



WAKE
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Course Descriptions

GRADES K-5 through 5th

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Introduction

The course of study for the Elementary Department establishes fundamental and foundational skills necessary for the development of the whole child. The following descriptions offer a brief synopsis of each subject per grade level for a scope and sequence of the elementary curriculum at Wake Christian Academy. (A Beka textbooks are used unless otherwise noted.)

Kindergarten

BIBLE

The kindergarten Bible curriculum reinforces all the teaching about character and Christian living. It emphasizes how much God loves the children. Stories from the Old and New Testaments are told in order to teach Biblical principles that will apply to the children's lives. Weekly memory verses are taught, using the A Beka ABC Verses.

TEXTS: *A Beka Flash-a-Card Series, One Hundred Ways God Loves You*—Stephen Elkins (Thomas Nelson), *What Would Jesus Do?*—Charles M. Sheldon (Questar)

PHONICS AND READING

Children begin by learning the sounds of the vowels and consonants; they progress to reading blends and words. When reading circles begin, the children read a series of challenging books prepared especially for their ability level. These books help the students apply and master the phonics rules they are learning.

TEXTS: *Letters and Sounds, My Blend and Word Book, Basic Readers, Advanced Readers: Little Pie, Jesus Helps, Penny Porcupine*

WRITING

Students learn writing in a program that is correlated with their phonics. As they learn to recognize the letters of the alphabet and learn what sound they say, they also learn to write them in manuscript style. Later they learn to write blends, words, and sentences.

TEXTS: *Writing with Phonics K5, Kindergarten Writing Tablet*

NUMBERS

In kindergarten, children learn to count and recognize the numbers 1 - 100. They also learn to work with the following number concepts: number families; before, after, and between numbers; smallest to largest numbers; number words (one-ten); counting to 100 by 1's, 2's, 5's, 10's, and combinations for the One-Ten Addition Families. They work with counting money and telling time. They are also exposed to the concepts of subtraction and measurement.

TEXT: *Number Skills*

SCIENCE, HEALTH, AND SAFETY

The science program is designed to stimulate young children's interest in the world that God has

made for them. They will see that God not only has a plan for each part of His creation, but He also cares for it. Units on self, weather, seasons, seeds, animals, and seashore show the wonders of God's design in His world. The children discover these wonders through observation, experiments, and hands-on activities.

SOCIAL STUDIES

As the children learn about people and places, they will see how God directs in people's lives to accomplish His will. Interesting activities in each unit help the children apply what they have learned. Many hands-on activities, field trips, and films are used to reinforce the concepts.

TEXTS: *Weekly Reader, Community Helper Flash Cards*

First Grade

BIBLE

Instruction is given in Biblical concepts and how to apply these principles and values to everyday life. We focus on "building our character for Christ." From self-control, obedience, and attentiveness to being loving and truthful, we are learning that our character is "who we are when no one is looking" (but God sees and knows everything). Learning to truthfully take responsibility for our actions, attitude and words is a big year end goal for our students. Teachable moments occur to reinforce the importance of being responsible for our choices rather than making excuses or playing the "blame-game." We begin our study of God's Word after establishing that the Bible is Truth and not a "story" like the Little Red Hen. We use a Bible Timeline to sequentially study the order of these events in history. From Creation to the resurrection of Christ, our Bible Truth time is the start of each day. We also memorize verses of Scripture and enjoy singing praise songs to God.

TEXTS: *The Big Picture Bible TimeLine* (Compiled by Carol Eide, Gospel Light), *The Holy Bible*

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language provides an introduction to the written word. It integrates grammar, creative writing, and reading comprehension. Language is incorporated into the daily work scope of the first grade. It blends with the reading, writing, and spelling skills taught daily.

TEXT: *Language 1*

HANDWRITING

In the handwriting curriculum, emphasis is placed on manuscript letter formation. The shape, size, slant, and spacing of letters and words are evaluated. The triangular pencil grip is taught. Neatness is stressed in written work.

SPELLING

Word patterns and phonetic rules help children understand and appreciate the written word. Guided

practice enables a child to master the spelling of difficult words and to be successful in reading and writing throughout his/her lifetime. Dictionary skills are introduced at this level.

