

**Lancaster County Christian School  
Leola Campus Elementary  
Course Descriptions  
2011**

**Bible**

**Early Elementary Bible (Preschool – Grade 2)**

In early elementary, students are introduced to the major components of the story of God: creation, the fall, and redemption. Students learn the big picture of how God has been working in His creation through the study of key stories. Learning the big picture provides a solid foundation for the development of Biblical theology and a Biblical worldview and the integration of God's love and truth into daily life.

Preschool: *The Big Picture Book*

Pre-K: *ACSI Preschool Bible*

Kindergarten: *The Jesus Storybook Bible*

**Upper Elementary Bible (Grades 3-5)**

In upper elementary, students learn the many parts of the story of God written in the Old and New Testaments. Students expand their knowledge of Biblical stories and their meaning in the context of the larger Biblical narrative. This foundation of Biblical theology is paired with an introduction to major systematic doctrines about God, the world, and redemption; this combination increases understanding of salvation and its integration into daily life.

**Pre-School**

**Language Arts**

Students learn to recognize their names, recite the letters in their names, and begin to write their names. Songs, finger plays, and poems are used to promote interest in reading and the knowledge of written words which portray meaning, thought, and emotion. Students also visit the library on scheduled occasions.

**Math**

The students begin practicing skills in counting. Using their fingers and counting aloud with the group are emphasized. In their daily routine, the students copy easy patterns, use one-to-one correspondence, and exercise their fine motor skills in puzzles and manipulatives.

**Science**

Students are encouraged to explore their world through their own experiences. The sensory table and hands-on exploration are used to allow students to ask questions and learn through their senses. Monthly themes include pumpkins, seasons, weather, apples, penguins, ponds, and growing things. A classroom pet is also part of the pre-school experience.

Field Trips: The County Barn Farm Market, & Hunt's Christmas Tree Farm.

## **Social Studies**

Students are taught about kindness, sharing, and manners. Themes about our community are also visited. Monthly themes may include, Fire Safety, Community Helpers, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. Each student has a job every week to help in the classroom.

## **Pre-Kindergarten**

### **Language Arts**

Students will learn the whole alphabet, taking time to focus on each letter. Recognition, sound, and writing for each letter are taught through various activities.

Field Trip: Pizza Shop

Textbook: *Alphabet on Parade by Jean Warren*

Textbook: *My First Steps to Reading by Jane Belk Moncure*

Textbook: *WEE Learn by Moorehead, Morrow, Riddle, Rouse, and Yarbrough*

### **Math**

Students focus on recognizing and ordering one through thirty-one, with an acute focus on one through ten. They learn the ordering through daily calendar activities and other activities.

Textbook: *Early Math Skills by Bev Dunbar*

Textbook: *WEE Learn by Moorehead, Morrow, Riddle, Rouse, and Yarbrough*

### **Science**

Students learn science through the monthly themes. Basics about apples, pumpkins, Polar Regions, 5 senses, solar system, gardens, bugs, and farm life are covered.

Field Trips: The Country Barn, Hunt's Tree Farm, Kitchen Kettle Village, Sauder's Eggs, Greenhouse, Hayloft Candles Petting Zoo

Textbook: *WEE Learn by Moorehead, Morrow, Riddle, Rouse, and Yarbrough*

Textbook: *The Very Young Scientist by Jean Stangl*

### **Social Studies**

Students go on monthly field trips where they learn about their community.

Field Trips: Fire Station, Airport, Nursing Home

Textbook: *WEE Learn by Moorehead, Morrow, Riddle, Rouse, and Yarbrough*

### **Pre-Kindergarten Music**

Current and ongoing research highlights the importance of learning basic music skills at an early age. In our Pre-Kindergarten music experience, students will consistently engage in carefully selected movement and music activities designed for ages 3-7. Beginning with simple non-locomotor movements, the instructor will facilitate steady beat awareness using music, rhymes, and singing games. A movement language process is developed as students learn to identify body parts used in basic movement. Using this language process with locomotor movement, the children will progress from steady beat awareness to steady beat competency. Music Pre-K is

designed to provide opportunity for four-year-old children to develop skills necessary for singing, playing instruments, and freedom in movement. Through singing, reading, moving, playing, echoing and activities presented within the course, the students will obtain the skills necessary to provide later success in music, movement, and physical education.

