

PRESTONWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

CURRICULUM GUIDE

NORTH CAMPUS



PRESTONWOOD



Christian Academy

• ESTABLISHED 1997 •



Bible

Fifth Grade Bible

In the Fifth Grade Bible course, our goal is to acquaint the students with the basic principles and history of the Bible, equip them to use the Scriptures with ease and confidence, and prepare them to share their knowledge and faith with others according to God's Word. The Bible (NIV) and Christian School International's *Witness to the Gospel* are our main sources of study. The students explore various sections of the Bible, which include the four Gospels and the Life of Christ. Students learn the themes, authors, and audience of the four Gospels as well as study the word choices of those authors. It is our strongest desire that each student exiting fifth grade will have a personal relationship with Christ, a thorough knowledge of Scripture, a clear and precise vision of right from wrong, the tools to lead others to Christ, and spiritual wisdom that only God can impart.

Sixth Grade Bible

In the Sixth Grade Bible course, the students study the *House of Israel*. This course includes the Old Testament books from Genesis to Leviticus. The main focus of the course is to present the Bible as the story of God's acts and words, written so that the students might know God and themselves, accept His gift of salvation, and live lives of joyful service and obedience. The goal is to help the students understand the Bible literally, culturally and geographically. The students are encouraged with life applications from each unit of study.

Seventh Grade: Old Testament Survey

This Seventh Grade Bible course guides the student through the Old Testament. Each book's background, author, theme, and message are surveyed along with key verses. While examining the particulars of each book, the consistent theme of God's redemption of humankind is reinforced.

Eighth Grade: New Testament Survey

The Eighth Grade Bible course begins with a review of the Old Testament. The Old Testament prepares the way for Christ, and He is fully manifested in the New Testament. All twenty-seven books of the New Testament are examined and presented as God's infallible Word. The overriding theme of the class is presented in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave..." Each student finishes the course with the abiding truth that they are secure in God's love for him or her. The goal being that they understand our responsibility as Christians to reflect the love of Jesus by loving others as He loves us.

History

Fifth Grade: American History

The Fifth Grade History course is a study of history of the United States with the early American Indians and ending with the wars of the 20th Century. Both primary and secondary sources are utilized as students survey the influence of historical perspective and point of view on issues, decision-making and actions. A special emphasis is placed on the

impact of the Christian faith in the formation of our country and its historical documents. The Constitution, Bill of Rights and the three branches of government are studied, and interactive scenarios are presented to teach basic ideology and principles. Critical thinking skills, discussion and presentation techniques, note taking, role playing and persuasive writing are implemented throughout the course as students participate in learning significant historical events. Most importantly, students are taught that the history of man has a distinct inception, purpose, and end and that God has, and will, oversee even the smallest detail in our American story.

Sixth Grade: World History

The Sixth-Grade history course covers the evolution of our society from the early cultures of the world thousands of years ago to the World Wars of last century. It begins with a basic study of geography, which includes reading maps, and learning the terms listed in our curriculum. Map skills are reviewed and extended throughout the course. Some topics of study include the River Valley Civilizations, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome, Medieval Europe, and the dawn of the Modern World. Skills throughout this study include listening, note taking, writing, critical thinking, and discussion. The students also answer various questions that require them to recall facts, find the main idea, make inferences, determine cause and effect, and draw conclusions. A biblical worldview is emphasized in this course of study.

Seventh Grade: World Geography

Fall Semester Course

The Seventh Grade World Geography is a one-semester course which focuses on the influences of geography upon historic development, government, economics, culture, religion and aesthetics of the world's ten cultural regions. The emphasis on the physical aspects of geography is designed to encourage students in evaluating and drawing conclusions about cause/effect relationships that might affect the origins, intellectual and social aspects of the major regions of the world. This course is designed to help students develop their biblical worldview by giving them tools to evaluate the world around them and grow in seeing the world through the eyes of Scripture.

Seventh Grade: American History until 1812

Spring Semester Course

This semester long Early American History course focuses on the history of our country and enables students to determine cause/effect relationships throughout the building of our nation as well as predict how current trends in government, economics, religion and politics might affect the history and the responsibilities related with a Christian worldview. Students examine God's hand as evident from creation to the present in His authorship of history.

Eighth Grade: American History after 1812

The American History course focuses on the history of our country, from President Washington's first administration to the early twenty-first century. The emphasis of this course is on the Christian heritage of our nation and the leaders and events, past and present, and the foundations that have shaped our great nation. This course is designed to encourage student awareness of the Judeo-Christian, geographical, and economic influences that have molded our nation; studies also include Texas' role in various major events throughout our history. Current events are also analyzed and evaluated.

