CURRICULUM GUIDE

"The lessons learned at TCA extend far beyond any classroom or backpack. We equip students with the lifelong skills to think critically and discern truth."

—KYLE MORRILL
Head of Upper School

PreK	KINDERGARTEN	FIRST GRADE	SECOND GRADE	THIRD GRADE	FOURTH GRADE	FIFTH GRADE	SIXTH GRADE	SEVENTH GRADE	EIGHTH GRADE	NINTH GRADE	TENTH GRADE	ELEVENTH GRADE	TWELFTH GRADE
Language Arts Phonemic awareness, book experiences, interactive read-a-louds, shared reading, emergent writing skills Focus on listening, speaking, vocabulary, three- and four-phoneme blending and the reading/writing connection	**Language Arts** Phonemic awareness, interactive read-a-louds, reading mini-lessons, shared reading, phonics/word study lessons, guided reading and independent reading, emergent writing skills Focus on listening, speaking, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension plus the reading/writing connection through whole group/small group instruction and individualized library	**Language Arts** Phonemic awareness, interactive read-a-louds, reading mini-lessons, shared reading, phonics/word study lessons, guided reading, and independent reading, process writing skills Focus on listening, speaking, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension plus the reading/writing connection through whole group/small group instruction and individualized library	**Language Arts** Phonemic awareness, interactive read-a-louds, reading mini-lessons, shared reading, phonics/word study lessons, guided reading, and independent reading, process writing skills Focus on listening, speaking, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension plus the reading/writing connection through whole group/small group instruction and individualized library, research skills, literature studies	**Language Arts** Phonemic awareness, interactive read-a-louds, reading mini-lessons, shared reading, phonics/word study lessons, guided reading, and independent reading, process writing skills Focus on listening, speaking, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension plus the reading/writing connection through whole group/small group instruction and individualized library, research skills, literature studies	**Language Arts** Phonemic awareness, interactive read-a-louds, reading mini-lessons, shared reading, phonics/word study lessons, guided reading, and independent reading, process writing skills Focus on listening, speaking, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension plus the reading/writing connection through whole group/small group instruction and individualized library, research skills, literature studies	**English/Language Arts/Literature** Word study, integrated reading, grammar, spelling Focus on listening, speaking, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension, research skills, writing process, whole group/small group instruction, multiple literature studies, integrated iPad technology	**History/English** Humanities curriculum covering historical time period from 600 to 1600 AD: development of Arabian Peninsula, European Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation, Scientific Revolution, Age of Exploration, world geography Reading skills, comprehension strategies, vocabulary instruction, literary analysis through novels Writing processes and skills including 6 traits, research and narrative essays, response to literature, creative writing, poetry Integrated iPad technology	**History/English** Humanities curriculum focused on early American history: colonization, American Revolution, government formation, citizenship, the Constitution, expansion of the US, Texas history, Industrial Revolution, slavery, Civil War Reading skills, comprehension strategies, vocabulary instruction, literary analysis through interactive reader and novels Writing processes and skills including 6 traits, response to literature, historical inquiry, creative writing, poetry Integrated iPad technology	**History/English** Humanities curriculum with thematic units integrating history, literature and writing: Reconstruction, western expansion/eastern industrialization/immigration, World War I, Roaring 20s/Great Depression, the Holocaust, World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War/the 1960s and the modern world Writing processes and skills including 6 traits, literary analysis, historical narrative, creative writing, poetry Reading skills, comprehension strategies, vocabulary instruction, literary analysis through classic novels and thematic literary readers Integrated iPad technology	**History/English** Integrated *Honors History/English* curriculum incorporating a survey approach to the great people, events, literature, visual arts and ideas which form Western Civilization *from Antiquities to Middle Ages* (Egypt, Israel, Greece, Rome, early Europe) Analytical writing Classical literature	**History/English** Integrated *AP European* or *Honors level European History/Honors English* curriculum incorporating a survey approach to the great people, events literature, visual arts and ideas which form Western Civilization from the Late Middle Ages to the present from a European perspective. AP European history course will have the additional focus on AP history skills and AP exam preparation. Analytical writing Modern literature	**History/English** Integrated *AP United States History/AP Language & Composition* A survey of American history and literature beginning with colonization to the present Course emphasizes rhetorical strategies, as well as analytical writing.	**History/English** *AP English Literature & Composition* A genre study of great literature culminating in a senior thesis Genres: Epic, Lyric, Tragic, Comic Course emphasizes adept and close reading, as well as critical thinking and writing.
