



## **Curriculum Guide**

### **Pre-Grammar Stage (Kindergarten through Second Grade)**

### **Grammar Stage (Third through Sixth Grade)**

#### **Introduction**

Each piece of curriculum we use at New Covenant is carefully selected based on its own integrity, educational value and how well it fits with our classical educational philosophy. We believe in using time-tested, traditional, multi-sensory teaching methodologies that make learning fun and effective. We also believe in integrating our teaching as much as possible by selecting classic works of literature that enrich other components of our educational program, using history to teach geography, and focusing on writing assignments that are based on history, science or the Bible.

This guide has two sections:

1. An overview of the main pieces of our curriculum with a brief explanation of our reasoning in selecting each piece.
2. A grade-by-grade overview of the materials covered in each subject area.

## **Overview of Our Main Curriculum Pieces**

### ***Saxon Phonics and Spelling***

*Saxon Phonics and Spelling* integrates explicit, systematic phonics instruction with spelling and reading fluency and is used for kindergarten through second grade. *Saxon Phonics* is research-based, using an incremental approach to learning phonics and reading, building skill upon skill and incorporating generous amounts of review. The program is multi-sensory, using visual, auditory and kinesthetic techniques to reach every type of learner in the classroom. Saxon also incorporates recognition of high-frequency sight words to aid in reading fluency. Two sets of readers are included with Saxon (decodable readers and fluency readers). These are used along with our

already rich literature program. The decodable readers provide practice in phonetic decoding (sounding out words) while the fluency readers help build a child's reading fluency progressively.

### ***Words Are Wonderful***

*Words are Wonderful* is a vocabulary and reading comprehension program from Educators Publishing Service (EPS) based on research and state standards that affirm the importance of integrated and systematic word study. As a program that integrates vocabulary instruction with reading and language skills, *Words Are Wonderful* helps students understand and immediately apply new vocabulary words and reading comprehension skills. It is a four book series for grades three through six. As students discover the joy and power of words, they learn that words are made up of meaningful parts—roots, prefixes, and suffixes—and learn how to unlock the meaning of unfamiliar words. Latin root words are examined, encouraging integration between our Latin instruction and vocabulary.

*Words are Wonderful* includes ample oral-language practice and interactive activities and exercises to build vocabulary and vocabulary skills. The series also emphasizes using context clues and basic word elements to help students make connections among words and infer the meanings of unfamiliar words.

### ***Modern Curriculum Press - Spelling Workout***

We have chosen Modern Curriculum Press - Spelling Workout as our Spelling program for grades three through six. Based on a phonetic model, cross-curricular reading passages, high-interest writing activities, flexible lessons, and motivating activities help Spelling Workout students move from simple sound-letter relationships to more complex spelling patterns.

The 36 lessons in the Student Workbook each focus on a spelling rule, pattern, or origin. The course is organized around a test-study method. Students take a pretest, self-correct and rewrite words, study through the practice exercises, and take a final test. Student lessons include fun riddles and puzzles, and conclude with a wrap-up and review. Cumulative reviews of multiple chapters are also provided.

### ***Shurley Grammar***

The *Shurley Method* has been used to successfully teach students for nearly 30 years. Founded on the principles of retained learning, this effective way of teaching English has been developed by Brenda Shurley, Ruth Wetsell and Teddie Faye Raines. *Shurley* uses repetition and student-teacher interaction to help students learn difficult English concepts and skills.

*Shurley Grammar* is the end result of twenty years of using actual classroom situations combined with an understanding of the learning needs of students to develop this exciting grammar curriculum. A concrete set of questions about each word in a sentence is used to teach students how all the parts of a sentence fit together. Students always have a clear picture of how to write complete sentences. With *Shurley*, students are constantly exposed to "see it, hear it, say it, do it" activities that meet the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning styles of students. The teacher models each new concept in *Shurley Grammar* for the students. Then, the students actively participate with the teacher as the concepts are practiced. Repetition might be in the form of chant or song. The *Shurley Grammar* methodology fits beautifully with this "poll-parrot" stage of the trivium and is used in grades one through five here at NCCS.

## ***Applications of Grammar Book 1: Basics for Communicating Effectively***

In order to help our beginning logic stage students apply the skills they have learned in the grammar stage, we move from Shurley Grammar to a book that helps the students build upon their prior knowledge of grammar concepts and standards. They will have extensive practice in the eight parts of speech using phrases, clauses and sentences. Activities include diagramming and editing as they come to realize the importance of good grammatical structure.

### ***Classical Academic Press: Writing & Rhetoric***

We use the Writing & Rhetoric curriculum by Academic Press beginning in the third grade. This program uses the progymnasmata, an ancient method for teaching composition, with exercises to prepare students for rhetoric. Students are taught to enjoy and think about writing through the use of interesting stories and excellent literature. There is an emphasis on imitation, with plenty of room for student imagination.

With a rhetorical element, students use oral presentation and elocution as part of the writing process. They learn to hear what they have written in an effort to become their own editor with a target audience in mind.

### ***Saxon Math***

*Saxon Math* is unique because the entire program is based on introducing a topic to a student and then allowing the student to build upon that concept as they learn new ones (incremental approach). Topics are never dropped but are instead increased in complexity and practiced every day, providing the time required for concepts to become totally familiar.

