



NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Grade Three Curriculum

Northwest Christian Elementary school (Kindergarten – 5th grade) offers a Christ-centered education with a balanced approach to teaching and learning. We are passionate about preparing students through a distinctively **biblical, relational, and vibrant education** facilitated by caring, Christian teachers who are leaders for the next generation of young people. Our school is committed to meet the needs of students by providing dynamic learning experiences and equipping children with Scriptural truth. We encourage our students to find their unique areas of giftedness, think critically and solve problems while mastering basic skills through a variety of rich educational and extra-curricular opportunities.

Bible

Calling of God's Tribe, Christian Schools
International

Enduring Understandings for God's Glory

- *God's Word is truth (Psalm 119:105)*
- *Jesus Christ is the Living Word of God and Our Redeemer (John 1:1)*
- *God wants us to know Him through His Word and Holy Spirit (John 14:16)*
- *The Plan of Salvation for man is revealed through scripture (Jude 3, Ephesians 2:5-8)*

Genesis to Judges – God's attributes as Righteous King who has revealed Himself in Old Testament

- Creation, sin and restoration
- Biblical literacy Genesis to Judges
- Old Testament Festival

Language Arts

Journeys, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Enduring Understandings for God's Glory

- *God is the ultimate Author. Writing is a powerful tool to influence people for His glory (Psalm 102:18)*
- *God is the Purposeful Communicator (2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 4:12, Romans 12:2)*
- *God is gracious (Ephesians 2:8,9). God asks us to listen to others (James 1:19) and speak with purpose, kindness, truth and grace (Ephesians 4:29, Proverbs 3:3, 1 Peter 1:15)*

Reading

Literature

In addition to the Journeys curriculum, we incorporate several novel units which may include:

- **Sarah, Plain and Tall** by Patricia MacLaughin
- **Skylark** by Patricia MacLaughin
- **The School Mouse** by Dick King-Smith
- **Stone Fox** by James Gardiner
- **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever** by Barbara Robinson
- **Ramona Quimby Age 8** by Beverly Cleary
- **Because of Winn Dixie** by Kate DiCamillo
- **Poppy** by Avi
- Recreational reading selections that present a Christian World view

Grammar

- Review of nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, pronouns
- Recognizes subject-verb agreement
- Identifies direct object, possessive nouns and indirect object
- Identifies and writes compound sentences
- Identifies helping and linking verbs
- Identifies pronoun
- Identifies and writes direct quotations

Writing

- Incorporates foundational skills through writing process
- Appreciates literature samples using the Six Traits of Effective Writing: Voices, Ideas in Content, Organization, Word Choice, Fluency and Conventions
- Incorporates the six traits in own writing
- “NWC Writes” Writing Rally

Spelling

- Weekly word lists that coordinate with Journey literature stories

Penmanship

- Practice of weekly New Testament life application Bible verses
- D’Nealian Manuscript and Cursive letters upper and lower case

Language

- Focus on studying a variety of reading genres including in-class study, book reports, creating projects, and presentations

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Addition and Subtraction within 1,000
- Number patterns, rounding, estimating, place value, and mental math strategies
- Understand Multiplication
- Problem solving with models and arrays
- Algebraic equations and solving for an unknown number
- Multiplication facts, multiples, patterns, and strategies
- Distributive property, associative property, and community property
- Use Multiplication facts
- Understand Division with bar models and groups
- Division facts and strategies
- Two step problems and order of operations

Numbers and Operations

- Understand fractions with equal parts and parts of a whole
- Compare and order fractions
- Problem solving

Measurement and Data

- Represent and interpret data
- Making and using picture graphs, line plots, bar graphs
- Time, length, liquid volume, and mass
- Perimeter and area
- Problem solving

Geometry

- Two dimensional shapes
- Quadrilaterals, polygons, triangles, and plane figures

Common math block 3rd – 8th grades

Math

Go Math, Houghton Mifflin

Northwest Christian Schools aims to provide a balanced approach to math instruction with a focus on critical thinking through problem solving according to 21st century standards alongside of mastery of basic facts and skills at each grade level.

Enduring Understandings for God’s Glory

1. *God is orderly and precise (Psalm 147:4)*
2. *God is immense (Jeremiah 23:24)*
3. *God is unchanging and consistent (Malachi 3:6, Lamentations 3:23)*
4. *God is wise. He created people in His image to think (Genesis 1:27, Colossians 2:3)*

Science

Science, D.C. Heath and Company

Enduring Understandings for God's Glory

- God is Creator (Hebrews 11:3, Psalm 33:6)
- God is creative and orderly (Psalm 8:3-4)
- God is Revealer (Romans 1:20, Psalm 19:1-4, 1 Corinthians 14:12)
- God is our Provider (Matt 6:25-30, Genesis 1:29-30)

STEM Discovery days
(Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

Life Science

Living Things and Environments/Habitats

- Describes where plants and animals live
- Identifies communities of living things

Nutrition and Health

The Human Body

- New Food Pyramid/Plate
- Examines what we eat
- Reading food labels
- Describes how we use what we eat

Physical Science

Simple Machines

- Observes machines at work
- Describes how machines use energy

Earth and Space Science

The Earth and the Universe

- Describes the water cycle
- Describes ways the land changes
- Explores the stars and constellations

