



Bible

Fifth Grade Bible

In the Fifth Grade Bible course, our goal is to acquaint the students with the basic principles and history of the Bible, equip them to use the Scriptures with ease and confidence, and prepare them to share their knowledge and faith with others according to God's Word. The Bible (*ESV*) and Christian School International's *Witness to the Gospel* are our main sources of study. The students explore various sections of the Bible, which include the four Gospels and the Life of Christ. Students learn the themes, authors, and audience of the four Gospels as well as study the word choices of those authors. It is our strongest desire that each student exiting fifth grade will have a personal relationship with Christ, a thorough knowledge of Scripture, a clear and precise vision of right from wrong, the tools to lead others to Christ, and spiritual wisdom that only God can impart.

Sixth Grade Bible

In the Sixth Grade Bible course, the students study the *House of Israel*. This course includes the Old Testament books from Genesis to Leviticus. The main focus of the course is to present the Bible as the story of God's acts and words, written so that the students might know God and themselves, accept His gift of salvation, and live lives of joyful service and obedience. The goal is to help the students understand the Bible literally, culturally and geographically. The students are encouraged with life applications from each unit of study.

Seventh Grade: Old Testament Survey

This Seventh Grade Bible course guides the student through the Old Testament. Each book's background, author, theme, and message are surveyed along with key verses. While examining the particulars of each book, the consistent theme of God's redemption of humankind is reinforced.

Eighth Grade: New Testament Survey

The Eighth Grade Bible course begins with a review of the Old Testament. The Old Testament prepares the way for Christ, and He is fully manifested in the New Testament. All twenty-seven books of the New Testament are examined and presented as God's infallible Word. The overriding theme of the class is presented in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave..." Each student finishes the course with the abiding truth that they are secure in God's love for him or her. The goal being that they understand our responsibility as Christians to reflect the love of Jesus by loving others as He loves us.

History

Fifth Grade: American History

The Fifth Grade History course is a study of history of the United States with the early American Indians and ending with the wars of the 20th Century. Both primary and secondary sources are utilized as students survey the influence of historical perspective and point of view on issues, decision-making and actions. A special emphasis is placed on the impact of the Christian faith in the formation of our country and its historical documents. American government is explored as students participate in a mock Constitutional Convention and Colonial Tea. The Constitution, Bill of Rights and the three branches of government are studied, and interactive scenarios are presented to teach basic ideology and principles. Critical thinking skills, discussion and presentation techniques, note taking, role playing and persuasive writing are implemented throughout the course as students participate in learning significant historical events. Most importantly, students are taught that the history of man has a distinct inception, purpose, and end and that God has, and will, oversee even the smallest detail in our American story.

Sixth Grade: World History

The Sixth Grade history course covers the evolution of our society from the early cultures of the world thousands of years ago to the World Wars of last century. It begins with a basic study of geography, which includes reading maps, and learning the terms listed in our curriculum. Map skills are reviewed and extended throughout the course. Some topics of study include the River Valley Civilizations, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome, Medieval Europe, and the dawn of the Modern World. Skills throughout this study include listening, note taking, writing, critical thinking, and discussion. The students also answer various questions that require them to recall facts, find the main idea, make inferences, determine cause and effect, and draw conclusions. A biblical worldview is emphasized in this course of study.

Seventh Grade: World Geography

One Semester Course

The Seventh Grade World Geography is a one-semester course which focuses on the influences of geography upon historic development, government, economics, culture, religion and aesthetics of the world's ten cultural regions. The emphasis on the physical aspects of geography is designed to encourage students in evaluating and drawing conclusions about cause/effect relationships that might affect the origins, intellectual and social aspects of the major regions of the world. This course is designed to help students develop their biblical worldview by giving them tools to evaluate the world around them and grow in seeing the world through the eyes of Scripture.

