

LOWER SCHOOL ACADEMIC CATALOG



**WESTBURY
CHRISTIAN**

— EST. 1975 —

PREPARING YOUTH FOR HERE AND ETERNITY



Welcome from the Head of School

"We are equipping students to become Christian leaders, lifelong learners, and Christ followers."

Dear Prospective Families,

We invite you to come take a closer look at one of the reasons why Westbury Christian is so unique. Academics are one of three dimensions that are at the core of our mission as we strive to "prepare youth for here and eternity."

In the pages that follow, you will see a wide variety of class offerings. In each of the classrooms where these courses are taught, you'll find a qualified Christian teacher who recognizes that truth comes from God's Word and that this truth is the foundation of the faith through which our students achieve true victory.

With a rigorous curriculum and passionate, professional teachers on a safe campus, we strive for excellence in everything as we help students prepare for success in college and beyond.

The information in this booklet will give you a good idea of the thorough structure that supports our academic dimension. Please let us know if we can assist you in learning more about what makes Westbury Christian a great educational environment.

Nathan Wagner
Head of School



PRIMARY DEPARTMENT



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

Westbury Christian's Primary Department consists of PreK3, PreK4, Kindergarten and 1st Grade. Our Christian teachers are trained to teach from a holistic, Christ-centered curriculum that provides an enriched learning experience to enhance the child's age appropriate development. Our preschool program nurtures each child by offering carefully selected learning experiences that develop your child socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically. As they progress through the primary years, we foster their love for learning and use many concrete and sequential strategies to support your student's personalized needs. Your child will also develop skills through experiences with Bible, music, art, PE, storytelling, and developmentally appropriate use of technology tools.





PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM (3s & 4s)

VERBAL AND LINGUISTICS

The *Frogstreet* program develops verbal, written and cognitive skills. Students are introduced to letters and sounds, understanding opposites, rhyming skills and building vocabulary through group activities and dramatic play.

GROSS AND FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Students are taught the use of scissors, holding pencils or crayons properly, writing first and last names, running, jumping, skipping, galloping and climbing.

SOCIAL AND INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Listening skills, taking turns, following directions, task completion, and solving problems with words are skills your child will learn in the classroom. Children will also learn about God's love and how to be accepted by others for their individuality.

LOGIC AND MATHEMATICS

Students will participate in fun hands-on activities that promote early number sense. They will become aware of shapes and patterns and start realizing that geometric shapes are part of everyday objects. Students will also have opportunities to learn about sorting, patterning, spatial relationships, rote and rational counting, ordinal numbers and sequencing, and measurement comparisons.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Preschool students will grow closer to God through daily Bible lessons, Chapel and House Group activities. Each day, teachers and students join in prayer, singing, and praising God. Students will learn about major Old Testament and New Testament Bible stories and characters, with a focus on Jesus and His life and teachings. The teaching of Christian values and character – such as love, compassion and kindness is at the core of each Bible lesson and interwoven throughout the preschool curriculum. Preschool students participate in Lower School Chapel and House Meetings each week. They also join K-12th grade students in All School Chapel several times throughout the year. For more information on House Chapels, please visit page 13.

KINDERGARTEN



BIBLE

Bible study and prayer is a very important time for our kindergarteners. The Bible is interwoven into all curriculum areas. Using *Deep Roots*, our kindergarteners go through stories of the Old Testament and New Testament. Students are encouraged to apply Biblical lessons to their own lives and spend time reviewing character traits such as obedience, respect and responsibility. Students participate in Lower School Chapel and House Meetings each week. They also join K-12th grade students in All School Chapel several times throughout the year. For more information on House Chapels, please visit page 13.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The social studies curriculum seeks to build upon the foundation of culture and community. Kindergartners study the state of Texas and national heritage, as well as patriotic holidays and the contributions of historic people. Students also learn about the geographic concept of location and the physical and human characteristics of places. Worldview is extended to an understanding of God's love for all people.

