

**LINFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
ELEMENTARY DIVISION
2010-2011**

**CURRICULUM SUMMARY
GRADES K-5**

Linfield Christian School has developed a curriculum using a developmental approach with a strong academic emphasis. Textbooks have been chosen to help children learn skills, concepts, strategies, and content which lay the foundation for becoming independent lifelong learners.

BIBLE

Linfield Christian School is a non-denominational, independent Christian school. There is a natural integration of Biblical principles into the total program. The Bible curriculum leads students to knowledge of Scripture and how they fit into God's plan. Verse and passage memorization are woven into the curriculum. Children attend chapel every week.

Textbook: *Bible* (ACSI)

LANGUAGE ARTS

Kindergartners are introduced to reading readiness skills through phonics-based curriculum. Informal reading begins towards the end of the first semester with formal reading beginning in first grade. A strong emphasis is placed on literature at all grade levels. Creative and formal writing are an important component of our program. Vocabulary development, comprehension skills, problem solving, and critical thinking are emphasized. Formal testing on spelling words begins in first grade.

Textbook: *Reading* (Houghton Mifflin)
Daily Oral Language
Wordly Wise

MATH

Math concepts are taught through the use of a hands-on manipulative approach and with a strong focus on skill building, problem solving, and concepts mastery for every level of learning. Practice for every day mathematics and test-taking success is incorporated into our math program.

Textbook: *Math* (Houghton Mifflin)

FINE ARTS

Students in grades Kindergarten through five are taught Performing Arts by a specialized teacher from two to three times each week. Teaching focuses on the artistic mediums of music, drama, and movement. Students also participate in Christmas and Spring performances. Every month an Art Appreciation teacher spotlights a well-known artist.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish is taught twice a week in all Elementary School classes. A specialized teacher exposes the children to oral use of the language, reading, and writing skills depending on the grade level. A textbook is used in grades 3, 4 and 5.

Textbook: *¡Viva el Español!* (National Textbook Company)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is taught by a specialized teacher to each class from two to three days a week. Our program offers activities that aid each child's progression in motor and skill development. Physical fitness as well as individual and team sports are introduced at appropriate grade levels. Good sportsmanship is emphasized.

HISTORY

History includes learning about home, school, communities, California and the United States. There is also an emphasis on learning geography, map, and globe skills. Students learn about the world in which they live and God's working in the lives of people, past and present.

Textbook: *Social Studies* (Houghton Mifflin)

SCIENCE

Hands-on opportunities are implemented to help students apply the scientific method of discovery. Good health practice and substance abuse prevention are also taught.

Textbook: *Science* (Houghton Mifflin)

LIBRARY/COMPUTERS

Children have assigned library times. They are taught library skills and check out books during this period. Each classroom has four student computers and a printer. Computers are used to enrich curriculum subject areas, including skills to help with the writing process. Computers are also used with a web-based software program *Accelerated Reader Enterprise* to help motivate and challenge students in reading.

FIELD TRIPS

Numerous field trips are planned for each grade level during the school year. Students enjoy a variety of experiences outside the classroom such as visiting historical and science museums, performing arts productions, Riley's Farm, Legoland, and Santa Rosa Plateau.

Fourth graders culminate their California history study with a two-day/one night trip to Sacramento. This "super" field trip takes place toward the end of the school year. Fifth graders enjoy an outdoor education experience by spending three days and two nights at a working ranch. Students "learn by doing" through assuming responsibilities for animals and learning about animal husbandry.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Special activities that enhance our curriculum include weekly Chapel with guest speakers, Head, Heart, Hand Awards, Buddies, Readers Are Leaders (reading incentive contest), Math & Science Night, Red Ribbon Week, Harvest Feasts, Gingerbread Houses, Sports Camps, Cheer Camp, End-of-the-Year Field Day, Book Fairs, Special Dress Days, Grade 3 Speech Meet, Grade 4 Pioneer Days, and Grade 5 Science Fair.

Several educational on site learning experiences are also scheduled during the year including: Pioneer Day, Earth Balloon, American Revolutionary War Reenactment, and motivational and safety assemblies.