Social Studies Units of study blending art, music and special events. Units include child's world, family, community, seasons and holidays, helpers to community, Native Americans, Pilgrims	**Social Studies** *Celebrating Diversity in Our World* Study of different countries, cultures and people in our world; study includes: family, Texas, USA, Mexico, Africa, Asia, France	**Social Studies** Introduction to the structure of schools, families and traditions, school rules, building and maintaining healthy relationships	**Social Studies** Study the basics of geography, economics and citizenship in the context of a local community; study presidents	**Social Studies** Awareness of local and global communities, different cultures and public service roles; study of economies around the world; research community heroes	**Social Studies** Study of Texas history beginning with colonization through the Civil War People, places and events that shaped our state	**History** World history focused on ancient civilizations, 3000 BC–476 AD and the development of the Christian faith during those years							*American Government* or *AP American Government (2 trimesters)* *Economics (1 trimester)* A comprehensive evaluation of how the US government is set up, how it is organized and how it works
Mathematics One-to-one correspondence, number recognition, counting to 20, attributes, positions, shapes, patterns, measurement, graphs	**Mathematics** Recognize, write and order numbers, compare and sort objects, describe position, patterns, construct and use graphs, compare measurements, use time, identify money, describe geometric shapes, model addition and subtraction, recognize and understand place value, identify fractions, problem solve	**Mathematics** Addition, subtraction, comparing geometric shapes, measurement, counting and grouping units, number patterns and relationships, problem solving, place value	**Mathematics** Addition, subtraction, base-ten, place value, money, time, fractions, linear measurement, estimates, geometry, area, weight, multiplication, division, problem solving, individualized math software	**Mathematics** Addition, subtraction, multiplication, multiplication memorization, division, geometry, comparing measurements, fractions, graphs and tables, problem solving, logic, estimation, individualized math software	**Mathematics** Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, time, geometry, measurements, angles, fractions, decimals, graphing, numeric patterns, problem solving, individualized math software	**Mathematics** Topics include place value concepts, numerical expressions, operations with decimals, operations with fractions, units of measure, patterns in the coordinate plane, volume and two dimensional shapes. (Grades and standardized test scores help to determine 7th-grade math placement.)	**Mathematics** Topics include numerical expressions and factors, fractions and decimals, ratios and rates, percents, algebraic expressions and properties, equations, area, surface area and volume, integers, number lines and the coordinate plane, statistical measures and data displays. (Grades, standardized test scores and an end-of-year diagnostic test help to determine 7th-grade math placement.)	**Pre-Algebra Concepts** Topics include mastering basic skills, integers, expressions, equations, inequalities and graphing. (Students will take *Intro to Algebra I* in 8th grade.) **Pre-Algebra** Topics include review of basic skills, integers, expressions, multi-step equations, inequalities, graphing, statistics, probability, geometry	**Intro to Algebra I** Topics include integers, equations, quadratics, linear equations and systems of equations. (Students complete *Algebra I* in 9th grade.) **Honors Algebra I** Topics include numbers and sets, properties of operations, real numbers, irrational numbers, quadratics and radical expressions. (Students receive *Algebra I* credit for Upper School.)	**Mathematics** *Algebra I* (Prerequisite *Intro to Algebra I*) *Geometry* (Prerequisite *Honors Algebra I*) *Honors Geometry* (Prerequisite *Honors Algebra I*)	**Mathematics** *Geometry* *Honors Geometry* *Algebra II* *Honors Algebra II*	**Mathematics** *Algebra II* *Honors Algebra II* *Honors Trig/Intro Calculus* *Pre-AP Trig/Calculus A*	**Mathematics** *Trig/Intro Business Calculus* *Honors Trig/Intro Calculus* *AP Calculus AB* *AP Calculus BC* *Finite Math*
