

Westbury Christian School

Intermediate Course Guide Grades 5 and 6

Preparing Students for Here and Eternity



Westbury Christian School

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Intermediate Department Grades 5 and 6

Every aspect of our Intermediate program is designed to help your child prepare for adolescence spiritually, mentally and physically. At WCS we are given the unique opportunity to have all of our 5th and 6th grade students set apart from the rest of our school. We believe, and research shows, that this is a very important stage of development in a student's life. We can all remember the fear and excitement of approaching our teenage years and the feeling of not knowing what was coming around the next corner. We want to help make the middle school transition as smooth as possible for your child. Our students are really at a time of discovery, they are experiencing independence and responsibility in a way they never have before. Our staff does a great job of nurturing your child while at the same time pushing them at a slightly uncomfortable pace helping them to grow and mature in ways that will make you proud to be their parents.

Intermediate Retreat

Students in 5th and 6th grade have the opportunity to attend a retreat at a near-by camp site such as Camp Coyote in Huntsville or Camp ChoYeh in Livingston. The retreat takes place during the first full week of the school year. Students and faculty get a chance to truly become an intermediate team as they participate in a Ropes Course, fishing, archery, swimming, horse-back riding and other activities. Campfires and daily devotionals give students an opportunity to reflect on the goals for the new school year. Themes central to developing good habits in school and at home are begun at the retreat, and reemphasized throughout the entire school year.

Reading/Language Arts

Reading/Language Arts 5

A fifth grade student continues to spend significant blocks of time engaged in independent reading and writing while refining and applying knowledge and skills in increasingly complex tasks. The student analyzes and evaluates classic, contemporary and information literature to enhance comprehension and create new understanding.

Additionally, a fifth grade student selects and uses various forms of writing for specific purposes. Utilizing multiple resources, a fifth grader gains proficiency in creating polished final products including multimedia presentations as well as a variety of written texts. Texts used: Texas Journeys by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Reading/Language Arts 6

The student is actively involved with a variety of texts, including electronic media. The student reads for different purposes and employs multiple strategies to build vocabulary and increase comprehension. As students make connections beyond the text, reading responses reflect higher-level thinking. Sixth grade writers develop polished pieces with increased organization and varied sentence structure. Students have multiple opportunities to use language as a tool for collaboration. They listen to, research and produce oral performances and visual/textual presentations. Texts used: Prentice-Hall Pearson Literature; Laying the Foundation—A Resource for Pre-AP English; Wordly Wise 3000 (Vocabulary)

Social Studies

Social Studies 5

A fifth grade student learns about the history of the United States from its early beginnings to the present. The roots of the national democratic government as well as important ideas in the Declaration of Independence and the U. S. Constitution are identified. Through social studies, the fifth grade student uses critical thinking skills (sequencing, categorizing, summarizing information, and making inferences while drawing conclusions) to study the history of the United States. Text used is Scott Foresman.

Social Studies 6

A sixth grade student understands the concept of diversity in our world from the study of contemporary world cultures and their contributions to civilization. The student identifies the relationship of ancient cultures and their influences on our modern society. They are able to locate geographic features that help them analyze the ways people adapt and modify their physical environment. Higher levels of thinking are developed by the use of primary and secondary sources, maps, and the study of scientific discoveries and technological innovations.

Through the understanding of world history and its contributions, the student learns to better understand the important role of a citizen in a democratic society. Text used is Scott Foresman.

Science

Science 5

A fifth grade student understands that science is a way of learning about the natural world. The student investigates science as a vast body of changing and increasing knowledge described by physical, mathematical, and conceptual models. The student develops skills in the areas of investigation and use of scientific equipment. The emphasis of study covers the structures and functions of life science, earth science, and physical science. The student investigates that change and constancy in systems can be observed and measured as patterns. Computers and information technology tools are used for support. Text used is Scott Foresman.

Science 6

A sixth grade student understands that science is a way of learning about the natural world. The student knows that science has a vast body of changing and increasing knowledge described by physical, mathematical, and conceptual models. The student develops skills in the areas of investigation, use of scientific equipment, and technology. The emphasis of study is life science, earth science and physical science. The student recognizes that there are patterns that exist within cycles, structures, and processes that interact. Computers and information technology tools are used for support. Text used is Scott Foresman.

Mathematics

Math 5

A fifth grade student applies a strong foundation of whole numbers to develop a deeper understanding of decimal and fraction concepts. A student independently integrates and applies knowledge of different mathematical strands to make meaningful connections and solve problems. The primary focal points of fifth grade are representing and interpreting data in graphs, applying whole number operations in problem-solving situations, and extending concepts related to measurement and geometry. Fifth grade students sharpen their skills by justifying thinking and communicating understanding using appropriate language and tools. Text used is Saxon.

