

LCCS West Lampeter Elementary Courses

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.

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-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.

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.

Science

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

Social Studies

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

Music

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. Beginning with simple non-locomotor movements, the instructor facilitates 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. The children progress from steady beat awareness to steady beat competency. Through singing, reading, moving, playing, echoing, and activities presented within the course, the students obtain the skills necessary to provide later success in music, movement, and physical education.

Art

Pre-K Art focuses on exploration through hands on demonstrations and individual creative discoveries. Students will meet at different times throughout the school year. Projects are designed for easy manipulation of materials and shortened attention spans. Students will explore the use of color, shape and line with in their own art work. Discussions will be held while viewing art work created by other students and master artists. Through the use of drawing, painting and sculpting students will improve their ability to create and obtain valuable skills which they will be able to use in Kindergarten.

Library

This class meets one period per cycle for an entire year. Students are introduced to the library and learn about different aspects of the school library as well as public libraries. Students learn about library rules and procedures and how to care for books. The class period consists of the teacher reading a book to the students after which the students select books to take home. There is usually time for students to have some silent reading time before the class is dismissed.

Kindergarten

The objective of the full-day kindergarten program is to build a solid foundation upon which students grow academically, physically, spiritually, emotionally, and socially. This is a critical year for the children as they transition from home or pre-kindergarten into the elementary setting. Thus, the program is designed to be academically challenging, as well as developmentally appropriate. Kindergarten classrooms at LCCS are organized and structured to support all areas of development and a wide variety of materials are used to stimulate students' curiosity, initiative, and inquiry.

Literacy Development

A balanced approach to literacy is progressively taught, including oral and written language. Phonological awareness and alphabetic knowledge are equally important in the program. Letters are taught with Letter People that can be manipulated to form words. Students are exposed to frequently used words as they develop writing skills throughout the year. Kindergarteners develop as emergent readers through the use of leveled books in guided reading groups.

Handwriting

Students are taught the formation of letters and numbers using a wide variety of materials as they learn the names and sounds.

Math

Hands-on activities are used to enhance kindergarten's Math Their Way program. Students learn to understand and articulate mathematical concepts by using various materials to teach the basic skills of counting, number concepts, patterning, graphing, measuring, weighing, addition, and subtraction.

Science

Kindergarten children love to explore the world around them. Lancaster County Christian School provides students the opportunities to look, touch, feel, smell, and taste real things from the world. Using the scientific method and Bible lessons about creation, students study machines, the five senses, and other themes by way of science experiments.

Social Studies

Students are exposed to books, songs, food, and activities that teach about friendship, holidays, and famous people. These themes are emphasized throughout the calendar year.

Music

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

Art

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

Smart

Kindergarten students participate in a morning program called Stimulating Maturity through Accelerated Readiness Training (S.M.A.R.T.). S.M.A.R.T. is a ten minute class which uses a multi-sensory approach to learning. The program develops and enhances the physiological and neurological readiness skills that students need to do well in school. The activities are designed to develop and improve the student's large and fine motor skills, visual perception, and eye-hand coordination. The activities used for the program are fun and yet challenging for the students.

Library

This class meets one period per cycle for an entire year. Students are introduced to the library and learn about different aspects of the school library as well as public libraries. Students learn about library rules and procedures and how to care for books. Students also learn the parts of a book and how to identify the title, author and illustrator. Students learn about alphabetizing while placing the books in the correct bins or shelf locations. Students learn how to make predictions from looking at the pictures and listening to the text. Genre highlighted in this grade includes fiction and poetry. Students have time each class period for book selection for checkout.

First Grade

First graders at Lancaster County Christian School learn the joy of reading books independently, develop an awe of God's world around them, and learn how to be good friends. This is an exciting year for these eager, high-energy children with sensitive hearts that are open to hearing God's Word.

Language Arts

Children develop a strong basis in reading through daily participation in the five components of the elementary Comprehensive Literacy Program, including: Read Aloud, Independent Reading, Word Study, Guided Reading, and Handwriting and Writing.

Math

First graders learn the basic addition and subtraction facts, basic geometric shapes and fractions, measurement, money, and time. A number sense develops as students work on place value and participate in numerous hands-on activities.

Science

First graders learn about God's world through various themes, including Down by the Sea, Plants, Animals, Fall and Insects, Penguins, and Science Detectives.

