship with Him. They will learn that everyone needs to come to a saving faith in Jesus. The series often presents the message of repentance, personal faith, and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

ELAR (English, Language Arts, Reading)

The kindergarten language arts curriculum utilizes many rich opportunities to enhance the kindergarten child's written and expressive language development through the use of Bob Jones University Christian Curriculum and other supplemental materials. Phonemic and phonetic awareness skills are taught through lessons aligned with the science of reading. These skills include letter/sound manipulation, syllabication, rhyming, and other decoding skills. Written expression is encouraged through journal writing, independent letter/sound manipulation, syllabication, rhyming and other decoding skills. Formal instruction of writing is taught through the writer's workshop model. Correct letter formation is stressed, along with concepts of print (left-to-right and top-to-bottom). Oral communication and listening activities help extend the vocabulary and conceptual knowledge of the kindergartner. The learning environment is "literature rich," using a wide variety of children's literature. Students develop reading fluency using decodable readers. They expand oral vocabulary by describing common objects and events; retelling familiar stories while identifying characters, settings, and important events; and asking and answering questions about informational text.

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Math

Students in Kindergarten engage with math in a variety of ways that are supported by standards-aligned and research-based curriculum, BJU and resources. Utilizing a workshop model, interactive learning stations provide hands-on engagement, the foundation of kindergarten mathematics, providing a balanced curriculum. Daily math discussions through calendar times also support content that builds a deep understanding of essential math skills and concepts. Students develop strong number sense and the foundations for sorting and classifying, fractions and ordinals, addition and subtraction, geometry, measurement, and money identification and value.

Science

In the kindergarten science course, students become fascinated with the teaching of hands-on, discovery-oriented science using thematic units, literature, and the Mystery Science program as integral parts of their studies. The units cover topics about plants and their life cycle, the animal kingdom, the solar system, weather and seasons, matter (solides, liquids, gasses), energy, magnets, nutrition, health and insects.

Social Studies

The focus of the social studies program in kindergarten is to help the students realize the connection between their lives and the world around them. It encompasses lessons in citizenship, rules/laws, culture, government, economy and geography, and historical perspectives. The children study historical people and the contributions they made to society. They look at basic human needs such as food, clothing, and shelter and learn how those needs are met. They become aware of the purpose of rules, the role of authority figures in the home and school and learn the interdependence of all people with one another and their environment. Throughout the year, the curriculum emphasizes a study of celebrations, symbols, and customs that represent American beliefs. Students will engage in meaningful activities that include biographies, artwork, poetry and songs enriching the children's learning experience.

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First Grade Core Instruction

In First Grade students advance many skills during this important year. They learn more complex spelling and phonics patterns as they continue to decode more complex texts. Building a robust vocabulary and oral language comprehension is an important aspect of building reading fluency and comprehension. The First Grade student also begins to expand their understanding of number concepts and apply math skills to solve problems. Utilizing manipulatives, building mental math skills and facts fluency helps students to become more capable of recognizing the relationships and patterns. Students also expand their understanding of God and His love for them which leads to questions asked about faith. As they learn the Fruits of the Spirit, they learn the value of relationships, often building strong bonds with their peers. During the school year, First Graders attend off-campus field trips and explore opportunities that reinforce academic subjects in the classroom while all of this helps them to navigate learning through a Biblical worldview lens.

Bible

First Graders explore the many gifts of love that God has given to us, focusing on aspects of creation, our families, friends, possessions, Salvation found in Jesus Christ, and God's care. Curriculum is Purposeful Design, and through the use of this curriculum and other resources, our students learn that Jesus is the perfect example and how the Holy Spirit allows us to live out His character in our lives. Salvation and grace are taught throughout the year and emphasized throughout each lesson, increasing their knowledge about God and His Word. Through Bible verse memorization and discussion, students learn about the character of Jesus in contrast to other people found in the Bible.

ELAR (English, Language Arts, Reading)

The First Grade language arts program, Bob Jones University curriculum, supports students with reading and spelling instruction aligned with the science reading. The students become independent readers and spellers equipped with decoding skills, spelling rules and tools to help them decode, read and spell words. Reading practices and comprehension is supported with literature that is rich in vocabulary and story development. Additionally, with testing results provided through the Iowa Reading Assessment, teachers can determine the strengths and weaknesses of their students. Reading groups are formed in order to best target a student's reading needs. Students engaged in differentiated reading activities as they navigate a variety of texts and decodable readers during small group instruction progress in their fluency and comprehension. Basic grammar and punctuation rules are reinforced as students become authors engaging in writing activities through a writer's workshop. Students learn to write personal narratives, how to, informational texts and fiction as well as writing for a purpose. At the end of the year, students are able to write a short paragraph using correct punctuation, capitalization and content.