Seventh Grade: American History until 1812

One Semester Course

This semester long Early American History course focuses on the history of our country and enables students to determine cause/effect relationships throughout the building of our nation as well as predict how current trends in government, economics, religion and politics might affect the history and the responsibilities related with a Christian worldview. Students examine God's hand as evident from creation to the present in His authorship of history.

Eighth Grade: American History after 1812

The American History course focuses on the history of our country, from President Washington's first administration to the early twenty-first century. The emphasis of this course is on the Christian heritage of our nation and the leaders and events, past and present, and the foundations that have shaped our great nation. This course is designed to encourage student awareness of the Judeo-Christian, geographical, and economic influences that have molded our

nation; studies also include Texas' role in various major events throughout our history. Current events are also analyzed and evaluated.

An additional goal of this course is to incorporate relevant skills development into each student's on-going work and includes the use of geography, economics, political processes, religion, ethics, science, philosophy and the humanities. History is an integrated study designed to help students develop a biblical worldview by giving them tools to evaluate the world around them and grow in the ability interpret world events through the eyes of scripture.

Language Arts

Fifth Grade English

The Fifth Grade English course focuses on reviewing and expanding grammatical skills using the *Shurley Grammar* method. *Shurley Grammar* provides a sequentially orientated curriculum that incorporates the use of rhythm, repetition and student/teacher interaction. This program provides the sustained momentum that allows teachers to build on student's previous successes. The students write for a variety of purposes. The writing process focuses on idea and content, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency and conventions. In addition, students are guided through the research process and complete research papers.

Fifth Grade Literature

The Fifth Grade Literature course emphasizes reading comprehension and literary analysis. *Reading Street* by Pearson and three novels are our tools of instruction. Spelling is studied as well through *Meambean*. The instructional intent is to engage students in the kinds of activities that prepare them for reading, thinking, and problem-solving in real-world situations.

Sixth Grade English

The English course focuses on reviewing and expanding grammatical skills using the *Shurley Grammar* method. *Shurley Grammar* is used to teach the foundation of grammar using rhythm, repetition, and a question and answer flow to classify each word in a sentence, as well as, the sentence as a whole. These concepts are used to expand, improve and edit writing. The students write for a variety of purposes including responding to topics, developing compositions and sharing thoughts in journal writing. They write to a variety of audiences using formal and creative forms of writing such as narrative, descriptive, persuasive, creative and expository. They also use the writing process of prewriting, drafting, editing and publishing. The course takes time to focus on and develop each of the traits of writing including ideas, word choice, organization, sentence fluency, voice and conventions.

Sixth Grade Literature

The Sixth Grade reading course emphasizes literary analysis and reading comprehension skills. Students use *Collections for Young Scholars* from Open Court, and the following novels: *Hatchet*, *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths*, and *The Bronze Bow*. Spelling concepts are reviewed through the use of *Meambean*. Individualized practice of comprehension skills is incorporated.

Seventh Grade English

This course includes an intensive study in vocabulary, writing, and literature. Students read from different literary genres such as the short story, novel, poetry, and drama. Elements of literature, such as characterization, plot, structure, theme, context clues, and imagery are developed. Through analysis, discussion, and written responses to literature, students examine how an author creates a work of literature. In addition to reading *The Pearl*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The River* and *A Christmas Carol*, students are also exposed to various short stories from the anthology. Oral reports and research are also included in this course.

Eighth Grade English

The Eighth Grade English course offers students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of literature and increase their skills in analyzing and interpreting various texts from a variety of genres while developing vocabulary by using context clues. They develop their critical thinking skills and cultural awareness by reading several engaging novels, Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*, *Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Across Five Aprils*. Students practice the development of organized paragraphs and learn to use literary elements such as characterization, allegory, irony, imagery, argumentation, and persuasion. Eighth Grade English places a strong emphasis on improving writing skills. Students read examples of excellent writing from a variety of sources and compose their own poetry, essays and short stories. A biographical research paper is done during the first semester.