This incremental approach to math differs from most traditional programs which are "chapter-based." In these traditional texts, students are presented with and expected to learn an entire mathematical concept in one day. The homework for that day consists of twenty or thirty problems, all of which deal with that concept. The topic is then only reviewed prior to a test, if at all. Saxon textbooks, however, divide concepts into smaller, more easily grasped increments. A new increment is presented each day and students work only a few problems involving the new material. The remaining homework consists of practice problems involving concepts previously introduced. Thus, every assignment (and every test) is a cumulative review of all material covered up to that point.

### ***Purposeful Design***

Our sixth graders use the *Purposeful Design – Intermediate Course A* published by ACSI for their study in mathematics. Algebra and geometry strands are developed in a sequential, thorough manner that builds on the concepts and skills presented in the grammar school years. Students are challenged with real-life connections in each of the following areas: concept understanding, skill development, mathematical thinking and strategies for problem solving.

### ***Veritas History***

The *Veritas History* curriculum is produced by Veritas Academy, a classical Christian school in Lancaster. It is one of the most respected history programs among classical schools and

homeschoolers. The *Veritas* program is centered around a set of 32 cards in each series, designed to be used at a pace of one card per week. Together, the cards teach history chronologically, integrating Biblically recorded history with historical events of surrounding kingdoms and nations not recorded in the Bible. As the children work through the cards, they memorize names, dates, places and events, giving them a tool for understanding how God has worked in history up to the present day. Since memorization is always easier with music, each set of cards has an accompanying history song that overviews the set of events and people. Used from second through sixth grades, this program gives our students a rich overview of the history of the world from a perspective that other programs too often ignore.

### ***Progeny Press Study Guides***

At most grade levels, we teach some of our literature using study guides produced by *Progeny Press*. *Progeny Press* offers rich Biblical integration in our literature program. Their study guides for literature provide teachers and students with questions and comparisons from the firm and timeless foundation of the Bible.

*Progeny Press* study guides include:

- vocabulary exercises
- comprehension, analysis and application questions
- introduction of literary terms
- background information
- discussion of related Biblical themes
- suggestions for activities related to the reading

### ***Latin for Children, Latin Alive!, Classical Latin Creatively Taught and Libellus de Historia by Classical Academic Press***

The *Latin for Children* Primers are engaging, incremental, creative and filled with clear grammatical explanations, illustrations, exercises, pre-quizzes and a sizable and useful reference section. Each text comes with a plethora of mnemonic aids (songs, chants) that enable students to learn vocabulary (over 240 of the most frequently occurring words) and grammar with ease and delight. The texts are graphically engaging, featuring a crisp, classical look professionally designed. These books are the collaborative effort of three Latin teachers, and are the fruit of six years of research and testing. We use *Primers A and B* for grades three and four and *Latin Alive!* for grades five and six. As a companion to the Latin Primers, we use *Libellus de Historia* which are a collections of Latin stories that parallel the *Veritas History* curriculum and are integrated with the grammar and vocabulary of the Latin Primers. Each level of reader contains glosses for new words in each chapter and a full glossary at the end of each book.

#### **Features:**

- Integrated with *Shurley Grammar*, clear explanations of grammar included in every chapter
- Latin stories integrated with *Veritas History* curricula
- 240 high-frequency Latin words in each text
- Workbook format, 32 chapters, 1 chapter per week (approximately)
- Pre-quizzes, games and puzzles

- Each chapter contains a practical list of derivatives

### **Science: *God's Design***

God's Design Science series is made up of six volumes with an in-depth study on three topics in each one. The series provides numerous experiment and activity ideas along with up-to-date information about new discoveries.

Titles for each of the courses and their three topics are:

- *Life for Beginners*: Plants for Beginners, The Human Body for Beginners, Animals for Beginners
- *Heaven & Earth for Beginners*: Planet Earth for Beginners, Weather and Water for Beginners, and Universe for Beginners
- *Life*: The World of Plants, The Human Body, The World of Animals
- *Heaven & Earth*: Our Weather and Water, Our Universe, Our Planet Earth
- *Chemistry and Ecology*: Properties of Ecosystems, Properties of Atoms and Molecules, Properties of Matter
- *Physical World*: Machines and Motion, Heat and Energy, Inventions and Technology

The books in this series all reflect a Christian worldview, including a young-earth view of creation. Contrasts are made between evolution and creationist views when pertinent to the topic, especially in the texts related to life science and earth science.

### **Bible: *The Story of God and His People* by Christian Schools International**

Christian Schools International's Bible curriculum presents the story of God and His people in chronological order and teaches the events in context so students understand more fully what it means to be part of God's family. The curriculum for kindergarten through second grade uses the Bible story told by the teacher as the central element. Multi-sensory follow-up activities encourage students to remember and retell the stories. The materials for third through sixth grade help students understand and imaginatively experience the context in which the Bible stories occurred. These grades focus on understanding Bible times, the books of the Bible, and the kinds of writing in the Bible.

#### ***The Young Peacemakers***

"God delights to breathe His grace through peacemakers and use them to dissipate anger, improve understanding, promote justice, and encourage repentance through reconciliation." This Biblical guide to resolving personal conflict gives the children skills that might otherwise take years to learn. The program teaches through role-playing, great discussions and drama.

### ***Handwriting***

NCCS uses the time-tested Zaner-Bloser method for handwriting instruction in cursive and the Palmer method for manuscript. Cursive handwriting is introduced in second grade, but consistent instruction (a critical component of literacy development) continues throughout the grammar school years.