MATHEMATICS

The mathematics curriculum focuses on the basic foundations of math concepts. Our teachers develop these core principles 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.

SCIENCE

The science curriculum builds upon the natural curiosity of young children as they discover the wonder of God's creation. Students learn about the natural world by identifying and investigating rocks, water, soil, living organisms, and objects. Students are 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.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The kindergarten reading curriculum is a combination of whole language and sequential phonics instruction. Teachers use a variety of developmentally appropriate activities to prepare students to read, write and develop language skills. Students receive both whole group and small group instruction to give them the skills and tools they need to be successful readers, writers and communicators.

1ST GRADE



BIBLE AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Bible study and prayer is a very important time for our first graders. The Bible is interwoven into all curriculum areas. With *Deep Roots*, our first graders focus on the Old Testament, specifically from Creation to the Promised Land. Students are encouraged to apply Biblical lessons to their own lives and spend time reviewing character traits such as obedience, respect and responsibility. Students participate in Lower School Chapel and House Meetings each week. They also join K-12th grade students in All School Chapel several times throughout the year. For more information on House Chapels, please visit page 13.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The first grade social studies curriculum builds upon early social studies concepts through literature and class discussions. Students develop a balanced overview of American heritage and an understanding to discern connections between events. First graders create and use simple maps to draw conclusions about physical characteristics of places and their impact on daily life. Not only has this approach provided students a strengthened knowledge of God, but has helped develop an interest in history, geography, citizenship, economics and culture.

MATHEMATICS

The mathematics curriculum of WCS utilizes a logical method of instruction taught with a Biblical worldview. Students will understand the foundational concepts of addition and subtraction and place value by using concrete objects. Students study patterns, sorting, counting, making math connections, and problem solving. Students create and use representations to organize, record, and communicate emerging math ideas.

SCIENCE

The first grade science curriculum uses simple investigations to develop the skills of asking questions and gathering information to explore the wonders of God's creation. Students also make measurements, construct explanations, and draw conclusions using non-standard units and tools to extend the five senses. First graders identify and investigate components of the natural world including rocks, soil, natural resources, heat, interdependence, and living versus non-living things.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The language arts curriculum continues to develop oral language and communication skills while moving 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' workshops 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.

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM



*“Children are a gift from the Lord.
They are a reward from Him.”
Psalm 127:3*

Westbury Christian's Elementary Program consists of grades 2, 3, and 4. Our Christian teachers are trained to teach from a holistic, Christ-centered curriculum that provides an enriched learning experience to enhance the child's age appropriate development. Our elementary program is designed to help your child think critically and apply their learning in cross-curricular ways. Our teachers will guide students in the transition from learning how to read into reading to learn and becoming more responsible and mature learners. Your child will develop life skills through enriching experiences with Bible, music, art, PE, and library and teacher-directed lessons that emphasize mastery and deep reflection. Technology is incorporated into the classroom and teachers use a variety of assessments and instructional strategies to support your student's needs. Our goal is to foster the individual growth of each child spiritually, socially, academically and physically.



2ND GRADE



BIBLE AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Bible study and prayer is a very important time for our second graders. The Bible is interwoven into all curriculum areas. Using *Deep Roots*, second graders focus on the New Testament, specifically the Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Students are encouraged to apply Biblical lessons to their own lives and spend time reviewing character traits such as obedience, respect and responsibility. Students participate in Lower School Chapel and House Meetings each week. They also join K-12th grade students in All School Chapel several times throughout the year. For more information on House Chapels, please visit page 13.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The second grade *Studies Weekly* curriculum focuses on branches of government, Native Americans up to the Revolutionary War and beginning of our nation, as well as basic economic principles. Students will begin to develop a patriotic appreciation as they see how God guides in the building of a country and studies various contributors to our nation's history. We believe history is "His story" and that history facts in the Bible are accurate and show how God is in control of events of world history.