TEXTS: *Letters and Sounds, Spelling and Poetry 1 (A Beka)*

READING

Reading is the foundation upon which most of the first grade curriculum rests. The A Beka program uses a phonetic approach in teaching students to read. As the student masters the application of phonics rules, he will become a successful reader.

First grade reading instruction incorporates group reading based on the student's reading ability. Group reading is the main instruction period for reading skills. Class reading, when the whole class reads together, is also incorporated. Class reading includes health, history, and science reading activities.

TEXTS: *A Handbook for Reading, Fun with Pets, Tiptoes, Stepping Stones, Secrets and Surprises, Down by the Sea, Kind and Brave, Aesop's Fables, Strong and True, Silver Sails, Animals in the Great Outdoors.*

ARITHMETIC

The first grade students are taught math facts, values, absolutes, and order. Repetition, drill, and memorization help instill basic math facts. Word problems help develop critical thinking skills. As the math process develops in the child, he learns to appreciate the perfect design of God's world.

TEXTS: *Arithmetic 1, Test and Speed Drill Booklet*

SCIENCE

The science curriculum is designed to stimulate the student's interest in science through a study of the wonders of creation. The student learns exciting facts about himself and the plant and animal worlds around him. Through the study of science, the child is led to a deeper reverence for the God who planned it all.

TEXTS: *Discovering God's World, Science Spin - Weekly Reader*

HISTORY

Love and appreciation for the biblical origin of America is instilled in the children to help produce quality citizens. We begin by learning about our own state and its location in our nation. Next we learn about the different symbols of our nation and about the men and women who had a part in its founding. Then we take a quick trip across the country to see many of the famous landmarks for which our nation is known. Finally we see how our country relates to other nations of the world.

TEXTS: *My America and My World, Weekly Reader*

HEALTH

The study of health is intended to motivate the children to be responsible and care for the body that

God has given them. They appreciate that they are created in the image of God. The students are encouraged to develop good health and safety habits.

TEXT: *Health, Safety, and Manners*

Second Grade

BIBLE

A desire to know God in a personal way is instilled through the teaching of doctrinal truths. The concept of our relationship with God is captured through the teaching of Old and New Testament stories. Christian character is nurtured through learning scriptural principles and putting them into action. Scripture is memorized weekly. Teaching children to pray is an integral part of the daily curriculum.

TEXT: *Bible Truths for Christian Schools: A Father's Care* (Bob Jones Press)

LANGUAGE

Language skills strengthen and support a proficiency in communication through written and spoken language. Grammar is integrated into creative writing and comprehension skills. The understanding of new rules is taught with the students completing the correlating work sheets.

TEXT: *Language 2*

READING AND PHONICS

Reading and phonics are the foundational stones upon which all other subject areas are built. The mechanics, comprehension, expression, and application of reading materials are essential to the development of the individual child. Reading groups allow smaller group settings in which skills are fostered and brought to fruition.

TEXTS: *A Handbook for Reading, Story Tree, Treasure Chest, Hidden Treasure, Paths of Gold, Sunshine Meadows, Growing Up Where Jesus Lived, The Mystery of Pelican Cove, All Kinds of Animals, Swiss Family Robinson, Letters and Sounds 2*

HANDWRITING

Second grade is the transition year from manuscript to cursive handwriting. The formation of upper and lower case cursive letters, along with the blending of letters to make words, is introduced. As the students gain skills, these are incorporated into complete sentences and eventually into creative stories.

TEXT: *Zaner Bloser Handwriting*

SPELLING

Weekly spelling words are provided, mastered, and used properly in sentence formation. Reinforcement activities, along with dictionary skills, enable the children to gain a workable

knowledge of each word. Challenging words are added to each week's lesson to encourage the child's knowledge of the English language.

TEXT: *Spelling for Christian Schools 2* (Bob Jones)

ARITHMETIC

The format of *Arithmetic 2* promotes a variety of mathematical procedures. An emphasis is placed on problem solving. Understanding and application of concepts such as regrouping, fractions, mixed numbers, multiplication, division, and counting patterns are covered. Addition, subtraction, and measurement facts are mastered. Teaching across the curriculum allows for unit studies that expand math into science, reading, geography, and life experiences.