## **Music**

Our Grammar School students receive music instruction once per week as a class, and an additional session of choral instruction once per week in groups of classes. Our music program follows the Kodály method, which adheres to several principles:

- *learning by singing*, emphasizing the human voice as the fundamental instrument and musical literacy as gained through sung solfège,
- *hand signs* as developed by John Curwen,
- *rhythmic proficiency* through sight-reading of rhythmic patterns,
- *student collaboration* through exercises such rhythmic clapping, choral singing, and instrumental accompaniment, and
- *cultural connections* with an emphasis on folk music in a student's mother tongue.

These practices in Kindergarten through Sixth grade build in our students the ability to sight read music, which prepares them for more challenging choral instruction and group singing in the Upper School.

## **Grade-by-Grade Overview**

### **Pre-Grammar Stage (Kindergarten through Second Grade)**

#### **Kindergarten**

**Phonics:** *Saxon Phonics and Spelling K*. The primary goal of *Saxon Phonics and Spelling K* is for all kindergartners to be able to recognize and know the primary sounds of all the letters of the alphabet. Although this is the primary goal, it is very common for children to inquire about learning to read once they begin to learn a few letter names and sounds. For this reason, this program includes reading instruction. Student “readers” include controlled vocabulary based on introduced letter sounds.

#### **Reading/Literature**

##### **A. Read Aloud Books**

*A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle  
*The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats  
*What Does the Fox Say?* by Ylvis  
*The Mitten* by Jan Brett  
*The Empty Pot* by Demi  
*The Family Christmas Tree Book* by Tomie de Paola  
*Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett  
*Slowly, Slowly, Slowly said the Sloth* by Eric Carle  
*My Five Senses* by Alike  
*Hattie and the Fox* by Mem Fox  
*Rosie's Walk* by Pat Hutchins  
*The Bear Who Didn't Like Honey* by Barbara Maitland  
*Animals in Winter* by Henrietta Bancroft  
*Froggy Plays Soccer* by Jonathan London

*Tiny's Big Wish* by Gill Davies  
*Market Day* by Eve Bunting

**B. Independent "Readers"**

*An Ant Nap*  
*The Hill*  
*Tim's Lost Fan*  
*The Milk Spills*  
*Bugs on the Run*  
*Cat Masks*  
*Can You Yip?*  
*Dan's Van*

*Max and Fox Fix a Box*  
*The Not Big Quilt*  
*Trucks, Trucks, Trucks*  
*The Bath*  
*Here at the Zoo*  
*Farm Pets*  
*The Big Fish*

**Math:** *Saxon 1*, Lessons 1-100. Using this curriculum, Kindergarteners will:

- ✓ skip count by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's
- ✓ compare and order numbers
- ✓ identify place value to 100
- ✓ identify ordinal position to tenth
- ✓ identify a sorting rule
- ✓ identify and extend patterns
- ✓ solve routine and non-routine problems
- ✓ master all basic addition facts and most of the basic subtraction facts
- ✓ add and subtract two-digit numbers without regrouping
- ✓ use comparison symbols
- ✓ picture and name fractions
- ✓ identify a fractional part of a set
- ✓ measure using inches, feet and centimeters
- ✓ compare volume, mass and area
- ✓ tell time to the half hour
- ✓ order events by time
- ✓ count pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters
- ✓ identify and draw polygons
- ✓ identify geometric solids
- ✓ tally
- ✓ identify events as certain, likely or impossible
- ✓ create, read and write observations from real graphs, pictographs and bar graphs

**Bible:** *God's Wonders*. Students are introduced to the remarkable works of God on behalf of His chosen people. Texts used include Susan Hunt's *Hiding God's Word in Little Hearts*, *Kid's Devotional Bible* and *Beginning with God* (a study of God, the Bible and the Trinity by Nancy Gorrell).

**Science:** Our science curriculum comes from Elemental Science, publishers committed to classical science curriculum for young people. Kindergarteners study plants and animals throughout the year from an exploration perspective. Science experiments are a big part of this process, and students are encouraged to learn in a hands-on environment.

**History:** Kindergarteners study the history of man from creation through the establishment of the church, the founding of our nation and America today. The text of the Bible and Susan Wise Bauer's *The Story of the World: Volume 1* serve as the backbone of this study, but *Story of the World* is used by the teacher in a descriptive manner only. History instruction serves as an introduction to the curriculum used in later grades.

**Art:** Kindergarten artists begin the year studying Henri Matisse, a French artist that used lots of bright colors and patterns. We explore shapes with Eric Carle and lines with Cy Twombly. For Christmas we use our art to celebrate the birth of Jesus and at Easter we make art about His resurrection.

**P.E.:** Kindergarten students receive instruction in physical education once per week. Our physical education program emphasizes glorifying God with your body, demonstrating good character and team sportsmanship and doing your best in all things. The kindergarten physical education program focuses on introducing and developing gross motor skills such as throwing, catching, and kicking a ball, skipping, and balancing. Jump ropes, a parachute, and handkerchiefs are utilized to practice skills related to balance, changing speeds, and moving to a rhythm. Team sports are introduced using skill games. Students will begin to develop their knowledge of warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities. They will also be introduced to very simple strength and endurance building activities.

### **First Grade**

**Phonics:** *Saxon Phonics and Spelling 1*. *Saxon Phonics and Spelling 1* is a success-oriented program that enables most children to develop a solid foundation in phonics and thus become successful readers and spellers. The goal of the program is for all first graders to be able to read not only assigned materials but anything else they might choose to read once they experience the pleasure of success in reading.

#### **Reading/Literature:**

- A. **Read-Aloud Books:** Beginning in September, these “first favorites” are enjoyed by the students as their teacher reads them aloud. A variety of skill sheets are used to develop comprehension ability.

