

# PROGRAM OF STUDY

Intermediate School (5th-6th Grade)



FIRST BAPTIST  
SCHOOL

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Head of School

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# INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

## *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, 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.

The intermediate school at First Baptist consists of grades fifth and sixth and emphasizes student responsibility, academic rigor, and the integration of academics and the Christian faith.

The faculty of the intermediate school strives to foster independence and growth in their students. Over the course of these formative years, students are encouraged to develop responsibility for self and schoolwork, to hone critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and to develop age-appropriate independence.

As students move through the intermediate school, they receive instruction in each of the core academic subjects and in special area courses like Bible, library, art, and Spanish. Each subject in the intermediate school integrates the Christian faith and academics: students in English might study parallels between the Gospel and a novel while history students might link events from the beginning of civilization to Biblical events. Outside of the classroom, our downtown location allows the intermediate school faculty to provide students with unique learning experiences: students will walk to the Dock Street Theater to attend a play, visit downtown historical sites, visit a local restaurant to practice figuring tip and tax, and more.

Thanks to a mixture of technology in the classroom, hands-on projects, and a vertically aligned curriculum, the intermediate school offers one of the best educational experiences in the Lowcountry!



# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ENGLISH

### GRADE 5: ELA

Textbook: Writing and Grammar - BJU Press

English 5 studies traditional grammar and guides students through the step-by-step use of the Writing Process for a variety of writing assignments, such as compare-contrast essays, persuasive business letters, research reports, and more. The student worktext provides guided practice, independent practice, chapter reviews, and cumulative reviews.

Reading: Novel Studies

Vocabulary: 5th graders read several novels including *The City of Ember*, *The Lion*, *The Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Tuck Everlasting*, and pull vocabulary from the context to better understand words. Students will analyze and discuss story elements.

### GRADE 6: ELA

Textbook: Writing and Grammar- BJU Press

English 6 emphasizes traditional grammar as well as practice with essential reference skills. Our English program provides a step-by-step introduction to the Writing Process for eight different types of writing assignments, such as personal narratives, newspaper editorials, historical fiction, and limericks. 6th graders will use what they learn to write a three-page research paper in the second half of the year.

Reading: Novel Studies

Vocabulary: 6th graders read several novels and short stories including *Boy of the Painted Cave*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief* to better understand vocabulary in context. The students also do a word study unit involving Greek and Latin roots. Students will analyze and discuss story elements in these novels and short stories. Wordly Wise lessons which focus on preparing students to be able to decipher words they'll encounter in content area texts, literature, and tests.

## HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES

### 5TH GRADE US HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Textbook: Our Land of Liberty - R. C. Law & Co., Inc.

The discovery and settlement of the New World is the focus of fifth grade history. An introduction of explorers and early people give the framework of the history of the Americas. Students are also introduced to the difficulties of establishing colonies while being governed from afar. Students learn about colonial history as well as the establishment of a new nation. Incorporating various projects, activities, and field trips with the aid of virtual tours enhances the learning experience.

### 6TH GRADE WORLD HISTORY

Textbook: World History - Holt McDougal

In 6th Grade, students study ancient civilizations of the world. Combining the importance of geography, natural resources, and societal strength, students develop an understanding about the foundation of ancient cultures. Throughout the course, students are taught how history “shakes hands with the Bible”. Students trace the lineage of the Egyptian pharaohs and correlate the estimated time periods with significant Biblical events. Interactive websites give insight to students about archaeology, human migration, mummification, and the expansion of empires. Presentations enhance the students’ learning experience by using ancient writing techniques and creating an Egyptian sarcophagus within the units of study.

## MATHEMATICS

### 5TH GRADE MATH

Textbook: Progress in Mathematics, Sadlier Oxford

In this course, students will be challenged to use their previous math skills to apply to new fifth grade mathematical content. This course will consist of the following topics: Place Value, Multiplication/Division, Fraction Operations, Decimal Operations, Geometry, Probability and Statistics, Measurements, and Ratios.

Throughout the year, students will not only build upon the tools needed to comprehend math, but will also display a variety of soft skills. These soft skills enable them to become more independent, ensuring their success as students. Students will be held accountable for ensuring that all assignments are completed and submitted promptly. All students should be proactive in their learning and take the initiative to ask for help when necessary.

