

3 Third Grade



curriculum overview

Curriculum and Instruction

Curriculum can be described as "what we teach." While a textbook may be used as a tool in this process, it is not the only resource or method used in instruction. Instruction can be described as "how we teach," and the distinctive in Christian education is that all subjects are taught from a biblical worldview. This curriculum overview gives a summary of the basic content covered for the year. It also addresses some commonly asked questions: What is taught in this grade? What curriculum is used? What experiences will my child have in this grade? What can I expect my child to know by year's end?

The teachers and staff at Tree of Life Christian Schools are committed to offering a balanced instructional program and establishing a positive learning environment for students. Teachers bring a unique perspective to a particular grade through their own personal experiences, additional materials and resources, hands-on activities, field trips, and guest speakers.

Together, these opportunities allow each student to best learn the required content.

Core subjects

o Mathematics

Students acquire knowledge and skills and develop an understanding of mathematics from their own experience. Our math curriculum builds upon the concrete foundations of mathematics and leads towards an understanding of the abstract and symbolic.

It also provides multiple exposures to topics and offers frequent opportunities for review and practice of skills:

- Place value to millions
- Decimals to thousandths
- Fractions /Positive/Negative numbers
- Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication facts/fact families
- Multiples of 10 & fact extensions
- Number stories
- Estimation
- Multi-digit addition/ subtraction / multiplication
- Patterns/attributes
- Number lines/sequences
- Parentheses
- Number grids/models
- 2-D and 3-D shapes/ Symmetry
- Lines, line segments, rays, angles, turns
- Telling time & figuring elapsed time
- Measuring length, weight, volume, temp.
- Customary & Metric units of measure
- Perimeter, Area, Circumference
- Map scale/Calculating money
- Graphs, maps, charts, tables
- Mean, median, mode
- Probability

o Science/Health

Curriculum introduces Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science. The scientific method is taught through hands-on activities and biblical worldview is an imperative component as students observe, investigate and draw conclusions. Some topics include:

- Ecosystems
- Plants
- Life Cycles
- Matter, Motion/Force, Electricity, Magnets
- Rocks and Soils
- Earth's Surface
- Solar System and Stars
- Body Systems—Musculoskeletal and Nervous
- Healthy Living

o What is taught in this grade?

o What curriculum is used?

o What experiences will my child have in this grade?

o What can I expect my child to know by year's end?

o Language Arts

Students develop writing skills, reading fluency and comprehension, oral communication, listening techniques and critical thinking. Reading curriculum uses sight words, basal vocabulary, phonics instruction, comprehension and interpretive skills. Students begin learning to read orally and silently with expression, and have weekly spelling lists that parallel the phonics/reading program.. Other skills:

- Phonetic approach to decoding words
- Silent/Oral reading
- Main Idea
- Drawing conclusions,
- Predictions, Inference
- Compare/contrast
- Sequencing
- Character/Plot/Summary
- Use of table of contents/glossary/dictionary
- Book-It Program

Spelling

Spelling words parallel the phonics and reading program, teaching them rules of spelling and analysis of words through skills such as syllabication, beginning and ending sounds, blended sounds, root words, contractions, prefixes, suffixes, and compound words.

English/Writing

The skills of the English language are taught in order that students have the tools needed for life application in writing and speaking. Grammar skills taught include sentence construction, capitalization, punctuation, and parts of speech (nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs). Spoken, written and listening communication skills are taught. In writing, students learn to organize their thoughts with a beginning, middle and end and use the steps of prewriting, drafting, revising and editing for a final copy. Students begin to write various types of writing and can create paragraphs. They can use a simple dictionary.

Handwriting

Students develop cursive writing skills.

Tree of Life Christian School - Elementary Branches

Dublin Branch (P-5) · 2900 Martin Road · Dublin, OH 43017 614.792.2671

Indianola Branch (P-5) · 2141 Indianola Avenue · Columbus, OH 43201 299.4906

Westerville Branch (Preschool only) · 471 E. College Avenue * · Westerville, OH 43081 614.818.4405

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o Bible

Daily Bible lessons and weekly memory verses emphasize life-application and values. Students are encouraged early on and guided to develop a personal and private devotional and prayer time using the Word to know the Father and His Son in a personal way. While Bible is taught as a separate subject, a biblical worldview is integrated into all subject areas.

Students survey the Old Testament using Walk Through The Bible methods. Hand-signs represent the chronological order of events in the Old Testament leading to the coming of Christ. The class presents these hand-signs to the school at the end of the school year. They also study the death, resurrection and Great Commission of Christ, culminating in a missions study.

Yearly theme: **The God of History**
Quarterly themes:

1-3 – Walk Through the Old Testament

4- The Choice of Jesus – Death/Resurrection/Great Commission; Acts 1:8

Specials

o Music

The music program for grades 1-5 emphasizes music appreciation and the teaching of basic music skills through singing, movement, and playing of instruments.

They learn to glorify God through praise and worship and in participation in a musical. Students may also attend the Young People's Concert presented by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra

o Physical Education

The goal of Tree of Life is to promote the spiritual, mental, and physical well-being of students.

The physical education program fosters an enjoyment of physical activity through the teaching of both individual and team sports, as well as developing motor skills, strength, flexibility and cardio-respiratory fitness.

Extra curriculars

o Field Trips

Classes go on specific, purposeful field trips that enrich units of study from a variety of subjects. These may vary from year to year depending on availability, class focus, and scheduling.

- OSU Dairy Farm/or Petco
- Indian Village
- Fine Arts (Symphony/Nutcracker Ballet /Museum of Art)
- OSU Planetarium/Library
- Tour of the city of Columbus
- Park
- Vineyard Pantry (Missions outreach)

o Social Studies

Content and concepts are investigated through the strands of learning of history, government, citizenship, economics, geography, people and places. Some topics include:

- Living and working in communities
- Pioneers and Native Americans
- Explorers – Migration/Expansion
- Structure of Government/History of government
- Citizenship
- Map skills
- Other cultures/missions

Resources & Texts

Bible: Standard Publishing; Biblical Choices; NIV

Reading/Spelling/Phonics: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill

English: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill; Shurley English

Handwriting: Zaner Bloser

Math: Everyday Mathematics including on-line Math games

Science and Health: Purposeful Design Publications

Social Studies: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill

Other miscellaneous materials

o Art

Students experience art through a variety of mediums and they will learn to appreciate art through the study of famous artists and in the recognition of the elements of art in both man-made works and the natural world created by God. Creativity and individuality are encouraged in the art classes, which are held once a week.

o Chapel

Grades 1-5 attend chapel twice a month. Chapel includes worship through singing, Bible reading, and application of biblical truths at an appropriate level. Students are challenged to live out their faith. Missions are emphasized in our chapels so that students will understand their part in the Great Commission.

o Library

During weekly library visits, students learn parts of a book, genres of literature, award books, authors and illustrators, how to use reference materials, and the Dewey Decimal System. Picture books, nonfiction books and novels are also read aloud to the students.

o Service Projects

Students will participate in both class and school-wide projects designed to help students follow God's precepts in reaching out in love to others, both in the community and around the world.

o Special Events

- Book Parade
- Thanksgiving celebration/service project
- Solar System Project
- Flat Stanley
- Indian Project/crafts/Potlach Night – culmination
Native American Indian study
- 100th Day Celebration