An additional goal of this course is to incorporate relevant skills development into each student's on-going work and includes the use of geography, economics, political processes, religion, ethics, science, philosophy and the

humanities. History is an integrated study designed to help students develop a biblical worldview by giving them tools to evaluate the world around them and grow in the ability to interpret world events through the eyes of Scripture.

Language Arts

Fifth Grade English

The Fifth Grade English course focuses on reviewing and expanding grammatical skills using the *Shurley Grammar* method. *Shurley Grammar* provides a sequentially oriented curriculum that incorporates the use of rhythm, repetition and student/teacher interaction. This program provides the sustained momentum that allows teachers to build on a student's previous successes. Focus begins with expository paragraph structure and development, moving into various forms of expository essay writing. They write to a variety of audiences using formal and creative forms of writing such as narrative, descriptive, persuasive, creative, compare/contrast and various forms of expository. They continue to develop mastery of the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, editing and publishing. In addition, students are guided through the research process and complete research papers.

Fifth Grade Literature

The Fifth Grade Literature course emphasizes reading comprehension and literary analysis. Four novels along with a collection of folklore and poetry are the primary tools of instruction to develop literary element concepts such as characterization, plot development, types of conflict, and writing style analysis through figurative language: *The Sign of the Beaver*; *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; *Shades of Gray*; and *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Students begin to develop their concept of a text's theme or message. Vocabulary development is studied through *Membean*. Individualized practice of comprehension skills is developed with the PCA Reads independent reading program. The instructional intent is to engage students in the kinds of activities that prepare them for reading, thinking, and problem-solving in real-world situations.

Sixth Grade English

The English course focuses on reviewing and expanding grammatical skills using the *Shurley Grammar* method. *Shurley Grammar* is used to teach the foundation of grammar using rhythm, repetition, and a question and answer flow to classify each word in a sentence, as well as, the sentence as a whole. These concepts are used to expand, improve, and edit writing. The students write for a variety of purposes including responding to topics, developing compositions and sharing thoughts in journal writing. They write to a variety of audiences using formal and creative forms of writing such as narrative, descriptive, persuasive, creative and expository. They continue to develop mastery of the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, editing and publishing. The course takes time to focus on and develop each of the traits of writing including ideas, word choice, organization, sentence fluency, voice and conventions.

Sixth Grade Literature

Sixth Grade Literature is a year of significant transition for students as they use the skills they previously learned and apply them to more complex learning in deeper and more rigorous ways. As students read closely to gain understanding and construct meaning from texts, they learn to monitor their own understanding as they read and use strategies to clarify any questions that arise. Students continue to develop their analysis of a text's thematic content, supported with text evidence from conflict and character elements. They also engage in meaningful collaborations with peers to enhance their learning. *Membean*, an online vocabulary program, is incorporated throughout the year with weekly required times of practice as well as periodic tests. Students read the following novels: *Tuck Everlasting*, *Hatchet*, *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths*, *Inside Out and Back Again*, and *The Bronze Bow*. Students also read and analyze poetry from a variety of cultures around the world with emphasis on African/American, Hispanic, and Asian

cultures. Individualized practice of comprehension skills is developed with the PCA Reads independent reading program.

Seventh Grade English

This course includes an intensive study in vocabulary, writing, and literature. Students read from different literary genres such as the short story, novel, poetry, and drama. Elements of literature, such as characterization, plot, structure, theme, context clues, and imagery are developed. Through analysis, discussion, and written responses to literature, students examine how an author creates a work of literature. In addition to reading *A Tune for Bears to Dance To*, *The Pearl*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *The River* students are also exposed to poetry and various short stories. Oral reports and research are also included in this course, and students continue to compose in all genres and reinforce grammar and language usage skills. *Membean*, an online vocabulary program, is incorporated throughout the year with weekly required times of practice as well as periodic tests. Individualized practice of comprehension skills continues with the PCA Reads independent reading program.