Math

Fifth Grade Math

The Fifth Grade mathematics course reviews and further reinforces the operations with whole numbers, place value from millions to thousandths, graphing, decimals, fractions and geometry. Fundamental algebraic concepts introduced and further developed include ratio, variable, probability and order of operations. Problem solving, logic, and real world applications are emphasized. Building math confidence and providing an enjoyable hands-on learning environment are a primary focus. Math units are seasoned with the biblical principles of order and spiritual truths.

Sixth Grade Math

The Sixth Grade mathematics course is designed to reinforce basic math concepts and to introduce fundamental algebraic skills. Critical thinking skills and problem solving strategies are emphasized throughout the year. The curriculum is devoted to number patterns in algebra, graphs, decimals, fractions, integers, equations, percent, probability, measurement and geometry. These concepts are reinforced all year in quizzes, warm-ups, and tests. Projects are assigned periodically and coordinate with other disciplines. Most importantly, the focus is on our God and Savior, the greatest mathematician of all.

Seventh Grade Math

The Seventh Grade math course continues to develop and expand basic skills and concepts studied in fifth and sixth grade. The content includes: hands-on geometry, measuring two-dimensional figures, measuring three dimensional figures, decimal patterns in Algebra, statistics (analyzing data), Algebra (integers, linear equations and functions), fractions, decimals, percent, proportional reasoning ratios, probability and graphing calculator procedures. Mathematics is a course where the students attain a greater awareness of our infinite God.

Pre-Algebra: Seventh and Eighth Grade

A prerequisite to Algebra I, this course explores and expands on introductory concepts of Algebra such as variables, integers, graphing of inequalities, algebraic phrases, two-step problems, advanced equations, geometric concepts and

graphing calculator procedures. This course is designed to take the student from Sixth Grade Math or Seventh Grade Math to Algebra I as a transitional course.

Pre-AP Algebra I: Eighth Grade High School Level Course

The Pre-AP Algebra I course is designed to provide the foundation for more advanced courses in mathematics and to develop problem solving skills. Emphasis is placed on solving equations, relations, functions, slopes, inequalities, polynomials, factoring, roots, rational expressions, and quadratics. Students master basic operations on a graphing calculator. Students receive credit toward their High School diploma and grade appears on transcript.

Science

Fifth Grade Science

The Fifth Grade Science course is designed to develop students' ability to explore, discover and investigate the world around them. In Life Science, students study the classification of vertebrates and invertebrates, cells, plants and the human body system. Within Physical Science, light waves are covered. Within Earth Science, ecology is covered. Students have opportunities to conduct experiments as they work through each topic using the scientific method and metric system. Scientific equipment is utilized throughout the course to provide a hands-on approach to learning about God's design in the world around them.

Sixth Grade Science: Earth Science

Students in the Sixth Grade science course are involved in a broad range of sciences that make up Earth Science. They review the scientific method and laboratory technique. They further extend their knowledge of measurement and the metric system as well as the use of advanced scientific instruments. Included is an introduction to atomic structure and states of matter. A major component of Earth Science is geology. While studying geology, students delve into such areas as minerals and rocks, erosion, plate tectonics and its impact on the Earth's surface, as well as looking at theories of the Earth's origin. A brief look at ecology helps each student learn how to be a better steward of God's world. Studies of meteorology and astronomy are other major parts of this course. The students study stars, planets, and other astronomical objects as well as the history of space exploration. Concepts for weather and weather forecasting are also explored. Each topic is presented from a biblical perspective.

Seventh Grade Science: Life Science

The Seventh Grade Life Science course is designed to provide students with a solid foundation to prepare them for high school biology. Emphasis is placed on inquiry skills, interpreting data, understanding relationships in the living world, and making connections between science and the Christian faith. Specific areas of study include cellular structure, plants, animals, disease and microorganisms, heredity, classification, ecology and how these relate to the world God created. Inquiry skills are enhanced by laboratory investigations and hands-on activities. Students study characteristics of organisms belonging to each of the five kingdoms of classification and develop an understanding for the ways living things reproduce and grow.