*The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper  
*Curious George* by H. A. Rey  
*Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina  
*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Joffe Numeroff  
*Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey  
*Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans  
*Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown

B. **Read-Aloud Chapter Books**

*“C” is for Cupcake* by Carolyn Haywood  
*Winnie the Pooh* by A. A. Milne  
*Henry Huggins* by Beverly Cleary  
*Mr. Popper’s Penguins* by Richard and Florence Atwater  
*The Moffats* by Eleanor Estes  
*The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes  
*Caddie Woodlawn* by Carol Ryrie Brink

- C. **Student Reading:** These classic children’s books are read by our first graders beginning in October.

*Frog and Toad Together* by Arnold Lobel  
*Grasshopper on the Road* by Arnold Lobel  
*Owl at Home* by Arnold Lobel  
*Mouse Soup* by Arnold Lobel  
*Amelia Bedelia* by Peggy Parish  
*Nate the Great and the Lost List* by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat



*Abe Lincoln's Hat* by Martha Brenner  
*Clara and the Book Wagon* by Nancy Smiler Levinson  
*The Drinking Gourd* by F. N. Monjo  
*Henry and Mudge and the Forever Sea* by Cynthia Rylant  
*Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie* by Peter and Connie Roop  
*The Bears on Hemlock Mountain* by Alice Dalgliesh  
*Miss Rumphius* by Barbary Cooney

**Grammar:** *Shurley Grammar 1*  
Evan Moor, *Language Fundamentals 1*

**Math:** *Saxon 2*. Using this curriculum, first graders will:

- ✓ skip count by 1's, 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's, 10's, 25's and 100's
- ✓ compare and order numbers
- ✓ identify ordinal position to tenth
- ✓ identify sorting and patterning rules
- ✓ solve routine and non-routine problems
- ✓ master all basic addition and subtraction facts
- ✓ identify commutative and associative properties of addition
- ✓ identify place value in a three-digit number
- ✓ master multiplication facts to 5
- ✓ add and subtract two-digit numbers
- ✓ picture and name fractions
- ✓ measure to the nearest half inch, centimeter and foot
- ✓ compare volume
- ✓ compare and measure mass
- ✓ measure perimeter and area
- ✓ tell time to five-minute intervals
- ✓ count pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters
- ✓ show change from \$1.00
- ✓ multiply by 0
- ✓ identify geometric solids
- ✓ identify lines of symmetry
- ✓ identify angles
- ✓ tally
- ✓ create, read, and write observations from real graphs, pictographs, bar graphs, Venn diagrams and line graphs

**Bible:** *God's Plan*. Students learn that God has a purpose for His people, which continues throughout history. The emphasis is on Old Testament times.

**Science:** *God's Design for Beginners*

First Quarter: Weather and Water  
Second Quarter: Ocean and Sea Floor  
Third Quarter: Space  
Fourth Quarter: Insects, Land animals (mammals/reptiles)

**History:** *Harford County and Maryland*. Students learn about our county and our state. They will learn the geography, history and symbols of Maryland.

**Geography:** Children will begin to learn basic geography skills, including how to read a map and how to recognize major land features.

**Art:** First grade artists learn about pointillism with George Seurat. For Christmas we explore Lewis Comfort Tiffany's stained glass windows. In the winter we make abstract and realistic trees like Piet

Mondrian. We make imaginary surrealist animals like Salvador Dali. Throughout the year, students work diligently at home drawing in their sketchbooks and present their work to their class quarterly.

**P.E.:** First grade students receive specialized physical education once per week. They also have two, 15-minute recess periods per day for additional physical activity. Our P.E. program teaches children how to glorify God with their bodies by working hard, playing fair and demonstrating Christian character. Students learn basic rules and skills for a variety of sports including soccer, basketball, softball, and track and field. Games are utilized to introduce the skills of each sport. Students are expected to learn basic rules of the sports. Gross motor skills such as balancing, hopping, and jumping are also developed. Equipment such as soccer balls, basketballs, and jump ropes are utilized in developing skills such as jumping, kicking, and throwing. Students will begin to develop their knowledge of warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities. They will also be introduced to very simple strength and endurance building activities.

## Second Grade

**Phonics:** *Saxon Phonics and Spelling 2*. *Saxon Phonics and Spelling 2* begins with a review of basic vowels and consonants, and then builds on the reading and spelling rules introduced in *Saxon Phonics and Spelling 1*. Extended instruction in prefixes, suffixes, and syllable division patterns enables children to decode and understand text that they choose to read on their own.

### Reading/Literature

#### A. Read-Aloud Books

*Ginger Pye* by Eleanor Estes  
*Baby Island* by Carol Ryrie Brink  
*A Toad for Tuesday* by Russell Erickson  
*Pinocchio* by Carlos Collodi  
*My Father's Dragon* by Ruth Stiles Gannett

#### B. Student Reading

*Blaze and the Lost Quarry* by C. W. Anderson  
*Mr. Putter and Tabby Pour the Tea* by Cynthia Rylant  
*The Boxcar Children* by Gertrude Chandler Warner  
*A Chair for My Mother* by Vera B. Williams  
*The Courage of Sarah Noble* by Alice Dalgliesh  
*Betsy and the Boys* by Carolyn Haywood  
*The Cabin Faced West* by Jean Fritz  
*Childhood of Famous Americans: Meet George Washington*  
by Joan Heilbroner  
*Velveteen Rabbit* by Marjorie Williams  
*Who was King Tut?* By Roberta Edwards

Through studying these great works of children's literature, students will learn about basic literature concepts like the main idea (theme), plot, cause and effect, setting and characters. They will also learn to relate literature to their own personal experiences and to make predictions about stories and characters and learn the basic parts of a book.