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Math

The First Grade mathematics program provides students with active engagement with standards-based and research-based Bob Jones University curriculum and other resources along with the Iowa Math Assessment student scores to not only differentiate instruction, but to create a balanced curriculum. Students engage in rigorous content focused on building deep conceptual understanding of key math skills and concepts such as sorting, classifying, fractions, ordinals, addition, subtraction, geometry, decimals for the purposes of money, and measurement. Students use manipulatives and daily math discussions as they develop number sense, facts fluency and problem solving skills. Teachers differentiate instruction through math stations, challenging math reasoning, and product creation.

Science

First Grade Science, Bob Jones University Curriculum, includes opportunities for students to observe, classify, research, predict and solve problems through practical application. Students learn about what scientists do and engage in hands-on exploration and experiments that encourage curiosity. Science concepts are studied throughout the year and provide students an opportunity to investigate the uniqueness of God's creation. In the life science units, students define the basic characteristics of animal classifications and during the ocean unit identify a variety of ocean creatures and their characteristics. In addition, students study the proportions of land and water on the earth and the natural sources of water (streams, lakes, rivers), seasonal patterns, and properties of light and sound.

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum, Bob Jones University Curriculum, in First Grade, encourages Christian character and growth as children engage in lessons that focus on citizenship, rules/laws, culture, government, economy, geography, and historical perspectives. The history units focus on how people from a variety of cultures worked hard to make America what it is today. Students navigate facts and opinions and learn how to explain some crucial aspects of our nation. The First Grade students learn about important historical figures and how our nations' leadership relates to God's purpose for government. Map skills are formally introduced, and the student learns about the seven continents, the major oceans, and how we should use resources wisely. In economics, the students study needs versus wants, goods versus services, and producers versus consumers. Additionally, students in First Grade recognize the value of citizenship and community as they see how family, church, government, citizenship, and the work we get to do is all part of God's great plan for their lives.

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Second Grade Core Instruction

In Second Grade, students continue to sharpen the skills learned in First Grade, while also being prepared for the rigor of Third Grade. They will navigate more complex writing tasks, develop the ability to create stories with a well defined beginning, middle and end. With stronger fine motor skills, the Second Grade student will transition from printing to cursive writing. Their attention span expands, they can attend to tasks for more extended periods of time. Students at this age also make connections, look for reasons behind things they learn, and become more inquisitive. Many students at this age will ask questions about what they are learning in Bible and connecting it to the academic content they are learning. Additionally, students in Second Grade have a greater understanding of cause and effect and can develop plans for the tasks they need to complete. Second Graders engage in some PHCA traditions such as field trips to the Economic Center. These kinds of activities help to foster the following academic subjects as we navigate learning through a biblical worldview lens.

Bible

Second graders are presented with the Bible as the story of God's acts, promises and character. It is our hope that as they come to know God, they will accept His gift of salvation and live lives of joyful service and obedience. Students are introduced to themes and structures found in Scripture. Through the Old Testament students learn of the Israelites' exile, return, and God's first promises to humanity. In their New Testament study, they study the life of Jesus, His birth, His ministry, the parables He told, and His death and resurrection. The students are also taught the importance of prayer by focusing on the Lord's Prayer. Weekly Bible verse memorization is included with their lessons, and chapel experiences give them a chance to worship and study God's word corporately with all elementary students.

ELAR (English, Language ARts, Reading)

In the Second Grade language arts program, students engage with reading strategies aligned with the science of reading and supported by foundational phonics skills. The daily framework of instruction in phonics, word-attack skills, vocabulary, and comprehension are integral to the Second Grade reading program. Reading comprehension is enhanced with children's literature through the BJU curriculum. Rich vocabulary instruction, supporting activities, and stories with engaging characters is part of their lesson that gives the opportunity to begin building comprehension skills. Students' reading is supported throughout the day in small groups, shared reading of mentor texts, and independent practice. Assignments lead students to demonstrate an appreciation for what they read and encourage higher-order thinking. The Second Grade language arts program reviews and builds on spelling, grammar usage, and composition skills necessary for clear and concise written expression. Students learn the foundations of letter writing, descriptive paragraphs, expository paragraphs, time and order paragraphs, and story narratives. The writing process is emphasized as students practice

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brainstorming, writing rough drafts, revising, editing, and publishing works throughout the curriculum. Students also begin learning to read and write cursive.