Eighth Grade English

The Eighth Grade English course offers students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of literature and increase their skills in analyzing and interpreting various texts from a variety of genres while developing vocabulary by using context clues and *Membean*. They develop their critical thinking skills and cultural awareness by reading several engaging novels: C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*, Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*, Simon Wiesenthal's *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness* paired with Hackett and Goodrich's dramatic interpretation of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Students practice the development of organized expository and literary analysis paragraphs which develop into essays by practicing analysis of literary elements such as characterization, allegory, irony, imagery, argumentation, and persuasion. Eighth Grade English places a strong emphasis on improving writing skills. Students read examples of excellent writing from a variety of sources to compose literary responses and analyses, and eventually to synthesize multiple text sources into thoughtful presentations of critical thinking. Students are encouraged to incorporate Biblical text and examples into their compositions and presentations throughout the year. Vocabulary development is studied through *Membean*. Individualized practice of comprehension skills continues with the PCA Reads independent reading program.

Math

Fifth Grade Math

The Fifth-Grade mathematics course reviews and further reinforces operations with whole numbers, place value from millions to thousandths, graphing, decimals, fractions and geometry. Fundamental algebraic concepts introduced and further developed include ratios, variable, probability and order of operations. Problem solving, logic, and real world applications are emphasized. Building math confidence and providing an enjoyable hands-on learning environment are a primary focus. Math units are seasoned with the biblical principles of order and spiritual truths.

Sixth Grade Math

The Sixth-Grade mathematics course reinforces foundational math concepts and introduces fundamental algebraic skills. The curriculum is devoted to number patterns in algebra, graphs, decimals, fractions, integers, expressions, equations, percent's, probability, measurement, geometry as well as the use of measurement and data reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments and make recommendations. Projects are assigned periodically and coordinate with other disciplines. Most importantly, mathematics is a course where the students attain a greater awareness of our infinite God.

Seventh Grade Math

The Seventh-Grade math course continues to develop and expand basic skills and concepts studied in fifth and sixth grade. Critical thinking skills and problem-solving strategies are further developed throughout the year. The content includes rational number properties, hands-on geometry, measuring two (and three) dimensional figures, statistics (analyzing data), Algebra (integers, linear equations and functions), fractions, decimals, percents, proportional reasoning ratios, probability and graphing calculator procedures. Mathematics is a course where the students attain a greater awareness of our infinite God.

Pre-Algebra

Seventh and Eighth Grade

A prerequisite to Algebra I, this course explores and expands on introductory concepts of Algebra such as variables, integers, graphing of inequalities, algebraic phrases, two-step problems, advanced equations and geometric concepts. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. While the use of all types of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology. Integrated critical thinking skills and problem-solving strategies are applied throughout the year. This course is designed to take the student from Sixth Grade Math or Seventh Grade Math to Algebra I as a transitional course.

Honors Algebra I

Eighth Grade

Two Semester Course Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites: *Pre-Algebra, Student must meet 2 of 3 requirements*

- *Grade of 90 percent or higher in Pre-Algebra*
- *PSAT Math 80 percent or higher*
- *Department recommendation/ Mathematics Department Assessment*

Honors Algebra I is a course within the Honors program that prepares students for AP Calculus concepts at the Algebra I level. This course moves at a faster pace and has a higher level of difficulty. In addition to the Algebra I curriculum, this class covers quadratics and rational expressions in much greater depth. Critical thinking skills are emphasized to develop competence in problem solving.

Science

Fifth Grade Science

The Fifth Grade Science course is designed to develop students' ability to explore, discover and investigate the world around them. In Life Science, students study the classification of vertebrates and invertebrates, cells, plants and the human body system. Within Physical Science, light waves are covered. Within Earth Science, ecology is covered. Students have opportunities to conduct experiments as they work through each topic using the scientific method and metric system. Scientific equipment is utilized throughout the course to provide a hands-on approach to learning about God's design in the world around them.

Sixth Grade Science: Earth Science

Students in the Sixth-Grade science course are involved in a broad range of sciences that make up Earth Science. They review the scientific method and laboratory technique. They further extend their knowledge of measurement and the metric system as well as the use of advanced scientific instruments. Included is an introduction to atomic structure and states of matter. A major component of Earth Science is geology. While studying geology, students

delve into such areas as minerals and rocks, erosion, plate tectonics and its impact on the Earth's surface, as well as looking at theories of the Earth's origin. A brief look at ecology helps each student learn how to be a better steward of God's world. Studies of meteorology and astronomy are other major parts of this course. The students study stars, planets, and other astronomical objects as well as the history of space exploration. Concepts for weather and weather forecasting are also explored. Each topic is presented from a biblical perspective.