Social Studies

Enduring Understandings for God's Glory

- God is the Source. He is our Provider (Colossians 1:6, Romans 8:28)
- God is Sovereign. He rules over all things (Romans 8:28)
- God is just. He does what is best (Romans 1:18, Psalm 111:7)

Our American Heritage, A Beka Book

- Christopher Columbus
- John Smith
- Pocahontas
- Miles Standish
- Squanto
- William Penn
- Benjamin Franklin
- George Washington
- Thomas Jefferson
- Robert E. Lee
- Abraham Lincoln
- Ulysses S. Grant

Spokane County and Inland Northwest History

- Examines Spokane's history and contributions from diverse viewpoints
- Native Americans – early inhabitants
- Spokane history 1800's to present
- Tour of Davenport Hotel, MAC Museum, and Campbell House
- Geography and map skills
- WA History
- WA State regions and history

Library

- Demonstrate knowledge of the skills from 1st-2nd grade
- Identify Dewey Decimal Classification categories
- Associate non-fiction with the Dewey decimal numbers
- Locate and retrieve, with some assistance, material and information using the library computer catalog
- Alphabetize to the third letter

Physical Education

Enduring Understandings for God's Glory

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Therefore honor God with your body (1 Cor. 6:19)

- Structured fitness program
- Activities that develop and refine motor skills
- Sports skills for football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, hockey, tumbling and softball
- Cooperative activities

Music

Enduring Understandings for God's Glory

- *Music is a gift from our creative God (Book of Psalms)*
- *Music reflects the beauty and order of God's creation (Isaiah 55:12, Psalm 98:8)*
- *Music is an eternal language (Rev. 15:3)*
- *Music tells the story of God's people (Book of Psalms)*
- *Our bodies are a musical instrument (Psalm 95:1-7)*
- *With music we will worship and enjoy God forever (Rev. 5:8-13)*
- Choral, rhythm, elementary music theory
- Choral performance, pitch development and enjoyment of music (Folksongs, Patriotic songs, Movement/Circle dances)
- Learns basic theory
- Beginning recorders

Creative Expressions

Enduring Understandings for God's Glory

We were created to create (Exodus 35:31-32)

- Foundational skills of drawing
- Art instruction compliments what is being taught in the classroom.
- Students learn to manipulate a variety of media in the creative expression process.
- Art instruction builds upon itself or scaffolds K-5.

Standardized Testing

Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP)

- 3X a year at lower campus (K-8)
- At NWC, we strive to promote a balanced view of student testing. We recognize that standardized scores are only one piece of information that can show a picture of student growth. Daily work, classroom assessments, and teacher observation are additional pieces of information that teachers use as well to monitor student progress.
- MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) is a computerized, standardized test that students in grades K-8 take in order to measure growth and learning in reading, math, and language. Data is shared with parents and individual goals are set in order for students to achieve growth in these core areas. Results are reported in percentiles and RIT range scores based on national norms. This assessment tool is an effective way to measure student progress over time and a planning tool for differentiating instruction to both support and challenge all students in their learning.

Special Services

Learning Center

The Learning Center collaborates with Mead Special Services if additional testing is requested by teachers and parents. Additional program fees apply. We may refer families to Winston Center for additional testing.

- Diagnostic Testing (teacher requests)
- Susan Barton Screening (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- Susan Barton Reading and Spelling Program
- Direct instruction reading
- Math support

Chapels

- Chapels are 2-3 times a month.
- The Gospel message is continually shared.
- Chapels afford students to gain experience and understanding in: *worship, Biblical Truth, and application of truth.*
- *Reflection:* After Chapel students go back to class and discuss what was taught with their teacher.
- Local pastors are invited on occasion to teach at Chapel with administrative approval.

Technology

- Computers in classroom
- Weekly lab lessons of basic computer concepts and operations as well as academic skills practice
- Beginning skills in keyboarding and word processing

Recommended Reading

Abraham Lincoln (D'Aulaire*)
All the Places to Love (MacLachlan*)
Always Prayer Shawl, The (Oberman)
Amish Christmas, An (Ammon)
Anne of Green Gables (Montgomery)
Annie and the Old One (Miles)
Ben and Me (Lawson*)
Best School Year Ever, The (Robinson)
Biography series "Who Was ____" (publishers Grosset and Dunlap)
Boxcar Children Series (Warner*)
Boy Who Held Back the Sea, The (Hort)
Charlotte's Web (E.B. White)
Chicken Sunday (Polacco*)
Come Sunday (Grimes)
Dear America Series (Scholastic)
Family Under the Bridge, The (Carlson)
Founding Fathers of America Series (Fritz)
Hardy Boys Series (Dixon)
Homer Price (McCloskey)
House Without a Christmas Tree, The (Rock*)
Landing of the Pilgrims, The (Daughtery)
Little House on the Prairie series (Wilder*)
Magic Tree House Series (Osborne)
Moffats, The (Estes)
Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers (Winnick)
Nancy Drew Series (Keene)
Patchwork Quilt, The (Flourney)
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes (Coerr)
Selfish Giant, The (Wilde)
Story of Ruby Bridges, The (Cole)
Stuart Little (E.B. White)
Taste of Blackberries, A (Smith)
Thy Friend Obadiah (Turtle)
Trumpet of the Swan (E.B. White)
Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge (Fox)
Wilma Unlimited (Krull)
You are Mine (Lucado*)
****any books by this author***