

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Lower School (1st-4th Grade)

2023-2024



FIRST BAPTIST
SCHOOL

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LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM

2023-2024

Academic Excellence with a Christian Perspective

The First Baptist lower school, located in downtown Charleston, integrates Christian worldview with academic excellence. The integration of faith and learning enables our faculty to teach a robust, college preparatory curriculum that also nurtures each student's spiritual life. This nutriment is further developed through weekly chapel where students come together to learn, worship, and pray.

We also boast some of the best teachers in the Lowcountry, and our faculty has created a continuous curriculum that seamlessly transitions from one grade level to the next. By using a variety of teaching strategies, hands-on activities, and age-appropriate technology, our faculty ensures that each student's academic needs are met.

In order to ensure that each student is performing at or above grade level, the curriculum at First Baptist School is aligned to state standards and is also accelerated, regularly requiring students to perform above grade level. As students advance through the core curriculums in English, math, science, and history, our lower school teachers stress Christian education.

In short, at First Baptist School, we center our curriculum around Biblical truths, incorporating Scripture and Christian worldview into each core subject area. Beyond core subjects, lower school students also take classes in music, Bible, Spanish, physical education, library, and art. Students can choose to participate in choir or band, supplemental art and science classes, drama, and various sports, as well. Each supplemental class is also centered around Christian worldview, providing a framework for spiritual growth through a variety of subjects.



FIRST GRADE

In first grade, we strive daily to provide an exciting educational experience that will glorify God and cultivate a lifelong love of learning! We invite you to partner with us to make this happen. We will use a variety of creative teaching strategies to appeal and meet the needs of every student.

We also take pride in getting to know all of our students both academically and personally. Phonics plays an important role each day as it is the basic tool for emerging readers. We differentiate learning with Reading and Math groups within our classroom to meet the needs of all students. We do our best to make learning fun and exciting through games and student interest. Our science and social studies units are fun, engaging, and are the icing on the cake when it comes to learning the basics in first grade.

CURRICULUM

READING

Reading 1- BJU Press We learn to decode words with phonetic rules, read with expression, read fiction and non-fiction books, and develop comprehension skills. Students participate in daily reading groups geared toward their level of understanding.

Textbooks: Reading 1 by BJU Press

LANGUAGE

Students learn to write complete sentences using capitals and proper punctuation. Which is then incorporated into journal writing where penmanship is focused upon as well. Students are also introduced to parts of speech, contractions, compound words, plurals, possessives, and other language skills.

Textbook: Phonics and English 1 by BJU Press

SPELLING

Spelling units review the phonics rules and word families we have learned throughout the year. Students are assessed each Friday on spelling accuracy and handwriting.

Textbook: Teacher created to go along with phonics rules for the week

MATH

In math we cover many skills in the areas of place value, geometry, money, time, measurement, fractions, and probability. Our main focus is number sense and strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems. We continue to review all skills throughout the year in order to reinforce math mastery and knowledge.

Textbook: Progress in Mathematics- Sadlier Oxford

SCIENCE

We cover exciting science units where we investigate and research space, plants, and insects! We enjoy exploring the scientific process by experimenting with light, shadows, and the states of matter.

HISTORY

First grade learns what a citizen's role is within their community. We study the history and geography of our community and surrounding communities in South Carolina. We compare our location and geography to other places in the United States. We begin to understand that there are many cultural, economic, and historic similarities and differences throughout our own community and the US. We also evaluate current events and predict possible outcomes.

