ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ACADEMIC OVERVIEW & CURRICULUM BY GRADE
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

Junior Kindergarten is a half-day program designed for young five year olds and those who would benefit from the gift of time to strengthen developmental skills before entering a full-day Kindergarten program. Social and emotional growth is nurtured by encouraging self-confidence, self-expression, self-discipline and satisfying interaction with others. Intellectual development is promoted through appropriate classroom activities: Kindergarten-level Zoo-phonics is used to “safari” the children into reading, spelling, and writing; Saxon Math for Kindergarten engages students in hands-on math activities. Science is experienced as we observe, explore and investigate God’s world with Science Fusion for Kindergarten. Chromebooks are introduced and, with one-to-one computing in place, students utilize age-appropriate Google apps and curriculum-based games. Spiritual development is encouraged by stimulating an awareness of God and His love, fostering a love for God’s Word, and nurturing Christian character development. Bible is taught daily, and Scripture verses are memorized weekly. Junior Kindergarten attends Elementary School chapel each week where students are involved in a worship environment and exposed to Biblical principles and application to daily life.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is a full-day academic program for older five year olds and six year olds. The program develops the spiritual, academic, physical and social needs of our students. Throughout the day, children have opportunities to participate in many activities which are designed to foster growth and strengthen these four critical areas. A strong phonics-based program uses Pearson Reading Streets to prepare students with word attack skills. Sight words are also part of the reading process throughout the school year. Children are taught manuscript handwriting and are introduced to sentence structure using the Write Reflections, as well as numerous writing activities in Reading Streets. Envision Math is the curriculum implemented in the classroom. Many hands-on math activities are incorporated during the daily math lessons. Students are introduced to patterns, numbers to 100, addition, subtraction, time, measurement and geometry. They receive daily instruction in Bible with the interactive curriculum, Deep Roots. There is also weekly Scripture memorization. Social studies and science are taught with a Biblical perspective. Studies Weekly materials, along with engaging exploratory activities, allow students to become aware of the world around them. Chromebooks are used daily in the classroom to reinforce reading and math activities. Children entering Kindergarten at SVC are screened through Chauncey/Bruce for readiness during the spring before they enter the program.
FIRST GRADE

Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matt. 18:3. That childlike faith is a fundamental part of the first grade experience. In Bible, students study Creation through the life and ministry of Jesus, paying close attention to making good choices and developing the fruit of the Spirit in their daily lives. Language arts are heavily emphasized at this grade level. Children study phonics, word attack skills, comprehension strategies, and learn how to write personal narratives, letters and five-sentence paragraphs. In mathematics, the focus is on math fact fluency and problem solving. First graders cover double-digit addition, fractions, time, money, skip counting, shapes, measurement and word problems. Small centers are utilized to give students an opportunity for hands-on learning, while Chromebooks are used to supplement and enhance learning through technology. In science, students learn about the nature of science, living things and their environment, the earth and sky, weather, matter, energy, and movement. An overarching appreciation of God’s amazing creation is fostered in every aspect of the program. In social studies, the children begin by examining their communities -- starting with their immediate surroundings and branching out to California and U.S. history. They learn about famous Americans who have contributed to our freedom, equality, and way of life. The year concludes with a look at our global community with the SVC International Program to share their learning and foster a love for our brothers and sisters in Christ at our school, as well as abroad.

SECOND GRADE

Second grade students experience a comprehensive language program which incorporates enjoyable children’s literature to build spelling, phonics, listening/speaking, reading and writing strategies and skills. Math engages students in hands-on learning, practice and critical thinking. Some of the math concepts covered include higher place value, regrouping, fractions, time, money, and introductory multiplication and division. Science involves students in exploratory learning activities such as STEAM, STEM, and project-based learning with lessons covering a wide variety of areas such as vertebrates/invertebrates, animal habitats, plants, energy, weather and geology. In social studies, students focus on social skills, citizenship, communities (including types, then and now, and multicultural), and important people and events in American’s history. Positive Christian values, characteristics and Biblical truths are modeled through the Bible curriculum which emphasizes Old and New Testament individuals, and the life, teaching and ministry of Jesus.
THIRD GRADE

Students in third grade are challenged to achieve goals of responsibility and academics. Independence is encouraged with assignment books and homework folders. Comprehension skills which emphasize critical thinking and analysis are covered with Pearson’s Reading Street reading program, as is vocabulary-building. Language includes paragraph organization and structure, punctuation and capitalization, parts of speech, and creative writing. Chromebook usage is expanded as students learn to create documents, as well draft and share essays using Google Docs. Regrouping, multiplication and division facts to 10, fractions, measurement conversions, problem-solving, rounding and geometry are part of the math program. The focus of social studies is geography, map skills and the study of the development of our nation. The science text is The Purposeful Design which is divided into four major units — life science, physical science, the human body, and earth and space science. Biblical studies include Israel and the Old Testament.