Social Studies

Children learn that history is really God's story as they discover the meaning of holidays throughout the year. They study Thanksgiving (Pilgrims), Washington and Lincoln's birthdays, and St. Patrick's Day. Students also learn how America began, with emphasis on America's godly heritage.

Music

Music One 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 demonstrate their growth in music literacy. The text and other materials provide the students with songs and activities to build singing and coordination skills, as well as to introduce new concepts in music reading. As the students learn to match pitch and use expression, they are reminded to use their skills and talents to glorify God.

Art

First Grade Art meets one period per cycle for an entire year. Students are introduced to a variety of art materials and how to apply them. Through in-class projects, students learn how to identify and create portraiture, still-life artwork, and landscapes. Students begin to develop a basic art vocabulary. Students learn about the proper care and maintenance of the art supplies they use to complete projects throughout the school year.

Smart

First grade students participate in a morning program called Stimulating Maturity through Accelerated Readiness Training (S.M.A.R.T.). S.M.A.R.T. is a ten minute class which uses a

multi-sensory approach to learning. The program develops and enhances the physiological and neurological readiness skills that students need to do well in school. The activities are designed to develop and improve the student's large and fine motor skills, visual perception, and eye-hand coordination. The activities used for the program are fun and yet challenging for the students.

Library

This class meets one period per cycle for an entire year. Review of library rules and procedures takes place at the beginning of the year, as well as a review of book care. Other review items include the parts of a book, alphabetizing, and identifying the title, author and illustrator of a book. Students will be introduced to the title page of a book as well as learning about call numbers and their importance in the library. Students will learn the difference between fiction and non-fiction books and learn to arrange fiction books in alphabetical order by the author's last name. The teacher reads a story to the students on class days when library skills are not done. Students have time each class period for book selection and many times have some time for quiet independent reading. Genre highlighted in 1st grade includes fiction, poetry, and non-fiction.

Second Grade

Second graders are full of energy and excitement, beginning to blossom as new worlds are opening up to them through books.

Language Arts

A wide range of reading abilities exists in second grade, so each child's individual reading level is assessed at the beginning of the school year. Students then proceed to master that level and to hopefully move up several more levels throughout the year. A transition is made from the D'Nealian style of manuscript used in kindergarten to cursive handwriting. Second graders are learning to use a dictionary and begin to add phonics, spelling, and language skills to their writing.

Math

The goal in Math is to successfully complete story problems through proficiency with addition and subtraction math facts. Second graders play games to help reinforce their learning, understand the value of coins and bills, learn about minutes by fives, learn how to skip count, and learn how to regroup by carrying and borrowing.

Science

The study of God's wonderful creation begins with the first class retreat, on which students learn about nature through nature games. During the first half of the year, students learn the parts and functions of plants and how the plants fit into the food pyramid. Students have fun learning how to choose good, healthy foods. The second half of the year is spent studying animals. Each student creates an animal book called a Creature Feature. This activity helps to prepare the students for future Science Fair Projects.

Social Studies

As the world of a second grader expands through books, so does the study of communities. Before Thanksgiving, students share their heritage by dressing in the attire of their ancestors. Thanksgiving Around the World is followed by Christmas Around the World, where students study the Christmas traditions and customs of other countries.

Music

Music Two is made up of 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, students demonstrate their growth in these areas of skill and knowledge. The text and other materials provide the students with songs and activities to build singing and coordination skills, and introduce new concepts in music reading. As the students learn to match pitch and use expression, they are reminded to use the skills and talents to glorify our Heavenly Father.

Art

Second Grade Art meets one period per cycle for an entire year. Students are introduced to a variety of new art materials and how to apply them. Students continue to build upon the prior year's art vocabulary while creating art work that shows discernment. Students learn 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.

Computer

Students will begin learning the basic components of computer & peripheral devices. Typing skills will be developed through the use of typing programs such as Type to Learn 3. Evaluation of their typing speed and accuracy will be part of their overall grade. Students will generate projects that will allow them to begin an understanding of the most common computer programs.

