



Third Grade Class Overview

Teacher: Mrs. Laurie Dahlen

Bible

Curriculum: *StarLight 3* by Praise Hymn, Inc.

Our chronological study of the Bible begins with creation, the prophets, then the life of Jesus, and other New Testament characters. The lessons are taught from a story approach where students are taught that God gave these stories to us as examples of how we should live today. Bible doctrine, character strengths, and traits of holiness are brought out in each lesson. We also incorporate **Lessons for Life** to help learn and demonstrate practical application of character qualities.

English

Curriculum: Harcourt Trophies

Students learn usage of the English language through word study and grammar instruction such as punctuation, capitalization, usage, parts of speech, and composition skills.

Reading

Curriculum: Harcourt Trophies

Students use a variety of literature and literature genres to reinforce and learn phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension skills. Analytical and higher level thinking skills are also reinforced.

Writing

Curriculum: Harcourt Trophies & The Institute for Excellence in Writing

Students are encouraged to utilize the writing process and apply the strategies they are learning to their writing samples. Students also learn outlining and writing research papers. Cursive is reviewed at the start of the year and by semester break, we are using cursive exclusively. Students are also encouraged to explore their own ideas at the writing center.

Spelling

Curriculum: Harcourt Trophies

Students learn and apply blending and decoding strategies. Challenge words are included in the list each week. Weekly tests are given with a dictated sentence to encourage listening skills.

Science

Curriculum: *Science 3 for Christian Schools*

Our study of science encourages Christian growth, develops a knowledge of God while promoting scientific literacy through knowledge, skill, and attitudes. Students learn about sound, parts of the body, animals, rocks and minerals, mass and weight, work, plants, and the solar system.

Social Studies

Curriculum: *Heritage Studies 3 for Christian Schools*

While promoting historic and geographic literacy, students develop a knowledge of God and grow in their Christian walk. Students study events in American history from the early 1800's to the early 1900's and how our Christian heritage played an active role in the birth and growth of our country.

Math

Curriculum: Houghton Mifflin

Students are taught a systematic step-by-step approach to developing concepts and skills. Math instruction focuses on problem solving and reasoning while providing opportunities for students to apply their understanding. Students learn place value, money and time, addition and subtraction, measurement, multiplication, division, geometry and measurement, data and probability, and fractions and decimals.

Music

Music instruction with a specialist teacher occurs twice weekly. The curriculum covers elemental theory, vocal technique and rhythm instruments. We study music history including composers from each time period and their works. We also celebrate the Biblical feasts. All of this is done in the context of using this unique gift to bless and edify others as we honor and glorify the Lord. Students perform in both Christmas and Spring concerts each year.

Physical Education

Students meet for Physical Education twice per week. They participate in a variety of health related activities that are structured to work on cardio-vascular and various muscles as well as to develop skills needed to participate in individual and team activities. Rules and strategy concepts are introduced as age appropriate. Sportsmanship and Christ like behaviors are emphasized.

Art

Students will be introduced to the use of a variety of art materials as they produce individual art projects. Emphasis is placed upon learning to use materials effectively and efficiently and helping students to realize their potential for creative expression.

Library

The library program fosters the love of reading and books. Students encounter a wide variety of literature in weekly library classes that promote library skills and stewardship.