

5 Fifth 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 Language Arts

It is the desire of Tree of Life Christian Schools to provide opportunities for students to develop writing skills, reading fluency and comprehension, oral communications, listening techniques and critical thinking. Content in 5th grade includes:

Reading

Students continue to develop skills of decoding, phonics, comprehension, reference, study habits, vocabulary, language and appreciation of literature. In addition to a basal reader, other reading instruction comes through:

- Reading literature/novels
- Content area reading
- Book-It Program/Book Reports
- Christian Biographies

Spelling

Students develop further vocabulary, grammar, mechanics, and phonics and are more accountable for applied spelling in all work.

English/Writing

Students continue to strengthen their understanding of parts of speech, sentence and paragraph structure, composition, grammar, mechanics, literature, referencing and thinking, plagiarism and citing references, communication through visual, written, and oral presentation and development of listening skills. They are given opportunities to express creativity through written exercises such as compositions, comparing and contrasting, personal narrative, descriptive, persuasive, stories, journaling, and research reports.

Handwriting

Neatness and legibility is emphasized in all handwriting, both cursive and manuscript.

o Science/Health

Students in 5th grade are taught units incorporating Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science. Scientific inquiry, process skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving are some of the methods used in the science curriculum. A biblical worldview is an imperative component as students observe, investigate and draw conclusions. Topics include:

- Natural Cycles/Life Cycles
- Cells
- Ecological Succession
- Measuring and Changing Matter
- Force and Work
- Electricity/Magnetism
- Earth’s Processes
- Weather and Climate
- Sun, Earth, Moon
- Natural Resources/Recycling
- Endocrine System
- Transitions in Growth
- Diseases/Immune System

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

5 Fifth Grade

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 learn about the faith of God's people in the past, the relationship of that faith to the coming of Christ, and finally how to understand and live out their own faith.

Students discover great doctrinal truths through hymn studies, memorize larger portions of Scripture, and learn how to respond to conflict in a biblical way through The Young Peacemakers methods, taught throughout the year.

Yearly theme: **The God of Faith**

Quarterly themes:

- God's Faithful People in New Surroundings
- Instructions for God's Faithful People
- Knowing the Basis of Your Faith
- How to Live and Tell About Your Faith

o Social Studies

In fifth grade social studies content and concepts are investigated through the strands of learning of history, government, citizenship, economics, geography, people and places. Students will use maps, map skills, globes, time lines, technology and research skills in the study of American history and geography and in writing a state report. Some topics included:

- Exploration
- 13 English Colonies/Native Americans
- Revolutionary War
- Constitution of the United States
- Louisiana Purchase/Industrial Revolution
- Study of 50 states/State Report
- Civil War - Cause/effect
- Resources and Production
- Branches of government/Citizenship
- Black History Month
- State Report
- Related novel study

Resources & Texts

Bible: Standard Publishing: Biblical Choices; NIV Bible • **Reading:** Macmillan/McGraw-Hill; selected novels•

English: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill; Shurley English • **Handwriting:** Zaner-Bloser method • **Spelling/Phonics:** Houghton Mifflin •

Math: Everyday Mathematics including on-line Math games • **Science and Health:** Purposeful Design Publications •

Social Studies: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill • **Technology Integration** • Other miscellaneous materials

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 – includes The Presidential Fitness Program.

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.

- Highbanks
- Santa Maria
- Franklin Park Conservatory
- OSU Scarlet and Gray AG Day
- Ohio Historical Center
- Kelton House
- Visit the 6th grade Countries of the World Day

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

- Thanksgiving Celebration/service project (Friendship Village)
- State Report Day
- Middle School Orientation/Picnic
- 5th Grade Reception
- 5th Grade Retreat