Library

This class meets one period per cycle for an entire year. Review of library rules and procedures takes place at the beginning of the year. Previously taught library skills are reviewed such as book care, parts of a book and fiction and non-fiction. Students continue to explore other parts of books such as the dedication page, the table of contents, and the chapters of a book. Students learn about award books and read and view examples of Caldecott and Newbery winners. Continued emphasis and practice on alphabetizing is stressed in this grade. Students also continue to learn about putting books in proper order on the library shelves.

Third Grade

Third grade is a transitional year. Students progress from learning to read to reading to learn. They are transitioning from being one of the "little ones" to becoming independent learners.

Language Arts

Our program integrates reading, phonics, spelling, listening, grammar, and writing. This literacy experience teaches the children to see themselves as readers and writers. Instruction focuses on

reading to learn, which is accomplished through small group and large group instruction. The word study program incorporates phonics and spelling and integrates the study into other subject areas. Language instruction focuses on sentence structure, capitalization, punctuation, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns, as well as writing in paragraphs.

Math

Third grade students are expected to master their multiplication and division facts by the end of the year. Place value, estimating, and problem solving are emphasized. Third graders should also be able to tell time to the minute and make change for a dollar.

Science

The first study of the year is environmental education, which emphasizes God's plan for His people to be good stewards of His creation. All third graders must complete a science project that includes the collection and display of something God has made, such as seeds, insects, rocks, or seashells. The students study embryology and take care of a dozen eggs in an incubator, as well as learn about simple machines. The final study is on natural disasters and weather, which includes a visit from a WGAL television meteorologist.

Social Studies

Third graders begin to learn about their world through the study of local government and culture. In third grade, students learn about farms, the origin of Christmas traditions, the history and geography of Lancaster County, and citizenship. This may include a trip to meet local officials and legislators in Harrisburg.

General Music and Recorder Class

Third Grade General Music class meets two times per cycle for the duration of the school year. Class time is devoted to exploring and composing, listening and analyzing, singing and performing, and reading and interpreting a musical score as it pertains to the treble clef. Specific components of third grade music include aural recognition and performance of meter and expressive interpretation (soft, loud, crescendo/decrescendo). They also learn basic harmonic structures (2 part rounds, 2 partner songs, and rhythmic/melodic ostinatos) and vocal/instrumental timbre from a wide variety of musical styles and genres. They study the recorder and learn 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.

Art

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

Computer

Students will expand on their knowledge of the basic components of computer & peripheral devices. Typing skills will continue to be improved through the use of Type to Learn 3. Evaluation of their typing speed and accuracy will be part of their overall grade. Students will learn how to use new software as part of their class projects.

Library

This class meets one period per cycle for an entire year. Review of previously taught library skills are an integral part of this course. Emphasis on parts of a book in this grade includes the table of contents, glossary, and index. Students begin using the online card catalog to search for books in the library. Students are introduced to the Dewey Decimal System and to the World Book online.

Fourth Grade

Students in fourth grade develop spiritually, physically, emotionally, and intellectually while they learn to become more responsible and organized learners.

Language Arts

Balanced literacy makes up the core reading program in fourth grade. The text is combined with novel studies and a strong emphasis is also placed on independent reading to increase fluency. Students follow the writing process in completing various writing projects. D'Nealian cursive writing is emphasized in all areas. Speaking skills are practiced with a variety of oral presentations including memorizing a speech for the ACSI Speech Meet. A Beka Language is used to learn about sentences, parts of speech, and other grammar mechanics.

Math

Fourth graders review place value, addition and subtraction, basic decimals, and fractions concepts. They also develop multiplication and division skills beyond the basic facts and work on measurement, graphing, and geometry.

Science

Students learn about God's World through a variety of units including the solar system, rocks and minerals, digestion, and the circulatory and respiratory systems.

Social Studies

Fourth graders learn about the geography and history of Pennsylvania. Students complete a major writing and map project about the state. They learn map skills and learn about the other regions of the United States, including the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions.

General Music

Fourth Grade General Music class meets two times per cycle for the duration of the school year. Class time is devoted to building upon third grade music with a more in depth exploration, analysis, and performance. They identify syncopation and complex rhythms, perform and conduct meter in 2, 3, and 4. They also learn harmony performance (3 part rounds, 3 +partner

songs, descants, and more complex melodic and harmonic ostinatos) and instrumental timbre as it relates to the small instrumental ensembles within a wide variety of musical styles and genres.