Science Multi-sensory science inquiries including five senses, the ocean, the farm, animals (coverings, movement, types), insects, gardening, space	**Science** *Inquiry-based investigations* Processes and skills include observing, classifying, estimation, designing experiments, collecting data, comparing and generalizing. Units of study: trees and weather, materials in our world, animals	**Science** *Inquiry-based investigations* Processes and skills include active observing, discovery, shared exploration. Units of Study: balance and motion, scientific vocabulary	**Science** *Inquiry-based investigations* Processes and skills include active observing, discovery, shared explorations. Units of study: solids and liquids, air and weather, sharks, scientific vocabulary	**Science** *Inquiry-based investigations* Processes and skills include active observing, discovery, shared explorations Units of study: water, structures of life, measuring matter, scientific vocabulary	**Science** *Inquiry-based investigations* Processes and skills include active observing, discovery, shared explorations. Units of study: energy and electromagnetism, scientific vocabulary	**Science** *Lab-based investigations* Processes and skills include active observing, discovery, shared explorations. Units of study: scientific method, cells, volcanoes and earthquakes, astronomy, animals and plants, physical science, life science, earth science	**Science** *Lab-based curriculum* Processes and skills include active observing, discovery, explorations Units of study: scientific method, designing experiments, metric measurement, cells, body systems, energy, matter, astronomy, Newton's three laws, animals, periodic table, mini-science fair, flight	**Life Science** *Lab- and project-based curriculum* Processes and skills include active observing, discovery, explorations Units of study: scientific method, cell structure and function, cell transport, genetics, classification, ecology, fetal pig dissection, Rube Goldberg project	**Earth/Physical Science** *Project-centered inquiry* Mousetrap car, wood-split bridge, science methodology, astronomy, geology, engineering, meteorology, introductory physical science	**Biology** *Biology* *Pre-AP Biology*	**Chemistry** *Chemistry* *Pre-AP Chemistry*	**Physics** *Physics* *AP Physics Mechanics*	**Science Electives** *AP Biology* *AP Chemistry* *AP Physics Mechanics* *Honors Anatomy & Physiology* *Honors Astronomy* *Honors Engineering Design* *Field Ecology*
Bible Learn about God through major Bible stories, prayer, Scripture memorization and songs	**Bible** Learn about God through major characters in Bible stories, apply biblical principles, Scripture memorization	**Bible** Focus on the gifts from God through his love, Jesus as Lord and Savior, God's care, creation, Scripture memorization	**Bible** Moses and his leadership of Israel, promises of God, Scripture memorization	**Bible** Books of the Bible, Ten Commandments, Life of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Daniel, Scripture memorization	**Bible** Life of Christ and Paul, various Old Testament characters, apply biblical principles to personal life, Scripture memorization	**Bible** *Walking with God and His People* Old Testament focus, an overview of God and His covenants with His people	**Bible** *Walking with God and His People* New Testament focus, birth, death and resurrection of the Messiah, Acts, the Apostle Paul and expansion of Christianity	**Bible** *Walking with God and His People* Old Testament survey, a look at God's people through all of the Old Testament eras and the inter-testamental period	**Bible** *Walking with God and His People* New Testament focus, The Gospels, Acts, selected Epistles, Revelation, Church history and spiritual discipleship	**Bible** Integrated with History/English Key sections of Old Testament are studied along with the history and literature of the ancient world.	**Bible** Integrated with History/English Key sections of New Testament and early Christian creeds are studied along with the history of the Roman world.	**Bible** Course designed to help students establish, articulate, defend a universal absolute truth within the broader context of a Christian worldview. Books studied: Ecclesiastes, 1 Corinthians, John, Romans, James, Galatians	**Bible** Course aimed at preparing the senior for life in college and beyond by developing a holistic Christian worldview in pursuing truth, goodness, beauty and justice 1st trimester – Apologetics; 2nd trimester – Ethics; 3rd trimester – Worldviews
