

Wylie Preparatory Academy

Lower School Course Descriptions, 2011-2012

1st GRADE

Language Arts

Through an integrated approach to reading and writing instruction, students learn the fundamentals of decoding, comprehension, language, spelling and written communication skills. Use of quality children's literature is emphasized in addition to the core reading curriculum. Students have many opportunities to write for varied purposes throughout the year. Instruction and practice in print handwriting is continued at this level.

Math

First grade students in this course become proficient with the foundational concepts of counting, addition, and subtraction. Throughout the year, they relate these basics to more challenging concepts such as time, fractions, temperature, money, graphs, sequence, geometric shapes, and units of measure. Math manipulatives and other hands-on activities are integrated into the class to enhance the students' understanding of abstract concepts.

Science/Social Studies Block

The first grade science and social studies programs are taught on an alternating basis by units of study. In science, students learn foundational concepts in life and earth science, as well as basics of health and the scientific method, with an emphasis on the Creator-creation relationship. Units of study include but are not limited to: Plants, Animals, Habitats, Our Five Senses, Germs, and Safety. In social studies, the first grade program will introduce key historical people and places to the students from a biblical perspective. Through these introductions, the students will gain an awareness of the important lives and personalities that helped establish the United States of America. Students will learn the 50 states by region and the world's continents and oceans. Other units of study include Communities, Maps and Globes, and Texas.

2nd GRADE

Language Arts

Students continue to build on reading comprehension and decoding skills learned in earlier grades in order to become more fluent and independent readers. Novels are introduced in the second semester, and students learn to think critically as they read. The writing process is introduced, and by the year's end, students use the five step process to produce several written compositions. Spelling rules and basic grammar concepts are established through direct instruction and applied through writing. Print handwriting is mastered at this level, and cursive handwriting is introduced in the second semester.

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Math

Students practice basic skills learned in first grade while learning new math concepts. The students receive continuous practice in place value, addition and subtraction, with an emphasis on memorizing basic facts. Multiplication and division are introduced in the second semester. The following concepts are taught with increasing difficulty throughout the year: problem solving, fractions, money, temperature, time, geometric shapes, graphs, and units of measure. Math manipulatives and other hands-on activities are utilized to enhance students' understanding of abstract concepts.

Science/Social Studies Block

The second grade science and social studies programs are taught on an alternating basis by units of study. In science, students learn foundational concepts of earth science, as well as basics of health and the scientific method, with an emphasis on the Creator-creation relationship. Units of study include but are not limited to: Weather, Seasons, Space and the Solar System, Nutrition, and Dental Health. In social studies, the second grade program will continue the study of key historical people and places to the students from a biblical perspective. Students will review the 50 states by region and the world's continents and oceans. Other units of study include: All About Me, My Community, America's Pioneers, the American Revolution, United States Government, Map Skills and Timelines, and the Birth of Christ.

3rd GRADE

Language Arts

In this course, students review the fundamentals of decoding and spelling while increasing their reading fluency. Novels are read throughout the year, thinking critically from a biblical worldview is introduced, and reading comprehension is emphasized. Students continue to develop writing skills through the use of the five step writing process, and the craft of writing is introduced. At least three written compositions are produced by the end of the year. A more in-depth study of the basics of grammar takes place, and instruction and practice of cursive handwriting continues at this level.

Math

Students in this course will receive extensive practice with multiplication and division, working toward a mastery of all basic math facts. Other concepts taught and reviewed include: problem solving, fractions – adding, subtracting and reducing, decimals, Roman numerals, averaging, money, temperature, time, estimation, rounding, geometry, graphs, and units of measure.

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Science

In this third grade science course, students will learn lessons covering creation, insects, senses, body systems, simple machines, plants, and the scientific method. Weekly attention-grabbing, “hands-on” team activities enhance this exciting science class. Students are introduced to Scripture values that tie directly to each week’s science concept. Within in this course, the students will also develop their writing skills across the curriculum.

Social Studies

The third grade social studies program begins WPA’s three-year cyclical study of history. The course begins with Creation and continues through Ancient Greece. Through direct instruction, group work, and hands-on activities and projects, students receive a solid, chronological understanding of the beginning history of the world. This course will continue in a sequential format through 5th grade.