TEXTS: *Arithmetic 2, Test and Speed Drill Booklet*

SCIENCE

When a child is born, God instills within him the desire to seek out and find answers to scientific truths. *Enjoying God's World* helps stimulate his interest through the study of His wondrous creation. One of the joys students receive in studying science is the realization of how they are fearfully and wonderfully made.

TEXT: *Enjoying God's World, Science Spin - Weekly Reader*

HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY

The intent of the study of history is to instill within each student the love of our country. A patriotic appreciation is emphasized as the wonder of our nation's heritage unfolds. Three basic units include America, Our Home; The People Who Built America; and Tomorrow's America. These three comprehensively allow the molding of good citizens for the future.

TEXT: *Our America, Weekly Reader*

Third Grade

BIBLE

Third grade Bible curriculum includes two missionary novels. Students are exposed to the sacrifices and rewards of going into the world to preach the gospel. Students are taught Biblical principles of serving and trusting God in difficult circumstances in obedience to His will. In addition, students are introduced to The Young Peacemaker curriculum. Students learn to understand conflict, respond to conflict and prevent conflict using biblical principles and to enjoy the freedom of restored friendships.

TEXTS: *Escape - Dunkel; Peanut Butter Friends in a Chop Suey World - Brammer; The Young Peacemaker - C. Sande* (Peacemaker Ministries)

READING

The third grade reading curriculum provides a variety of stories to develop a love for literature. Phonics skills are reviewed and practiced, but the emphasis is on comprehension skills. Vocabulary

words are introduced with every lesson helping the student learn sight words as well as decoding words in context. Dictionary skills are also taught.

TEXTS: *3A and 3B Readers and workbook* (Bob Jones Press); *Sarah Plain and Tall*

SPELLING

Spelling is taught through the use of *Vocabulary Workshop*. 160 core words are introduced. Definitions, ranges of application, proper usage, and textual context relationships are provided in a variety of daily exercises. A weekly test is given for assessment alternating spelling and vocabulary.

TEXT: *Vocabulary Workshop: Level Green 3* (Sadlier-Oxford)

LANGUAGE

Third grade language is a study of grammar that aids students in expressing themselves clearly and creatively in their communication with others. A work-text provides written practice for the concepts taught. A sturdy foundation is laid for English beginning with concepts of complete sentence structure, use of nouns, verbs, adjectives, and word usage.

TEXT: *Language 3*

HANDWRITING

A cursive writing program provides penmanship practice while giving students opportunity to improve their skills in phonics, creative writing, reading comprehension, dictionary usage, nature study, coloring, and reading of charts.

TEXT: *Zaner Bloser Handwriting*

ARITHMETIC

Arithmetic 3 includes a study of place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, problem solving, money, graphs, the calendar, time, measurement, geometry, fractions, decimals, temperature, and Roman numerals. Once these concepts are introduced, they are reviewed throughout the year.

TEXT: *Arithmetic 3; Super Star Math* (NCDPI); *Stretch Your Mind Activity Book* (Bob Jones)

SCIENCE

The third grade science curriculum includes a study of the human body, plants, vertebrates, and invertebrates. Further topics are exploring the desert, the ocean, the pond, and the forest. It also deals with the farmer's field and weather. Each is taught from a Christian perspective with God as Creator of all.

TEXT: *Exploring God's World*

HISTORY

The third grade history curriculum is a survey of American history from a Christian perspective through the biographies of great Americans. Emphasis is on patriotism, character development and the variety of contributions made by Americans to this country.

TEXT: *Our American Heritage*

Fourth Grade

BIBLE

The primary goal of the *Bible Truths* textbook, *God and His People*, is to "teach students to live the Bible as well as know the Bible." The curriculum is divided into ten thematic units. These units are attributes of God, Bible study and prayer, faithfulness, Christmas, victory, contentment, love, Easter, Christ and His people, and eternal promises. A Thanksgiving mini unit is also included if the teacher desires to incorporate it. The lessons emphasize God's dealing with His people and the need for salvation. Application stories teach students by example of behaviors pleasing to God. Background information for Bible accounts, chronology of Bible events and characters, and stories about famous Christians in history connects the Bible events with history. The novel *Captive Treasure* is used in Unit 2 and *With Daring Faith*, a missionary biography of Amy Carmichael, is used in Unit 7. A Bible journal is kept and the students memorize a weekly Bible verse.