			Spanish Conversational Spanish, Spanish literature, writing, Spanish Bible verses, translating simple sentences, Spanish customs and culture	**Spanish** Conversational Spanish, Spanish literature, writing, Spanish Bible verses, translating simple sentences, Spanish customs and culture	**Spanish** Conversational Spanish, Spanish literature, writing, Spanish Bible verses, translating simple sentences, reading simple books, Spanish customs and culture		**Latin** Latin vocabulary, study of the Roman Empire, Latin derivatives, introduction to reading Latin	**Latin** Begin a two-year study of the language and its structure, follow the life of a Roman family through the destruction of Pompeii	**Latin** Continue two-year reading program - At end of the eighth grade, the students have completed the first year of a high school-level Latin course.	**World Languages** *Spanish I* *French I*	**World Languages** *Spanish II* *Honors Spanish II* *French II* *Honors French II*	**World Languages** *Spanish III* *Pre-AP Spanish III* *French III* *Pre-AP French III*	**World Languages** *Honors Spanish IV* *AP Spanish IV* *Honors French IV* *AP French IV*
Art Create original art works, explore various materials, learn about colors and shapes	**Art** Create original works of art using various materials, develop an enjoyment of art experiences	**Art** Create original works using a variety of media including clay and two- and three-dimensional objects	**Art** Refine art skills in painting and drawing, creative understanding of two-dimensional designs	**Art** Fine tune art skills using a variety of media: clay, fabric, watercolor, acrylic, specialty papers	**Art** Composition and design skills, careful observation, color theory applied to a variety of media including drawing, painting, collage and hand-building techniques	**Fine Arts rotation** (one trimester of each) **Art** - Introduction to art making: drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and sculpting **Band** - Introduction to basic band instruments through exploring a classroom set of band instruments **Choir** - Worship through singing, basic music theory, sight-reading, end-of-trimester concert **Speech/Drama** - Introduction to public speaking (informative, persuasive and debate), stage space, introduction to Shakespeare, improv, final performance	**Electives** Students choose one of the following: **Art** - Exploration of art techniques: pencil, paint, charcoal, collage, clay and other media **Band** - Learn to play instrument and perform music **Choir** - Worship through singing, basic music theory, sight-reading, performing in concerts **Speech 1/Drama 1** - Basic rhetorical skills, stage presence, confidence, basic acting skills, debate	**Electives** Students choose one of the following: **Art Methods** - Emphasis on drawing and painting; **2D/3D Art** - Projects have a 2D and 3D component **Band** - Music fundamentals, concert performance **Choir** - Worship through singing, basic music theory, sight-reading, performance opportunities **Speech 1/Drama 1** - Basic rhetorical skills, stage presence, confidence, basic acting skills, debate **High Tech** (see technology below)	**Electives** Students choose one of the following: **Art Methods** - Emphasis on drawing and painting; **2D/3D Art** - Projects have a 2D and 3D component; **Studio Art** - Composition and design applied to drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, mixed media **Band** - Music fundamentals, concert performance and competition **Choir** - Worship through singing, sight-reading, music theory, performance opportunities **Speech I/Drama I, Speech II/Drama II** - Develop performance and communication skills, debate, mock trial **High Tech** (see technology below)	**Visual Arts 9–12** (Grade-level and prerequisite requirements may apply) Introductory courses: *eMedia, ePhoto, e3D* Honors courses: *Honors Studio Art* *Honors Digital Art/Honors Electronic Collage/Honors Video Animation* *Honors Drawing I/Honors Painting I/Honors Printmaking I* *Honors Drawing II/Honors Painting II/Honors Printmaking II* *Honors Photography I/Honors Photography II/Honors Photography III* *Honors Sculpture/Honors 3D Mixed Media/Honors Ceramics* *AP Art Preparation/AP Art Practicum/AP Art Exhibition* **Performing Arts 9–12** (Grade-level and prerequisite requirements may apply) Music: *Women's Chorus, Men's Chorus, Honors Chorale, Advanced Band, Honors Advanced Band* Theater Arts: *Drama I: Theater and Production, Drama II: Performance and Production, Honors Advanced Drama*			
Music Introduce music vocabulary and listening skills, movement activities, learn songs and experience instruments	**Music** Introduce music vocabulary and listening skills through Kodaly, Orff instruments and Solfege, develop enjoyment of movement and music	**Music** Expand listening vocabularies and skills, rhythm pattern, meter, tone and timbre, study of hymns and symphonies	**Music** Solfege, notation, rhythm patterns, Orff instruments, introduction of composers such as Mozart, Haydn, hymn writers such as Charles Wesley, Fanny Crosby, American folk songs, winter concert	**Music** Solfege, notation, rhythm patterns, Orff instruments, various musical styles including Baroque and jazz, composers: Handel, Bach, Vivaldi, songs of Christmas, hymn stories and composers, Charlotte's Web tunes, Christmas concert	**Music** Solfege, notation, rhythm patterns, Orff instruments, introduction to the recorder, composers: Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Joplin, Francis Scott Key, songs of Christmas, patriotic spring musical								