## **Kindergarten**

### **Language Arts**

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

Textbook: *Sounds and Letters Workbook-SRA/ McGraw-Hill Open Court Reading*

Field Trip: Cherry Hill Orchard

### **Math**

The student is introduced to a wide variety of math concepts and skills, such as sorting, position, counting to 100, recognizing numbers to thirty-one, place value of tens and ones, time to the hour, value of coins, reading bar and pictographs, beginning measurement, patterning, geometric figures, and beginning addition and subtraction.

Textbook: *Math Connects-Macmillian/McGraw-Hill*

### **Science**

The students learn facts about many different animals as they relate to a letter being learned. Dental health is discussed and experiments are observed. The student will understand how life cycles work as related to apple trees, butterflies, and frogs. Butterfly larvae and tadpoles are part of the classroom experience. The water cycle is also introduced to the students. A trip to Cherry Hill Orchard and That Fish Place complements student learning. Changes of the seasons, fire safety, and plant growth/needs are also introduced and discussed.

Field Trips: Cherry Hill Orchard, That Fish Place

### **Social Studies**

Students learn about most holidays that are celebrated and the important people associated with them, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln. They also celebrate by learning the customs of China through a Chinese New Year celebration and the customs of Mexico through a Cinco de Mayo celebration. The students learn appropriate social skills and conflict resolution skills. At the end of the year, students honor their mothers and fathers with a special program.

Textbook: *Scholastic-Let's Find Out newspapers*

Field Trip: Leola Post Office

## **Art**

This class meets 1 period per cycle for an entire year. The class will be introduced to the basics related to color, line and shape. Students will complete short projects as they learn how these concepts relate to the art work they create. The students will be able to visually identify major artist and their art work. Clean-up procedures will be regimented so students begin to understand their role during part of class.

## **Music**

Music K is designed to prepare the Kindergarten student for music reading and performance. Through singing, reading, moving, playing, echoing and activities presented within the course, the students will obtain the skills necessary to provide a foundation for music literacy.

## **First Grade**

### **Language Arts**

Students will master phonetic sounds and spellings while reading a combination of short phonetic stories and a variety of literary genres including plays, poems, fables, and folktales. Students will write stories and poems while learning sentence structure. Students will practice handwriting. Spelling and decoding are done through blending and dictation exercises. The LA textbook covers 10 chapters of Science and Social Studies units through fiction and nonfiction pieces. First Grade participates in *Mission Go!* through Lancaster County Library in giving library cards to all First Grade students.

Field Trip: Lititz Library during this campaign is taken each year.

Textbook: *SRA Open Court Reading*

### **Math**

Students learn to read, write, and count numbers up to 100, including skip counting. They read, create, tally, and graph pictographs and bar graphs. Students learn addition and subtraction for numbers zero through ninety nine with no regrouping. Students will identify simple solids, shapes, fractions, recognize and count coins to one dollar, and tell time to half an hour and one hour.

Textbook: *Macmillan McGraw Hill Math Connects*

**Science:** Students will study animals, weather, magnets, and plants. These are covered in the science curriculum through experiments and related activities and covered in LA through nonfiction and fiction stories. Field trips to Zoo America and North Museum reinforce the curriculum.

Textbook: *Science Discovery Works Concordia edition*

**Social Studies:** Students will study Native Americans and their contribution to our country. Students will learn map skills such as reading a compass rose, keys, and using maps. They will make maps of their own and read stories about map making. Both fiction and nonfiction related stories will be covered in connection with the LA curriculum. A field trip to Hershey Gardens for Eastern Woodlands Indians activities reinforces the curriculum.

Textbook: *SRA Open Court Reading*

### **Art**

This class meets 1 period per cycle for an entire year. Students will be introduced to a variety of art materials and how to apply them. Through in class projects students will learn to be able to identify and create Portraiture, Still-life's and Landscapes. The class will begin to develop a basic art vocabulary. Students will learn about the proper care and maintenance of the art supplies they will be using to complete projects through out the school year.

### **Music**

Music 1 is designed to provide students in the first grade with experiences to prepare them for music reading. Through singing, playing simple instruments, moving, writing and a variety of activities, presented within the course the students will demonstrate their growth in music literacy. The text and other materials provide the student with songs and activities to build singing and coordination skills as well as to introduce new concepts in music reading. As the student learns to match pitch and use expression, he or she is reminded to use the skills and talents to glorify our Heavenly Father.