Math 6

A sixth grade student further develops algebraic thinking, formal and informal reasoning, and communication of mathematical ideas. The focus of sixth grade shifts from basic operations with whole numbers to describing proportional relationship and addition and subtraction of decimals and fractions. Using various strategies, a student estimates, solves real-world problems, evaluates reasonableness of answers and justifies processes and outcomes. Throughout sixth grade, a student uses technology along with other mathematical tools to enhance conceptual understanding. A student also uses ratios to describe proportional situations and make predictions. Text used is Saxon.

Bible

Bible 5

A survey of the Old Testament is the basis of this study. Beginning in Genesis, students will gain a much clearer perspective of how the stories of the Old Testament fit

together in one pattern. As God desired His people to possess the land of Canaan, so He desires His children to live in a spiritual realm of promise and victory. Text used is Positive Action for Christ – Possessing The Land.

Bible 6

In 6th grade, boys and girls have different Bible classes. Using the theme of athletic competition and drawing from studies of various Bible characters, students will learn how the principles of God's Word can help them gain victory in the race of life. Drawing from the entire Word of God, students learn that the principals of God specifically affect their lives. Studies are drawn from characters in both the Old and New Testaments and the life of Christ. Text used: Preparing for Adolescence and other selected gender appropriate Bible lessons & scriptures.

Chapel

Grades 5 & 6

Students begin their transition into middle school by attending chapel twice a week with the middle school students. Students gather together to join in prayer, singing and praising God for loving us. Students also enjoy special Christian speakers, small group activities and presentations.

Computer

Grades 5 & 6

Computer is integrated into the curriculum using an Apple MacBook Mobile Computer Lab which consists of 24 wireless laptops. The computers are used to enhance classroom instruction, build computer skills, and to do research on the internet with teacher guidance.

Health and Physical Education

Grades 5 & 6

Students receive instruction daily. As part of this developmentally appropriate curriculum, students participate in activities that: improve both their fine and gross motor skills, teach the importance of being physically fit, help them work together as a team and build cooperation, as well as develop sportsmanship.

Band/Chorus

Grades 5 & 6

Students participate in a band program. Students will choose an instrument and focus on skills such as learning notes, rhythm, and correct breathing techniques. When they become more accomplished playing individually, students will then begin playing as a group. A student may either be placed in first or second year band depending on the expertise of the student.

5th and 6th grade participate in band four days a week, and focus on vocal singing one class each week. Emphasis is on part singing, including more complicated rounds, partner songs, and individual vocal parts of soprano, alto and lower boys' voices. We focus on good vocal production and polished performances, as well as exploring varied musical genres, including jazz, pop, Broadway, international and classical.

Library

Grades 5 & 6

Students spend time in the library weekly with their Reading teacher. Additional check-in/check-out and testing times are also provided to support the Accelerated Reader program. Students are encouraged

to participate in state and national reading programs: the Bluebonnet and Crown Reading Programs. A store is offered each 6 weeks to support the Accelerated Reader program where students may "buy" items with Accelerated Reader points.

Electives

Grade 5

Study Skills (Required)

Study strategies and organizational skills help to prepare the students for future educational endeavors and supports academic content areas as appropriate.

Grade 6

Students may choose one of the following classes: **Speech, Athletics, Chorus, Art, or Drama** (Electives may vary from year to year.)

Field Trips

Grades 5 & 6

Age-appropriate field trips to locations such as children's theaters, museums, and historical sites may be taken in connection with and to enhance classroom studies.

Academic Meet

Grades 5 & 6

Students are encouraged to participate in an academic meet hosted each year by various Christian schools in Texas. This event allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a variety of subject areas and be recognized for their achievement. Students may participate in two events and coaching sessions are held either before or after school several weeks prior to this event.

National Elementary Honor Society

WCS is one of 300 schools in our nation sharing in the distinction of being named a founding chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society. Fifth and sixth grade students are selected for their outstanding academic achievements and their demonstrations of responsible actions at school, home and in the community. Students will be involved in providing service to the community and school and learning valuable leadership skills.

In-School Presentations

Throughout the school year, special presentations, performances, and visitors enrich the student's school experiences.

Homework

Students are assigned homework daily. Homework is used to reinforce classroom learning, not as busy work; therefore, homework loads vary from time to time. If possible, less homework is assigned on Wednesdays.