In addition to each grade level sponsoring a child through World Vision, Christian service projects include selecting and wrapping Christmas gifts for children in special circumstances through Samaritan's Purse, collecting non-perishable food for our area food pantries, and writing letters of encouragement to our deployed U.S. military personnel. All students perform in our Christian-themed Christmas and Spring musical presentations for our school family and public audience.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

KINDERGARTEN

The kindergarten curriculum presents a program where each child's developmental readiness dictates when skills and content are introduced. A thorough readiness foundation is laid in order for the students to be prepared for first grade.

LANGUAGE ARTS

A literature based, integrated language approach is used. Skills and concepts that encourage emergent literacy are introduced. A multimodal based handwriting approach is included. There is an emphasis on oral language, literature, creative writing, and reading readiness skills which includes a strong phonetic emphasis. Science, Social Studies, Music, and Art are used to enhance the Literature program whenever possible.

MATHEMATICS

Through the use of manipulatives, the importance of conceptual understanding is developed. Areas included are counting, patterning, estimating, and graphing. Thinking skills are stressed and many opportunities are presented that allow for the development of problem-solving skills. During the year, there is a transition to a symbolic level with basic computation.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The students learn about themselves and the world in which they live. Areas of emphasis include the family, the school, and the community.

SCIENCE

A foundation of ideas and concepts is built on which later scientific knowledge will be added. Hands-on discovery opens up new areas of interests and prepares students for using the scientific approach. Areas of emphasis include life cycles (plants, insects, and arachnids), food groups, senses, "All About Me", animals and habitats, and the earth.

BIBLE

The students grow in their understanding of who God is, of the Bible, and of prayer. Bible stories are read and multi-sensory activities follow to aid students in imagining what it was like to live in Bible times. Children are given opportunities to retell the stories aiding in the ability to remember them. Bible verse and passage memorization are woven into the program during the year.

AMERICAN FLAG SALUTE

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the republic, for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CHRISTIAN FLAG SALUTE

I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag, and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen and coming again with life and liberty for all who believe.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

FIRST GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Reading
A literature based, integrated language approach is used. A strong phonetic decoding system is incorporated into the program. Word attack skills, writing and thinking skills, comprehension, and vocabulary are developed and reinforced.
- Language
Creative writing is directly linked to classroom and content area events. Correct use of capital letters and punctuation is developed.
- Spelling
Weekly spelling lists correspond to phonics instruction and or sight words which are grouped by word families. Transfer of spelling skills begins in journal and creative writing.
- Handwriting
Manuscript writing is used throughout the year.

MATHEMATICS

The first grade math curriculum teaches graphic organizers, operations, problem solving, and critical thinking. An advanced math vocabulary is incorporated into each unit. Manipulatives are used as needed to reinforce concepts taught. Algebraic concepts are introduced in each chapter.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Emphasis is placed on the child in society, families, friendships and communities. In addition they learn about famous Americans, holidays, and beginning map and globe skills. The children are given opportunities to demonstrate the skills they have learned.

SCIENCE

Hands-on opportunities are implemented to motivate students to question and discover God's world. A basic study of the world will include leaves, matter, animals, plants, weather, and staying healthy. All this will be studied using the scientific process.

BIBLE

Students continue to grow in their understanding of who God is, of the Bible and of prayer. Bible stories are read and multi-sensory activities follow to aid students in imagining what it was like to live in Bible times. Children are given opportunities to retell the stories aiding in the ability to remember them. Bible verse and passage memorization are woven into the program during the year.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

SECOND GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS

- **Reading**
A literature based program integrates processes of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and spelling to develop skills for reading comprehension and independent reading. Phonics is emphasized as a decoding tool.
- **Language**
Creative and formal writing is related to content area studies and other classroom and daily experience activities.
- **Handwriting**
Correct manuscript is reinforced and letter formation is refined. Cursive is introduced mid year with all letters being introduced by the end of the year. All class work is completed in manuscript.

MATHEMATICS

Higher level thinking is taught and encouraged in every lesson. Concepts presented orally and visually are reinforced with the use of manipulatives to meet the needs of all students. Concepts presented include three-digit regrouping, multiplication, division, and pre-algebra.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Map and global skills are emphasized and other areas of study include: depending on others, knowing your family, living in our country, and people who have made a difference. Good citizenship habits and social skills are developed.

SCIENCE

A foundation for conceptual understanding is laid by providing opportunities for hands-on learning. Topics include animals (raccoons, robins, goldfish, snails, snakes, frogs, grasshoppers, spiders), plants, air and water, the sun and weather, dinosaurs, matter and energy, and basic understanding of how to keep our bodies safe.