FOURTH GRADE

Fourth grade is a challenging year of academic growth, as students transition to upper Elementary. In addition to their Pearson Language Arts curriculum, students begin applying previously-learned reading skills to novels during three comprehensive novel units. They also expand their writing knowledge as they plan and write five-paragraph essays using the Write Reflections curriculum. These include expository, narrative, comparison/contrast, and opinion papers. IEW writing lessons are used to assist students with developing their own style and voice. Direct grammar instruction, including a focused unit on sentence structure, is also a regular part of the language arts block. The math curriculum engages students in computation and the areas of problem-solving and reasoning, and students are taught in smaller, leveled classes. California history provides a full, rich examination of our state’s history and culminates in a three-day trip to Sacramento, San Francisco, and Coloma. In science, an appreciation of God’s amazing creation is fostered, as students examine geology, botany, matter and ecosystems. Regular STEM challenges are a favorite among the students. The Deep Roots Bible curriculum focuses on Acts and the Early Church, and is taught from a Biblical worldview and apologetics perspective. Technology is integrated throughout the day, as students utilize their Chromebooks to write papers, create presentations, and play educational games linked to classroom lessons.
**FIFTH GRADE**

Fifth grade is an amazing year filled with curriculum that directly relates to life experiences with which ten and eleven year olds can easily connect. Students are challenged to take personal ownership of their learning and various responsibilities both in and out of the classroom. Houghton Mifflin is used for math. Fifth grade math is a spiraled balance between solid review of third and fourth grade concepts and expanding to the next level. Students explore the different reading strategies by reading various novels throughout the year. Students are asked to think both logically and critically while making general connections to the stories. They are also asked to support their personal opinions in class discussions, as well as in written form. Utilizing the Deep Roots Bible curriculum, students continue on the chronological study of the Bible. Their choices and experiences are supported both Biblically and historically using important leaders as examples. Throughout social studies, students explore various details regarding our country’s history such as the early explorers and the Civil War, and culminating with the making of the states. Students select a state to research, and complete a written report, oral presentation and visual display float showing various important features of that state’s history. Students regularly use Chromebooks to write, revise, and edit papers, as well as to complete learning and review activities in most every subject. Lastly, the science program challenges students to make both scientific and personal connections to God’s amazing power and astounding creation in the world around them through many hands-on experiments. Every aspect of fifth grade prepares students for the lifelong adventure of learning that lies ahead in Junior High and beyond.

**SIXTH GRADE**

Personal responsibility is nurtured throughout the entire Elementary experience. However, it is accelerated in sixth grade, as students take ownership of assignments and projects in preparation to enter Junior High. Students complete many essays, research assignments, STEM activities and cross-curricular projects through the use of Chromebook technology. The importance of responsible monetary practices is taught through the Classroom Economy curriculum which includes topics like saving, banking, rent, taxes, and salaries. The focus of Bible class is to strengthen students’ relationships with Jesus by teaching them how to love Him with their heart, soul, mind, and strength as mandated in Scripture and with the help of curricula like Biblical Choices and I AM Second. Language arts is covered through grade-appropriate novels and Scholastic Scope ELA curriculum. History focuses on the Ancient World using TCI’s History Alive curriculum. Students dive into ancient civilizations through hands-on learning activities and develop a deeper understanding of how ancient history fits into the Biblical timeline. Math instruction both refines what students learned in fifth grade and prepares them for the math concepts taught in seventh grade. Students learn the basics of algebra, geometry, statistics, probability, and more using an engaging and interactive curriculum called GoMath by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Students have an opportunity to qualify for an honors-level seventh grade math class which puts them on an accelerated track. The science curriculum, Interactive Science by Pearson, teaches students how to be hands-on learners in the scientific process through exploring life, physical, and earth sciences.
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SECOND GRADE

BIBLE:
Deep Roots: New Testament:
The Gospels

LANGUAGE ARTS:
Pearson - Reading Street
Write Reflections

MATH:
Pearson - enVisionmath

SCIENCE:
ACSI

SOCIAL STUDIES:
Houghton/Mifflin
Scholastic News

THIRD GRADE

BIBLE:
Deep Roots: Old Testament:
Israel

LANGUAGE ARTS:
Pearson - Reading Street
Write Reflections
ABEKA - Read and Think

MATH:
Pearson - enVisionmath

SCIENCE:
ACSI

SOCIAL STUDIES:
ABEKA – Our American Heritage
ABEKA - Map Skills

FOURTH GRADE

BIBLE:
Deep Roots: New Testament:
Acts and the Early Church

LANGUAGE ARTS:
Novel Units
Write Reflections
Easy Grammar - Language
IEW Writing
The Critical Thinking Co.:
Word Roots - Beginning Level

MATH:
Pearson - enVisionmath

SCIENCE:
Pearson

SOCIAL STUDIES:
California Studies Weekly - State History
ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM BY GRADE

FIFTH GRADE

BIBLE:
Deep Roots: New Testament:
Acts and the Early Church
Case for Christ for Kids

LANGUAGE ARTS:
Novel Units
ACSI – Spelling
IEW - Writing

MATH:
Houghton/Mifflin GO Math

SCIENCE:
Pearson

SOCIAL STUDIES:
TCI - History Alive!
U.S. History Studies Weekly

SIXTH GRADE

BIBLE:
Standard Publishing:
Biblical Choices for a New Generation

LANGUAGE ARTS:
Scholastic Scope & ELA Novel Units
Glencoe Grammar
IEW - Writing

MATH:
Houghton/Mifflin GO Math

SCIENCE:
Pearson

SOCIAL STUDIES:
TCI - History Alive!
The Ancient World

*All grade levels cover California Common Core Standards in each core subject.