Eighth Grade Science: integrated Physics and Chemistry

Eighth Grade Science is an integrated physics and chemistry course in which students learn the basic concepts in each area. The first semester focuses on chemistry and the processes that occur in the world around us. Students gain a

deeper understanding of atomic structure, ionic and covalent bonding and the periodic table. Chemical formulas are studied with an emphasis on balancing chemical equations. The second semester focuses on physics and the basic laws of nature that God established. Topics include electricity and magnetism, electric charges and current, motion, forces and energy. IPC uses a hands-on approach to teach the concepts through chapter projects and lab activities throughout the year. Lab safety while learning to manipulate lab equipment is an integral part of the IPC course.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

Fine Arts

Fifth Grade Art

Fifth Grade Art is a two semester introductory level course for the middle school student. The student is introduced to the elements and principles of art and their application for successful drawing and design. Students are provided the opportunity to experience a variety of mediums and techniques that may include drawing, painting, mixed media and sculpture. The curriculum integrates biblical principles into aesthetic appreciation. Students have opportunities to show their work to fellow students and families. Art contests are available for participation upon the recommendation of the art teacher.

Sixth Grade Art

Sixth Grade Elective

Sixth Grade Art is a one semester elective art course for the middle school student. The course is designed to build upon and increase the student's knowledge of the art elements and principles of design. The curriculum is integrated with biblical principles into aesthetic appreciation. Students are provided the opportunity to experience a variety of mediums and techniques that may include drawing and mixed media, sculpture. Students have opportunities to show their work to fellow students and families. Art contests are available for participation upon the recommendation of the art teacher.

Middle School Art

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

The Middle School Art course is a one semester introductory level course for the middle school student. There is an emphasis on the elements and principles of design and basic 2-D composition. The curriculum integrates art history and biblical principles. Students explore a variety of media and attention is given to the development of drawing skills and art criticism. Homework is required.

Honors Eighth Grade Art I

Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Fulfills High School Prerequisite for Art I

Prerequisites: Middle School Art, Departmental recommendation

Honors Eighth Grade Art is an introductory level two-dimensional design course with an introduction into three-dimensional design. It is the same curriculum and has the same course requirements as the Upper School Art I. The curriculum focus is on creativity with perspective and shallow space design. Emphasis is placed on developing compositions using the elements and principles of design, critiquing major projects and developing drawing skills. The first quarter is a study in black, white, and gray scale as well as color theory. Drawing, printmaking, painting and the use of a variety of mediums are explored. Homework is required and a semester exam is given at the end of the semester. Biblical integration is included throughout the curriculum. Participation in art contests is encouraged and available.

Beginning Band

Sixth Grade Elective

Beginning Band is designed with sixth grade in mind. This Band has open enrollment so anyone can come and be a part of this outstanding group. No musical knowledge is necessary, only a willingness to practice at home and work hard in class. Students are taught basic music theory, characteristic tone production, pitch delineation, instrument fingerings and basic rhythmic skills. These fundamentals are needed to advance to the Intermediate Band.

Intermediate Band

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course, Two Days a Week

Prerequisite: Beginning Band or one year of prior instrumental training.

The Intermediate Band is a developmental ensemble that is made up of seventh and eighth grade Band Members. An emphasis is placed on the reinforcement of music fundamentals including: music theory, characteristic tone production, pitches delineation and advanced rhythmic studies. Students may be required to attend a weekly one hour section rehearsal. In addition this group performs at TPSMEA events, invitational contests and festivals, as well as public concerts.

Fifth Grade Choir

Two Semester Course

The Fifth Grade Choir course is designed to build upon music concepts learned in the fourth grade. Students sing a varied repertoire as they continue to develop their vocal skills, singing alone and with others, while increasing pitch and rhythmic accuracy, and beauty of tone. Students also learn music theory concepts of increasing difficulty through rhythm exercises and written work. All Fifth Grade music students are involved in at least one major performance during the semester.