## **Second Grade**

### **Language Arts**

Students will learn phonemic awareness, decoding, and comprehension skills through reading various thematic stories in different genres. Students write stories and poetry while applying the rules of grammar and mechanics. Students learn cursive writing and continue to develop manuscript handwriting formation.

Textbook: *SRA Open Court, McGraw-Hill*

### **Math**

Students in second grade use various materials and manipulatives to learn place value up to the thousands place. They use place value knowledge for addition and subtraction with regrouping. Students learn how to tell exact time, identify two-dimensional and three-dimension shapes, and learn beginning fraction and measurement concepts. Students learn the value of money and how to add and subtract money. Students apply these concepts and learn many different problem-solving strategies.

Textbook: *Math Connects, Macmillan McGraw-Hill*

### **Science**

Students learn about God's creation through identifying the characteristics of living things and different habitats. Field trips to Middle Creek National Park and a local farm help the students learn about some animals native to Pennsylvania and the woodland habitat. Students learn about dinosaurs and animal fossils, light and color, and the concepts of solids, liquids, and gases. Students conduct many different science experiments using various manipulatives to reinforce these units of study. Many units require students to complete a long-term project to demonstrate knowledge learned.

Textbook: *Discovery Works*

## **Social Studies**

Students learn about the early history of the United States and discover that the U.S.A. was founded upon many Godly principles. The social studies unit begins with the founding of the thirteen colonies and studies through the period of the Revolutionary War. As a culminating event to the Revolutionary War unit, students visit the battle site of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. There is also a unit on maps and communities, and students will visit both rural and urban communities.

## **Art**

This class meets 1 period per cycle for an entire year. Students will be introduced to a variety of new art materials and how to apply them. The class will continue to build upon the prior years art vocabulary while creating art work that shows discernment. Students will be able to identify the elements of art and use them in their art work. Maintenance and regimented clean-up will continue to develop each student's stewardship.

## **Music**

Music 2 is sixty-four lessons which challenge second grade students in music reading skills expression, pitch matching, and knowledge of form and tone color. Through a variety of activities presented within the course, the students will demonstrate their growth in these areas of skill and knowledge. The text and other materials provided the student with songs and activities to build singing and coordination skills as well as to introduce new concepts in music reading. As the student learns to match pitch and use expression, he or she is reminded to use the skills and talents to glorify our Heavenly Father.

## **Third Grade**

### **Math**

Third grade students order and estimate numbers through the hundred thousands. They also learn the concepts of multiplication and division, with a strong focus on memorizing these facts. Students are also introduced to fractions and basic units of measurement.

Textbook: *Math Connects, Macmillan McGraw-Hill*

### **Language Arts**

Students will read theme-based stories in various literary forms such as picture books, informational articles, and poetry. A strong emphasis is placed on phonics. Students learn the writing process, and in their own writing they will incorporate grammar and spelling rules and continue to develop their cursive writing skills.

Textbook: *SRA Open Court, McGraw-Hill*

### **Science**

Through a variety of hands-on activities, students strengthen their observation skills as they learn about life cycles of plants and animals. They also set up a classroom grocery store to help explore the food pyramid and learn about nutrition. Students also learn to express their beliefs about God being the creator of the universe as they study the planets and other bodies in the solar system.

Textbook: *Discovery Works*

## **Social Studies**

Students study the formation of the U.S.A., with a strong focus on the founding fathers and the process of writing the Constitution. They also do a brief study of westward movement, which is expanded next year in fourth grade. Students are then introduced to the most prominent leaders and battles of the Civil War.

## **Art**

This class meets 1 period per cycle for an entire year. Students will be introduced to new art materials and how they relate to the materials used in the previous grades. They will continue to apply these lessons to the elements of art while slowly beginning to understand the principles of design. Their art vocabulary will be expanded through in class discussions related to art work created by the masters. The class will be introduced to several jobs within the art community and create projects related to their discoveries. Students will learn their role in the maintenance of art supplies and the art room.

