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NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Grade Four 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

Record of God's Nation, Christian Schools Intl.

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)*

Children's Inductive Bible Study

- Learns how our Bible came to be (oral tradition/translations, etc.)
- Investigates history of God's people from I Samuel through Nehemiah

Memorization

- Selected passages for application

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 (2Timothy 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, 1Peter 1:15)*

Grammar

- Reviews nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, pronouns, conjunctions, and interjections
- Identifies transitive verb, tenses of helping verbs, and changing tenses of verbs in paragraphs
- Identifies types of sentences
- Comprehensively covered and integrated with the writing process

Writing

- Uses a five step writing process in formal writing: pre-write, draft, revise, edit and publish
- Generates all aspects of Six Traits Writing in own writing: Voice, Organization, Ideas in Content, Word Choice, Fluency and Conventions
- Integrates these qualities in content area writing with a focus on forms of writing: narrative, descriptive, expository and persuasive styles
- Writes for a specific audience and purpose
- Presentation skills utilizing technology
- "NWC Writes" Writing Rally

Reading – is a powerful tool empowering one with information and broadening one’s knowledge base

Literature

- *Little Pilgrim’s Progress* by Helen Taylor
- *Stout-Hearted Seven* by Neta Frazier
- *The Lion, Witch and Wardrobe*, C.S. Lewis’ Chronicles of Narnia

Skills and Strategies - Portrays Christian worldview through virtuous heroes

- Reads familiar text confidently and retells major content
- Builds reading vocabulary by interpreting context clues and using dictionary and other sources
- Makes predictions and is able to substantiate them
- Demonstrates usage of pre-, during, and post-reading strategies

Comprehension

- Demonstrates understanding of a variety of texts
- Uses prior knowledge to make meaning
- Expands comprehension by finding similarities and differences in stories

Variety of Genre

- Reads to learn new information (signs, labels, instructions)
- Reads selected genre and presents monthly written and project-style book reports

Spelling

- Individualized weekly spelling lists
- Analyze spelling patterns & rules

Penmanship

- D’Nealian Cursive

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)*

Numbers and Operations in Base Ten

- Place value addition and subtraction to one million
- Multiply by one digit numbers
- Multiply by two digit numbers
- Divide by one digit numbers
- Fraction equivalence and comparison
- Add and subtract fractions
- Multiply fractions by whole numbers
- Relate fractions and decimals
- Problem solving

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Multiply by one digit numbers
- Multiply by two digit numbers
- Divide by one digit numbers
- Factors, multiples, and patterns
- Two dimensional figures
- Problem Solving

Measurement and Data

- Relate fractions and decimals
- Angles
- Relative sizes of measurement units
- Algebra: Perimeter and Area
- Problem Solving

Geometry

- Two dimensional figures
 - Problem Solving
 - Fact Fluency
- Common math block differentiation 3rd – 8th Academic competitions for qualified students through Math is Cool*

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)*

Comparing Regions, Silver Burdett Ginn,
U.S. Map Skills, Nystrom
Washington: Past and Present, Directed Media, Inc.

Geography

- Explores the five regions in the United States through geography, land formations, industries and economy, major cities and special attractions
- Describes branches of government
- Memorizes states and capitals
- Researches, writes and presents a report on state of own choice

Map Skills

- Identifies Prime meridian, the North and South Pole, equator, and latitude and longitude, grids, keys and symbols
- Investigates a variety of maps

Washington State Unit

- Explores physical environment and geographic regions
- Describes history of Washington State
- Explores Lewis & Clark and westward movement

Science

Science (4) Christian Schools, Bob Jones
Delta Education, Inc.

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)
Experiments through Scientific Method

Life Science

Insects

- Describes the life cycle
- Describes their habitat and environment
- Studies live insect specimens
- Investigates characteristics of insects
- Collects and labels an insect collection

Trees and ecosystems

- Classifies common trees of the Pacific Northwest
- Investigates how animals and plants related to their environment in ecosystems designed by God

Earth Science

The Moon

- Describes the theories of origin
- Identifies the features
- Explores the motions and phases of the moon

Solar System

- Overview of system
- Identifies names and location of planets
- Researches and writes a planet report and builds a model

Music

Selects Choir or Band option

Choir

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)*
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- Become familiar with composers
 - Identify the elements of music: melody, harmony, rhythm, form, texture and timbre
 - Read 2- and 3-part choral arrangements
 - Understanding of theory and music notation

Band

Enduring Understandings for God's Glory

- *God is the Talent Giver (Matthew 25:14-30)*
 - *God is the Great Educator (Proverbs 22:6)*
 - *God's Word is the ultimate composition (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*
 - *God is Worthy of Praise (Psalm 150)*
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- Introducing basic band instruments
 - Expanded Understanding of Theory and Notation, Scale and Rhythm studies
 - Very Beginner and Beginner Music Reading Level
 - Participation in the Jr. Lilac Parade, Gathering of the Bands, Christmas and Spring concerts

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)

- Provides a structured fitness program through the "President's Council on
- Participates in activities that develop and refine motor skills
- Learns sports skills for football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, hockey, tumbling and softball
- Participates in cooperative activities

Creative Expressions

Enduring Understandings for God's Glory

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

- Foundational drawing skills
- 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.

Library

- Demonstrate knowledge of the skills from 1st-3rd grade
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the Dewey Decimal System to use a call number to independently locate fiction and non-fiction material within the library
- Use reference materials with basic understanding of their various purposes
- Understand and explore a variety of genre

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.

- Susan Barton Screening (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- Susan Barton Reading and Spelling Program
- Reading Mastery instruction (small group strategic intervention)
- 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
- Demonstrate skills in keyboarding and word processing
- Utilize technology such as Smart Boards and Laptops to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity
- Presentations using various software programs such as Word, Publisher, Power Point, etc.

Recommended Reading

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (Carroll*)
Amazing Grace: The Story of the Hymn (Grayfield)
Anne of Green Gables Series (Mointgomery*)
Bird's Christmas Carol, The (Wiggin)
Black Beauty (Sewell)
Black Stallion, The (Farley)
Blue Willow (Gates)
Borrowers, The (Norton)
Brightly of the Grand Canyon (Henry*)
Cabin Faced West, The (Fritz*)
Caddie Woodlawn (Brink)
Dog Called Kitty, A (Wallace)
Ellie (Borntrager)
Evergreen Wood, The (Parry)
Felicity (Tripp)
Five Little Peppers and How They Grew (Sidney)
Hans Brinker (Dodge)
Heidi (Spyri)
Jim Abbott: All-American Pitcher (Reiser)
Johnny Appleseed (Lindbergh)
Lassie Come Home (Knight)
Little Lame Prince, The (Craik)
Little Prince, The (de Saint-Exupery)
Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman (Schroeder)
Nancy and Plum (MacDonald*)
One Wintry Night (Graham)
Oz Books, The (Baum*)
Prairie Songs (Conrad)
Priest with Dirty Clothes, The (Sproul)
Rag Coat, The (Mills)
Robinson Crusoe (Defoe)
Strawberry Girl (Lanski*)
Swiss Family Robinson (Wyss)
Teresa of Northwood Prairie (Boutwell)
Thank You, Jackie Robinson (Cohen)
Through the Looking Glass (Carroll*)
Toddlecreek Post Office (Shulevitz)
Trail of Apple Blossoms, The (Hunt)
Treasure Island (Stevenson)
Twenty and Ten (Bishop)
Well, The (Taylor)
Wheel on the School, The (DeJong)
Where the River Begins (St. John*)
Whipping Boy, The (Fleischman*)