Sixth Grade Choir

Sixth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

The Sixth Grade Music course is designed to build upon music concepts learned in the fifth grade. Students sing a varied repertoire as they continue to develop their vocal skills. Special attention is given to the changing voices of boys at this age, and suitable repertoire is selected. Students also learn more advanced music theory concepts through rhythm exercises, theory lessons, written assignments, and tests. All sixth grade music students are involved in at least one major performance throughout the year.

Middle School Choir

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course

The Middle School Choir is an elective course for Seventh and Eighth Grade students designed to build upon music concepts learned in the Sixth Grade. Students sing a varied repertoire as they develop their vocal skills. Students also learn more advanced music theory concepts through rhythm exercises, theory lessons, written assignments and tests. All Seventh and Eighth Grade music students are involved in at least one major performance throughout the year. Students may request two semesters of choir per year.

Middle School Theatre I

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

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One Semester Course

Middle School Theatre I is an elective course offered to seventh and eighth grade students. In Theatre I, students are introduced to theatre as a gift from their Creator that can be used to bring glory to His name. The students learn the basics of theatrical performance and theatre history. Character development, stage direction and movement are developed through individual and group performances. Students learn the rules of improvisation and create dramatic works through group improvisation and collaborative playwriting.

World Languages

Fifth Grade Spanish:

Two Semester Course

The Fifth Grade Spanish course is a one semester exploratory course which uses technology and magnetic cards to introduce vocabulary within the context of logical sentences. The emerging second language is stimulated through the addition of new symbols and re-combinations of previously learned vocabulary symbols. Students begin to use learned vocabulary in describing real life scenes, which in turn, establishes confidence in language acquisition. By the sixth lesson, students are exposed to Spanish dialogue, using first and second person present tense forms.

In addition to communication skills, Fifth Grade students at PCA develop an awareness of the culture and geography of some Spanish speaking countries. They also learn about special holiday celebrations and cultural practices. Finally, students are challenged to learn Bible passages, such as John 14:6, John 3:16, and Matthew 28:19-20, in order to be better equipped to share Christ across cultural and language barriers.

Sixth Grade Spanish

One Semester Course

The Sixth Grade Spanish course is a continuation of Spanish offered in Lower School and Fifth Grade and uses technology and magnetic cards to introduce vocabulary within the context of logical sentences. The emerging second language is stimulated through the addition of new symbols and re-combinations of previously learned vocabulary symbols. Students begin to use learned vocabulary in describing real life scenes, which in turn, establishes confidence in language acquisition. In addition to communication skills, Sixth Grade students at PCA develop an awareness of the culture and geography of some Spanish speaking countries. They also learn about special holiday celebrations and cultural practices. Finally, students are challenged to learn Bible passages in order to be better equipped to share Christ across cultural and language barriers.

Spanish I

Eighth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course

HS Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites:

- *Previous Spanish grade of 90 or above*
- *English grade of 90 or above*
- *Achievement Test Score: English/Language Arts Composite Score 85% or above*
- *Spanish teacher recommendation*
- *English Benchmarks: average grade of 90% or above*

The Spanish I course develops the four language skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students learn the present tense of both regular and irregular verbs, while students are introduced to the preterit tense of regular verbs. Vocabulary is also emphasized to give the student a basis for communicating. In addition to the actual study of the

language, a secondary goal is to further enrich the student's knowledge of the culture, history and geography of the Spanish-speaking world. Students receive credit toward their High School diploma and PCA graduation requirements.