Example Daily Schedule

8:15-8:55 Phonics

9:00-9:40 Recess

9:45-10:00 Snack

10:00-10:45 Reading

10:45-11:15 Spanish

11:15-12:00 Math

12:00-12:30 Lunch

12:30-1:00 Calendar Math

1:00-1:50 Art

2:00-2:10 Pack Up

2:15-2:30 Chapel

2:30 Dismissal

*Daily schedule changes based on special area classes and chapel schedule



SECOND GRADE

In second grade, we aim to make our classroom a place where your child feels safe and loved. We strive to provide your child with the opportunity to grow in their love for Jesus through our study of God's Word and develop a strong academic foundation. We plan many exciting activities throughout the year. Some of these include: a trip to Cypress Gardens, a visit from Reptiles of the Lowcountry, dissecting owl pellets, and a visit to Caw Caw for a study of Native Americans. A highlight of our year is Market Day, where students have the opportunity to be producers and consumers. We also memorize the scripture Luke 2:1-20 and recite it at our Lessons and Carols program in December as well as sharing it with others in the community.

CURRICULUM

READING

We use the textbook series Reading 2 and accompanying workbook along with Phonics Review by BJU Press. We review and teach phonetic rules. In addition, for reading comprehension we use the New Practice Readers, Third Edition Book A & B. Students are asked to prove their answers in the passage as they answer the questions. Students read across the genres in literature with a reading goal each month. Book reports are assigned throughout the year.

ELA

English 2 Writing and Grammar by BJU Press is used for our ELA curriculum. This program is all-inclusive where students learn writing complete sentences, parts of speech, and incorporate these skills into the student's daily writing.

SPELLING

Our spelling units are based on word families and vocabulary from our science and social studies units.

SCIENCE

Teacher created units are used for our science curriculum. Some topics covered are the scientific method, animal characteristics, habitats, food chains, forces, weather, magnets, and states of matter.

MATH

Progress in Mathematics by Sadlier-Oxford is used for our math curriculum. Second grade math concentrates on number sense and critical thinking skills. Emphasis for the year is on memorizing the facts to 18, place value to 1000, addition and subtraction facts with and without regrouping, measurement, time, money, graphing, geometry, fractions, multiplication and division, and word problems.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Our America by Abeka, People Together Adventures in Time and Place by McGraw Hill along with teacher created units are used for our social studies curriculum. Studies of Native Americans, landforms, natural resources, maps and timelines, government, goods and services, and cultural studies are included.

BIBLE

Students are taught through Bible stories that they are created and loved by God. They are presented with the Gospel, by learning about the miracles, parables of Jesus, His birth, death and resurrection. Students memorize Bible passages to hide God's Word in their hearts.

Example Daily Schedule

Second grade students begin their day with copying the daily HW assignment and getting organized for the day. Following the morning announcements, the class recites the pledges, morning devotion, scripture memory and prayer. The teachers begin by presenting ELA lessons in: Reading, Phonics, English and Writing. After lunch, the teacher will share a read-a-loud or have a special guest reader. For the afternoon, Math and Unit Study lessons and activities are presented. The students have two to three special area classes spread throughout the day. These can include Art, Music, Library, Computer, Spanish, Bible, PE, and Recess. Once a week, students attend chapel services.



THIRD GRADE

In third grade, we help students fall in love with learning while providing an environment that fosters and encourages high standards of academic achievement, creativity, accountability, and servant leadership. Our students are continually challenged through Writing Workshop, Science Club, in-depth Social Studies units, and hands-on Math and Reading Centers.

CURRICULUM

READING

Students read a variety of literature and participate in novel studies throughout the year to enhance reading comprehension and fluency. Small group centers provide each student the opportunity to receive differentiated instruction and to work collaboratively with peers.

Textbook: Adventures in Reading 3 by BJU Press and Adventures in Reading 3 WorkText

LANGUAGE

Students thrive during our comprehensive English, Language Arts, and Writing programs which are designed to help all students achieve. During Writing Workshop, students focus on learning a particular skill each day and then applying it to their Masterpieces. We integrate our spelling and grammar lessons into all of our writing. Our Masterpieces encompass Personal Narrative, Fiction Narrative, Informational Reports, and Opinion Writing.

Textbooks: English 3 by BJU Press and Spelling 3 by BJU Press

SCIENCE

Students examine Environments & Habitats, Energy Transfer, and the Properties and Changes in Matter. Students practice the Scientific Method during group and individual experiments.