## **General Music/Recorder Class**

3<sup>rd</sup> grade general music class meets 2 times/cycle for the duration of the school year. Class time is devoted to exploring and composing, listening and analyzing, singing and performing, reading and interpreting a musical score as it pertains to the treble clef. Specific components of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade music include aural recognition and performance of meter in 2 and 3, expressive interpretation (soft, loud, crescendo/decrescendo) and learning to sing basic harmonic structures (i.e. 2 pt rounds and 2 part songs and rhythmic/melodic ostinatos), and vocal/instrumental timbre from a wide variety of musical styles and genres. The study of recorder is an integral part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade general music curriculum which includes learning the names of the treble clef lines/spaces, basic rhythm, reading a musical score, correct fingering/finger placement, caring for a musical instrument and playing together in an ensemble.

## **Fourth Grade**

### **Language Arts**

Students will read a combination of short stories and trade books as well as learn phonetic-based spelling words, will write stories while incorporating grammar rules, and will practice legible handwriting. The literature program is theme based and includes plays, biographies, short stories, and folktales. A field trip to The Forum, in Harrisburg, to watch a play such as Harriett Tubman or Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing is a wonderful experience for the students.

Textbook: *Houghton Mifflin Reading and English*

### **Math**

Students order and estimate whole numbers through the millions period. In addition, they add, subtract, multiply, and divide numbers through the thousands period. Then they learn how to manipulate fractions and decimals by comparing them. Students also use a number line to count, compare, and measure numbers. They identify shapes, triangles, and angles. Math strategies, manipulatives, and word problems are heavily emphasized.

Textbook: *Macmillan McGraw-Hill Math Connects*

## **Science**

Students manipulate materials to explore science concepts. They learn specifically about their body's circulatory, excretory, and respiratory systems using plastic and paper models. They play with circuits and magnets to see the relationship between the two concepts. They learn about the similarities and differences between chemical and physical changes. They identify the differences between the classes of animals and participate in two dissections. They finally explore the constancy and change in weather and climate. Heavy emphasis is placed on identifying scriptures to illustrate God as the creator of all things. A field trip to Hershey Park to participate in Science Day is a fun and educational way to end the year.

Textbook: *Discovery Works Concordia Edition and Houghton Mifflin Science Discovery Works*

## **Social Studies**

Students learn the Christian history of the nation from the 1800s to early 1900s. The topics covered during this time period are immigration, inventors, the fifty states (emphasizing geographic regions), westward movement, industrial revolution, railroad expansion, circuit riders, and missionaries. A field trip to James Buchanan's home, Wheatland, in Lancaster is a culminating activity for the unit on Pennsylvania history.

Textbook: *Heritage Studies for Christian Schools*

## **Art**

This class meets 1 period per cycle for an entire year. Students will continue to learn about new and exciting ways to create art. Expanding on the knowledge gained from the lower elementary art classes students will continue to increase perspective on the principles of design. The students' art vocabulary will be expanded to include jobs and cultural references. Class projects will explore various jobs in art and cultures from around the world. Students will have individual and group clean-up assignments that will challenge them to become more responsible.

## **Music**

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

## **Fifth Grade**

### **Language Arts**

Students will learn phonetic-based spelling words, learn and apply vocabulary terms, practice grammar rules, and master the parts of speech. Also, they will improve their cursive handwriting. Students will write at least three original works per quarter. Student reading covers a number of different genres and themes.

Textbook: *Houghton Mifflin Reading and English*

Textbook: *Spelling: Word Journeys*

## **Math**

Students work with adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers, as well as showing place value. They will study fractions, multiples, and factors. Students add and subtract decimals and fractions. They do hands-on algebra and solve algebraic expressions. Students display and interpret data and solve equations and function tables. Customary and metric measures are studied; in addition, geometric figures and perimeter, area, and volume problems are solved.

Textbook: *Macmillan McGraw-Hill Math Connects*

## **Science**

Students study plants, the solar system, work and energy, sound and light, and biomes. They do hands-on experiments to apply the knowledge they are learning. The students also do several drawings, including plant cells, a biome, a roller coaster, the lifecycle of a star, and a seed or tree lifecycle. Instruction emphasizes the importance of God as the Creator and scriptural principles of science in nature are emphasized.

Textbook: *Discovery Works Concordia Edition and Houghton Mifflin Science Discovery Works*

## **Social Studies**

Students follow the history of the United States from the 1900s to the present. The study will encompass history, geography, economics, and culture. Included are World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. Latitude, longitude, and map skills are also taught. Students do projects, including a country booklet, a 1920s nickname group poster, and a stock market project.