MATHEMATICS

The *Texas Go Math* curriculum is used in all of our elementary classes. This mathematic curriculum provides students with sequenced math lessons while learning problem solving skills. The students memorize facts and learn to solve multi-step problems. Whole number addition and subtraction problems are solved first with concrete models and then with symbolic representation to achieve fluency. The curriculum is supplemented by charts, games, visuals and flashcards.

SCIENCE

The *Pearson Interactive Science* curriculum allows to students to plan and to conduct investigations to develop the skills for making measurements using non-standard and standard units. The goal is to stimulate the students' interest in science through a study of the wonders of God's creation and the components and processes of the natural world, including the water cycle and use of resources. Second graders observe melting, evaporating, weathering, and pushing and pulling of objects. Students also observe living and nonliving things, needs of plants and animals, functions of plants, and how living organisms depend on their environment.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The *Savvas MyView* curriculum combines a whole language and phonetic approach to teaching reading, writing, spelling and English skills. Reading familiar classic and contemporary works, second graders increase fluency and demonstrate understanding by producing a variety of projects. Students transition to reading longer texts with less picture support and complete several novel studies throughout the year, including *The Mouse and*

3RD GRADE



BIBLE AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Bible study and prayer is a very important time for our third graders. The Bible is interwoven into all curriculum areas. Using *Deep Roots*, third graders focus on the Old Testament, specifically God's promises to Israel. Students are encouraged to apply Biblical lessons to their own lives and spend time reviewing character traits such as kindness, patience and responsibility. Students participate in Lower School Chapel and House Meetings each week. They also join K-12th grade students in All School Chapel several times throughout the year. For more information on House Chapels, please visit page 13.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The third grade social studies curriculum is *Studies Weekly*, which focuses on American history, including explorers and inventors. They learn more about communities in addition to how business and marketing principles support our country. Third graders also discuss how to be good citizens in an ever-changing society.

MATHEMATICS

The third grade mathematics curriculum is *Texas Go Math*. The goal of third grade mathematics is to strengthen the foundation of addition, subtraction and multiplication problems so students are able to move on to solve more complex problems. Additional emphasis is placed on the connection of fractional models to symbols. Students use estimation and mathematical reasoning to solve real-world problems and are able to rationalize and communicate decisions effectively. Throughout the year, the students evaluate, adapt, and select appropriate strategies, vocabulary, and tools to solve problems.

SCIENCE

The third grade science curriculum is designed for students to see God's handiwork in His creation. Students plan and implement investigations to collect information using tools such as microscopes. Third graders also make inferences, communicate conclusions, and make informed decisions. Students identify the importance of components of the natural world including rocks, soil, water, atmospheric gases, and forces that change Earth. Students also explore magnetism, gravity, needs of organisms, habitats, and competition within an ecosystem.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The *Savvas MyView* curriculum focuses on the following areas: reading, grammar, writing skills, and vocabulary. Students will spend significant blocks of time reading and writing independently. Students practice and review vocabulary, listening skills, critical thinking skills and analyzing different types of literature. Students learn how to develop, improve, and edit their creative writing. Games, contests, and review exercises are used daily to create a fun approach to spelling. Dictionary skills, writing skills, and word usage skills are used each week to review concepts that are taught in grammar and reading. Students complete several novel studies including *Lemonade War*, *The One and Only Ivan* and *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer*.

4TH GRADE



BIBLE AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Bible study, prayer and scripture memorization are very important opportunities for our fourth graders. The Bible is interwoven into all curriculum areas. The fourth graders Bible curriculum has a focus on the New Testament, specifically the book of Acts and the history of the Early Church. Students are encouraged to apply Biblical lessons to their own lives and spend time reviewing character traits such as obedience, respect and responsibility. Students participate in Lower School Chapel and House Meetings each week. They also join K-12th grade students in All School Chapel several times throughout the year. For more information on House Chapels, please visit page 13.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The fourth graders use *Studies Weekly* curriculum to study important events, issues, and people of the state of Texas. Students examine Texas history from its early years to the present day 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 in Texas. At the end of the year, the fourth graders take a special field trip to Taste of Texas as a celebration of their studies in Texas History.