Mathematics

The mathematics curriculum for Second Grade uses a variety of manipulatives and materials in conjunction with standards-aligned and research-based resources. Second grade curriculum, BJU curriculum, is utilized to give students the chance to continue their study with traditional mathematical units, including number concepts, operations, measurement, geometry, and fractions. Students during this year dive deeper into these concepts and expand their understanding. Gaining mathematical fluency is a focus throughout the year in mastering the addition and subtraction with regrouping, and strategies for solving word problems. The students continue to develop foundational number concepts, including writing numbers to one thousand, odd and even numbers, ordinal numbers, greater than or less than, and place value to compare and order numbers through 1,200. Multiplication and division concepts are introduced, and students learn skills in measurement, including how to find the perimeter and area of shapes. Geometry is introduced by identifying the characteristics of geometric solids, congruent shapes, symmetry, and translations of shapes. Many other skills are reinforced throughout the year, such as telling time, counting money, reading graphs and thermometers, creating patterns, and understanding fractions. The Second Grade math program also includes activities promoting higher-level thinking, logic, and creative problem-solving skills.

Science

Second Grade Science curriculum, BJU curriculum, is taught from a Biblical worldview through a hands-on approach. In Life Science, the students study animal biodiversity, dinosaurs, and fossils. The study of Science at this age help the students begin to understand the complexity and miraculous works of our Creator. The students also study materials, properties of materials, and states of matter through hands-on experiences and STEM lessons. In Earth Science, the students investigate the effects of rocks, sand, and erosion on our earth and study the amazing solar system. During the solar system unit, students choose a specific area of interest to research and present.

Social Studies

Second Grade Social Studies units focus on geography, history, government, citizenship economics, and American culture with a Christian perspective. Students delve into our nation's history as students explore the tribes of people indigenous to North America, American core values, and the influences of immigrants as we share cultures. They study the economic concepts of trading, taxation, wants and needs, and understand the financial constraints and options colonists faced in their daily lives. Lessons that teach the purpose of government and the foundations of our nation's laws help our students understand the process of and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. An emphasis is placed on understanding the rights

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associated with democracy and the United States' form of government. Students learn the basic symbols and songs related to the state of Missouri. They will also learn about national monuments, their significance and location, and the importance of patriotic songs.

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Third Grade Core Instruction

Third Grade is a big year where the student is progressing and putting all their skills together to extend their learning. This is the year where Third Graders are moving from a position of learning to read to a position of reading to learn. Third Grade students will play with words as they understand the nuances of language. By the end of Third Grade, students will often find activities and learning they enjoy. Whether engaging in a sport, learning a talent, or engaging in a particular subject within the school or outside of school, this is a great year to try new things. Encouraging students to try various activities during this year is a great way to expand their interests.

Bible

Third grade Bible, ACSI Purposeful Design curriculum, concentrates on helping students find the answers they need for life in God's Word. The primary goal throughout the Bible curriculum is to make the Word of God more meaningful to students' lives. The students find knowledge, wisdom, and understanding for themselves as they study the lives of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Ruth and Daniel. In addition to the in-depth Bible study completed each week, a strong emphasis is placed on character development with practical lessons enabling students to make life-changing decisions even at a young age. Through weekly memory verses, students learn to hide God's Word in their hearts and apply biblical principles to their daily lives.

ELAR (English, Language Arts and Reading)

Third Grade language arts teaches students to read, analyze and enjoy different genres and use various reading strategies to increase comprehension through a variety of rich mentor texts. In addition, students also read and expand comprehension and vocabulary through the stories within the BJU reading curriculum. In spelling, students are learning to apply spelling rules and grammar knowledge in their writing which is practiced daily. Students are also working to compose various written projects, including narratives, informative and persuasive papers.