Textbook: *Heritage Studies for Christian Schools*

## **Art**

This class meets 1 period per cycle for an entire year. Students will create art work that expresses their point of view as a young Christian artist. They will learn how to manipulate new and interesting art material. The class will learn the role artist have on society and create projects that emulates this work. Elementary vocabulary will reach its highest point and students will be expected to communicate with the teacher using the language they have learned. Students will have individual and group clean-up assignments that will challenge them to become more responsible.

## **Music**

5<sup>th</sup> grade music class meets 2 times/cycle for the duration of the school year. Class time is devoted to refining and strengthening musical components as a capstone for the elementary music curriculum and also as a foundation for Middle School music. Class time is devoted to advanced exploration, analysis and performance of the following musical elements: compound, asymmetrical and changing meters, review of harmonic elements (3 part rounds, 3 +partner songs, descants, ostinatos) and the introduction of countermelodies and intervals of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6ths, instrumental timbre as it relates to the entire concert band and symphonic orchestra within a wide variety of musical styles and genres.

## **Physical Education**

## **Pre-Kindergarten**

Current and ongoing research highlights the importance of learning basic movement skills at an early age. In the Pre-Kindergarten movement experience, students consistently engage in carefully selected movement and music activities designed for ages 3-7. Beginning with simple non-locomotor movements, the instructor facilitates steady beat awareness using music, rhymes, and singing games. Students explore simple movements such as marching, walking, running, balancing, and hopping. Students are encouraged and guided into more complex locomotor skills such as galloping and skipping. A movement language process is developed as students learn to identify body parts used in basic movement. Using this language process with locomotor movement, the children progress from steady beat awareness to steady beat competency.

## **Kindergarten – Grade 2**

Students in kindergarten through second grade take physical education class twice in a six day cycle. During these years they rehearse locomotor and stability skills; learn manipulative skills and creative movement skills; and develop fitness awareness. Students participate in the President's Fitness test and the Kraus and Webber test for strength and flexibility.

## **Grades 3 – 5**

Students in grades three to five attend physical education class twice in a six day cycle. During these three years students build muscular and respiratory endurance, learn the art of interpretive dance, participate in low ropes activities and the President's Challenge, and take the Kraus and Webber test. They also learn the basics of the following sports: football, softball, soccer, field hockey, street hockey, handball, indoor soccer, gymnastics, lacrosse, volleyball, frisbee, and track and field.

## **Spanish**

### **Grades 2 – 5**

Students in grades 2 through 5 take Spanish. Students learn basic and foundational concepts, such as: the alphabet, numbers, colors, greetings, farewells, and the days of the week. Each year builds upon the next. Songs, visual aids, and objects are used to involve the students' five senses in the learning experience. Language development continues throughout elementary school, so that middle school students have the option of completing what would constitute a Spanish 1 course. This allows high school students the opportunity to take Spanish all the way through level 5 that includes taking the AP Spanish exam.

## **Technology**

### **Grades 2 – 5**

The elementary school has its own 25 station computer lab with LCD projector. All students learn the basics of computer use, including logging in and logging off the network. Interactive educational software is used. Beginning in second grade, students have computer class one day during each six day cycle. Second grade students are introduced to computers and learn the basic components of a personal computer system and how to use it. They learn how to logon and logoff a workstation, create folders and documents, and save them to the correct folder. They are introduced to keyboarding, desktop publishing, internet search tools and digital citizenship. In third grade students are introduced to manipulating fonts, colors and other desktop publishing settings. They are also introduced to basic computer graphics. Fourth grade students are

introduced to basic internal components of a computer. They develop their ability to manipulate text and graphics and learn how to integrate the two into one document or presentation. In fifth grade students develop their ability to manipulate document layouts and images to create well organized and colorful projects.

## **Music Electives**

### **Elementary Choir**

The Elementary Choir is comprised of all 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4th and 5th grade students and meets one period/cycle in preparation for their Christmas and Spring Concerts. Class time is devoted to learning to sing various forms of harmony, practicing good singing habits, correct posture, and clear diction, and vocal exploration of a wide variety of musical styles and genres as they relate to developmental benchmarks for students in grades 3-5. When possible, 5 students from each school may audition to represent LCCS at the PMEA District 7 Elementary Songfest.

### **Elementary Band**

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

### **Elementary String**

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