MATHEMATICS

The fourth grade mathematics curriculum is *Texas Go Math*. Fourth grade students learn to create and apply mathematical concepts in a more abstract manner. 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.

SCIENCE

Fourth grade students use *Interactive Science* by Pearson and other carefully selected materials as they identify components and processes of the natural world such as properties of soil, effects of oceans, and the role of the sun as our energy source. Physical properties of matter and the causes of change in the states of matter are also studied. Students observe the roles of living and non-living components and recognize the differences between learned characteristics and inherited traits. Students grow in their understanding of God as the Purposeful Creator of our world.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The 4th grade language arts curriculum is a combination of *Savvas My View* and frequent novel studies to instill a love of reading and an ability to think critically as students read. Through group and independent reading, students build their comprehension, grammar and vocabulary. By the end of the year, students will have read many novels together, including *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and *Number the Stars*. Students learn to write elaborate narrative essays, informational pieces, and poetry throughout the year.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES



To further enhance the development of the whole child, students participate in daily enrichment classes. These classes are taught by teachers who are specialized in the subject they are teaching. Students will experience the following classes:

- **Physical Education:** As part of this developmentally appropriate program, students participate in activities that improve both their fine and gross motor skills, teach the importance of being physically fit, as well as sportsmanship. They also learn how to interact with their peers through organized movement and exercise.
- **Music:** Musical games, fun songs, steady beat, and rhythm sticks are active parts of the WCS Music Program. Students will learn listening skills as they learn to accompany songs with simple instruments. Students will participate in a music performance at least once a year.
- **Art:** Students are allowed to create and experiment with materials in new ways in order to further explore their creativity.
- **Technology:** Students are introduced to the use of technology beginning with small tablets in preschool and moving to the use of Chromebooks in Kindergarten and beyond. Internet safety and appropriate use is carefully monitored and usage time is managed in a developmentally appropriate way.
- **Spanish:** Children are introduced to Spanish vocabulary in their class while participating in planned activities revolving around interactive games, songs, stories and dialogue practice.
- **Library:** Students have a weekly library visit during which the librarian shares books followed by table or shelf-browsing time where younger children have the opportunity to discover Bible stories, fairy tales, nursery rhymes and action stories, and older students discover book series, chapter books, and nonfiction texts they enjoy. Students also enjoy learning more about technology fluency during library time.



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES



Students also have opportunities to participate in enrichment activities. These activities reinforce concepts learned in our classrooms, encourage the well-rounded development of our students, and align with our three dimensional philosophy of education in academics, faith and student activities.

- **Community Service:** Lower School students have the opportunity to join with our older students in projects such as a Veterans Day program and collecting coins for Honduras/Haiti orphanages. They also fully participate in Project HUG (Hearts Understanding Goodness), a Lower School initiative to promote service to others.
- **Recess:** Gross motor activities, free play, and lots of time to socialize are crucial to a growing child's development. Children are taken outside daily, weather permitting, and provided with movement-oriented brain breaks throughout the day.
- **In-School Presentations:** Throughout the school year, special presentations, performances, and visitors enrich the students' school experience.
- **Field Trips:** For Kindergarten - 4th grade, age-appropriate field trips to locations such as children's theaters, 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.
- **After School Enrichment:** Westbury Christian School offers a rich assortment of after school activities. Past offerings have included ballet, gymnastics, karate, piano lessons, soccer, mini cheer and hands on science experiments. Extra fees are charged for these activities and are provided by approved vendors. For more information, please visit www.westburychristian.org/after-school-enrichment-activities/

HOUSE CHAPEL



"House Groups are one of my most favorite times of the week. I love seeing all of our students in Lower School forming connections and growing closer to Jesus."