BIBLE

Students continue to grow in their understanding of who God is, of the Bible and of prayer. Bible stories are read and multisensory activities follow to aid students in imagining what it was like to live in Bible times. Children are given opportunities to retell the stories aiding in the ability to remember them. Bible verse and passage memorization are woven into the program during the year.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

THIRD GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Reading
A literature based program with emphasis on the application of phonetic and language skills is implemented. Decoding, comprehension, syllable division, and other skills are reinforced and expanded.
- Language
Creative and formal writing, book reports, and poetry are a vital part of the integrated program. Dictionary and thesaurus skills, capitalization, punctuation, sentence structure and types, parts of speech, and vocabulary are reviewed and enhanced.
- Spelling
The program emphasis lies in the acquisition, practice, transfer, and maintenance of words most often used in everyday writing. The word lists are based on frequency of use, word difficulty, and complexity of meaning for the specific grade level.
- Handwriting
Manuscript is mastered and used for written work during the first semester. Cursive is introduced in the first quarter, and all written work will be in cursive by the end of the school year.

MATHEMATICS

Students develop an understanding of and insight into the pattern of mathematics through the use of manipulatives. Computation skills are reinforced and expanded through the inclusion of multiplication and division. Critical-thinking and problem-solving skills are emphasized as well as the application of skills to everyday situations.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Map and globe skills and using tables, graphs, and diagrams are reinforced and expanded. Time lines, created by the students themselves, are used to enhance the understanding of historical sequence. Studying the local community and different types of communities throughout the United States lays a foundation for understanding the interdependence that exists between communities. Hands-on learnings are developed in the study of Native Americans and in farming our land. A beginning understanding of local, state, and national government is developed. The significance of selected national holidays provides a deeper understanding of patriotism and citizenship responsibilities.

SCIENCE

Use of the scientific method is encouraged and forms a basis for hands-on learning experiences. Areas included are survival of living things, nutrition, the solar system and space, energy and matter, and simple machines.

BIBLE

Students continue to grow in their understanding of who Jesus is and how He builds His church. Emphasis is placed on reading scripture to learn Bible stories and to understand Bible times. Bible verse and passage memorization are woven into the program during the year.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

FOURTH GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS

- **Reading**
A literature based, integrated approach is used. Complete literature books are included as a part of the program. These provide a base for expanding oral reading ability, comprehension, and higher-level thinking skills. Listening, speaking, and writing skills are reinforced and enhanced. The use of literature provides a cultural background for acquiring an understanding of humanity, society, and an individual's value system.
- **Language**
Language activities are an integral part of the reading program. Study skills and grammar are emphasized and applied. Writing includes an emphasis on the six writing traits.
- **Spelling**
Words are selected on the basis of frequency of use, difficulty and complexity of meaning for the grade level, and those commonly misspelled in written work.
- **Handwriting**
Written work is done in cursive.

MATHEMATICS

New concepts and skills are built on a strong base of conceptual understanding, critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, and application of information to daily living situations. Measurement, geometry, fractions, algebra, decimals, estimation, and mental math are reinforced and expanded. Manipulatives are used as a means for understanding new concepts.

SOCIAL STUDIES

California history and geography, past and present Californians, and the place and influence of California in today's world is the focus of the program. Map, globe, and related skills are reviewed, reinforced, and expanded.

SCIENCE

The use of the scientific approach provides a base for experimenting, discovering, gaining, and applying scientific knowledge. Areas covered include ecosystems, rocks and minerals, earthquakes, volcanoes, weathering and erosion, magnetism and electromagnets, and electricity.

BIBLE

Students will grow in their understanding of the character of who God is, of the Bible and of prayer. Emphasis is placed on reading scripture to learn Bible stories and personal application, gaining familiarity with the Bible. Bible verse and passage memorization are woven into the program during the year.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

FIFTH GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS

- **Reading**
An integrated, literature-based approach fosters independent and confident readers and provides expanded oral reading and higher level thinking skills. The curriculum provides consistent development of comprehension strategies, vocabulary, spelling, and grammar. Built-in daily support is provided to assure that students meet the California standards.
- **Language**
Language is viewed as the connecting link between listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Formal and informal writing and creative writing provide opportunities to apply grammar skills.
- **Spelling**
Word lists are based on frequency of use, word difficulty, and complexity of meaning for the grade level. Content area words and those frequently misspelled in written work are also included. There is an emphasis on acquisition, practice, transfer, and maintenance of words learned in formal spelling.
- **Handwriting**
Written work is done in cursive with an emphasis on neatness and legibility. Manuscript is used for labeling, posters, graphs, and other applicable areas.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematical knowledge and application is reinforced and expanded. Manipulatives are used as an aid in the continued development of understanding and insight into the pattern of mathematics. In addition to basic skills, which include place value, computation, measurement, decimals, fractions, coordinate graphing, statistics, probability, and percent, the use of calculators and mental math are emphasized.