MATH

Students focus on refining regrouping and borrowing skills and mastering multiplication, division, fractions, geometry and measurement. Students experiment with representing problem situations in multiple ways including numbers, words (mathematical language), drawing pictures, using objects, making a chart, list, or graph, creating equations, etc.

Textbook: Progress in Mathematics by Sadlier-Oxford and Progress in Mathematics Workbook

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students investigate cultural/economic drivers that have influenced human migration patterns across the globe. Students also study map skills, environment/human connection, and American History. Students enjoy working independently on research projects to extend learning.

Example Daily Schedule

8:15 - 8:30 Morning Work

8:15 - 8:50 Recess

8:50 - 9:05 Snack/Bathroom

9:05 - 9:15 Morning Meeting

9:15 - 10:30 ELA + ELA Centers

10:30 - 12:00 Math + Math Centers

12:00 - 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 1:20 Specials

1:20 - 2:00 Science/History

2:00 - 2:15 Enrichment

2:15 - 2:30 Novel Study

2:30 - 2:40 Afternoon Meeting/Dismissal



FOURTH GRADE

Fourth Grade is an exciting year focused on teaching the students how to become more independent learners and critical thinkers. The goal is to have students prepared and confident to enter fifth grade where they begin switching classes for each subject. Students have the opportunity to work independently, with partners, and in groups. Much of the learning is differentiated giving students independence to choose the learning strategy that best suits their academic needs. Fourth grade is a year of growth filled with a variety of engaging activities that will grow the students academically, socially, and emotionally.

CURRICULUM

READING

Students read a variety of literature including realistic fiction, historical fiction, fantasy, biographies, poetry, plays, fables, folk tales, fairy tales, mysteries, autobiographies, and non-fiction. Students will participate in novel studies throughout the year. Students will learn reading strategy skills such as main idea, cause and effect, sequencing, plot, comparing and contrasting, characterization, inferencing, and point of view.

Textbook: Scott Foresman - Seeing is Believing, Holes by Louis Sachar, The Keeping Room by Anna Meyers

ENGLISH/WRITING

Students will focus greatly on grammar including parts of speech, subject-verb agreement and proper punctuation. All of these skills will then be incorporated into their writing. Students will write a variety of different pieces, such as narratives, biographies, persuasive essays and much more.

Textbook: English 4: Writing and Grammar by BJU Press

SCIENCE

Science is taught with a hands-on, experimental approach. Students will go through the scientific method and inquiry-based learning strategies. Students will explore plants, animals, ecosystems, weather, the human body, Earth's makeup, and the solar system.

MATH

Fourth grade math has a major emphasis on number sense and critical thinking skills. Students will master a variety of skills such as multiplication and division, adding and subtracting etc. Students will also be introduced to adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals and fractions which will continue to be used throughout their math classes. Students will also start working with more algebraic thinking problems and applying them to real life situations.

Textbook: Progress in Mathematics by Sadlier-Oxford

SOCIAL STUDIES

The fourth grade curriculum focuses on early America. Students will learn about the Native American culture, the Age of Exploration, 13 colonies, the Revolutionary War, and the establishment of the USA and its Government.

Textbook: Building a Nation by Scott Foresman

Example Daily Schedule

8:00 - 8:15 Morning Work

8:15 - 9:35 Math

9:35 - 9:55 Snack/Vocab

9:55 -10:55 ELA- Writing and Reading

10:55 - 11:40 Science

11:40 - 12:10 Lunch

12:10 - 12:40 Spanish

12:40 - 1:40 History

1:45 - 2:35 PE

2:40 Dismissal

*Daily schedule changes based on special area classes and chapel schedule



SPECIAL AREAS

MUSIC

The objective in General Music is to develop awareness of the characteristics of musical sounds and silence, and the diversity of sounds in the environment through perceiving, performing, listening, and responding to music. Each grade level works with various percussive instruments and learning how to utilize their vocal cords. Listed below is a portion of activities that will take place in each grade level throughout the year.

