

CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Planting seeds of faith, character and knowledge.

Pre-Kindergarten

Pre-kindergarten is a time to experience what school is all about such as how to play with others and follow directions. Through activities and games, learning centers, one-on-one and group interaction, and some direct instruction, the children are introduced to math and reading. They also participate in chapel, PE and music.

Reading in pre-kindergarten focuses on reading readiness: letters and sounds; concepts of print (letters join to make words; words on a page have meaning); deriving meaning from written language. A variety of materials are used, including materials from *ACSI*.

Similarly, math in pre-kindergarten is about math readiness: patterns, counting, number sense (recognizing written numbers and association of written numbers with amounts, such as three items is represented by the figure 3). A variety of materials are used, including materials from *Singapore Math*.

Kindergarten

Reading

We use the *A Beka* reading curriculum, a phonics-based program, to teach the students long and short vowel sounds, consonant sounds, blends and special sounds. Many of the students are reading independently by the end of the year.

Math

The objective of *Singapore Math* is to teach students to understand how and why math works, not just how to do it. The learning begins with concrete, tactile examples of a concept, moves to working on the concept through pictures, then uses the abstract formula to solve the problem. Key concepts in kindergarten include learning numbers to 100 and counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's; addition and subtraction; and shapes, money and time.

History

Kindergarten does not formally do history; however, through stories and other classroom experiences, they are introduced to beginning *social studies* concepts.

Science

Science is taught through themes during the year. Using hands-on activities, the students learn about the seasons and weather, animals and insects, habitat, magnets, the senses and other concepts.

Bible

The focus of kindergarten Bible time is to help the students develop an appreciation and enjoyment of the Bible and God. Each day the class spends time praying, singing and reading God's word, focusing on important stories of the Bible. Memorization of verses is included.

1st Grade

Reading

Reading is a process, a skill, and a vital tool for learning. It continues to be taught primarily through phonics using the *A Beka* curriculum.

Math

The objective of *Singapore Math* is to teach students to understand how and why math works, not just how to do it. The learning begins with concrete, tactile examples of a concept, moves to working on the concept through pictures, then uses the abstract formula to solve the problem. Key concepts in 1st grade include identifying and counting whole numbers, addition and subtraction, and time and money.

History / Geography

The first grade history curriculum (*A Beka*) is based on a general knowledge of the United States. The students focus on Pilgrims, famous presidents and symbols of America. In geography, they learn the concepts of small communities (neighborhood) to large (country).

Science

Using the *Purposeful Design* curriculum, the 1st grade science has units in life science, physical science, earth and space, and the human body. Key concepts in 1st grade include mammals, simple machines, the seasons, and bones and muscles.

Bible

The *Positive Action* curriculum is a Bible survey curriculum, and students will learn a significant portion of the Bible throughout their time at CCS. The material, while teaching major stories of the Bible, emphasizes character development and life changes. The theme of 1st grade is “Enjoying God’s Gifts.”

2nd Grade

Reading

The students continue to use the reading skills they have learned to help them become better, more fluent readers. They review and use the phonics rules and also begin to focus on strategies that good readers use.

Math

The objective of *Singapore Math* is to teach students to understand how and why math works, not just how to do it. The learning begins with concrete, tactile examples of a concept, moves to working on the concept through pictures, then uses the abstract formula to solve the problem. Key concepts in 2nd grade include addition and subtraction, beginning multiplication and fractions, measurements and simple equations.

History / Geography

Second grade continues to learn about America including important people in American history, American symbols and geography (*A Beka*).

Science

Using the *Purposeful Design* curriculum, the 2nd grade science has units in life science, physical science, earth and space, and the human body. Key topics in 2nd grade include vertebrates, energy, weather, and sound and hearing.

Bible

The *Positive Action* curriculum is a Bible survey curriculum, and students will learn a significant portion of the Bible throughout their time at CCS. The material, while teaching major stories of the Bible, emphasizes character development and life changes. The theme of 2nd grade is “Finding God’s Promises.”

3rd Grade

Spelling

The *Sitton Spelling Program* is focused on teaching the students to be spellers in the real world with words that they use on a daily basis (the program's authors have identified a list of core words that are the most frequently used words in writing). It also teaches the students to spell words correctly in context so they know correct usage along with the spelling. The students learn spelling rules and common spelling patterns as well as a variety of other language skills.

Language

We use *Grammar Workshop* by Sadlier, which provides a user-friendly approach to grammar, usage and mechanics skills and includes an emphasis on the application of these skills to student writing.

Math

The objective of *Singapore Math* is to teach students to understand how and why math works, not just how to do it. The learning begins with concrete, tactile examples of a concept, moves to working on the concept through pictures, then uses the abstract formula to solve the problem. Key concepts in 3rd grade include place value, multiplication and division, fractions, measurements and geometry, and equations.

