



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.

Institute for Excellence in Writing

We use the *Institute for Excellence in Writing* materials beginning in the second grade. This program allows the teacher to introduce one concept at a time, model it extensively and give numerous examples before requiring independence. Students are expected to practice writing daily. Students will acquire writing skills that last a lifetime as they creatively experiment with writing and learn organizational skills based on a specific structure.

Combined with the strong skill foundation established with *Shurley Grammar*, teachers can spend less time going over beginning grammar and editing skills and more time introducing and enhancing advanced grammar and writing skills.

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: *Christian Schools International*

God created and designed everything from lizards to lungs, from genes to giraffes, from comets to carbon dioxide. Christian Schools International's science curriculum equips students to discover the infinite complexity and amazing orderliness of God's world, to learn about themselves as a special part of God's creation, and to recognize their role as caretakers of creation. The series provides numerous experiment and activity ideas along with up-to-date information about new discoveries.

**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 students receive music instructions once per week. Our program focuses on instilling a love for music by singing, learning a sense of rhythm, learning the vocabulary of music and music theory. Games and exercises are incorporated in the use of rhythm instruments which add an enjoyable element to music instruction.

Students in grades three through six study the recorder. This instrument provides an easy application for the education that was learned in prior grades. Reading music is the focus.

Our students also participate in the preparation for and performance of the New Covenant Christian School Christmas concert. Song selections are memorized and the students learn how to conduct themselves in a performance situation. They learn correct posture, tone and diction as well as vocal parts. These elements all contribute to the students gaining a more in-depth understanding of the art of singing.

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 and History: Kindergarteners study the history of man from creation through the establishment of the church, the founding of our nation and America today. Their study includes information about our fifty states and about particular people groups and great leaders. Science is approached through *A Just Ask Book* from Weekly Reader. Topics include answers to questions that fascinate our youngsters: "Why does it snow? Why is grass green? What is a cloud?" They are treated to a wonderful basic study of God's creations.

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. The annual NCCS auction in the spring features the students' group projects inspired by art history.

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
Robert Rows the River by Carolyn Haywood
Winnie the Pooh by A. A. Milne
Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown
Henry Huggins by Beverly Cleary
Prairie Friends by Nancy Smiler Levinson and Stacey Schuett
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*

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

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

Creation: First Quarter: Sun, Moon and Stars
 Second Quarter: Seasons
 Third Quarter: Plants
 Fourth Quarter: Animals

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. The annual NCCS auction in the spring features the students' group projects inspired by art history.

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
Annabelle Hedgehog by Stephen Lawhead

The Chalkbox Kid by Clyde Bulla
Who was King Tut? By Roberta Edwards
The Chocolate Touch by Patrick Catling

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: Christian Schools International, *Science 2*.

First Quarter: Geography

Second Quarter: Healthy Living

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. The annual NCCS auction in the spring features the students' group projects inspired by art history.

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 Illiad and Odyssey)
Roman Ransom by Henry Winterfeld
Detectives in Togas by Henry Winterfield
Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson
D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths by Ingrid D'Aulaire
The Light at Tern Rock by Julia Sauer
Homer Price by Robert McCloskey

B. Student Reading

Helen Keller and Louis Braille by Margaret Davidson
Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter
Aesop Fables by Aesop

The Trojan War, by Emily Little
Pompeii, Buried Alive by Edith Kunhardt
Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner
Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingles Wilder
Farmer Boy by Laura Ingles Wilder
Little Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan
Old Mother West Wind by Thornton Burgess
Squanto, Friend of the Pilgrims, by Clyde Robert Bulla
Owls in the Family by Farley Mowat
Robert Fulton, Boy Craftsman by Margarite Henry
Charlotte's Web by E. B. White
Trumpet and the Swan by E. B. White

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

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 | ✓ properties of operations |
| ✓ estimation | ✓ measurement |
| ✓ patterns and sequences | ✓ percent |
| ✓ fractions, decimals and mixed numbers | ✓ square roots |
| ✓ negative numbers | ✓ statistics |

- ✓ probability
- ✓ surveys
- ✓ perimeter and area
- ✓ polygons

- ✓ angles
- ✓ congruence and similarity
- ✓ geometric solids
- ✓ 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: Christian Schools International, *Science 3*

First Quarter: The Five Senses

Second Quarter: Animals (Habitats and Endangered Species)

Third Quarter: Simple and Complex Machines (with Electricity)

Fourth Quarter: The Solar System

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

Geography: Students will begin to learn the names and locations of the major features of world geography including names of continents, oceans, rivers, countries, etc. They will also learn the geography of the Ancient Mediterranean World including Greece, Israel and the Roman Empire.

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. The annual NCCS auction in the spring features the students' group projects inspired by art history.

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

A. Read-Aloud Books

Gladys Aylward by Janet & Geoff Benge
The Book of Three by Lloyd Alexander
Sir Malcom and the Missing Prince by Sidney Baldwin
The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes
Adam of the Road by Elizabeth Janet Gray
The Black Cauldron by Lloyd Alexander
The Middle Moffat by Eleanor Estes
House of Sixty Fathers by Mendert DeJong

B. Student Reading (choose five of the following)

The BFG by Roald Dahl
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl (independent)
The Door in the Wall by Marguerite De Angeli
The Bridge by Jeri Massi
Crown and Jewel by Jeri Massi (independent)
The Mixed-Up Files of Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg
Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo
The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman

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)

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 D*. 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: *The Calling of God's Tribe*. Students study the life of the Israelites as slaves, nomads and conquerors of Canaan (Old Testament history). Students work on projects, write diaries and complete charts.

Peacemakers: Our fourth grade students undertake a one 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: Christian Schools International, *Science 4*

First Quarter: Journeys around the World

Second Quarter: Oceans

Third Quarter: Weather

Fourth Quarter: Birds

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

Geography: Students will continue to learn the names and locations of the major features of world geography including names of continents, oceans, rivers, countries, etc. They will also focus special attention on the geography of Europe, integrated with their history curriculum.

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. The annual NCCS auction in the spring features the students' group projects inspired by art history.

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

Redwall by Brian Jaques

Voyage to Freedom by David Gay

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

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)

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: Christian Schools International, *Science 5*

First Quarter: Seed Plants

Second Quarter: Cells and Heredity

Third Quarter: The Human Body: Body Systems

Fourth Quarter: The Human Body: Body Systems

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

Geography: Students will continue learning the geography of Europe 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. The annual NCCS auction in the spring features the students' group projects inspired by art history.

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 tryout 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
"I Survived" series by Lauren Tarshis

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

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: Christian Schools International, *Physical Science: a Biblical Perspective on the Study and Care of God's World*.

First Quarter: U.S. Geography

Second Quarter: Immune and Nervous Systems

Third and Fourth Quarters: Diversity of Life

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 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. The annual NCCS auction in the spring features the students' group projects inspired by art history.

P.E.: Sixth 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. 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.