TEXT: *Bible Truths for Christian Schools 4: God and His People* (Bob Jones Press)

LANGUAGE

Language makes it possible for us to communicate with God and each other and helps bring stability to the way words are spoken, spelled, and put together. Grammar keeps a language stable enough so people can understand each other. We learn how to recognize and write good sentences and how to identify the four types of sentences. Our study includes writing friendly letters, business letters, thank-you notes, and postcards. In learning the writing process, we employ encyclopedia skills in writing a research report. Written and oral book reports are required throughout the year. The students learn capitalization and punctuation rules and apply those rules to their writing. In addition to learning and using all eight parts of speech, the students also study subjects and predicates. Diagraming skills are drilled for subjects, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Instruction is given in using the dictionary, making subjects and verbs agree, and using troublesome words.

TEXT: *God's Gift of Language A*

READING

The approach in elementary reading is not only to teach reading, but also Christian character development through the selections students read. Our desire is to produce students who not only can read, but who read for pleasure and enjoyment also. Some of the stories use familiar experiences with which the child can identify. Other stories enable the student to perceive family relationships, principles of salvation, and standards for Christian living. Selections are also included to acquaint children with their traditional literary heritage. Word-recognition skills are presented through phonetic analysis, structural analysis, sight words, context clues, and dictionary analysis. Class discussion of the lesson focuses on building comprehension skills.

TEXTS: *Reading for Christian Schools 4* (Bob Jones Press); *Captive Treasure*; *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*; *Mountain Born*

SPELLING/VOCABULARY

The proper use and understanding of spelling helps one be more effective in all aspects of a Christian's life, particularly as it relates to communication via the written and spoken word. In addition, word knowledge is essential to reading comprehension. By mastering more words, the more accomplished the students will be in reading and in writing. Every two weeks, students are given 12 vocabulary/spelling words. The unit focuses on the definition, the range of application, and the relationship to other words. Extensive reinforcement is provided through a variety of exercises. Each unit also provides practice for vocabulary-related skills incorporated on standardized tests. The student also learns the spelling of those 12 words and 3 additional words selected by the teacher from other subjects. Four review units and two cumulative reviews provide further enrichment, review, and assessment skills. A final mastery test is included for year-end assessment.

TEXT: *Vocabulary Workshop: Level Orange 4th* (Sadlier- Oxford)

HANDWRITING

Fourth grade continues to reinforce cursive instruction given in earlier grade levels through daily writing activities and practice run-offs.

TEXT: *Zaner Bloser Handwriting*

MATHEMATICS

In the study of mathematics, the students find exactness, precision, and completeness just as we find in God's world. We teach traditional arithmetic by traditional methods. We work daily on story problems to sharpen students' problem solving skills. The program reinforces many skills: addition with carrying, subtraction with borrowing, multiplication with carrying and multiplying by three-digit numbers, division with one and two-digit divisors, time lapse, English and metric measures, using linear and liquid measures, averaging, estimating, converting money, greatest common factor, least common multiple, divisibility rules for 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, and 10, decimals, use of a thermometer, recognizing basic geometric figures, finding perimeter and area, and solving equations containing an unknown number.

TEXTS: *Arithmetic 4*; *Super Star Math* (NCDPI); *Stretch Your Mind Activity Book* (Bob Jones)

SCIENCE

Elementary science begins by teaching the student that reality does have structure and order because it was created by a rational, orderly God. They will find exactness, precision, and completeness in the study of science. Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created...” is taught as our foundation in science. The topics covered in the curriculum include an introduction to science and scientists, insects, plants, matter (water, air, and weather), the energy of sound and hearing, geology, oceanography, and astronomy. In addition, the lives of four Christian scientists are highlighted: Jean Henri Fabre, George Washington Carver, Robert Boyle, and Alexander Graham Bell.

