



Grade five is a pivotal year at Covenant Christian Academy during which students begin to prepare for our Middle School program by beginning departmentalized study. Students are encouraged to take greater ownership in the learning process and to develop organizational and study skills that will equip them for success in Upper School.

### **BIBLE**

The Bible curriculum Witnesses to the Gospel published by Christian Schools International highlights the history of the Early Church and the missionary journeys of Paul, the Apostle. Students participate in weekly Chapels, present an All-School Chapel, memorize weekly scripture verses, and recite Philippians Chapter 3 for the end-of-the-year Awards Ceremony.

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

Our language arts program expands literary skills along with the integration of reading strategies. Comprehension is strengthened through the use of activating prior knowledge, making predictions, employing graphic organizers, and summarizing and paraphrasing text. Students identify the author's point of view, cause and effect, the main idea, supporting details, distinguish between fact and fiction, and draw inferences and conclusions. Students engage in higher-level responses to text (both in discussion forums and in writing). Students identify literary elements such as plot, setting, and character and explore the use of literary devices such as allusion, dialect, dialogue and narration, hyperbole, and figurative language. Our English curriculum includes the study of grammar, spelling, and vocabulary. Grammar is emphasized including parts of speech, punctuation, and sentence diagramming. The curriculum is designed for a weekly spelling and vocabulary lesson.

### **LITERATURE**

The grade five course is designed to nurture appreciation for a variety of literary genres resulting in the development of reading comprehension

strategies, vocabulary, and refined critical thinking skills. The following novels may be read in class: *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, *Wonder*, *Shakespeare Stealer*, and *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*. Students identify literary genres, analyze the elements of a plot, recognize literary devices, summarize, and integrate their literary interpretations with real life experiences. Some novels are integrated with Social Studies themes.

### **WRITING**

Instruction in writing focuses on the Writing Process: prewriting, writing, revising, editing, and publishing. Students develop their personal writing voice and skills such as writing with greater clarity and organization and refining paragraph and sentence structure, while increasing their knowledge of standard English conventions. Revision is an integral part of the writing process utilizing tools such as self/peer editing, and writing conferences. Fifth graders craft various genres of writing (journals, friendly letters, newspaper stories, reports, poetry, and plays).

Students will also participate in the beginning levels of the Progymnasmata, a classical approach to writing instruction in which students study, analyze and imitate high quality narrative selections.

### **GRAMMAR**

Shurley English 5 is a grammar and writing program designed specifically for fifth grade. Shurley is a proven, research based method for instructing students in the principles of correct grammar and oral and written language skills. Grammar is fundamental to speaking, reading, and writing. The essential components of this program include grammar question and answer flows, jingles, practicing and revising sentences and paragraphs, and writing effectively for all purposes. Daily instruction provides constant review, immediate feedback and utilizes all learning styles. It is our goal to prepare our students to carefully interpret the mechanics of written English when reading and effectively and skillfully communicate their knowledge, ideas, and most importantly their faith to others.

## **LATIN**

Latin is instructed in grade five to teach a language that forms the basis for more than 60% of our English words. Latin is a very useful, interesting, and challenging language to study. Studying Latin strengthens a student's ability to decipher a complex grammar system and an extensive vocabulary. In addition, Latin helps to develop a student's English and provides a solid foundation for the study of other languages. The goals for Latin in the Grammar School are twofold. Firstly, Latin vocabulary will be increased through short stories, theme-based lessons, and even Latin conversation. Secondly, repetition will be used to memorize basic Latin paradigms to prepare students to master the increasingly more difficult grammar of middle and high school Latin courses. Our Latin instructors strive to create a fun and interactive environment where students can develop a true enthusiasm for learning a new language, complete with its rich culture and history.

## **MATHEMATICS**

Math In Focus is a complete program based on the highly successful elementary math program used in Singapore. Designed to equip students with a strong foundation in mathematics, topics are covered in depth and taught to mastery. By focusing on mathematical understanding, the program aims to help students develop logical thinking and critical lifelong problem-solving skills.

The Math In Focus program calls for direct instruction and focuses on mathematical thinking with immediate application of new skills to problem solving. By encouraging students to solve problems in a variety of ways, this program stretches the mind and promotes an understanding of the way mathematical processes work.

### **Pedagogical Approach and Methodology**

The Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract approach enables students to encounter math in a meaningful way through concrete activities before progressing to pictorial and abstract representations. This allows students to understand mathematical concepts before learning the "rules" or formulaic expressions:

- Students first encounter the mathematical concepts through the use of manipulatives.
- Students then move on to the pictorial stage in which pictures are used to model problems.
- When students are familiar with the ideas taught, they progress to a more advanced or abstract stage in which only numbers, notation and symbols are used.

### **Model Drawing**

Model-drawing is an ingenious problem-solving strategy built into the curriculum. Students are taught to visualize and construct concrete pictures to help them make sense of word problems. The model-drawing method requires students to understand the mathematical concepts underlying word problems and equips them with a strong conceptual foundation in mathematics to solve even the most challenging problems. The model-drawing technique not only provides a powerful method for solving problems, but also serves as a link to algebra. Symbolic representation of problems, the mainstay of algebra, emerges as a logical extension of the model-drawing technique.