**Grammar:** *Shurley Grammar 2, Evan Moor, Steck-Vaughn (English for the Thoughtful Child)*

**Math:** *Saxon 3*. Using this curriculum, second graders will:

- ✓ skip count by whole numbers
- ✓ compare and order numbers
- ✓ identify place value
- ✓ identify ordinal position to twentieth
- ✓ identify and complete patterns
- ✓ master all basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts
- ✓ add/subtract multi-digit numbers
- ✓ multiply a multi-digit number by a single-digit number
- ✓ divide by single-digit divisors
- ✓ picture, name and order fractions
- ✓ add and subtract fractions with common denominators
- ✓ measure to the nearest quarter inch, millimeter, foot and yard
- ✓ identify the volume of standard containers
- ✓ compare and measure mass
- ✓ measure perimeter and area
- ✓ tell time to the minute
- ✓ determine elapsed time
- ✓ count money
- ✓ make change for a dollar
- ✓ identify angles
- ✓ identify lines of symmetry
- ✓ identify function rules
- ✓ graph ordered pairs on a coordinate graph
- ✓ tally
- ✓ write addition, subtraction, multiplication and division fact families
- ✓ write story problems for addition/subtraction number sentences
- ✓ create, read and write observations from real graphs, pictographs, bar graphs, Venn diagrams and line graph

**Bible:** *God's Promises*. Students review creation to the exile from Jerusalem. Jesus' life and teachings are studied including the parables and Lord's Prayer. A unit on Christian living is taught based on the Book of James.

**Science:** *God's Design for Beginners*

First Quarter: Geography

Second Quarter: Healthy Living and the Human Body

Third Quarter: States of Matter and the Water Cycle

Fourth Quarter: Rocks and Minerals

**History:** *Veritas History Cards, Set 1* - Creation through Ancient Egypt. Additional, supplemental materials are also used.

**Geography:** Students will continue learning basic geography skills, map reading and basic geographical features as they learn the geography of Ancient Egypt.

**Art:** Second grade artists learn about form and bright colors with Wayne Thiebaud. At Christmas we use our art to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We use watercolors to make abstract animal landscapes like Franz Marc. We explore collage with Romare Bearden to make self-portraits. Throughout the year, students work diligently at home drawing in their sketchbooks and present their work to their class quarterly.

**P.E.:** Second grade students receive specialized physical education once per week. They also have two, 15-minute recess periods per day for additional physical activity. Our P.E. program teaches children how to glorify God with their bodies by working hard, playing fair, and demonstrating Christian character. Students learn basic rules and skills for a variety of sports, including soccer, basketball, softball, and track and field. Games are utilized to introduce the skills of each sport. Students are expected to learn basic rules of the sports. Gross motor skills such as balancing,

hopping, and jump are also developed. Equipment such as soccer balls, basketballs, and jumping ropes are utilized in developing skills such as jumping, kicking, and throwing. Students will develop their knowledge of warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities. They will also be introduced to simple strength and endurance building activities.

## **Grammar Stage (Third through Sixth Grades)**

### Third Grade

#### **Reading/Literature**

##### **A. Read-Aloud Books**

*Black Ships Before Troy and Wanderings of Odysseus*  
by Rosemary Sutcliff (stories of the Iliad and Odyssey)  
*Detectives in Togas* by Henry Winterfield  
*D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths* by Ingrid D'Aulaire  
*Little Pilgrim's Progress* by Helen Taylor  
*Trumpet of the Swan* by E.B. White

##### **B. Student Reading**

*Helen Keller and Louis Braille* by Margaret Davidson  
*Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White  
*Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson  
*Robert Fulton, Boy Craftsman* by Marguerite Henry  
*Squanto, Friend of the Pilgrims*, by Clyde Robert Bulla  
*Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingles Wilder  
*The Trojan War*, by Emily Little  
*Pompeii, Buried Alive* by Edith Kunhardt

Through studying these great works of children's literature, students will sharpen their comprehension skills by:

- ◆ recognizing the author's purpose
- ◆ identifying the speaker or narrator (first and third person)
- ◆ recognizing cause and effect
- ◆ comparing and contrasting
- ◆ drawing conclusions
- ◆ making and explaining inferences
- ◆ identifying problems characters face in stories and how they solve them
- ◆ distinguishing fact from opinion
- ◆ identifying the sequence of steps in a process
- ◆ identifying the main idea and supporting elements
- ◆ recognizing a story's main features (character, setting, plot and theme)
- ◆ identifying genres: fiction, non-fiction, biography, historical fiction, fable, fairy tale, tall tale, poetry and fantasy
- ◆ understanding figures of speech: metaphor, simile, hyperbole, alliteration and idiom

**Written Composition:** Classical Academic Press' *Writing and Rhetoric* Book 1: Fable

**Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension:** *Words Are Wonderful, Book 1* introduces students to dictionary guide words and entries, homophones, compound words, words with multiple meanings, alliteration, synonyms and antonyms, prefixes, roots, suffixes, contractions, possessives, analogies, idioms, and inflectional verb endings. The selections are drawn from science, social studies (historical report and biography), stories (myth, fairy tale, folktale, and fable), and poetry, and include a first-person report, a sports report, a book report, and a journal entry.

**Grammar:** *Shurley Grammar 3*

**Spelling:** The third grade students use *Modern Curriculum Press - Spelling Workout Level C* which covers consonants, short-vowel sounds, long-vowel sounds, prefixes, y as a vowel, contractions, homonyms, and more.