TEXT: *Understanding God’s World*

SOCIAL STUDIES

By teaching the facts of history in Christian perspective, we can give students the opportunity to develop traits that can make them great men and women in God’s eyes. We teach that there are many lessons to be learned from history. From a Biblical perspective, we teach the Scriptural principles upon which America was founded and instill in our students the desire to remain true to those principles. Our project-based study of North Carolina centers on history, along with geography, weather, industry, agriculture, major cities, citizenship, state and local government, and state symbols. A map skills unit teaches students how to use globes and maps, symbols and scales, and identify major world locations.

TEXTS: *North Carolina Studies Weekly*, *A Beka Map Study Skills*

Fifth Grade

BIBLE

In the fifth grade, Bible is the supreme academic subject. It is not only the key to the mind, but more importantly, the soul. The gospel message is freely given in the classroom. A spiritual, nurturing atmosphere is upheld at all times so that Christ may be honored. Topics to be discussed include God’s judgment and grace, foundations for living, godly character, evangelism, and missions.

TEXTS: *Living in God’s Love* (Bob Jones Press); *Mik Shrok* (Repp)

LANGUAGE

Language is the bridge of communication between God and man. God chose to communicate with people through the Bible. Language distinguishes man from God’s other creatures. Using the gift that comes from Him, the fifth grade curriculum includes sentence parts, all parts of speech, kinds of sentences, punctuation, capitalization, and the proper use of resource books.

TEXTS: *Language B - Writing and Grammar*, *Easy Grammar*

READING

Fifth grade reading stresses a broadening in comprehensive and critical thinking skills through the study of a variety of literary techniques and genres. Students will read full length, age appropriate

books of the following genres: biography, historical fiction, mystery, realistic fiction and Christian fiction. Because reading is the avenue to all other skills, developing a genuine love for reading is essential. Written and oral book reports, oral reading and class discussion help students express themselves more freely and accurately.

TEXTS: *Reading for Christian Schools 5* (BJU Press), *Noah Webster A Man Who Loved Words (A Beka Book)*, *On His Own (A Beka Book)*, *Pollyanna* (Puffin Books), *Little Pilgrim's Progress* (Moody Publishers), *The Secret of the Golden Cowrie* (Bob Jones Press), *Mik Shrok* (Bob Jones Press)

SPELLING/VOCABULARY

The fifth grade spelling curriculum promotes effective oral and written communications and stimulates vocabulary growth as well as spelling skills. Each unit features a balanced approach to word acquisition through definitions, pronunciation guides, and correct usage through contextual illustrations, synonyms, antonyms, and analogies. Each unit also provides practice for vocabulary-related skills incorporated on standardized tests as well as cultivates critical thinking. Weekly workbook exercises reinforce the words to be mastered.

TEXT: *Vocabulary Workshop: Level Blue 5* (Sadlier-Oxford)

MATHEMATICS

Fifth grade mathematics stresses the orderliness and structure of our Creator. Numbers reveal the design and wisdom of an Infinite Being. Such material to be covered includes measurements, fractions, equations, decimals, estimation, graphs, temperature, geometry, area, and perimeter.

TEXTS: *Arithmetic 5*, *Stretch Your Mind Activity Book* (Bob Jones), *Math Superstar* (NCDPI), *Speed Drills and Tests*, *Rapid Calculation Drills*

SCIENCE

Fifth grade science focuses on God as creator of all things. Evolution is exposed as a false, unscientific theory. God's creation is exciting and interesting enough to keep humanity busy in discovering and learning. Topics to be taught include: The Wonder of the Sky, The Treasures of the Earth, Energy and Engines, and The Living Sea.

TEXT: *Investigating God's World*

HISTORY

The fifth grade history course covers US history from the early 1900's incorporating World History as it relates to the US. There is a major focus on Geography throughout the course. Additional topics covered in the text are: government, economics and culture. Students also complete a year-long history project which includes elements of historical events, geography, & cultures. The premium focus of this course is a Christian worldview by showing God's nature and man's responsibility as revealed through creation. Biblical truth is woven throughout the student text.

TEXT: *Heritage Studies 5* (Bob Jones Press)

The Individual Learning Center

The mission of the Elementary Individual Learning Center is to serve as a resource for students and as a support to the regular classroom teacher through collaborative consultation. The Center provides individual instruction to students with diverse learning styles and needs. Our goal is to remediate academic weaknesses while maximizing learning strengths. We thus encourage the development of a child's positive self-esteem according to Philippians 4:13 and Ephesians 2:10.

