

THIRD & FOURTH GRADE CLASS OVERVIEW

Our maximum class size is between 18-20. The class is a combination class with both third and fourth grade students. Language Arts and Math are each taught at the appropriate grade levels, whereas Bible, Science and Social Studies will be taught to all students in the class at the same grade level, rotating between 3rd and 4th grade curriculum every other year. We have invested in what we consider to be the best, most effective curriculum available that is consistent with our philosophy of education that is also either biblically-based or does not conflict with our biblical values.

Bible:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) theme for third-grade is the life of Christ and the early Church. Fourth grade is a study of basic doctrines of Christianity, such as the Trinity, salvation, sin nature, and eternity to name a few. There are cross-curricular connections with other academic subjects, and memory verses are integrated into lessons. Students are provided a workbook that includes daily real-life applications and engaging activities.



Literature:

The Modos Press Literature series through ACSI (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) presents world-class literature, both classic and contemporary works, that are broad in their scope, intellectually challenging, and morally focused. The program is rigorous and engaging, and it thoughtfully explores family values and ethics. Third-grade literature is a two-book set that integrates language arts and literature with Lessons in Literature that precede each prose selection. They teach a progression of language arts skills that build on one another and are specifically geared toward the third grader. The books are filled with short stories, a complete chapter book, drama, poetry, and nonfiction. Fourth-grade literature displays the beauty of language and the imagery and complexity of fine stories integrating literature and language arts as well. The content fosters thinking and talking about values, ideals, and behavior. Materials at both grade levels include hardbound student texts and student notebooks.



Grammar & Writing:

In Bob Jones University Press' English curriculum, students cover one part of speech at a time with systematic review and ample practice, helping them develop writing skills and guiding them through the writing process as they write reports, stories, descriptions, poems, letters, and essays. English 3 emphasizes traditional English grammar and essential reference skills. The grammar instruction is balanced with effective writing instruction. Students are guided in the step-by-step use of the Writing Process to apply to a variety of writing assignments, such as game instructions, book reports, compare-contrast essays, and more. English 4 places an emphasis on English grammar and usage as well as practice with essential reference skills for using dictionaries and encyclopedias. Parts of speech and sentence structures are examined in detail to help students gain a mastery of grammar. The Writing Process is explained step-by-step to be implemented in a variety of writing assignments, such as a personal narrative, a research report, and a business letter.



Handwriting:

The manuscript component from the Wilson Foundations curriculum is reinforced at the beginning of the year then their cursive program is introduced as the year progresses. This provides step-by-step directions and practice for learning correct and consistent letter formation for both lower and upper-case letters.



Spelling:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) Spelling Plus curriculum provides so much more than just spelling. It incorporates grammar, writing, genres of writing and literature, Greek and Latin roots and more. Lessons are developed to meet national language arts standards, current educational philosophy, and best practices. Lessons provide activities for multiple learning styles, make cross-curricular connections, logically organizes words by their spelling sounds, then adds additional spelling possibilities as units unfold. They also naturally integrate a biblical worldview within lessons and word lists that include pattern words, high frequency words, and challenge words.



Math:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) curriculum incorporates rigorous standards and benchmarks for math literacy and learning, including those of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. It uses a variety of manipulatives, investigation, and modeling to produce students who understand the concepts and can think mathematically. There is an emphasis on a STEM interdisciplinary approach, which integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics in hands-on and relevant learning opportunities. It also integrates an authentic biblical Christian worldview perspective of mathematics. Third and fourth-grade programs continue building and expanding on the previous grade level concepts and review previous concepts utilizing lessons with hands-on activities, conceptual understanding, problem solving, application, modeling, reasoning, and strands of algebra and geometry. Third grade adds decimals and equations, a concentrated focus on memorizing math facts, and expands their study of geometry. Fourth grade expands on the third-grade concepts and adds multi-digit multiplication and division.



Science:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) science program reflects the requirements set forth by the National Science Education Standards, as well as portions of the Next Generation Science Standards where they best fit. It allows students to experience science from a biblical worldview through engaging, inquiry-based instruction that develops critical thinking skills. Lessons offer many hands-on activities engaging students in discovery, exploration, and investigation of God's purposefully designed world. Science equipment kits are also purchased along with full-color and engaging student books to provide a well-rounded and rich experience. The third-grade materials focus on the basics of life, physical, earth, and space science, as well as the human body, building on what was taught in first and second-grade. Fourth-grade materials also include a consumable science notebook that contains engaging hands-on activities and experiments. It focuses on the stability of life science, energy within physical science, earth and space science balance as well as human body wellness.