4th GRADE

Language Arts

As students’ abilities in reading fluency and independence increase, vocabulary and comprehension strategies are integrated into the curriculum. Novels are read, and thinking critically from a biblical worldview is emphasized. Students receive many opportunities for practicing the writing process while sharpening the craft of writing. Mastery in grammar basics, cursive handwriting, and spelling is worked toward at this level.

Math

This course reviews and expands the study of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. New concepts introduced include: multiplication with carrying (problems may have up to three digits in the second factor), division with two-digit divisors, addition and subtraction of fractions and mixed numbers with common and uncommon denominators, multiplying fractions using cancellation, decimals, pre-algebra concepts, geometric angles, and ratios.

Science

The main focus of this science course will be hands-on discovery and experimentation. Within this course, the students will also develop their writing skills across the curriculum. In this fourth grade science course, the students will learn lessons covering animal classifications, habitats, hygiene, chemistry, and inventors and inventions. Students will review the scientific method and each student will conduct a science experiment for the science fair. Scripture values that tie directly to each week’s science concept are integrated into the lessons.

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Social Studies

The fourth grade social studies program continues WPA's three-year cyclical study of history. The course begins with Ancient Rome and continues through the Reformation. Specific time periods studied include: Ancient Rome, Birth of Christ, Church and State, Middle Ages, and Reformation. Through direct instruction, group work, and hands-on activities and projects, students receive a solid, chronological understanding of the history of the world. This course will continue in a sequential format through 5th grade.

5th GRADE

Language Arts

The fifth grade course continues the development of reading and writing proficiency. Higher order thinking skills are emphasized through the analysis of literature from a biblical worldview. Reading comprehension strategies, vocabulary development, and basic literary concepts are integrated into the curriculum. Students use the five step writing process to produce at least three compositions of different genres, in addition to a multi-source research paper. Consistent practice in the craft of writing is provided. More complex grammar concepts are introduced. Cursive handwriting and spelling are reviewed in this course.

Math

This course reviews and expands the study of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division and applies them in depth to problem solving, fractions, decimals, and percent. New concepts introduced in fifth grade include: exponents, prime numbers, algebraic equations, coordinate pairs, three-dimensional geometry, measurement formulas, cross products, mean, mode, and median.

Science

In this fifth grade science course, the students will learn lessons covering life, earth, and physical science. The first semester lessons will include a study of forensic science, a study of weather patterns and their effects on the earth, culminating with a visit from a local meteorologist. The spring semester concentrates on an in-depth study of the human body. Students learn functions within the human body and how the systems relate to each other. There are scripture values that tie directly to each week's science concept.

Social Studies

The fifth grade social studies program concludes WPA's first three-year cyclical study of history. The course begins with America, the New World and continues through the 20th Century. In addition to the chronological study of American history, students learn the states and capitols

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and geography skills. Through direct instruction, group work, and hands-on activities and projects, students receive a solid, chronological understanding of the history of America and the world.

6th GRADE

Language Arts

Proficiency in reading and writing is expanded in this course. Students read literature selections utilizing higher order thinking skills from a biblical worldview. The fundamentals of literary analysis are introduced. With a focus on the five step writing process and writer's craft, students produce many written compositions of various genres and lengths, including a multi-source research paper. Vocabulary development is continued, and students work toward mastery of more complex grammar concepts.

Math

This course reviews and builds upon the four basic math operations and problem solving skills. New concepts covered in 6th grade include: word numbers through hundred billion, scientific notation, base 2, four digit by four digit multiplication, division with up to four digit divisors, ratios, probability, basic algebraic equations, graphs, measurement conversions, and geometric concepts such as perimeter, area, circumference, and angles.

Science

God's design in nature is presented through this sixth grade science course where students are encouraged to use investigative techniques to explore a range of topics. Studies include chemical reactions, atomic structure, an in-depth study of plants, electricity, magnetism, energy, simple machines, earthquakes, volcanoes, and natural resources. Students will also enhance their understanding of the scientific method and use an experimental design to conduct individual experiments for the school's annual science fair.

World History

This sixth grade course begins WPA's second cyclical study of history. Students use a biblical worldview to study the physical geography of the world with an emphasis on the ways geography influences culture. The chronological study begins in the 1100s and continues through the 1900s.