### **Teaching to Mastery**

Each topic is covered in detail and taught to mastery. Immediately after new concepts are taught, students are engaged with a variety of mathematically rich problems. This ensures that the focus is on the student's deep understanding of each topic. Math In Focus is geared towards producing mathematical thinkers, and it does this by walking children through all the component parts of a problem before presenting them with the whole problem to solve.

### **Spiral Progression**

Topics covered previously are reviewed at higher grades and with increasing difficulty. The introduction of new concepts is built upon the mathematical concepts students have learned previously. Spiral progression also allows for a review of important math concepts while expanding on that foundation.

### **Metacognition**

Metacognition refers to the ability to monitor one's own thought processes. In teaching students to be conscious of the strategies they use to accomplish a task, this strategy encourages students to think of alternative means of solving problems and promotes logical thinking. Students are encouraged to be aware of how they arrive at their solutions. Alternative ways of solving the problem are provided as a form of guidance for students to check their thought processes. This is opposed to rote learning and application of formulaic strategies.

Skills and concepts covered in grade five include:

- Numbers to 1,000,000,000: comparing, place value, rounding
- Measuring length, weight and capacity

- Multiplication and division
- Fractions/decimals
- Operations with fractions and decimals
- Tables and graphs
- Geometry: angles, plane figures, solid figures
- Area, perimeter and volume

## **SCIENCE AND HEALTH**

Hands-on kits designed by the National Sciences Resources Center are utilized in our Science program, which engages students in discovery learning through the process of the Scientific Method: prediction, hypothesis, experimentation, collecting and organizing data, conducting research, and summarizing conclusions.

Fifth grade science is based around the concepts of matter, motion, and energy. We begin the year with a study of **Motion and Design**, which explores the physics of motion and how to apply these basic concepts to technological design. Students design vehicles and record their designs using technical two-view and three-view drawings. The vehicles are tested for speed and then redesigned for greater efficiency. Students apply concepts such as friction and kinetic and potential energy, while exploring the effect of gravity on motion and integrating cost analysis. This unit addresses forces such as gravity, friction, and magnetism, along with types of simple machines. Student use standard and metric units of measurement to conduct investigations and measure forces.

Following this unit, we continue the theme of technology and design by studying the inventive process, which culminates in an “Inventor’s Fair.” Students design and build their own invention by following the design process.

The second half of the year focuses on matter and energy. We review different types of energy and end the year with a mini unit on Environmental Science, which explores different renewable energy sources and how we can help protect our environment’s valuable natural resources.

A highlight of our Science Program is the bi-yearly Science Fair for which students prepare by conducting a topical study in the context of cooperative learning groups.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES / HISTORY / GEOGRAPHY**

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade history curriculum at Covenant Christian Academy spans the time from the Italian Renaissance (1400s) through the American Colonial Period (1760s).

The course is taught as four distinct yet connected units of study including, The Italian Renaissance, The Age of Exploration, The Reformation, and Colonial North American. During this exciting period of history, students will learn about the philosophies and events that led to the founding of their own country. A theme running throughout the various units is that of Humanism, or belief in the abilities of man. This philosophy inspired Renaissance artists to see in new ways, explorers to take risks by traveling around the world, men to challenge the institution of the Catholic Church, and persecuted religious to set out and form cities in the New World. Geography studies are integrated throughout all units.

## **ENRICHMENT CLASSES**

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The physical education curriculum goals are team sports skill development, fitness building, and sharing and caring through teamwork. Students play team sports such as soccer, touch football, hockey, basketball, volleyball, and softball. Teamwork and sportsmanship are emphasized as part of character development.

### **MUSIC**

Music is a multi-faceted curriculum based upon the premise that music is a gift from God enabling students to bring glory to God in a unique way. In fifth grade, students continue to develop their musical knowledge through an emphasis on singing combined with playing instruments, improvising, composing, and listening, while focusing on the fundamentals of music theory. The fundamentals of music theory are emphasized through reading, writing and playing multiple meters, scales and chords, and rhythms and melodies in standard musical notation. Historical, cultural, and Biblical connections are made to music from around the world (folk songs from other countries, rhythms and performance styles from other countries, etc). Students explore these contexts through singing and playing instruments and as an all-class ensemble. Students sing in two-parts (rounds and basic harmonies) accompanied by percussion instruments, recorders, and piano. Grade five students are afforded the opportunity to participate in CCS’s instrumental music program and/or Junior Chorale.

### **ART**

Students refine basic drawing skills based on seeing shapes in common forms applying different values of gray and shading. Students learn basic color theory by

experimenting with paintings, crayon drawings, colored pencil drawings, and pastels. Three-dimensional media facilitates working out designs in the round and students begin to learn perspective by using unusual points of view. Art lessons will include discussions of where artists get ideas; works presented by specific artists will be analyzed along with their biographies. This use of classical masterworks as references for art projects will demonstrate how recognized artists choose to solve aesthetic problems.

### **KEYBOARDING AND COMPUTER**

Our weekly instructional focus for fifth grade students is on the development of efficient and accurate keyboarding skills. In addition, our computers facilitate highly integrated software and empower students to create multimedia projects, while refining their skills in Pages and Keynote. Teachers enliven lessons and meet the growing demands for instructional skills through utilizing computers in the classroom and our computer lab.

For more information regarding our Grammar School Program  
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