First Grade:

- Classify classroom instruments by sight and sound such as wood blocks, triangles, rhythm sticks, maracas, guiros, jingle bells, sand blocks, cymbals, tambourines, and hand drums
- Identify same and different patterns heard in music
- Demonstrate vocal qualities, such as head voice and chest voice and sing with high and low vocal sounds, matching pitches within an age- appropriate vocal range
- Distinguish among adult male voices, female voices, and children's voices in aural examples
- Demonstrate ability to echo short rhythmic and melodic patterns (quarter note, two eighths, and quarter rest)
- Practice steady beat through singing, speaking, and playing classroom instruments
- Perform simple 2- or 4-beat rhythmic ostinatos
- Demonstrate appropriate audience behavior
- Demonstrate musical characteristics through movement to music
- Use stem notation to read and write rhythm patterns including quarter note, quarter rest, and two eighth notes connected
- Connect music content to that of other subject areas, such as science, mathematics, or literature

2nd Grade:

- Classify band and orchestra instruments by sight according to methods of sound production such as blow, pluck and bow, strike, and shake
- Identify call-and-response and verse-and-refrain when presented aurally
- Use the head voice to sing a varied repertoire of songs, singing games, and songs with instrumental accompaniment, matching pitches within an age- appropriate vocal range
- Describe the differences among adult male voices, adult female voices, and children's voices
- Demonstrate the ability to maintain a steady beat through singing, speaking, and playing classroom instruments
- Sing one part of a 2-part round while the teacher sings the other part
- Perform an ostinato while other students perform a contrasting ostinato

- Sing from memory a varied repertoire of songs representing genres and styles from diverse world cultures
- Demonstrate ability to maintain steady beat through locomotor and non-locomotor movement
- Participate in music activities that relate music content, processes, and skills with those in other subjects taught in the school, such as cumulative songs for mathematics and regions of the world for social studies

3rd Grade:

- Categorize band and orchestra instruments by sight and sound according to the string, woodwind, brass, or percussion family
- Identify ABA and call-and-response musical forms, when presented aurally
- Read music notation including dynamics (p, f), tempo (allegro, adagio), and meter (2/2, 2/4, 4/4, 3/4, and 6/8)
- Describe environmental sounds heard, with attention to tempo, dynamics, and pitch
- Perform accurately simple rhythms at sight from standard notation: whole notes and whole rests, half notes and half rests, quarter notes and quarter rests, two eighth notes connected
- Sing and play a variety of music at a given tempo, using correct posture and clear diction or articulation
- Sing two- and three-part rounds accurately
- Perform ostinatos to support given melodies
- Explain appropriate performance behavior
- Conduct music in two meter
- Write simple rhythm patterns from dictation using quarter notes, two connected eighth notes, half notes, and corresponding rests in 4/4 time (2 measures)
- Demonstrate ways that relate music content, processes, and skills with those of other subjects taught in the school
- Develop the ability to compose and arrange music by experimenting with sound and the tools of composition

4th Grade:

- Develop awareness of the characteristics of musical sounds and the diversity of sounds in the environment
- Identify theme and variation form in music when presented aurally
- Read music notation including dynamics (p, f, mp, and mf), tempo (allegro, adagio, and moderato), and meter (2/2, 2/4, 4/4, 3/4, 6/8, and 5/4)
- Describe environmental sounds heard, with attention to rhythm
- Perform accurately simple rhythms at sight from standard notation: tied notes (whole, half, and quarter combinations)
- Sing partner songs and songs with descants accurately
- Conduct music in four meter
- Write simple rhythm patterns from dictation using quarter notes, two connected eighth notes, half notes, whole notes and corresponding rests in 2/4 and 3/4 time
- Create and notate short melodies on the treble staff, using standard notation (2 measures)
- Listen to music examples from various world cultures and describe how rhythm is used
- Develop the ability to recognize music as a form of individual and cultural expression through experiencing music as both personal and societal expression
- Become acquainted with the roles of music in the lives of people

ART

All classes are designed to give students a basic introduction to all types of art. Projects are designed to give students the opportunity to explore a mass array of mediums while expanding and perfecting their skills. Getting them excited about art and exploring the many different avenues that art can take you is key.