Non-departmental Electives

Future Problem Solving Program

Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth

Future Problem Solving is an elective course for students interested in competing in the FPS international competitive program where students compete in teams of three or four at the state level (held in Austin during the last full weekend of April) after researching topics that have implications for the future. State finalists compete at the international meet held each June. The program develops creative thinking, research, decision-making, and critical and analytical thinking skills. This element increases awareness of, and interest in, the future, improving communication skills, and utilizing problem-solving strategies. While the topics are always interdisciplinary, reading, writing and language arts skills dominate the content of the program. Students are graded on their individual performance, not what they do collectively as a team. Students taking this course in the fall may compete in the spring of the same school year.

Learning Lab

Fifth - Eighth Grade Elective

One or Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: Student must be enrolled in the Learning Lab

This academic support program for students with learning differences requires separate enrollment and can be selected as an elective to receive small group assistance or can include receiving services such as case management and progress monitoring, test taking in the lab and classroom accommodations. When students attend Learning Lab as an elective, during monitored sessions they complete assignments and make-up work, have extended time to complete work or tests, and use this time to consult with instructors as to progress on upcoming assignments, tests, or projects as well as grade status. Prerequisite: Student must be enrolled in the Learning Lab

Physical Education

Fifth Grade PE

The purpose of physical education is to guide children to be physically active for a lifetime. It is our goal to enable students through physical education to perform basic skills in individual and team sports and fitness activities. Opportunity is provided to accomplish this goal through activities appropriately designed for the student's developmental level. Believing that God wants us to respect authority and maintain self-control in all areas of our life, physical education provides the perfect setting for learning self-discipline through competition while learning to respect the rules of the game and the officials.

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade PE/Athletic Period

Middle School Physical Education is offered the last period of the day and meets twice a week. The program is designed to promote physical fitness, develop motor skills, and install knowledge and understanding of rules, concepts and strategies. Students learn to compete as a team member or as an individual through a wide variety of competitive activities.

Technology

Fifth Grade Technology

In the Fifth Grade Technology course, the students achieve an overall understanding of correct keyboarding techniques, word processing, multimedia presentation and computer hardware. Students are also introduced to digital graphics, the movie making process, robotics and computer programming. Fifth Grade students are set on individualized keyboarding plans according to their skill. This ensures the use of the correct finger positions and increases their typing speed and accuracy. Through the use of hands-on projects and quizzes, the students exhibit their knowledge of the computer skills/concepts they have learned. The instructional goal is to prepare the students with computer application skills so they are prepared and confident of their abilities and are able to complete assignments that require the use of technology.

Sixth Grade Technology

In the Sixth Grade Technology course, the students develop an in-depth understanding of correct keyboarding techniques. Students are also introduced to Photoshop digital graphics, the movie making process, robotics and computer programming. Sixth grade students are set on individualized keyboarding plans according to their skill. This ensures the use of the correct finger positions and increases their typing speed and accuracy. Through the use of hands-on projects and quizzes, the students exhibit their knowledge of the computer skills/concepts they have learned. The instructional goal is to prepare students with advanced skills so they are confident of their abilities and are able to complete assignments that require the use of technology.

Middle School Programming and Robotics

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective
One Semester Course

The Middle School Programming/Robotics course is designed to inspire students to be technology and engineering leaders so they are creators of Technology and not just consumers of it. Students develop critical thinking, problem solving, collaborative and communication skills as they are challenged to solve complex tasks through the use computers, programming and robotics.

Desktop Publishing

Eight Grade Only
Upper School course credit
One Semester Course Credit: 0.5

The Desktop Publishing course equips students with key desktop publishing concepts using Adobe InDesign CS6. Topics include page layout, selecting typefaces, managing text frames, placing images, aligning objects, working with layers, and defining styles. This class is designed to prepare students interested in taking upper school newspaper or yearbook courses. Adobe InDesign is also widely used in college classes and in the corporate world for marketing, graphic design, corporate communication, public relations, and art. Students with a desire to major in a field of study in which InDesign is required have a distinct advantage. Students receive credit toward their High School diploma and PCA graduation requirements. Grade is not figured into student's High School GPA.