

Westbury Christian School

Lower School Curriculum
Kindergarten—Fourth Grade

Preparing Students for Here and Eternity



Westbury Christian School

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LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM

KINDERGARTEN—FOURTH GRADE

Reading/Language Arts:

Text used: Texas Journeys by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

READING CURRICULUM IS SUPPLEMENTED WITH THE ACCELERATED READER PROGRAM

Kindergarten

A kindergarten student engages in meaningful and organized activities to increase oral language, foster listening comprehension, develop phonological awareness, and most importantly, nurture a love of reading. When visiting your child's classroom, look for many manipulative activities. These not only help build concepts but also develop and refine gross and fine motor skills. Each child participates in a variety of instructional settings such as whole group investigations, small group collaboration, and independent play to meet individual needs at the appropriate level. Through these meaningful experiences, your child builds a solid foundation for early literacy.

First Grade

A first grade student continues to develop oral language and communication skills and moves to become a more independent reader and writer. Each child participates in a variety of instructional settings such as guided reading and writing, as well as readers' and writers' workshop, to meet individual needs at the appropriate level. Daily reading of a

variety of texts and writing for a variety of audiences increase your child's fluency and comprehension in the literacy process.

Second Grade

A second grader reads and writes independently and has many opportunities to use spoken language. The student automatically recognizes a large number of words and uses a variety of word identification strategies. Reading familiar classic and contemporary works, a second grader increases fluency and demonstrates understanding by producing a variety of projects. The student transitions to reading longer texts with less picture support. Second graders compose and begin to revise and edit their own writing to make ideas clear, precise, and legible. Daily Oral Language (by Great Source/Houghton Mifflin) is also used.

Third Grade

A third grader spends significant blocks of time reading and writing independently. Using increasingly complex word identification strategies, the student builds vocabulary and enhances comprehension. A

third grader reads from a variety of classic and contemporary works and supports ideas and inferences by citing portions of text. Writing is more elaborate and detailed. The student revises and edits to produce final products. A third grader listens critically to spoken messages to make contributions during discussions.

Fourth Grade

Fourth graders have a student anthology which has six units on thought provoking themes. The students learn skills and strategies to help understand the text they have read. Students read a wide variety of genres and cultures written and illustrated by award-winning authors and illustrators. Open Court focuses on word analysis (vocabulary), spelling, writing process and grammar usage, and forms of writing. The students become better spellers as they learn the spelling patterns and rules. Daily Oral Language (by Great Source/Houghton Mifflin) is used daily to help students with proofreading.

Ancillary Classes:

- Art (weekly)

Art for students in grades K-4th is a unique blend of studio art and art history. Basic elements are introduced to students in relation to major artists and their work. A variety of medium is used throughout the school year in order to provide each child the opportunity to experiment with new materials. The focus of this class is to help students express their personal creativity and individual insight into the world around them.

- Computer

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

Physical Education

Students have an organized P.E. class twice every week. They participate in activities that improve both their fine and gross motor skills, teach the importance of being physically fit, introduce them to the concept of teambuilding, as well as develop sportsmanship. Activities are supplemented with the CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) Curriculum.

Chapel: Chapel is a special time everyday where teachers and students alike join in prayer, singing and praising God. Students are used to lead chapel activities. This leadership training develops personal awareness and self-confidence. One day each week chapel time is extended to include special awards, recitations of class memory work and a brief Bible lesson. Students in grades 1-4 have a divided chapel once each week where the focus is on proper Christian behaviors for girls and boys.

Social Studies: Text used: Scott Foresman (Grades 1-4)

Kindergarten

A kindergarten student focuses on the foundations of social studies. Concepts are built through examination, discussion, and exploration. The study of our state and national heritage begins with exploring celebrations of patriotic holidays and the contributions of historic people. A student compares family customs and traditions to develop cultural appreciation. The student learns about the geographic concept of location, as well as the physical and human characteristics of places. Basic human needs of clothing, food, and shelter, and the ways people meet these needs are introduced. Technology and social studies skills are an essential part of the social studies curriculum. Text used: McGraw-Hills Open Court

First Grade

A first grade student continues to build upon early social studies concepts through literature, discussions, hands-on exploration, and simulations. The student develops patriotic identity through the study of historic figures, national anthems, state

anthems, and mottoes. Students develop cultural appreciation by describing the importance of family customs and traditions. A first grader creates and uses simple maps to draw conclusions about physical characteristics of places and their impact on daily life. Concepts of time and chronology are developed by distinguishing between past, present, and future events.

Second Grade

A second grade student focuses on a study of community. The student will learn about important individuals and events in the history of the community, state, and nation. Students continue to develop concepts of time, government functions, and basic economic principles. The student acquires knowledge of important customs, symbols, and celebrations that represent American beliefs and principles. In geography a student locates places and compares information found in different sources.