In grades 1st through 4th emphasis becomes broader but continues to perfect fine motor skills, following directions, color and shape use in a picture, control coloring and choices. Art word vocabulary is expanded and introduced throughout the year. Color wheel, Elements of Art, and Principles of Art are introduced and used in different projects. Often historically famous, current, or local artists are paralleled and talked about as we work on projects.

Weeks or units all have a theme, based on a season, holiday, subject matter, or special event. Many projects are a result of collaboration with classroom teachers and units that the teacher or a special area teacher may be instructing at the time! One fun thing that is always a hit each year is when the classroom teacher becomes a student peer and does the art project right along with the class as a student.

LIBRARY

In Library, students are exposed to a wide variety of fiction, non-fiction, and reference books. Students learn the differences between these, where to find them in the library and how to use them for research, etc. They will learn the correct way to care for books and Library materials. Students learn about many different genres: fiction, contemporary fiction, mystery, historical fiction, fairy tales/fable/folktale, fantasy, science fiction, horror, non-fiction, biography, history, self-help. They learn the parts of a book and the elements of a story. They will learn to use graphic organizers and sequencing in a story.

DIGITAL LITERACY

Students will learn basic computer skills. They will also use a typing program to develop typing and touchpad skills. Each year the following skills will be built upon:

- Parts of a laptop
- What the Internet is and how to navigate it safely
- Email - how to write a correct email
- How to use the G Suite applications (Google, Drive, Docs, Slides, Sheets, Forms, etc.)
- Digital Citizenship
- Typing
- Balancing technology in our everyday lives through the Social Institute

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In Physical Education many aspects of movement, coordination, cooperative games are being taught and evaluated. Such examples are:

- Fitnessgram: Fitness testing beginning and ending of year
- Focuses: Physical (Participation), Affective (Sportsmanship), Cognitive (Quizzes on sport games rules, history and regulations in 4th grade)
- Cooperative games: Bouncing and dribbling, catching, throwing, kicking.
- Body Management: Left and right, warm up exercises, running, hopping, skipping, jumping.
- Locomotors: Involved in both Cooperative games and Body Management.
- Striking with body & implements; tag and using different implements such as pool noodles, etc
- Sportsmanship: Working together on a team, in partners, and encouraging others.
- Kids Heart Challenge: Working with the American Heart Association on challenges and supporting a great cause.
- End of year Field Day: Fun activities and snacks!

SPANISH

K2 - 4th Grade Spanish

Students will be introduced to and interact with Spanish vocabulary related to greetings, colors, shapes, numbers, months, seasons, body parts, clothing, family, position, opposites, home, actions, and holidays. Lessons will be varied in depth based on the grade level. Lessons will be interactive and may include calendar time, story time, songs and movement, games, and art activities. As the year progresses, we will move toward an immersive Spanish experience.

BIBLE

The Biggest Story curriculum helps bring Bible stories to life through videos, songs, crafts, and games.

Elementary Bible classes consist of a Bible Memory Verse, a Bible story with a lesson, and ending with a class prayer. During each class, we focus on Jesus' love for each child. Every student is encouraged to share their thoughts and to participate in the prayer. We use the Spark Story Bible in grades K3 - 1st and Christian Standard Bible in grades 2nd - 4th.

K3 - 2nd grade classes focus on learning famous Bible songs, stories and people to help build a good foundation.

3rd & 4th grades take a deeper dive into the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament. We also study the Gospel stories of the New Testament throughout the year.



INTEGRATING
FAITH WITH LEARNING
S. CAROLINA