Seventh Grade Science: Life Science

The Seventh Grade Life Science course is designed to provide students with a solid foundation to prepare them for high school biology. Emphasis is placed on inquiry skills, interpreting data, understanding relationships in the living world, and making connections between science and the Christian faith. Specific areas of study include cellular structure, plants, animals, disease and microorganisms, heredity, classification, ecology and how these relate to the world God created. Inquiry skills are enhanced by laboratory investigations and hands-on activities. Students study characteristics of organisms belonging to each of the five kingdoms of classification and develop an understanding for the ways living things reproduce and grow.

Eighth Grade Science: Integrated Physics and Chemistry

Eighth Grade Science is an integrated physics and chemistry course in which students learn the basic concepts in each area. The first semester focuses on physics and the basic laws of nature that God established. Topics include electricity and magnetism, electric charges and current, motion, forces and energy. The second semester focuses on chemistry and the processes that occur in the world around us. Students gain a deeper understanding of atomic structure, ionic and covalent bonding and the periodic table. Chemical formulas are studied with an emphasis on balancing chemical equations. IPC uses a hands-on approach to teach the concepts through chapter projects and lab activities throughout the year. Lab safety while learning to manipulate lab equipment is an integral part of the IPC course.

Fine Arts

Fifth Grade Art

Fifth Grade Art is a one semester introductory level course for the middle school student. The student is introduced to the elements and principles of art and their application for successful drawing and design. Students are provided the opportunity to experience a variety of mediums and techniques that may include drawing, painting, mixed media and sculpture. The curriculum integrates biblical principles into aesthetic appreciation. Students have opportunities to show their work to fellow students and families. Art contests are available for participation upon the recommendation of the art teacher.

Sixth Grade Art

Sixth Grade Art is a one semester elective art course for the middle school student. The course is designed to build upon and increase the student's knowledge of the art elements and principles of design. The curriculum is integrated with biblical principles into aesthetic appreciation. Students are provided the opportunity to experience a variety of mediums and techniques that may include drawing and mixed media, sculpture. Students have opportunities to show their work to fellow students and families. Art contests are available for participation upon the recommendation of the art teacher.

Middle School Art

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

The Middle School Art course is a one semester introductory level course for the middle school student. There is an emphasis on the elements and principles of design and basic 2-D composition. The curriculum integrates art history and biblical principles. Students explore a variety of media and attention is given to the development of drawing skills and art criticism. Homework is required.

Honors Eighth Grade Art I

Eighth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course

Fulfills High School Prerequisite for Art I

Prerequisites: Middle School Art, Departmental recommendation

Honors Eighth Grade Art is an introductory level two-dimensional design course with an introduction into three-dimensional design. The curriculum focus is on creativity with perspective and shallow space design. Emphasis is placed on developing compositions using the elements and principles of design, critiquing major projects and developing drawing skills. The first quarter is a study in black, white, and gray scale as well as color theory. Drawing, printmaking, painting and the use of a variety of mediums are explored. Homework is required. Biblical integration is included throughout the curriculum. Participation in art contests is encouraged and available.

Beginning Band

Sixth Grade Elective

Beginning Band is designed with sixth grade in mind. This Band has open enrollment so anyone can come and be a part of this outstanding group. No musical knowledge is necessary, only a willingness to practice at home and work hard in class. Students are taught basic music theory, characteristic tone production, pitch delineation, instrument fingerings and basic rhythmic skills. These fundamentals are needed to advance to the Intermediate Band. Almost no before or after school practices are held for this group. Instruments in the Beginning Band include the following: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Cornet, (Trumpet) French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba and Percussion. Note: Most students obtain instruments through a rental program at Music & Arts music store. PCA will supply some larger instruments for a yearly usage fee of \$240.00.

Intermediate Band

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: NONE

For the 2022-23 school year only, this course is open to any student with an interest in instrumental music. All are welcome – whether you have already been playing an instrument or are interested in taking band for the first time and learning to play an instrument. The course will be customized to fit the students that sign up. Beginners will focus on all of the fundamentals as listed in the Beginning Band course description. For those who already have an instrumental background, they will continue to develop their skills. Students in this class will also have the opportunity to compete at festivals and audition for the TPSMEA North Region Honor Band.

Fifth Grade Choir

One Semester Course

The Fifth Grade Choir course is designed to build upon music concepts learned in the fourth grade. Students sing a varied repertoire as they continue to develop their vocal skills, singing alone and with others, while increasing pitch and rhythmic accuracy, and beauty of tone. Students also learn music theory concepts of increasing difficulty through rhythm exercises and written work. All fifth-grade music students are involved in performances throughout the year.