Science

Using the *Purposeful Design* curriculum, the 3rd grade science have units in life science, physical science, earth and space, and the human body. Key topics in 3rd grade include the life of plants, magnets, space, and the nervous system.

History

Third grade history (*A Beka*) is a study of many notable American historical figures.

Bible

The *Positive Action* curriculum is a Bible survey curriculum, and students will learn a significant portion of the Bible throughout their time at CCS. The material, while teaching major stories of the Bible, emphasizes character development and life changes. The theme of 3rd grade is “Growing With God.”

4th Grade

Reading

The 4th grade reading program is based on novels. Students read novels selected for their reading level and complete daily assignments geared to strengthen their comprehension as well as to work on various literary elements.

Spelling

The *Sitton Spelling Program* is focused on teaching the students to be spellers in the real world with words that they use on a daily basis (the program's authors have identified a list of core words that are the most frequently used words in writing). It also teaches the students to spell words correctly in context so they know correct usage along with the spelling. The students learn spelling rules and common spelling patterns as well as a variety of other language skills.

Language

We use *Grammar Workshop* by Sadlier, which provides a user-friendly approach to grammar, usage and mechanics skills and includes an emphasis on the application of these skills to student writing.

Math

The objective of *Singapore Math* is to teach students to understand how and why math works, not just how to do it. The learning begins with concrete, tactile examples of a concept, moves to working on the concept through pictures, then uses the abstract formula to solve the problem. Key concepts in 4th grade include whole numbers operations, measurement, fractions, decimals, geometry and equations.

Science

Using the *Purposeful Design* curriculum, the 4th grade science has units in life science, physical science, earth and space, and the human body. Key topics in 4th grade include classification, motion and force, the lithosphere, and body systems.

History

Fourth grade studies U.S. history beginning with discovery and continuing through the Civil War (*A Beka* is the publisher). The last quarter of the year is devoted to Oregon state history, with a focus on the Oregon Trail.

Bible

The *Positive Action* curriculum is a Bible survey curriculum, and students will learn a significant portion of the Bible throughout their time at CCS. The material, while teaching major stories of the Bible, emphasizes character development and life changes. The theme of 4th grade is “Building Life Castles.”

5th Grade

Reading

The 5th grade reading program is based on novels. Students read novels selected for their reading level and complete daily assignments geared to strengthen their comprehension as well as to work on various literary elements. The class sometimes reads through a book together and is able to have class discussions and activities

Spelling

The *Sitton Spelling Program* is focused on teaching the students to be spellers in the real world with words that they use on a daily basis (the program's authors have identified a list of core words that are the most frequently used words in writing). It also teaches the students to spell words correctly in context so they know correct usage along with the spelling. The students learn spelling rules and common spelling patterns as well as a variety of other language skills.

Language

We use *Grammar Workshop* by Sadlier, which provides a user-friendly approach to grammar, usage and mechanics skills and includes an emphasis on the application of these skills to student writing.

Math

The objective of *Singapore Math* is to teach students to understand how and why math works, not just how to do it. The learning begins with concrete, tactile examples of a concept, moves to working on the concept through pictures, then uses the abstract formula to solve the problem. Key concepts in 5th grade include multiple digit multiplication and division, multiplication and division of fractions, decimals and percents, and geometry.

Science

Using the *Purposeful Design* curriculum, the 5th grade science has units in life science, physical science, earth and space, and the human body. Key topics in 5th grade include cells and cycles, properties of and measuring of matter, natural resources, and the body's growth and transitions.

History

History in 5th grade is primarily a study of world history including ancient cultures. (*A Beka*)

Bible

The *Positive Action* curriculum is a Bible survey curriculum, and students will learn a significant portion of the Bible throughout their time at CCS. The material, while teaching major stories of the Bible, emphasizes character development and life changes. The theme of 5th grade is "Possessing the Land."

6th Grade

Reading

The 6th grade reading program is based on novels. Students read novels selected for their reading level and complete daily assignments geared to strengthen their comprehension as well as to work on various literary elements. The class sometimes reads through a book together and is able to have class discussions and activities.

Spelling

The *Sitton Spelling Program* is focused on teaching the students to be spellers in the real world with words that they use on a daily basis (the program's authors have identified a list of core words that are the most frequently used words in writing). It also teaches the students to spell words correctly in context so they know correct usage along with the spelling. The students learn spelling rules and common spelling patterns as well as a variety of other language skills.

Language

We use *Grammar Workshop* by Sadlier, which provides a user-friendly approach to grammar, usage and mechanics skills and includes an emphasis on the application of these skills to student writing.