Enrichment Classes

SPANISH (K through 5)

The Spanish Enrichment Class exposes students through active participation to basic vocabulary, essential dialogue, and cultural knowledge of Spanish-speaking countries. Bible verse memorization and songs are incorporated as well.

Viva el Español

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Elementary physical education is designed to provide opportunities for students to develop the neuromuscular, loco-motor, and cognitive skills. These skills are developed through various sports-related activities. Sportsmanship and teamwork are stressed in order to help the students develop the appropriate attitude towards sports and sports-related activities.

GENERAL MUSIC

Students are introduced to the basic structure, theory, and language of music. Instruments are introduced and demonstrated. Third graders are taught to play the recorder. An emphasis on a different culture/country each year helps develop an awareness and appreciation of other cultures around the world. All students are encouraged to develop their musical abilities and to enjoy music as a means of worshiping God.

Bob Jones University Press

THIRD GRADE ELEMENTARY CHORUS

The chorus is open to any third grade student. It is the first level of organized group singing offered. It will be more training oriented and less performance oriented. Students will apply and receive reinforcement in the basic music reading skills they are learning in general music class. The group will have two major concerts: a Christmas Concert in December and a Spring Concert in May. Students will learn to follow basic conducting beat patterns. They will begin to learn to follow a musical page. Emphasis will be placed on proper singing posture and production, matching pitches, vowel placement, and stage presence. Most music will be in unison with some part work such as rounds and partner songs.

FOURTH/FIFTH GRADE ELEMENTARY CHORUS

This chorus is open to any fourth or fifth grade student. Participants will become skilled in 2 and maybe 3-part singing. Attention will continue to be given to deepening their understanding of music reading skills, especially interval recognition and rhythms as related to the development of sight reading skills. The group will have two major concerts: a Christmas Concert in December and a Spring Concert in May. They will also participate in Elementary Fine Arts activities.

STRINGS I

This class teaches beginner violin, viola, cello and double bass. No prerequisite is necessary. A wide variety of music is played including classical, folk, multicultural, 'fiddle' and sacred. Music theory is woven throughout the curriculum. Students participate in several concerts each year.

STRINGS II

Successful completion of Strings I is required before enrolling in this class. Skills continue to develop. More challenging music is introduced. Concerts are held throughout the year.

BAND

Band Explorers (grade 4) and Band Discoverers (grade 5) are open to students who demonstrate a musical aptitude and interest. Emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of playing an instrument and following a conductor. The band will participate in two major concerts (Christmas and spring) and the Fine Arts Festival. There are summer opportunities for continuing instruction.

ART

The emphasis in elementary art is on learning to use the art elements (color, line, shape, texture, value) and principles of design (balance, emphasis, contrast, rhythm (movement, variety, unity). Students become familiar with the use of pencil, colored pencils, markers, pastels, tempera, watercolor, basic printing, and mixed media. Younger grades concentrate on using scissors, using shapes in their work, using brushes properly, and controlling paint. Older students fine-tune these abilities. Concepts learned are foreshortening, overlapping, and basic perspective. Art appreciation exposes students to famous artists throughout time.

COMPUTER

The elementary computer lab is open to all 2nd through 6th grade students. Its purpose is to prepare students with age-appropriate computer fluency skills. All classes will identify essential computer components and demonstrate basic touch-keyboarding skills. Fourth, fifth, and sixth grades will receive instruction in the Microsoft Office software applications of Word, Excel, Publisher, and PowerPoint while integrating class specific curricula.

Software: *Typing Pal Online, Ultra-Key, Microsoft Office 2010*
Textbook: *Learning with Computers 2nd ed.* (Thomson-Southwestern)

LIBRARY

The purpose of the library instruction is to teach students age-appropriate skills that will enable them to reap the greatest benefit from this resource. They are taught proper use and care of books, the ability to locate materials, the Dewey Decimal System, the value of research materials, and ways to use a computer as a library aid. Students are encouraged to develop discernment in reading and a love for leisure reading.

Accelerated Reader is used to encourage comprehension skills and a broader love for reading.