Sixth Grade Choir

Sixth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

The Sixth Grade Music course is designed to build upon music concepts learned in the fifth grade. Students sing a varied repertoire as they continue to develop their vocal skills. Special attention is given to the changing voices of boys at this age, and a suitable repertoire is selected. Students also learn more advanced music theory concepts through rhythm exercises, theory lessons, written assignments, and tests. All sixth-grade music students are involved in performance throughout the year.

Middle School Choir

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

The Middle School Choir is an elective course for Seventh and Eighth Grade students designed to build upon music concepts learned in the Sixth Grade. Students sing a varied repertoire as they develop their vocal skills. Students also learn more advanced music theory concepts through rhythm exercises, theory lessons, written assignments and tests. All Seventh and Eighth Grade music students are involved in at least one major performance throughout the year. Students may request two semesters of choir per year.

Middle School Theatre I

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Middle School Theatre I is an elective course offered to seventh and eighth grade students. In Theatre I, students are introduced to theatre as a gift from their Creator that can be used to bring glory to His name. The students learn the basics of theatrical performance and theatre history. Character development, stage direction and movement are developed through individual and group performances. Students learn the rules of improvisation and create dramatic works through group improvisation and collaborative playwriting.

Middle School Theatre II

Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Prerequisites: Middle School Theater I, Departmental recommendation

The Middle School Theatre II elective course is for the Eighth-Grade student who wishes to continue in theatre. In this class, the students continue to learn more about the production process through the production of a One Act play. Students study, rehearse, design and perform a One Act play for the community and for competition. A student who has completed Middle School Theatre II may go directly into the Upper School Theatre II course. A student must audition for the course in the spring of Seventh Grade.

World Languages

Fifth Grade Spanish

One Semester Course

The Fifth Grade Spanish course is a one semester exploratory course which uses technology and magnetic cards to introduce vocabulary within the context of logical sentences. The emerging second language is stimulated through the addition of new symbols and re-combinations of previously learned vocabulary symbols. Students begin to use

learned vocabulary in describing real life scenes, which in turn, establishes confidence in language acquisition. By the sixth lesson, students are exposed to Spanish dialogue, using first and second person present tense forms.

In addition to communication skills, Fifth Grade students at PCA develop an awareness of the culture and geography of some Spanish speaking countries. They also learn about special holiday celebrations and cultural practices. Finally, students are challenged to learn Bible passages, such as John 14:6, John 3:16, and Matthew 28:19-20, in order to be better equipped to share Christ across cultural and language barriers.

Sixth Grade Spanish

One Semester Course

The Sixth Grade Spanish course is a continuation of Spanish offered in Lower School and Fifth Grade and uses technology and magnetic cards to introduce vocabulary within the context of logical sentences. The emerging second language is stimulated through the addition of new symbols and re-combinations of previously learned vocabulary symbols. Students begin to use learned vocabulary in describing real life scenes, which in turn, establishes confidence in language acquisition. In addition to communication skills, Sixth Grade students at PCA develop an awareness of the culture and geography of some Spanish speaking countries. They also learn about special holiday celebrations and cultural practices. Finally, students are challenged to learn Bible passages in order to be better equipped to share Christ across cultural and language barriers.

World Languages Spanish

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

For Rising Seventh Graders: A semester of World Languages is a required course before a student enters Ninth Grade

Middle School World Languages Spanish is an exploratory course designed to focus students on the reinforcement of the Spanish language and culture previously learned. Basic concepts such as regular and irregular verbs are presented as well as thematic vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on improving students' accent and pronunciation, and listening comprehension is practiced through different types of exercises. Students also explore different Spanish cultural topics such as daily life, schools in Spanish speaking countries, cuisine, and more.

Non-departmental Electives

Intro to Speech and Debate

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

The Intro to Speech and Debate class trains students to engage their creativity by writing original speeches about topics of interest for events, act out their favorite story by performing an interpretative piece, speak on relevant domestic and international issues, discover new authors and ways to read poetry and literature like never before. Students interested in speech, debate, mock trial or theatre have the opportunity to sharpen their skills through the lens of this class. Regardless of skill level, Intro to Speech and Debate aims to bring out the exceptional speaker in every student. Students are encouraged, but not required, to attend one competition during the semester with the Speech and Debate team.