SOCIAL STUDIES

United States geography provides a background for continued map, globe, and related skill development. An understanding of and appreciation for the United States, from its beginning to its present position as a world leader, is fostered through the study of its history. Areas covered include the Revolutionary War, independence, the colonies, explorers, patriotism, nationalism, Westward expansion, and the United States and its neighbors.

SCIENCE

Scientific concepts are developed and used as a base from which life sciences, physical sciences, and earth sciences are studied. How the human body functions and good health practices are included in the program.

BIBLE

Christ and My Choices is the focus for fifth grade Bible instruction. We will focus on three main strands including a survey of the Old Testament, study of lives from the Old Testament focusing on choices they made, and making our own choices as we live to follow God.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education program is designed to ensure that all students are given the best opportunity to learn fundamental team sports skills and individual activities of conditioning, developing, and maintaining physical fitness. To work towards this goal, effective and challenging activities that develop high levels of cardio-respiratory functions, musculoskeletal strength, and endurance are included on a regular basis. The President's Physical Fitness Challenge is emphasized in grades 1-5. Success oriented "stations" are designed for students to work separately with the teacher or in small groups on self-paced movement activities.

KINDERGARTEN

Students will be aided in developing locomotor skills such as running, hopping, skipping, and leaping. Eye/hand/foot coordination using bean bags, balls, jump ropes, and other appropriate items are introduced. Hula hoops are used to aid in core strength. Balance and body awareness are emphasized.

FIRST GRADE

Students will be introduced to handling balls, hoops, and jump ropes in a more complex way. They will also be introduced to several skills relating to team sports.

SECOND GRADE

Students will be introduced to "lead up" skill activities for football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, and track and field events.

THIRD GRADE

Students will be involved in more sophisticated "lead up" skill activities for football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, and track and field events.

FOURTH GRADE

Students will be introduced to team sports; football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, and track and field. Refinement of ball skills will continue including: passing, kicking, dribbling, set and bump, hitting, overhand throwing and catching.

FIFTH GRADE

Students will participate in high skill activities such as football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, and track and field. Field events and fast moving relays in preparation for competition are practiced.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW PERFORMING ARTS

The Performing Arts program at Linfield Elementary School provides each student with experience in the Arts through a variety of approaches. Students will have two or three class periods per week where they will explore the mediums of Music, Drama, Movement, and Worship. Within each week, students will experience lessons designed to provide exposure to various expressions of art fostering growth in six basic areas:

1. Musical/Artistic
Opportunities to perform, create, experience, and comprehend.
2. Kinesthetic
Varying degrees of movement allow for expression and coordination.
3. Mathematical/Logical
Rhythmic patterns and sequences sharpen awareness of patterns.
4. Linguistic
Increased vocabulary.
5. Spatial
Concepts of space.
6. Interpersonal
Positive and appropriate interaction with others, exploring the concept of self, including feelings, self-esteem, and character.

Our goals are to foster self-esteem, increase confidence in public speaking and self-expression, provide a broad spectrum of experience and exposure, stimulate each child in his or her discovery of personal preferences and abilities, foster a positive attitude toward the Arts, and pave the way for further study and experiences throughout their education and lives.

GRADES K-5

- **Drama**
Drama skills will include the concepts of blocking, stage and theatre terms, theatre personnel, audience awareness, upstaging and being upstaged, vocal control, articulation, echoing, interpretation of characters, listening and responding, projection, and performing experience. The concepts of leadership, improvisation, and pantomime will be developed. In grades 4 and 5 students will have an opportunity to audition for drama parts in our Christmas and Spring Productions.
- **Movement**
Creative movement includes the concepts of rhythm, concentration, body control, spatial awareness, mimicking/mirroring, specific group choreography, memory, sequencing, singing, moving, and focus. Students will also learn some specific dances and choreography.
- **Worship**
Students will learn the Biblical foundations of worship. They will learn that worship is essential to a Christian's life. The students will learn about the different expressions of worship used in the Bible and will be given opportunities to worship in class and in chapel. In grades 4 and 5 children will have the opportunity to audition for a worship team that will lead worship for chapel.