**Math:** *Saxon 4*. Using this curriculum, third graders will become proficient in the following areas:

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ✓ whole-number concepts and computation | ✓ statistics                |
| ✓ estimation                            | ✓ probability               |
| ✓ patterns and sequences                | ✓ surveys                   |
| ✓ fractions, decimals and mixed numbers | ✓ perimeter and area        |
| ✓ negative numbers                      | ✓ polygons                  |
| ✓ properties of operations              | ✓ angles                    |
| ✓ measurement                           | ✓ congruence and similarity |
| ✓ percent                               | ✓ geometric solids          |
| ✓ square roots                          | ✓ symmetry                  |

**Bible:** *The Record of God's Nation*. Students learn about the Bible as a book. The lessons concentrate on the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, focusing on the kings and prophets of Israel and Judah through the rebuilding of Jerusalem.

**Science:** *God's Design* with topics including Animals, Heat and Energy, and the Universe

**History:** *Veritas History Cards, Set 2. - Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome and New Testament. Minoan Civilization (220 BC) to the fall of the Western Roman Empire (476 AD)*. Additional, supplemental materials are also used.

**Latin:** *Latin for Children, Primer A and Libellus de Historia, Latin History Reader A*

**Art:** Third grade artists are exploring gesture lines and abstract painting while learning about Juan Miro. At Christmas we use our art to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We learn about the importance of shape and detail while using colored pencil techniques to draw realistic leaves. Throughout the year, students work diligently at home drawing in their sketchbooks and present their work to their class quarterly.

**P.E.:** Third grade students receive specialized physical education once per week. They also have two, 15-minute recess periods per day for additional physical activity. Our P.E. program teaches children how to glorify God with their bodies by working hard, playing fair and demonstrating Christian character. Students learn basic rules and skills for a variety of sports including soccer, basketball, softball, and track and field. Games are utilized to introduce the skills of each sport. Students are

expected to learn basic rules of the sports. Gross motor skills such as balancing, hopping, and jumping are also developed. Students use soccer balls, basketballs, bats, etc., to develop and reinforce such skills as kicking, catching, dribbling, striking a ball with a bat, and shooting a basketball. Students will further develop their knowledge of warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities.

## Fourth Grade

### **Reading/Literature**

*The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo

*The BFG* by Roald Dahl

*From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg

*The Door in the Wall* by Marguerite deAngeli

*Redwall* by Brian Jacques

*King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table* by Roger Lancelyn Green

Through studying these great works of children's literature, students will sharpen their comprehension skills by:

- ◆ Asking questions and supporting answers using information found in the text
- ◆ Recalling major points in the story, and making and modifying predictions
- ◆ Describing characters using examples from the text
- ◆ Recognizing the author's purpose
- ◆ Recognizing cause and effect
- ◆ Comparing and contrasting
- ◆ Drawing conclusions using evidence from the text
- ◆ Making and explaining inferences using evidence from the text
- ◆ Identifying problems characters face in stories and how they solve them
- ◆ Distinguishing fact from opinion
- ◆ Identifying the sequence of steps in a process
- ◆ Identifying the main idea and supporting elements
- ◆ Recognizing a story's main features (character, setting, plot and theme)

**Written Composition:** Classical Academic Press' *Writing and Rhetoric* Book 2: Narrative, Part 1

**Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension:** *Words Are Wonderful, Book 2* builds students' vocabulary skills through independent and collaborative exercises and activities on dictionary entries, context clues, portmanteaux, homophones, compound and hyphenated compound words, similes and metaphors, idioms, words with multiple meanings, synonyms and antonyms, prefixes, roots, suffixes, and analogies. The selections are drawn from science, social studies (historical report and biography), geography, stories (myth and fable), and poetry.

**Spelling:** The fourth grade students use *Modern Curriculum Press - Spelling Workout Level E*. This workbook covers consonants, plural possessives, compound words, prefixes, synonyms, antonyms, contractions, homonyms and more.

**Grammar:** *Shurley Grammar 4*

**Math:** *Saxon 6/5*. Using this curriculum, fourth graders will become proficient in the following areas:

- ✓ whole-number concepts and computation
- ✓ estimation
- ✓ patterns and sequences
- ✓ fractions, decimals and mixed numbers
- ✓ percent
- ✓ word-problems
- ✓ properties of operations
- ✓ integers
- ✓ divisibility concepts
- ✓ prime and composite numbers
- ✓ ratios
- ✓ square roots
- ✓ scale drawings
- ✓ measurement and unit conversion
- ✓ statistics
- ✓ probability
- ✓ data display and analysis
- ✓ perimeter and area
- ✓ volume
- ✓ symmetry
- ✓ tessellations
- ✓ transformations
- ✓ real-world connections

**Bible:** An investigation of the first 40 questions of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, paired with the book *Small Talks on Big Questions* by Selah Helms and Susan Thompson.

**Peacemakers:** Our fourth grade students undertake a two-quarter course where they learn the 12 key principles for young peacemakers. They are led through role-playing experiences, discussion, and dramatic presentations as they learn how to resolve conflict, to make wise choices and to communicate clearly in all situations.

**Science:** *God's Design* with topics including Planet Earth, Weather and Water, and Matter.

**History:** *Veritas History Cards, Set 3. Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation*. Additional, supplemental materials are also used.