Mathematics

Third Grade mathematics, BJU curriculum, uses a variety of resources to support the building blocks of skills previously taught, such as time, operations, measurement, and counting money. New skills focus on problem-solving using real-world situations, calculating larger numbers, schedules, making change, and rounding. A significant emphasis is put on multiplication fluency and the connections between multiplication and division. Students classify planes, solid figures, and congruence in the geometry unit. Fractions are discussed as part of a whole and part of a group, and decimals are put into practice. Hands-on experiences provided in a workshop model format and technology integration support differentiated instruction while expanding academic vocabulary and skills needed for the next steps in mathematics instruction. In preparation for the rigors of Fourth Grade students will end the year with a unit that covers divisibility rules,

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expressions and variables, order of operations, factors and missing operations as an introduction to algebra.

Science

In Third Grade science, BJU curriculum, students gain knowledge and appreciation of God as the divine Creator and explore the world He created. Environments are studied in life science to help the students understand the unique organization of God's creation. Birds and amphibians are the two main vertebrates studied from the animal kingdom. In earth science, the students study weather and climate with an emphasis on the atmosphere and natural weather disasters. In physical science, the focus is on simple machines. In the area of health, the students analyze how germs are part of the process of illness and disease. Students also engage in activities related to a simple machines unit. The scientific method is incorporated into all areas of the science curriculum.

Social Studies

In the social studies curriculum, BJU, the Third Graders begin their course of study with a unit on map skills. They will learn about the continents, oceans, longitude and latitude, cardinal and intermediate directions, hemispheres, and landforms. Students learn about specific types of maps and how to identify symbols on different maps. Students learn about the growth of our nation from 17 to 44 states as they study Westward Expansion.. The second semester begins with the study of immigration. Students examine the lives of men and women who overcame obstacles and sacrificed to immigrate to the United States. Opportunities are presented for students to further strengthen their understanding of liberty, freedom, and patriotism. The last history unit exposes them to the Industrial Revolution and the inventors who have impacted the world by advancing machinery and communication. Throughout the year, students identify important contributions that individuals have made in the development and growth of the United States.

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Fourth Grade Core Instruction

Fourth Grade year is a time that students begin the journey toward physical, emotional and social changes. Socially, they understand that there is more than one point of view. The increased understanding of language helps them self-edit their oral and written language, and their discussions will consist of more complex sentence structures. They will engage actively in discussions and use reference materials to support their writing and opinions. Furthermore, Fourth Graders begin learning about how to research and present on a topic. All skills and opportunities for learning are introduced alongside the following academic subjects as we navigate learning through a biblical worldview lens.

Bible

The Fourth Grade Bible curriculum, ACSI Purposeful Design, studies the life of Christ and the Old and New Testament. The second semester emphasizes positive character qualities through a study of the Holy Spirit and various Bible characters. Students study the Fruits of the Spirit, humility, obedience, forgiveness, compassion, courage, and wise choices based on Biblical principles.

ELAR (English, Language Arts and Reading)

Fourth Grade ELAR instruction, BJU curriculum, is an interactive and integrated approach to spelling, grammar, writing, and reading. Oral and written expressions are explored in various circumstances, utilizing many techniques, including games and multi-sensory activities. The instructional intent is to engage students in activities that will prepare them for reading, thinking, and problem-solving in real-world situations. The students are reading a rich selection of various texts from different genres allowing students to collaborate, expand vocabulary and develop annotation skills. In addition to reading instruction students participate in discussions on the literature and biblical/worldview concepts portrayed or emphasized. Writing instruction incorporates the editing process as the students learn to write expository research, narrative, descriptive, procedural, compare/contrast, and persuasive papers.

Mathematics

Fourth Grade, BJU mathematics curriculum, solidifies fundamental concepts of numbers and encourages students to expand their understanding by introducing new concepts in fractions, decimals, basic geometry, and algebraic concepts. Fifth Grade math expands on the concepts of multiplication, division, problem-solving, measurement, data collection, graphing, and modeling mathematical principles using manipulatives, direct instruction, and technology. Emphasis is placed on identifying logical relationships and applying learned concepts to answer problems in principle and real-world situations. The Fourth Grade mathematics curriculum is based on the biblical principle that human investigation into mathematics should reveal God's rational and designed order.