KINDERGARTEN

- Music
Students will study various musical selections by different composers as well as fun praise and worship songs throughout the year. Students will understand the concepts of fast, slow, high, low steps, leaps, rests, and holds. They will learn quarter notes, half notes, and the staff. Students will learn about a different instrument each month. Students will learn the basic fundamental of singing, including posture, breathing, tone and warm-ups. Students will have two performance opportunities, at Christmas and in the spring, in which to apply their skills and knowledge.

FIRST GRADE

- Music
Students will study various musical selections by different composers as well as fun praise and worship songs throughout the year. Their musical skills will be built upon with the addition of treble and bass clefs, half and quarter rests, dotted notes, staccato and legato, key and time signatures, and repeat symbols. They will learn about a different instrument each month. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of singing, including: posture, breathing, tone, and warm-ups. Students will have two performance opportunities, at Christmas and in the spring, in which to apply their skills and knowledge.

SECOND GRADE

- Music
Students will study various musical selections by different composers in addition to fun praise and worship songs. Student musical skills will be built upon with the addition of the grand staff, measures, sharps, flats, crescendo, decrescendo, half, whole, and eighth rests, fermata, accelerando, retard, and intervals. They will learn about a different instrument each month. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of singing, including: posture, breathing, tone, and warm-ups. Students will have two performance opportunities, at Christmas and in the spring, in which to apply their skills and knowledge.

THIRD GRADE

- Music
Students will study various musical selections by a different composer in addition to fun praise and worship songs. Musical skills will be built upon with the addition of the Recorders. They will learn about a different instrument each month. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of singing, including: posture, breathing, tone, and warm-ups. Students will have two performance opportunities, at Christmas and in the spring, in which to apply their skills and knowledge.

FOURTH GRADE

- Music
Students will study various musical selections by a different composer in addition to fun praise and worship songs. They will learn about a different instrument each month. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of singing, including: posture, breathing, tone, and warm-ups. Students will have two performances opportunities, at Christmas and in the spring, in which they will apply their skill and knowledge.

FIFTH GRADE

- Music
Students will study various musical selections by different composers in addition to fun praise and worship songs. Students will experience harmony, arranging, songwriting, intervals, and periods of music history. They will learn about a different instrument each month. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of singing, including: posture, breathing, tone, and warm-ups. Students will have two performance opportunities, at Christmas and in the spring, in which to apply their skills and knowledge.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW SPANISH

The Spanish program of the Linfield Elementary School affords each child an opportunity to learn Spanish as a second language. Classes receive twenty-five minutes of instruction two times per week. Concepts and vocabulary are learned by listening, seeing, and speaking. Proper pronunciation is stressed.

Daily lessons at each grade level include vocabulary introduction, practice, and reinforcement through conversation. Rhymes, poems, simple Bible verses, and songs are included in many lessons. Customs of Spanish speaking countries are discussed throughout the year, thereby enhancing the students' appreciation of Hispanic culture.

KINDERGARTEN / FIRST GRADE

Students concentrate solely on the oral aspects of the language. Main areas covered are things we do in school: counting, colors, days of the week, months of the year, animals, shapes, and the family.

SECOND GRADE

Learning is essentially oral; however, written work is introduced. Structural concepts are primarily introduced. In addition, we cover vocabulary regarding activities in school, the Spanish alphabet, colors, counting, foods, likes and dislikes, and feelings.

THIRD GRADE

Second grade concepts are reviewed as written work progresses. Students conjugate verbs beyond the "I" form, count by 10's, identify numbers to 100, sing songs, and talk about colors, weather and feelings. Students begin using the Viva el Espanol workbooks.

FOURTH GRADE

There is extensive review of K-3 vocabulary and concepts. Students are assigned more advanced written work and verb conjugation. Students participate individually and through cooperative dialogues and skits. Students will use the Viva el Espanol workbooks.

FIFTH GRADE

Students experience a more advanced approach to the study of the language through verb conjugations, oral biographies, skits, and dialogues. Students will use the Viva el Espanol workbooks, as well.