In this course, students will be working both independently and collaboratively. Learning to cooperate with others and share mathematical ideas in groups will be a focus during class. Students will complete various projects throughout the year and will practice public speaking in the form of project presentations. The course will also allow students to build upon their independent note taking skills; these should be referenced when preparing for all quizzes and tests.

## 6TH GRADE LEVEL MATH

Textbook: Progress in Mathematics - Sadlier Oxford

In this course, students will be challenged to use their previous math skills to apply to new sixth grade mathematical content. This course will consist of the following topics: Number Sense, Fraction Operations, Decimal Operations, Expressions and Equations, Integers, Number Theory, Data and Statistics, Geometry, Measurement, Ratios, Proportions, and Percentages.

Throughout the year, students will not only build upon the tools needed to comprehend math but will also display a variety of soft skills. These soft skills enable them to become more independent, ensuring their success as students. Students will be held accountable for ensuring that all assignments are completed and submitted promptly. All students should be proactive in their learning and take the initiative to ask for help when necessary.

In this course, students will be working both independently and collaboratively. Learning to cooperate with others and share mathematical ideas in groups will be a focus during class. Students will complete various projects throughout the year and will practice public speaking in the form of project presentations. The course will also allow students to continue to build upon their independent note taking skills; these should be referenced when preparing for all quizzes and tests.

## 6TH FUNDAMENTALS OF ALGEBRA

Textbook: Fundamentals of Algebra - Sadlier Oxford

In this course, students will be challenged to use their previous math skills to apply to new sixth grade mathematical content. This course will consist of the following topics: Integers, Expressions and Equations, Inequalities, Rational Numbers, Ratios and Proportions, Percentages, Data Analysis, Two- and Three-Dimensional Geometry, Probability, Functions, and Polynomials.

Throughout the year, students will not only build upon the tools needed to comprehend math but will also display a variety of soft skills. These soft skills enable them to become more independent, ensuring their success as students. Students will be held accountable for ensuring that all assignments are completed and submitted promptly. All students should be proactive in their learning and take the initiative to ask for help when necessary.

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# SCIENCE

## 5TH GENERAL SCIENCE

Textbook: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Dimensions

5th Grade Science is the last year where we study General Science that encompasses all the basic areas of science. These areas include Life Science, Physical Science, Earth Science and the Study of the Human Body. Within these general topics, we conduct deep studies of Cell Structure and Function, Adaptations, and Ecology, Study of the Periodic Table and matter, Investigating Motion, Astronomy, and the major systems of the human body.

## 6TH EARTH SCIENCE

Textbook: Earth and Space in Science - McGraw-Hill

In 6th Grade Science, we complete a comprehensive study of all things related to Earth Science. This includes units about Mapping the Earth, Earth's Structure, Minerals, Rocks, Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Earth's Atmosphere, Climate and Exploring the Universe.



## SPECIAL AREAS

### SPANISH

Students will continue their study of Spanish and be introduced to more rigorous concepts. Students will continue to build upon their knowledge and communicate greetings; introductions; farewells; seasons; weather conditions; names of family members; pets; clothing; parts of the body and face; objects in classroom and home; feelings and emotions and other basic vocabulary in Spanish. As a result, the program prepares students for continued foreign language learning in the middle school.

### FRENCH

Students will be introduced to French language and Francophone culture. Concepts covered will include greetings and farewells; common phrases; numbers; and telling time. Students will gain foundational skills in grammar, conversation, and comprehension to prepare for the middle school French 1 course. All French courses utilize resources from the T'es Branche, a language immersion curriculum developed by Carnegie Learning.

### COMPUTER

This course will cover the skills needed by the students to enhance their core classroom work. It will cover the following skills:

- Google Classroom - viewing messages & assignments posted by teacher, completely and turning in assignments Google Drive (creating, folders/organization in Google, sharing files, etc.)
- Other Google programs (Docs, Sites, Forms, Slides, Sheets, etc.)
- Basic keyboarding skills (TypeTastic) - correct posture & finger placement, typing without looking at the keyboard, increased accuracy & speed and fewer errors.
- Digital Citizenship - being safe, pitfalls, social media, inappropriate and appropriate postings
- Importance of password safety
- Email - How to write one to a teacher, coach, parent, and others. Inbox organization, creating labels, deleting old emails, etc.
- Use of technology for calendars, reminders, and weekly/daily assignments and upcoming quizzes/tests.
- Introduction to basic coding and programming

### 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. Personal creativity is really pushed at this age.

In grades 5 and 6 emphasis becomes broader. Students must now begin to define art word vocabulary themselves and use them in class and in projects. Elements of Art, and Principles of Art are expanded on to include projects that directly relate to an Element or Principle. Historically famous, current, or local

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Fitnessgram: Fitness testing beginning/end of year.
- Focuses: Physical (Participation), Affective (Sportsmanship), Cognitive (Quizzes on rules, regulations and history of sport)
- Kids Heart Challenge: Month of February focus on raising money for American Heart Association and doing challenges as well!
- Throwing, Catching, Kicking, Ball Handling, Cooperative Games are all areas to work on in game like situations.
- Field Day! Fun activities and snacks!