Math

The objective of *Singapore Math* is to teach students to understand how and why math works, not just how to do it. The learning begins with concrete, tactile examples of a concept, moves to working on the concept through pictures, then uses the abstract formula to solve the problem. Key concepts in 6th grade include fractions (dividing), geometry (formulas), ratios, and concepts of algebra.

Science

Using the *Purposeful Design* curriculum, the 6th grade science has units in life science, physical science, earth and space, and the human body. Key topics in 6th grade include heredity and genetics, states of matter, geology, and the interaction of the body's systems.

History

History in sixth grade surveys the history of the Americas. A significant part of the year focuses on U.S. history from the colonies to recent history. (*A Beka*)

Bible

The *Positive Action* curriculum is a Bible survey curriculum, and students will learn a significant portion of the Bible throughout their time at CCS. The material, while teaching major stories of the Bible, emphasizes character development and life changes. The theme of 6th grade is “Winning the Race.”

7th Grade

English

Junior high English at Crossroads includes grammar, spelling, reading and writing.

Grammar consists of capitalization and punctuation, sentence structure and the parts of speech (**A Beka**).

As in grades 3 through 6, 7th grade uses the *Sitton Spelling Program*. We have found this curriculum to be valuable because it does so much more than just have students memorize a list of words. Spelling patterns and rules, word usage and study skills are all included.

For reading, junior high has a literature book containing short stories and poems, much like the "basal readers" used in primary grades. We do not go through the whole book, but read selections. Activities and lessons to accompany the selection may include the following: discussion, comprehension questions, springboard to a writing assignment, focus on a literary element (i.e. setting; plot; descriptions), or practice of a reading skill, such as comprehension. Additionally, students read 2 books of their choosing each quarter, and then complete a simple book report.

Most of our writing is in conjunction with a reading assignment. At the end of the year, they learn how to write a research paper.

Math

Math for 7th grade is pre-algebra. The textbook is *Pre-Algebra* by **Holt-Rinehart**.

Science

The units of study are weather, classification and plants. (*A Beka* is the publisher.) A unit of health (**Total Health, River's Edge Publishing**) covers personal hygiene and lifestyle, (relationships with friends and family; drugs; personal choices).

History

In an effort to align our junior high history program with the Washington, D.C., trip, 7th and 8th grades study U.S. history during the year of the trip. In U.S. history, there is an emphasis on the colonies, the War for Independence, and the Civil War. The students also learn about our government and the electoral process. The alternating year is an overview of world history during which the students learn the significance of the fall of man and how it pertains to all events that follow. Units of study include ancient civilizations, the Middle Ages, the Protestant Reformation and the following Modern Age.

Bible

Seventh grade does a Bible survey with a unit on the Old Testament, one on the New Testament, and some basic history of the Bible. This is a good course for bringing together the many pieces that most have learned over the last several years.

8th Grade

English

Junior high English at Crossroads includes grammar, spelling, reading and writing.

Grammar consists of capitalization and punctuation, sentence structure and the parts of speech (**A Beka**).

As in grades 3 through 7, 8th grade uses the *Sitton Spelling Program*. We have found this curriculum to be valuable because it does so much more than just have students memorize a list of words. Spelling patterns and rules, word usage and study skills are all included.

For reading, junior high has a literature book containing short stories and poems, much like the "basal readers" used in primary grades. We do not go through the whole book, but read selections. Activities and lessons to accompany the selection may include the following: discussion, comprehension questions, springboard to a writing assignment, focus on a literary element (i.e. setting; plot; descriptions), or practice of a reading skill, such as comprehension.

Additionally, students read 2 books of their choosing each quarter, and then complete a simple book report. Most of our writing is in conjunction with a reading assignment. At the end of the year, they learn how to write a research paper.

Math

Math for 8th grade is algebra in preparation for high school algebra or geometry. The textbook is *Algebra 1* by **Holt-Rinehart**.

Science

The units of study are energy and matter, chemistry, electricity and birds. (**A Beka** is the publisher.) A unit of health (*Total Health, River's Edge Publishing*) covers the systems of the body and diseases.

History

In an effort to align our junior high history program with the Washington, D.C., trip, 7th and 8th grades study U.S. history during the year of the trip. In U.S. history, there is an emphasis on the colonies, the War for Independence, and the Civil War. The students also learn about our government and the electoral process. The alternating year is an overview of world history during which the students learn the significance of the fall of man and how it pertains to all events that follow. Units of study include ancient civilizations, the Middle Ages, the Protestant Reformation and the following Modern Age.

Bible

The 8th graders study core components of a Christian worldview. This is a challenging class that lays a good foundation for them as they go on to high school

All Grades

Music, PE, Computers

All grades participate in music, PE and computer classes.