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Kindergarten



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:

- Count forward from 0-100
- Count back from 20-0
- Read 3-digit numbers to 115
- Group skip count by 2’s, 5’s, and 10’s
- Count tally marks
- Compare lengths, matching ends
- Generate, continue and copy patterns
- Recognize and name shapes (triangle, square, circle, rectangle, oval, diamond)
- Recognize examples of symmetry
- Identify and know value of a penny, nickel, dime, and quarter
- Time to nearest hour
- Explore use of measuring tools
- Recognize and understand halves

o Language Arts

Students develop writing skills, reading fluency and comprehension, oral communications, listening techniques and critical thinking. The joys of reading and writing are experienced daily. Students practice oral communication skills and learn to distinguish sounds and letters through phonics instruction. Reading readiness is the emphasis as students learn to read, write, predict and memorize.

- Phonemic Awareness
- Visual and auditory recognition of all letters.
- Letter formation of upper and lower case letters
- Decode printed words using phonics and context clues
- Make connections between personal life and literature
- Distinguish between real and imaginary
- Listening and oral expression skills
- Recall and sequencing
- Journaling
- Writing steps of prewriting, drafting, revising, final copy

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 Science/Health

Science is integrated through themes of study in language arts, mathematics as well as in daily routines. The main emphasis is on observation and exploration of everyday things in our world through inquiry. Grouping and classification of like and different objects, living and non-living things, study of seasons, health and safety and the senses are included.

Some topics include:

- Seasons
- Temperature/Weather
- Animals/Habitats/Plants
- Life Cycles
- Nutrition
- Data Collection

o Social Studies

Social studies is integrated through themes of study in language arts and Bible as well as in daily routines. The student is introduced to the world, community, school and family and how he/she relates to it.

Some topics include:

- Days of the week, months of the year
- All About Me
- Families
- Holidays
- Direction/Maps/Locations
- Rules and Laws
- Needs/Wants
- Patriotism/Citizenship/Voting
- Other cultures/missions

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

K Kindergarten

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.

Yearly Theme: The God of Creation

Quarterly themes:

- God Created the Perfect World
- Choices in the Family
- Coming of Jesus
- Jesus is Our Example

Resources & Texts

Bible: Standard Publishing: Biblical Choices; Bible – NIV

Reading/Phonics: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Language Arts; Process Phonics

Math: Everyday Mathematics

Handwriting: Handwriting Without Tears

Various other materials

Specials

o Music

Music is integrated into classroom learning in a variety of ways. Students will:

- Develop an appreciation for music
- Explore rhythms and instruments
- Sing, play and move to a varied types of music
- Identify loud and soft sounds/fast and slow tempos

o Physical Education

Students will actively participate in games and exercises that will develop locomotor and non-locomotor skills. They will learn to follow directions, skip, march, jog, gallop, handle a ball, and hop, and they will participate in team games and special activities.

o Art

Art is taught by the kindergarten classroom teacher as an integrated subject. Students identify and create shapes, textures, and patterns with a variety of colors and art mediums.

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 and scheduling.

- Columbus Symphony
- Zoo
- Park
- Pumpkin Patch
- Art Museum
- Franklin Park Conservatory

o Chapel

Students in Preschool and Kindergarten join grades 1-5 for chapel once per 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
- Grandparent's Day
- Jog-A-Thon