**Latin:** *Latin for Children, Primer B and Libellus de Historia, Latin History Reader B*

**Art:** Fourth grade artists learn about Paul Cezanne while painting fruit still-lives. For Christmas we study Lorenzo Ghiberti to tell story of the birth of Jesus. We make onomatopoeia pop art like Roy Lichtenstein. Throughout the year, students work diligently at home drawing in their sketchbooks and present their work to their class quarterly.

**P.E.:** Fourth grade students receive specialized physical education once per week. They also have two, 15-minute recess periods per day for additional physical activity. Our P.E. program teaches children how to glorify God with their bodies by working hard, playing fair and demonstrating Christian character. Students learn basic rules and skills for a variety of sports, including soccer, basketball, softball, and track and field. Games are utilized to introduce the skills of each sport. Students are expected to learn basic rules of the sports and they will progress to playing the game using major rules. Students use soccer balls, basketballs, bats, etc. to develop and reinforce such skills as kicking, catching, dribbling, striking a ball with a bat, and shooting a basketball. Students will further develop their knowledge of warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities. They will also be introduced to simple strength and endurance-building activities.

## Fifth Grade

### Reading/Literature

*Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus?* by Jean Fritz

*Voyage to Freedom* by David Gay

*The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare

*Phantom Toll Booth* by Norton Juster

*Blood on the River* by Eliza Carbone

*Carry on, Mr. Bowditch* by Jean Lee Lathan

*Johnny Tremain* by Esther Hoskins Forbes

*Seaman: The Dog who Explored the West with Lewis & Clark* by Gail Langer Karwoski

Through studying these great works of literature, students will sharpen their comprehension skills by:

- ◆ Asking questions and supporting answers using information found in the text
- ◆ Recalling major points in the story and making and modifying predictions
- ◆ Making inferences and drawing conclusions about characters using the text
- ◆ Identifying the main problem or conflict of the plot and how it is resolved
- ◆ Identifying the main idea and supporting details in a paragraph or selection
- ◆ Drawing conclusions using evidence from the text
- ◆ Making and explaining inferences using evidence from the text
- ◆ Identifying problems characters face in stories and how they solve them
- ◆ Distinguishing fact from opinion
- ◆ Identifying the sequence of steps in a process
- ◆ Identifying the main idea and supporting elements
- ◆ Recognizing a story's main features (character, setting, plot and theme)

**Written Composition:** Classical Academic Press' *Writing and Rhetoric* Book 3: Narrative, Part 2

**Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension:** *Words Are Wonderful, Book 3* builds students' vocabulary skills through independent and collaborative exercises and activities on dictionary entries, word origins, context clues, similes and metaphors, idioms, compound words, onomatopoeia, alliteration, words with multiple meanings, synonyms and antonyms, prefixes, roots, suffixes, analogies, and footnotes. The selections are drawn from science (microscopes and microorganisms, protozoa, the blue whale, Venus flytrap plants); historical reports on ancient Greece and the Great Wall of China; biographies of Langston Hughes, Mildred Benson, Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, and Clara Barton; geography (Australia and the Great Barrier Reef; stories (folktale and legend); and poetry.

**Spelling:** The fifth grade students use *Modern Curriculum Press - Spelling Workout Level E*. This workbook covers vowel pairs, possessives, compound words, prefixes, syllables, suffixes, irregular plurals and more.

**Grammar:** *Shurley Grammar 5*

**Math:** *Saxon 7/6*. Using this curriculum, fifth graders will become proficient in the following areas:

- ✓ simplifying expressions containing parentheses
- ✓ operations with signed numbers
- ✓ graphing functions
- ✓ powers and roots
- ✓ ratios and proportions
- ✓ percents



- ✓ fractions, decimals and mixed numbers
- ✓ divisibility concepts
- ✓ prime factorization
- ✓ estimation
- ✓ real-world connections
- ✓ functions
- ✓ unit multipliers
- ✓ statistics and probability

- ✓ frequency tables
- ✓ data collection, display and analysis
- ✓ formulas
- ✓ geometric constructions
- ✓ scale factor
- ✓ capacity and volume
- ✓ complementary and supplementary angles

**Bible:** *Witnesses to the Gospel*. Students learn to understand the various writings in the Bible. The lessons examine Old Testament writings, the Gospels, the book of Acts and New Testament letters.

**Science:** *God's Design* with topics including Atoms and Molecules, the Human Body, and Plants

**History:** *Veritas History Cards, Set 4—Age of Exploration and American History to 1820*. Additional, supplemental materials are also used.

**Geography:** Students study world geography and will begin to learn American geography, integrated with their history curriculum.

**Latin:** *Latin Alive! (part I) and Libellus de Historia, Latin History Reader C*. *Latin Alive!* is published by Classical Academic Press and is the perfect follow-up to the Latin Primers. The workbook format helps even students who are new to the study of Latin learn through the use of classical methodology. The *Latin Alive!* series features a unique blend of grammatical training with the translation of original Latin stories.

*Libellus de Historia, Latin History Reader C* is a series of translations that complement the Information that the students are learning in history.

**Art:** Fifth grade artists begin the year painting pumpkin still-lives like Jamie Wyeth. At Christmas we make triptychs like Fra Angelico to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Students learn how to draw self-portraits while studying the art of John Singleton Copley. Throughout the year, students work diligently at home drawing in their sketchbooks and present their work to their class quarterly.