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Science

Fourth Grade science, BJU curriculum, develops higher-level skills and independent thinking through exploring, discovering, and investigating some of the fundamental truths of science. In life science, the focus is on plants and animals. The students study photosynthesis, respiration, and seed dispersal in the plant study. The animal study focuses on invertebrates, insects, and simple classification. In earth science, the students study geology and astronomy. The geology unit includes the study of rocks and minerals as well as the effects of volcanoes, earthquakes, and glaciers on the earth's surface. In physical science, the students discover magnetism and electricity. They compare the focus of magnetic attraction by using hands-on experiences in a magnetic lag. The students can show examples of and evaluate electric currents. The Biblical account of creation is the primary focus in all science studies.

Social Studies

Fourth Grade history BJU curriculum, the specific historical and geographical emphasis is the study of Missouri. In addition to field trips that enhance learning, students participate in individual research, supplementary reading assignments and creative and expository writing assignments. Also, each student gathers information from a variety of printed and online resources to develop a biographical report project on a person significant to Missouri history or a Christian who is an example of the great commission. Through the study of the text, students will study the topics of civics, culture, economics, geography, and history. Fourth graders study about US history from the first Americans through WWII.

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Fifth Grade Core Instruction

Fifth Grade year is marked by growth spurts and learning as students are growing by leaps and bounds. Socially, they understand that there is more than one point of view and start to realize the interconnectedness of events. The increased understanding of language helps them self-edit their oral and written language, and their discussions will consist of more complex sentence structures. They will engage actively in discussions and use reference materials to support their writing and opinions. Furthermore, Fifth Graders begin learning about how to research and present on a topic. All skills and opportunities for learning are fostered alongside the following academic subjects as we navigate learning through a biblical worldview lens.

Bible

In the Fifth Grade Bible course, our goal is to acquaint the students with the basic principles and history of the Bible, equip them to use the Scriptures with ease and confidence, and prepare them to share their knowledge and faith with others according to God's Word. The students explore various sections of the Bible, which include the four Gospels and the Life of Christ. Students learn the themes, authors, and audience of the four Gospels as well as study the word choices of those authors. It is our strongest desire that each student exiting fifth grade will have a personal relationship with Christ, a thorough knowledge of Scripture, a clear and precise vision of right from wrong, the tools to lead others to Christ, and spiritual wisdom that only God can impart. Fifth Graders also participate in chapel on a weekly basis.

ELAR (English, Language Arts and Reading)

The Fifth Grade English course focuses on reviewing and expanding grammatical skills using the BJU English Curriculum. The English curriculum provides a sequentially orientated grammar study providing the sustained momentum that allows teachers to build on student's previous successes. Focus begins with expository paragraph structure and development, moving into various forms of expository essay writing. Students write to a variety of audiences using formal and creative forms of writing such as narrative, descriptive, persuasive, creative, compare/contrast and various forms of expository. They continue to develop mastery of the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, editing and publishing. In addition, students are guided through the research process and complete research papers.

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Mathematics

The Fifth Grade mathematics, BJU curriculum, reviews and further reinforces operations with whole numbers, place value from millions to thousandths, graphing, decimals, fractions and geometry. Fundamental algebraic concepts introduced and further developed include ratios, variable, probability and order of operations. Problem solving, logic, and real world applications are emphasized. Building math confidence and providing an enjoyable hands-on learning environment are a primary focus. Math units are seasoned with the biblical principles of order and spiritual truths.

Science

The Fifth Grade Science, BJU curriculum, is designed to develop students' ability to explore, discover and investigate the world around them. In Life Science, students study the classification of vertebrates and invertebrates, cells, plants and the human body system. Within Physical Science, light waves are covered. Within Earth Science, ecology is covered. Students have opportunities to conduct experiments as they work through each topic using the scientific method and metric system. Scientific equipment is utilized throughout the course to provide a hands-on approach to learning about God's design in the world around them.

Social Studies

The Fifth Grade History course is a study of history of the United States with the early American Indians and ending with the wars of the 20th Century. Both primary and secondary sources are utilized as students survey the influence of historical perspective and point of view on issues, decision-making and actions. A special emphasis is placed on the impact of the Christian faith in the formation of our country and its historical documents. The Constitution, Bill of Rights and the three branches of government are studied, and interactive scenarios are presented to teach basic ideology and principles. Critical thinking skills, discussion and presentation techniques, note taking, role playing and persuasive writing are implemented throughout the course as students participate in learning significant historical events. PHCA Fifth Grade students are taught that the history of man has a distinct inception, purpose, and end and that God has, and will, oversee even the smallest detail in our American story.