## BIBLE

Textbook for 5th Grade: Walking with God and His People - Christian Schools International  
Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps and Timelines - Rose Publishing

Textbook for 6th Grade: Walking with God and His People - Christian Schools International  
Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps and Timelines - Rose Publishing

Intermediate Bible classes consist of a Bible Memory Verse(s), a lesson, finally ending with a class prayer. During each class, we focus on Jesus' love for each child and foster Christ centered relationships. Our primary goal is applying God's word to our everyday lives. Every student is encouraged to share their thoughts and to participate in the prayer. We use the New International Version Bible translation.

## MUSIC

General Music is provided weekly for grades K 2 - 5th grade. Students develop an awareness of various musical sounds in our environment through perceiving, performing, listening, and responding to music. Each grade level works with various manipulatives including percussive instruments, scarves, slinkies, white boards & markers, and recorders. Students also learn how to utilize their vocal cords, and work on their auditory skill set in order to be prepared for our choir, band, theatre, and/or piano programs.





# ELECTIVES

*\*Options change yearly, but most are consistently offered*

## DANCE

Dance is offered as a weekly co-curricular activity for our intermediate students in grades 5 and 6. Students explore the creative process through improvisation and choreography projects, as well as technical instruction in ballet, tap, lyrical, and jazz. The FBS Dance Program meets the National Core Arts Standards in Dance and aims to develop artistically literate students who are educated in mind, body, and spirit. Students participate in an annual Spring Dance Performance, which includes all dancers in grades K3-12th grade.

## BAND

Students in 4th - 12th grade are offered the opportunity to learn a new instrument and participate in our concert band during the school day. Students gain a greater appreciation through perceiving, performing, listening, and responding to music. Our program meets during the school day, and we actively work on the National Standards for Music Education. This includes listening, creating, reading, and performing music. Band students participate in a minimum of 2 performances a year: winter & spring. Students work with guest musicians throughout the school year, as well as attend a Charleston Symphony Orchestra Concert.

## CHOIR

Students in 3rd - 12th grade are offered the opportunity to participate in our choral ensemble during the school day. Students gain a greater appreciation through perceiving, performing, listening, and responding to music. Students actively work on the National Standards for Music Education which include singing, listening, creating, and reading music. Choir students participate in a minimum of 2 performances a year: Christmas & spring choral concert. Students work with guest musicians, and typically collaborate with the school musical/talent show in the spring. Students also attend a minimum of one professional ensemble such as the Charleston Symphony Orchestra.

## PERCUSSION

Our percussion program helps grow young ears in the concept areas of form, steady beat, and rhythmic subdivision. Students are provided mini drum sets made out of household items, and learn to read rhythmic visuals that will translate into more fluent staff notation readers.

## **FBS NEWS TEAM**

Students learn how to write scripts and practice public speaking in this elective. Each week, they will use a green screen to create the weekly news show for First Baptist School.

## **CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS**

In our Church Denominations elective, we first learn about the Baptist faith by spending time with our very own Pastor Blalock of First Baptist Church. Pastor Holton Seigling '90, of First Scots Presbyterian Church, kindly gives us a tour of his Church across the street, along with the graveyard. Our class visits St. Philip's Anglican Church where we see Edward Rutledge's, Charles Pinkney's, Christopher Gadsden's and John Calhoun's graves. Our students enjoy visiting St. Michael's Church and the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Our elective also offers class lectures and discussions on our students' remaining denominations, Church Sacraments, and diverse worship styles.

## **INTERMEDIATE LEADERSHIP CLASS**

The Intermediate Leadership Class is an elective offered by our school counselor. The focus of this class is developing strong leaders through improved time management, interpersonal skills, and realistic goal setting. Students participate in class discussions and hands-on activities modeled around the book, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens."



INTEGRATING  
FAITH WITH LEARNING  
S. CAROLINA