

## FIFTH GRADE CLASS OVERVIEW

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. We continue to utilize curriculum that is multi-sensory and engaging wherever possible.

### Bible:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) theme for fifth grade is an Old Testament survey, presenting major Bible concepts from the Old Testament. It begins with a lesson entitled God's Word is True, which also covers how sin entered the world and God's plan of salvation. The remainder of the book focuses on a variety of Old Testament characters, God's interaction with them and there is a strong emphasis on the application of biblical truths to the daily lives of our students. There are cross-curricular connections with other academic subjects and memory verses are integrated into lessons.



### Literature:

The Modos Press Literature series through ACSI (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) is used from third through eighth grades and 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. The fifth-grade book includes over 600 pages of prose, poetry, plays, and non-fiction narratives. Reading skills instruction is essential at the fifth-grade level and each lesson teaches language arts skills appropriate for the prose it precedes.

### Writing & Grammar:

The Institute for Excellence in Writing curriculum entitled, Teaching Writing: Structure and Style, is a highly structured and powerful methodology of teaching writing, and has students writing daily.



Structure refers to organizational models for writing, which are explored and reinforced each year at ever-increasing levels of sophistication firmly internalized by students. The sequence of structural units teaches students a consistent method for composing clear and cohesive paragraphs as well as a reliable system for organizing narrative and expository writing. Style is a collection of tools that



students use to achieve variety and competence in expression. It is through the employing of the stylistic techniques that students become competent in using interesting vocabulary, employ a variety of sentence structures, and gain an understanding of grammar. It is through this methodology that the writing process is broken down into clear, easy to understand steps, and students of any ability are able to gain confidence and competence in writing in an organized manner, using strong imagery and examples with cohesive paragraphs. Grammar is taught within the context of good writing and embedded in the writing curriculum. Fifth grade uses a thematic book entitled *Fables, Myths, and Fairy Tales* to teach these concepts.

## Spelling:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) Spelling Plus is the curriculum teachers use to teach spelling. While there are no workbooks, the lessons teachers use from the curriculum meet national language arts standards, current educational philosophy, and best practices. Teachers provide a variety of activities for multiple learning styles, make cross-curricular connections, logically organize words by their spelling sounds, then add additional spelling possibilities as units unfold. Word lists include pattern words, high frequency words, and challenge words.



## Math:

Big Ideas Math, Modeling Real Life is a rigorous program that provides a balance of three important building blocks. These are: (1) Conceptual Understanding-Discovering why; (2) Procedural Fluency-Learning how; and (3) Application-Knowing



when to apply what has been learned and applying it to real life. Newton and Descartes are a dog and cat team of math assistants who encourage students to think deeply about math concepts and develop strong mathematical mindsets, as well as learning to ask why, and to reason and communicate with others as they learn. Music, games, and hands-on manipulatives help ensure that math is both fun and understandable. In Fifth Grade students focus on place value

concepts, numerical expressions, adding and subtracting decimals and fractions, multiplying and dividing whole numbers, decimals, and fractions, converting and displaying units of measure, looking for patterns in the coordinate plane, understanding volume, and classifying two-dimensional shapes.

## Science:

Mystery Science is an online, video-based, hands-on curriculum covering Life, Earth, Space, and Physical Science. All lessons are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Each lesson is aligned to a topic, performance expectation, science and engineering practice, disciplinary core idea, and crosscutting concept. Every lesson begins with a mystery to solve and incorporates interesting and



informative video clips and hands-on activities that lead students in the doing of science and engineering. A complete kit containing most of the hands-on materials needed for each lesson has also been purchased. Where it is lacking, we ask teachers to provide students with a biblical worldview of science and may supplement or replace some of the Mystery Science content where appropriate.

### **Social Studies:**

Bob Jones University Press' Heritage Studies, *A Journey Through American History* invites students on an exciting journey through American history brought to life through stories, hands-on activities, and biblical integration. Students will sharpen their historical thinking skills and connect timeless truths to real-world events. With visuals, map skills, timelines, biographies, and inquiry-based learning, this course equips students to think critically, ask big questions, and see God's hand throughout history. Some historical fiction novels are also used.