Future Problem-Solving Program

Seventh and Eighth Grade

Two Semester Course

Future Problem Solving is an elective course for students interested in competing in the FPS international competitive program where students compete in teams of three or four at the local and state level (held in Austin during the last full weekend of April) after researching topics that have implications for the future. State finalists compete at the international meet held each June. The program develops creative thinking, research, decision-making, and critical and analytical thinking skills. This element increases awareness of, and interest in, the future, improving communication skills, and utilizing problem-solving strategies. While the topics are always interdisciplinary, reading, writing and language arts skills dominate the content of the program. Students are graded on their individual performance, not what they do collectively as a team.

Learning Lab

Fifth - Eighth Grade Elective

One or Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: Student must be enrolled in the Learning Lab

This academic support program for students with learning differences requires separate enrollment and can be selected as an elective to receive small group assistance or can include receiving services such as case management and progress monitoring, test taking in the lab and classroom accommodations. When students attend Learning Lab as an elective, during monitored sessions they complete assignments and make-up work, have extended time to complete work or tests, and use this time to consult with instructors as to progress on upcoming assignments, tests, or projects as well as grade status. Prerequisite: Student must be enrolled in the Learning Lab

Physical Education

Fifth Grade PE

The purpose of physical education is to guide children to be physically active for a lifetime. It is our goal to enable students through physical education to perform basic skills in individual and team sports and fitness activities. Opportunity is provided to accomplish this goal through activities appropriately designed for the student's developmental level. Believing that God wants us to respect authority and maintain self-control in all areas of our life, physical education provides the perfect setting for learning self-discipline through competition while learning to respect the rules of the game and the officials.

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade

PE/Athletic Period

Middle School Physical Education/Conditioning is offered the first period of the day four days a week. The program is designed to promote physical fitness, develop motor skills, and instill knowledge and understanding of rules, concepts and strategies. Students learn to compete as a team member or as an individual through a wide variety of competitive activities.

Technology

Fifth Grade Technology

In the Fifth Grade Technology course, the students achieve an overall understanding of correct keyboarding techniques, computer programming, the movie making process, robotics and digital citizenship. Fifth Grade students are set on individualized keyboarding plans according to their skill. This ensures the use of the correct finger positions and increases their typing speed and accuracy. The Digital Citizenship lessons introduce students to the awareness and knowledge they need to be safe and responsible digital citizens online. Through the use of hands-on projects and quizzes, the students exhibit their knowledge of the computer skills/concepts they have learned. The

instructional goal is to prepare students with computer application skills, so they are confident of their abilities and are able to complete assignments that require the use of technology.

Sixth Grade Technology

In the Sixth Grade Technology course, the students develop an in-depth understanding of correct keyboarding techniques, and are introduced to Photoshop digital graphics, computer programming, robotics, and the movie making process. Students also continue their study of digital citizenship. Sixth grade students are set on individualized keyboarding plans according to their skill. This ensures the use of the correct finger positions and increases their typing speed and accuracy. The Digital Citizenship lessons introduce students to the awareness and knowledge they need to responsibly create and share digital content and be safe online. Through the use of hands-on projects and quizzes, the students exhibit their knowledge of the computer skills/concepts they have learned. The instructional goal is to prepare students with advanced skills, so they are confident of their abilities and are able to complete assignments that require the use of technology.

Middle School Programming Concepts and Principles I

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

The Middle School Programming Concepts and Principles I course is designed to inspire students to be STEM leaders, creators of technology and influencers for the future. By implementing the design process and computational thinking, students develop critical thinking, problem solving, collaborative and communication skills as they are challenged to complete complex, project-based assignments. This course covers the basic fundamental concepts involved in programming such as developing IPO charts, algorithms and pseudo code, basic program structure and proper syntax, conditional statements, Boolean expressions, variables, bug fixing, loops, operators, etc. The course moves from using block programming tools to beginner levels of actual programming languages. Students learn how computers operate by gaining an understanding of the connection between hardware and software. Students learn both physical and non-physical computing skills.

Middle School Programming Concepts and Principles II

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Prerequisite: Middle School Programming Concepts and Principles I

The Middle School Programming Concepts and Principles II course is designed to continue a student's growth to be STEM leaders, creators of technology and influencers for the future. By implementing the design process and computational thinking, students develop critical thinking, problem solving, collaborative and communication skills as they are challenged to complete complex, project-based assignments. Students continue to build knowledge in IPO charts and algorithm and pseudo code development. This course moves forward in covering more complex concepts involved in programming such as developing functions, parameters, arrays, variables, types, initialization more complex conditional statements and Boolean expressions, etc. The course moves deeper into actual programming languages. Students develop a more complex understanding of computers by continuing to gain an understanding of the connection between hardware and software. Students learn both physical and non-physical computing skills.