

Lower School Course Selections & Electives

	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Bible	Overview of the Bible beginning with creation going through Paul's missionary journeys, Scripture memorization.	Fully integrated worldview and Bible survey course designed to help younger students begin to formulate and relate learned Bible facts with a Bible-based Christian worldview. Students learn the Biblical story through the worldview framework of creation, fall, and redemption while being grounded in the Biblical view of truth, God, self, others, and creation. Spiral progression with five key themes-wisdom, fellowship, image-bearing, servanthood, and stewardship. Scripture memorization.				
Language Arts Reading	A balanced literacy program begins with strong phonics instruction in the early grades integrated with sight words and reading strategies. A variety of reading experiences includes reading aloud; literacy circles; and shared, guided, and independent reading to develop strong, thinking readers. Students read quality literature (fiction and nonfiction) at their reading level and develop tools (visualizing, making connections, questioning, inferring, determining importance, and synthesizing) that increase comprehension and interaction with text.					
Language Arts Writing	Writing instruction focuses on the goal of fostering lifelong writers using a consistent writing process. Students work in authentic ways to develop independence as writers. Each grade level completes units of study to meet developmental and curricular needs. The teacher acts as a mentor, modeling writing techniques and conferencing with students to develop writing skills.					
Mathematics	Students build mathematical understanding through a concrete-pictorial-abstract approach. Using manipulatives first, then visual model/drawings, and finally numerical symbols, students learn to apply multiple strategies for computation and develop as problem solvers and thinkers. A spiraling curriculum emphasizes depth over breadth and utilizes techniques, such as model drawing diagrams to understand word problems and provide a bridge to algebraic thinking and Mental Math to promote numerical fluency.					
Science	Hands-on integrated units of study include creation, senses, classification, life cycles, animals, seasons, dinosaurs, birds, food groups, the solar system, insects, the ocean, etc.	Hands-on units of study including earth materials; force and motion; the sun, moon, and stars; life cycle of plants; creation; seasonal changes, etc.	Units of study include hands-on experiences studying earth-space science (weather, water, space, sun); life science (animals, habitats, health, insects); physical science (matter, force and motion, energy), etc.	Units of study include hands-on experiences studying changes on earth; soil, rocks, and minerals; matter and changes in matter; force and motion (simple machines); etc.	Units of study include hands-on experiences studying astronomy, changes in technology, electricity and magnetism, light and sound, weather and natural disasters, scientific method, etc.	Units of study include hands-on experiences and novels studying ecosystems, biomes, matter and its properties, motion, protecting earth's surface, natural disasters, etc.
Social Studies	Integrated units of study support classroom literature through hands-on activities and field trips. Emphasis on countries in the world, holidays, and patriotism. Topics include presidents, pilgrims/indians, national monuments. Christmas around the world, etc.	Integrated units of study support reading and writing through hands-on activities and field trips. Emphasis on American government and citizenship, economics, families and communities here and around the world, etc.	Integrated units of study foster understanding that people belong to groups (country, state, family, community), history is the story of people; American cultures, government, and citizenship; economics-resources, goods and services; map skills, etc.	A study of South Carolina history; geography; resources; Native Americans; European explorers; colonization; wars and their effects on S.C. people, agriculture, and economy; state government.	A study of United States history from creation through the great migration, exploration of the new world, colonization, and the founding of our great nation through the Civil War. Emphasis on America's geography and culture and ways people and places affect one another.	Units of study that include hands-on experiences and novels studying United States history from post-Civil War through present day. Emphasis is given to critical thinking skills, map skills, reading and understanding charts and graphs.
Spanish/Computer	Direct instruction provides exposure to Spanish language and culture, through oral participation in class, interacting with classmates to practice speaking and pronunciation, and taking learned vocabulary to an action. Students practice vocabulary and comprehension in different ways to enhance learning - worksheets, textbooks, songs, games, etc.					
	Students learn Spanish and explore other cultures. They are introduced to basic Spanish vocabulary through games, songs, and interactive activities. Students learn to recognize and speak words including the days of the week, community jobs, family terms, basic greetings, animals, etc. In computer, basic self-paced typing skills are introduced.	Spanish language concepts are introduced through games, lesson activities, and fun hands-on projects that provide practical application of language concepts. Students review previously learned vocabulary and make connections with new topics, such as, community helper, personal characteristics, body parts, clothing, etc. Self-paced typing instruction continues as students begin to learn proper hand position.			Students practice language concepts through interactive activities, recognize words orally, and identify vocabulary. They build phrases in Spanish and understand topics of conversation. Vocabulary, phrases, and concepts learned include household items, feelings and emotions, likes and dislikes, hobbies, etc. Self-paced typing instruction continues as students practice proper hand position and develop accuracy and speed.	
Art	Creating art through a Christian worldview using a variety of mediums. Thematic units coincide with classroom study.	Creating art through a Christian worldview with an emphasis on art history. Students use the elements and principles of design to create art through a variety of mediums.				
		Units focus on the elements of art.	Units focus on the principles of art.	Units focus on Biblical concepts related to art.	Units focus on different art forms and mediums.	Units focus on art history.
Physical Education	Fundamental motor skills (locomotor, nonlocomotor, body control, manipulative), movement concepts, health related fitness components, physical fitness concepts, cooperative activities, games and activities of low organization, and rhythmic activities lead-up to team sports.					
	Space (where the body moves), effort (how the body moves), relationship of body parts with objects and people, etc.	Heart rate, Fitnessgram Fitness Test, games, age appropriate team sports, dance and creative movement, etc.	Fitnessgram Fitness Test, skills used to project or receive objects, PE Fitness Challenge (simplified version).	Fitnessgram Fitness Test; age appropriate team sports including basketball, kickball, line soccer, and team handball; simple gymnastic skills and line dancing; PE Central Skills Challenge.		
Music	Steady beat, unpitched rhythm instruments, motor movements, listening skills, orchestra instruments, basic music vocabulary, melody bells and performances, etc.	The elementary grades focus on learning about and experiencing music through music appreciation, matching pitch, singing, music history, reading/writing music, rhythmic patterns, listening activities, music terms, playing various classroom instruments, and performance opportunities.			A ukulele unit offers a unique hands-on experience.	A recorder unit uses the Recorder Karate curriculum over these two years.
		A special emphasis is on playing melodies on pitched melodic bells.	Classroom instruments, both pitched and unpitched, are used to create music.			
Media Center	Students browse the library collection to select books for pleasure reading and inquiry, develop literature appreciation through read-alouds and author studies, participate in age appropriate research and information literacy skills.					
	Book care and parts of a book, fiction vs. nonfiction, Caldecott/Newberry award-winning books.	Reading comprehension strategies, South Carolina Picture Book Award program.		Using print and electronic research sources including an encyclopedia, atlas, almanac, dictionary, and thesaurus; South Carolina Children's Book Award program.		