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

Computer

Students will begin to learn how the individual parts of a computer & peripheral devices work together. Typing skills will continue to be enhanced through the use of typing programs such as Mavis Beacon. Evaluation of their typing speed and accuracy will be part of their overall grade. Projects geared to expanding the creative aspects of the computer and its software will be highlighted.

Library

This class meets one period per cycle for an entire year. Students review library skills taught previously. Students continue to look at the Dewey Decimal System more in depth. Students look at additional subscription based databases with hands on practice. Students also begin to look at evaluating websites. Some time is spent looking at reference sources and learning to use them correctly. Collaboration with the class room teacher is expanded at this level with students learning more research oriented skills.

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade at LCCS promises to be a year of steady maturation that prepares students for the changes they will face upon entering middle school. The goal in fifth grade is to prepare students to become competent, responsible, and increasingly independent in their roles as life long learners.

Language Arts

The reading block includes a wide variety of whole class, partner, and small group formats that make guided reading as multilevel as possible. Students are exposed to a wide range of literature, build and refine comprehension strategies, participate in discussions about the books, and have one-on-one interviews with the teachers. The focus of the writing instruction is on the writing process (pre-writing, writing, revising and editing). Through activities such as word building, dictionary skills, proofreading skills, and writing mechanics, students become increasingly proficient with their spelling.

Math

Fifth grade math focuses on problem solving while teaching the concepts of place value, computation with decimals and fractions, using algebraic expressions and equations, graphing, measurement, and probability.

Science

Students build upon their knowledge of life science by studying vertebrates and invertebrates, as well as plants and biomes. Physical Science is studied the second half of the year, focusing on matter, magnetism, and heat.

Social Studies

Students begin by reviewing map skills and the regions of the United States. The remainder of the year focuses on exploration of North and South America, the 13 colonies, the French and Indian War, colonial life, the Revolutionary War, concluding with a study of the new government. A research project which incorporates technology and report writing is integrated with the Social Studies curriculum.

General Music

Fifth grade music class meets two times per cycle for the duration of the school year. Students will learn to refine and strengthen musical components. This course serves as a capstone for the elementary music curriculum and a foundation for middle school music. Class time is devoted to advanced exploration, analysis, and performance of more advanced components of music. Students study the compound, asymmetrical, and changing meters. They also review harmonic elements (3-part rounds, 3 +partner songs, descants, ostinators) and learn about countermelodies and intervals of third and sixths. Students learn instrumental timbre as it relates to the entire concert band and symphonic orchestra within a wide variety of musical styles and genres.

Art

This class meets one 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 artists 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.

Computer

Students will learn to identify all the internal components of a computer. Typing skills will continue to be enhanced through the use of typing programs such as Mavis Beacon. Evaluation of their typing speed and accuracy will be part of their overall grade. Projects centered on imagination will highlight the students knowledge of programs learned within the elementary curriculum.

Physical Education

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.

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.

Elementary Choir

The Elementary Choir is comprised of all third, fourth, and fifth grade students. This course meets one period per 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. Students learn a wide variety of vocal musical styles and genres as they relate to developmental benchmarks for students in grades three through five. When possible, five students from each school may audition to represent LCCS at the PMEA District 7 Elementary Songfest.

Elementary Instrumental Music

Students in fourth and fifth grade are given the opportunity to start developing skills on various instruments from the woodwind, brass, string, 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 Instruction

Students will begin by learning how to hold the bow and then the violin. Beginning fun songs will not involve note reading, but rather an emphasis on coordinating the bow and fingering on the violin. Once students have passed the "Twinkles," a level one book will be introduced. By the end of the year, students will be able to perform selected songs for the spring concert. During the remaining elementary years, students will work through lesson books, Suzuki books, and beginning ensemble music (duets, trios). They should complete levels one and two of their lesson/method books.

Elementary Spanish

Students learn basic and foundational subjects, such as: the alphabet numbers, colors, greetings, farewells, and the days of the week. Songs, visual aids and objects are used to involve the student's five senses in the learning experience.

Library

This class meets one period per cycle for an entire year. Students review library skills taught previously. Students have in depth classes on reference books. Students are taught expanded search techniques while using the card catalog. Website evaluation is an important component of the course content. Emphasis on using MLA documentation is taught at this level.