Principal Amanda Archer

The Westbury Christian School House Groups are made up of all WCS Lower School students from Preschool to 4th grade. WCS has five House Groups that represent parts of the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). The current House Groups are House of Faithfulness, House of Joy, House of Peace, House of Gentleness, and House of Kindness. From the moment a student becomes a Wildcat, they are prayerfully assigned to a house, which will be their same house group for the duration of their time in WCS Lower School. Each house has designated House Leaders who are various faculty and staff around our campus. The House Leader will remain the same each year and serve as a mentor to each student.

House Groups meet twice a week for worship and discussion. Discussions are based on topics covered in chapel with applications to each student's life. House Chapel is a praise and worship time while sitting with their House Groups.

House Groups provide mentorship and discipleship opportunities for our older students in 2nd grade through 4th grade. Students will be paired with "buddies" in preschool through 1st grade. Our House Group buddy system allows the mentor student to teach about chapel expectations, lyrics and movement to worship songs, and answer any questions. This interaction blends over to different areas throughout the school day such as lunch and into the after school extended day program.



PROJECT HUG



A Lower School initiative to promote service for others as a way to share the love of Jesus

Project HUG is an organized initiative to build a tradition of service from our littlest Wildcats to our oldest Wildcats in Lower School through various community service projects. Each grade level is assigned a theme and a month. At the end of the month, the grade level will report on their service project in chapel.

These projects are subject to change. Here is an example of service projects our Lower School students have completed in the past.

October - 4th grade: MD Anderson

The 4th grade class listened to a presentation from an MD Anderson Care Coordinator and wrote cards/letters of encouragement to critically ill pediatric patients.

November - 1st grade: Administration/Admissions Celebration

The 1st grade class baked delicious treats and made cards for our administration and admissions team at Westbury Christian and local nonprofits.

December - 3rd grade: Houston Food Bank

The 3rd grade class organized a school-wide food drive. They also had a day of service at the Houston Food Bank to pack boxes of canned goods.

December/January - Kindergarten: Caroling

Our kindergarteners spread the joy of Christmas caroling around school. They led our school in carols.

February - PreK4: Random Acts of Kindness

The Pre-K4 class created cards and art work to give to local churches as Valentine's Day blessings.

March - PreK3: Making a Difference in our Community

Even our youngest Wildcats contributed to Project HUG and learned the trait of responsibility and stewardship by picking up trash around our campus.

April - 2nd Grade: YMCA Outreach

The 2nd grade class held a school wide book donation and had a field trip to read to preschool students at the YMCA daycare center.

MAP TESTING



Beginning in Kindergarten through 12th grade, students take the NWEA MAP Growth+ three times per year. The first test provides a baseline for your child's learning which allows our teachers to set goals and track progress throughout the year.

How it works

MAP Growth+ is a computer-adaptive test. If your child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. This type of assessment challenges top performers without overwhelming students whose skills are below grade level.

What it measures

MAP Growth+ uses a RIT scale to accurately measure what students know, regardless of their grade level. It also measures growth over time, allowing you to track your child's progress throughout the school year and across multiple years. Once your child completes a MAP Growth test, they receive a RIT score.

Common Questions

How do schools and teachers use MAP Growth scores?

Teachers can use the score to inform instruction, personalize learning, and monitor the growth of individual students. Principals and administrators can use the scores to see the performance and progress of a grade level and school.

Can MAP Growth tell me if my child is working at grade level?

Yes, but please note that MAP Growth scores are just one data point that teachers use to determine how a student is performing. You will be able to discuss any concerns with your teacher at parent teacher conferences or scheduled meetings.

Is MAP growth a standardized test?

MAP Growth is administered periodically during the school year. Instead of asking all students the same questions, it adjusts to each child's performance—giving a more accurate measure of what they know. Teachers also receive results right away, which enables them to adjust more quickly.

What types of questions are on the MAP Growth tests?

The MAP Growth tests include multiple choice, drag-and-drop, and other types of questions. For sample tests, visit [Warmup.NWEA.org](https://www.warmup.nwea.org).

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