Third Grade

A third grade student learns how individuals changed their communities and consequently their

world. The lives of heroes and how their contributions resulted in new ideas, new innovations, and new communities are explored. The student investigates the responsibility of local government and how it meets the needs of our communities. The student uses geography skills and concepts to find places on maps and globes and to create their own maps. Economic and governmental vocabulary is acquired.

Fourth Grade

A fourth grade student studies important events, issues, and people of the 19th and 20th centuries. The student examines Texas history from ancient times to the present in regard to human and natural characteristics of the regions of Texas. Emphasis is placed on the understanding of the impact of Native Americans, European explorers, and Mexican influences, as well as other cultural groups on Texas. Computer and technology tools are used for support.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”
Deuteronomy 6:5

Ancillary Classes:

● Music

K3, K4 & Kindergarten

Musical games & movement, fun songs, steady beat, and rhythm stick activities are a part of our music program. Students learn to sing in unison and develop listening skills as they learn to accompany songs with simple instruments.

1st-3rd Grade

Musical games, movement, fun songs, steady beat, rhythm sticks, pitched and un-pitched instruments, and extended rhythm studies are a part of our music program. In addition to singing in unison and rounds, students learn to sight-read, begin 2-part singing, and are introduced to composers and instrument families.

4th Grade

Fourth grade students combine instruction in recorders and choral singing in 2 and 3 part harmony. Students learn to sing and recognize full scale pitches, and are introduced to syncopated rhythms as well as reinforcing straight rhythms by reading and playing written mixed rhythms. Written music is translated to sound by creating rhythm, melody and accompaniments on pitched and un-pitched instruments. Dances and games reinforce songs and allow exploration of a variety of rhythms and styles from diverse cultures. Students are encouraged to participate in Music Memory listening competition in the yearly academic meet.

All Lower School Students participate in Special Programs at Christmas and/or in the spring, with additional performance opportunities at Grandparent's Breakfast, PTO functions, Chapel and other special presentations.

Science: Text used: Scott Foresman (Grades 1-4)

Kindergarten

A kindergarten student uses simple investigations to develop the skills of asking questions, gathering information, communicating findings, and making informed decisions about the natural world. Using the five senses and common tools, the student makes observations and collects information. The student learns about the natural world by identifying and investigating rocks, water, soil, living organisms, and objects. The

student is introduced to the concept of a system as a collection of cycles, structures, and processes that interact. Computers and information technology tools are used for support. Text used is McGraw-Hill's Open Court.

First Grade

A first grade student continues using simple investigations to develop the skills of asking questions and gathering information. The student also makes measurements, constructs explanations, and draws conclusions using non

-standard units and tools to extend the five senses. The student identifies and investigates components of the natural world including rocks, soil, natural resources, heat, needs of living things, interdependence, and living versus non-living things.

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Mathematics: Text used: Saxon

Kindergarten

A kindergarten student develops whole number concepts using concrete models. Basic foundations of math concepts are built through exploration of patterns, sorting, counting, making math connections, and problem solving. Problem solving skills are demonstrated through the use of informal language to communicate early understanding of connections within and outside of mathematics. Technology and math tools are an essential part of the math program.

First Grade

A first grade student develops an understanding of addition and subtraction number concepts using concrete objects. Basic foundations of math concepts are built by using patterns, sorting, counting, making math connections, and problem solving. A student creates and uses representations to organize, record, and communicate emerging math ideas.

Second Grade

A second grade student continues to build a basic foundation of math concepts. A student uses numbers to compare and order when solving problems. Whole number addition and subtraction problems are solved first with concrete models and then with symbolic representation to achieve fluency. Using informal and formal language, a student communicates math reasoning in verbal and written forms. Technology and math tools continue to be integrated into the math program.

Third Grade

A third grade student has mastered the addition and subtraction of whole numbers and further advances that understanding by using concrete and pictorial models to develop the concepts of multiplication and division. An additional emphasis is the connection of fractional models to symbols. The student begins to use estimation and mathe-

tical reasoning to solve real-world problems and is able to rationalize and communicate decisions effectively. Throughout third grade mathematics, the student evaluates, adapts, and selects appropriate strategies, vocabulary, and tools to solve problems.

Fourth Grade

A fourth grade student learns to create and apply mathematical concepts in a more abstract manner than in earlier grades. The primary focal points of fourth grade are the application of place value concepts, comparing and ordering fractions and decimals, long division, and developing ideas related to measurement and statistics.

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”
Proverbs 22:6

Ancillary Classes:

● Library

The library provides resources and programs to develop reading comprehension and research skills for students. Library skills are taught each week that support classroom concepts and students are allowed to check out books.

Families are encouraged to participate in reading newly published books to their children with the READ TO ME PROGRAM, a program that rotates about 15 newly published, noteworthy books throughout the K3-2nd grade classes.