**P.E.:** Fifth grade students receive specialized physical education once per week. They also have two, 15-minute recess periods per day for additional physical activity. Our P.E. program teaches children how to glorify God with their bodies by working hard, playing fair, and demonstrating Christian character. Students learn basic rules and skills for a variety of sports including soccer, basketball, softball, and track and field. Sometimes games are utilized to introduce the skills of each sport but games will not always be used to practice skills; students will be expected to work at developing a skill. Students are expected to learn basic rules of the sports and they will progress to playing the game using major rules and some minor rules. Students use soccer balls, basketballs, bats, etc. to develop and reinforce such skills as kicking, catching, dribbling, striking a ball with a bat, and shooting a basketball. Students will further develop their knowledge of warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities. They will also be introduced to simple strength and endurance-building activities.

Some students in fifth grade will be able to try out to play on NCCS middle school sports teams such as basketball, soccer, and volleyball.

## Sixth Grade

### Reading/Literature

*Amos Fortune, Free Man* by Elizabeth Yates  
*By the Great Horn Spoon* by Sid Fleischman  
*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens  
*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis  
*The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien  
*Call of the Wild* by Jack London  
*Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* by Rodman Philbrook  
*Rifles for Watie* by Keith Rawlings  
*Corrie ten Boom: Keeper of the Angels' Den* by Janet and Geoff Benge  
*The Willoughbys* by Lois Lowry

Through studying these great works of literature, students will enhance their literary analysis and appreciation by:

- ◆ Identifying defining characteristics of the various literary genres
- ◆ Understanding the elements of plot development
- ◆ Identifying cause and effect relationships
- ◆ Identifying conflict and resolution
- ◆ Recognizing stereotypes and prejudice
- ◆ Describing characters based on their speech, actions and interactions with others
- ◆ Identifying the effects of setting and culture on literature
- ◆ Comparing and contrasting works from different time periods
- ◆ Interpreting symbolism
- ◆ Understanding the use of language to convey mood
- ◆ Recognizing and analyzing the use of irony
- ◆ Identifying and interpreting specific literary techniques

**Written Composition:** Classical Academic Press' *Writing and Rhetoric* Book 4: Chreia and Proverb

**Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension:** *Words Are Wonderful, Book 4* builds students' vocabulary skills through independent and collaborative exercises and activities on dictionary and glossary use, word origins, words from Spanish and French, context clues, homophones, idioms, compound words, shades of meaning, words with multiple meanings, formal and informal use of language, word connotations and denotations, literal and figurative meanings, synonyms and antonyms, prefixes, roots, suffixes, analogies, and footnotes. The selections are drawn from science and technology (dolphins, ice crystals and microphotography, pearls and oysters, and wireless communication); biographies (Nobel Prize winner Norman Borlaug, Mahatma Gandhi, elephant researcher Cynthia Moss, and Morris Frank, a leader of the seeing-eye dog movement); geography (Iceland and the American Southwest); history (the first trip through the Panama Canal, the Alaskan oil spill), and a West African trickster tale.

**Spelling:** The sixth grade students use *Modern Curriculum Press - Spelling Workout Level F*. This workbook covers silent consonants, words with diphthongs ou and ow, prefixes, syllables, suffixes, plurals, abbreviations, and more.

**Grammar:** *Applications of Grammar Book 1: Basics for Communicating Effectively*. This series is designed to develop students' skills in using the rules of grammar to communicate effectively for the

glory of God. Students will come to understand that the distinctions between words, their relation to each other in a sentence, and the rules that govern language are the basic building blocks of writing well.

**Math:** *Purposeful Design - Intermediate Course A*. The guiding principle in this course is the belief that young people can and should understand the mathematics they are learning. Students need to see math as a thinking activity that they can master and to recognize the connection between the math they are learning in school and the math they encounter in everyday life. The text takes real-world problems and allows them to grapple with concrete examples and then see the abstract principles of mathematics that they are using.

**Bible:** *Light to the Gentiles*. Beginning with a survey of the Old Testament which leads to a focus on the geography, government and lifestyle at the time of Christ's ministry, the students closely examine the life of Christ, the writing of the four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the missionary journeys of Paul, and the Revelation to John.

**Science:** *God's Design* with topics including Ecosystems, Inventions and Technology

**History:** *Veritas History Cards, Set 5 - American History, 1815 to the Present*. Additional, supplemental materials are also used.

**Geography:** Students will continue learning American geography integrated with their history curriculum. They are expected to know the names and locations of all 50 states with their state capitals and to recognize major features of the geography of America.

**Latin:** *Latin Alive! (Part II)*. This book by Classical Academic Press is the perfect follow-up to the Latin Primers and provides robust Latin instruction as well as training in Roman culture, myths and history.

**Art:** Sixth grade artists explore form with still-lives by Janet Fish. For Christmas we create angels inspired by Michelangelo to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We explore perspective drawing with Frank Lloyd Wright. Throughout the year, students work diligently at home drawing in their sketchbooks and present their work to their class quarterly.

**P.E.:** Sixth grade students receive specialized physical education once per week. They also enjoy a daily recess period for additional physical activity. Our P.E. program teaches children how to glorify God with their bodies by working hard, playing fair and demonstrating Christian character. Students learn basic rules and skills for a variety of sports including soccer, basketball, softball, and track and field. Students are expected to learn basic rules of the sports and they will progress to playing the game using major rules and some minor rules. Students use soccer balls, basketballs, bats, etc. to develop and reinforce such skills as kicking, catching, dribbling, striking a ball with a bat, and shooting a basketball. Sometimes games are utilized to introduce the skills of each sport but games will not always be used to practice skills; students will be expected to work at developing a skill. Students will further develop their knowledge of warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities. They will also be introduced to simple strength and endurance building activities. Students in sixth grade will be able to tryout to play on NCCS middle school sports teams such as basketball and soccer.