Computer labs as well as classroom pods offer curriculum enrichment and software exploration. All classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards for curriculum integration. Digital citizenship and online safety are taught at all levels.						**Technology/Library** Equipping students with technology and information literacy skills using a digital and biblical worldview to facilitate their continual education in all academic disciplines with focus in digital citizenship, keyboarding skills and enhancing their love for literature		**High Tech/STEM Robotics I** Build, innovate, create and program robots using EV3 graphical software. Utilize Microsoft 2016 Suite to document, analyze and present information.	**High Tech/STEM Robotics II** Build, innovate, create and program robots using EV3 graphical, RobotC graphical, RobotC text-based and Virtual World software. Utilize Microsoft 2016 Suite to document, analyze and present information.	**Computer Science/Technology** *Honors Informational Technology* - Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, InDesign), Wix, iMovie *Honors Computer Science Foundations* - HTML5/CSS3, PHP, JavaScript, Adobe Creative Cloud (Dreamweaver), Java/Eclipse, MS Office (Excel) *AP Computer Science* - Java/Eclipse, MS Office (Excel) *Honors Web-Based Technologies* - HTML5, CSS3, PHP/MySQL, JavaScript, Adobe Creative Cloud (Dreamweaver), jQuery, MS Office (Excel) *Honors Technology Intern* - PC/Windows, CompTIA A+, hardware/software troubleshooting *Mobile Programming* - Xcode, Mac OS, Swift			
Technology Basic introduction to technology and terms	**Technology** Use of technology, hardware, terms, word processing, spreadsheets, publishing, multi-media	**Technology** Use of technology, projects with word processing, spreadsheets and publishing, keyboarding	**Technology** Use operating systems, graphics, Internet, develop projects with word processing, spreadsheets and publishing, keyboarding	**Technology** Use operating systems, graphics, Internet, enhance projects with multimedia and publishing, keyboarding	**Technology** Use operating systems, graphics, Internet, enhance projects with multimedia and publishing, master keyboarding								
Library, PreK–4th Grade Weekly class visits for story time, guidance and exploration of a variety of literature, print and electronic research in later grades								**Library** Collaboration with academic courses to provide cross-curricular connections offering access to wisdom-building resources to strengthen Christian worldview through literature and media		**Library** Provides print and electronic resources to support classroom projects, personal research and reading interests. Supports students in their research with instruction and assistance, aiming to prepare them for independent library use in college.			
PE Skills development, movement activities, body/spatial awareness, gross motor skills	**PE - Skill Stations** Progressive skill development and social interaction, emphasis on balance, sequencing, tracking, body/spatial awareness, laterality, gross motor, kinesthetic awareness, hand-eye/foot-eye coordination		**PE - Skill Stations** Continue sequential and spiraling skill-building curriculum, emphasis on fair play, cooperation and positive social interaction	**PE - Skill Stations** Students in grades 3–4 work on sports units: flag football, basketball, soccer, track, softball, baseball, tumbling, hockey, tennis, fitness, dance and volleyball Fitness-level assessments are introduced for students.		**PE - Introduction to Sports** Developmentally appropriate introduction to competitive sports offered at TCA, emphasis on skill development, sportsmanship, team building and intramural play, focus on flexibility, conditioning, core strength development and physical health		**7th–8th Competitive Athletic Sports Programs** **Girls**: basketball, cheerleading (8th), cross country, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball **Boys**: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, wrestling		**9th–12th Competitive Athletic Sports Programs** **Girls**: basketball, cheerleading, cross country, drill team, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball **Boys**: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, wrestling (Health 1-trimester course also offered through Athletics Department)			