Yearly Book Fairs provide parents the opportunity to refresh their own book collections while raising money for author visits and more books for the library.

Each 6 weeks students have the opportunity to “shop” at the Accelerated Reader Store with their accumulated AR points

Special Author Visits and Drama Presentations encourage reading and bring books to life.



an understanding of how Christian character develops using Paul’s epistles and the life of Paul from the book of Acts. The students are as-

Bible: Text used: Positive Action for Christ

Kindergarten

Learning About God

Kindergarten students learn about God through Bible stories. Major characters throughout the entire Bible will be introduced. Activity ideas will help children comprehend and apply Bible truths.

First Grade

Enjoying God’s Gifts

First graders will learn that all we have comes from God and that the ultimate gift that God gave us is His Son, Jesus Christ. This study will focus on the many gifts of love provided for us by God. Emphasis will be on

aspects of creation, our families, friends, possessions, Jesus Christ and God’s care for us. Stories from everyday life are used to encourage the development of inner character traits.

Second Grade

Finding God’s Promises

The life of Moses and his leadership of Israel are used to teach second graders that God rewards obedience. Students will learn that when God gives a command, He also gives a promise. Finding God’s promises helps students see that obedience to God’s commands brings blessings as God fulfills His promises in their lives.

Third Grade

Growing with God

The lives of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and Daniel have a lot to teach third graders about the rewards of living for God. All of these men faced rejection, but all of them remained faithful to God. Students will develop strong character as they draw upon the experiences of these men.

Fourth Grade

Building Life Castles

The Bible studies will include the life of Christ from the Gospels; a study of the Holy Spirit from the Gospels, Acts and the Epistles;

Science (continued): Text used: Scott Foresman

Second Grade

Student plans and conducts investigations to develop the skills for making measurements using non-standard and standard units. Components and processes of the natural world, including the water cycle and use of resources, are identified. The second grader observes melting, evaporating, weathering, and pushing and pulling of objects. The student also observes living and nonliving things, needs of plants and animals, functions of plants, and how living organisms depend on their environment. The student continues to explore change and constancy in systems. Com-

puters and information technology tools are used for support.

Third Grade

Student plans and implements investigations to collect information using tools such as microscopes. The student also makes inferences, communicates conclusions, and makes informed decisions. The student identifies the importance of components of the natural world including rocks, soil, water, atmospheric gases, and forces that change the Earth. The student explores magnetism, gravity, needs of organisms, habitats, and competition within an ecosystem. Students

continue to explore constancy and change in systems.

Fourth Grade

Student identifies components and processes of the natural world such as properties of soil, effects of oceans, the role of the sun as our energy source, the physical properties of matter, and the causes of change in the states of matter. The student observes the roles of living and non-living components and recognizes the differences between learned characteristics and inherited traits. Computer and technology tools are used for support.

“But without faith, it is impossible to please God.” Hebrews 11:6

Homework:

Kindergarten

Ideas for fun, family based activities such as simple math activities, reading together, and reviewing sight words are assigned by our kindergarten teachers. These activities are required.

First Grade

Students are assigned math homework three days a week and phonics readers are assigned several times a week. Some time at home may also include study for spelling tests and Bible memory work.

Second Grade

Students are assigned homework three to four times per week and includes spelling mastery, math, Bible memory work and study for tests.

Third Grade

The third grade student will have math and spelling homework three nights a week. Students will need to spend time each week studying a list of vocabulary words, a Bible verse, and reading for AR (Accelerated Reader). Students will receive a study guide for social studies and science three to four days prior

to a chapter test. Each student is given a planner at the beginning of school; homework is written down for the entire week on Monday in this planner.

Fourth Grade

The fourth grade student will have math homework three nights and spelling sentences are assigned on Monday. The students receive study sheets for science and social studies tests three to four days before a chapter test. There is a Bible memory verse to learn each week. A science or social studies project is assigned each six weeks.

Ancillary Classes:

- Spanish (weekly)

K –1st Grade

Students are introduced to Spanish vocabulary while participating in planned activities such as interactive games, songs, stories and dialogue. These activities will expand their knowledge of Spanish while extending their speaking, writing and listening skills.

2nd-4th Grades

To broaden their knowledge of Spanish vocabulary, student's studies include geography, culture and an introduction to the basics of grammar.

- Recess

Gross motor activities, free play and time to socialize are crucial to a young child's development. A daily recess is provided on the outside playground for K-3rd grade. Students in 4th grade have recess twice each week.

In the case of inclement weather, alternate activities are planned indoors that still provide socialization, play and movement.

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Field Trips:

Age-appropriate field trips to locations such as children's theatres, museums, and farms are carefully chosen to teach each student about their community and their world. These trips are taken in connection with and to enhance classroom studies. At the end of the year, fourth grade students go to Austin to make their Texas History come alive.