

**MS | ACADEMIC
HANDBOOK**

Beginning the Trail:

Guide us, Lord,
On the trail set before us.
We come with open minds, hearts, and hands.
Use every challenge and victory for our good and growth.
Help us recognize our worth and place in Your story.

For the Student:

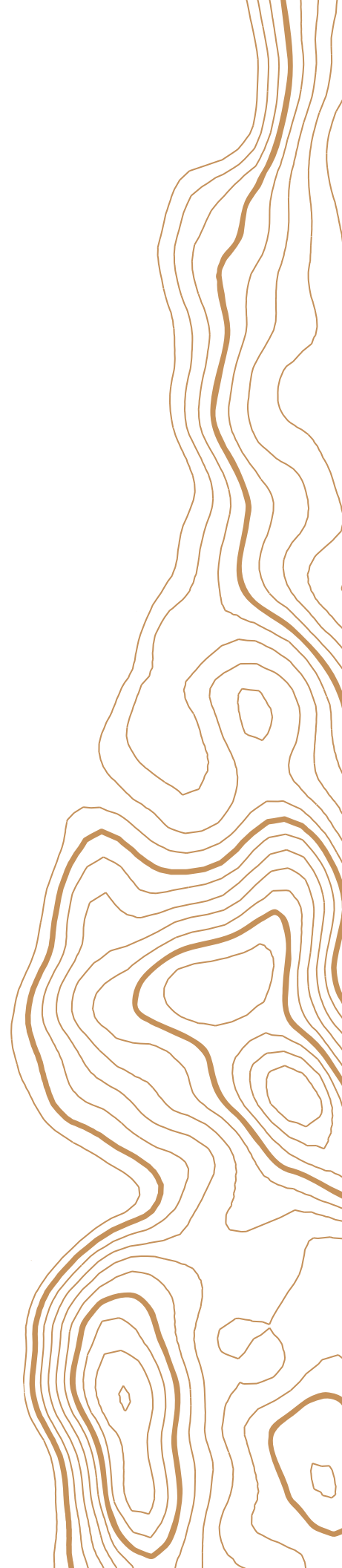
Whether we encounter peaks of achievement
Or valleys of struggle,
Each big or small step taken
Brings opportunities for learning and growth.
Amid uncertainty and times of conflict,
Help us:
Value hard work,
Not run from struggles,
Find resilience to persevere.

For the Parent:

Let us prepare our children for the trail ahead.
May we guide them well but not carry their load.
Remind us that independence is the goal.
Help us remember that the process of learning and growth
Is more important than any grade.
We acknowledge that emotions may cloud perception.
Help us:
Listen well,
Avoid assumptions by asking good questions,
Remain the calmest voice they hear.

For the Teacher:

Help us be good stewards and guides,
Starting with the end in mind.
Help us cultivate engaging ecosystems that support learning.
May we provide appropriate opportunities for struggle
That build cognitive flexibility.
Help us:
Build a supportive community,
Strengthen the green wall,
Meet each other, students, and families with His love.



Contemplation:

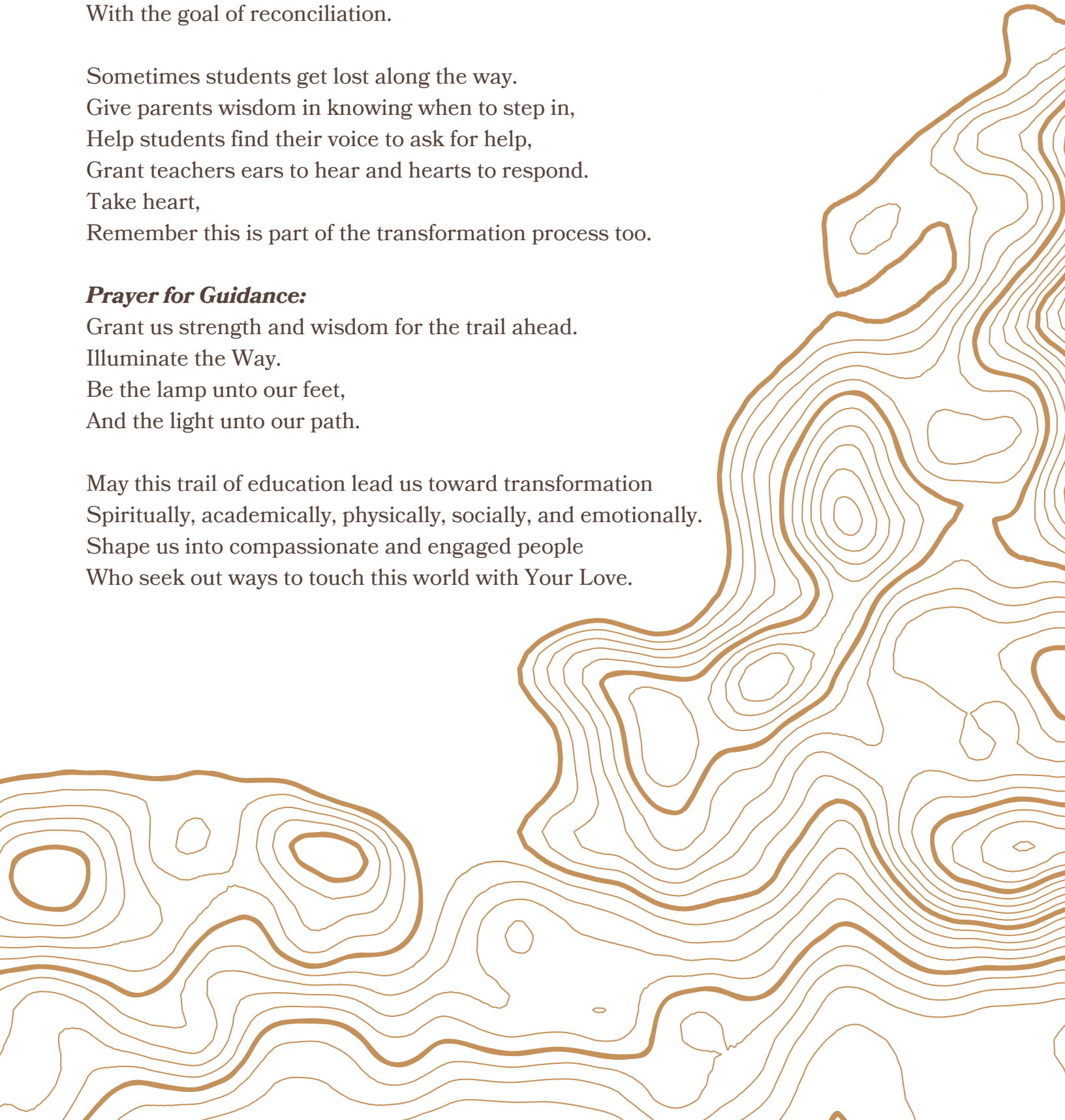
As we walk along the path,
There may be roots or pebbles along the way.
Help us deal with little annoyances quickly,
So they don't grow out of proportion or cause us to stumble.
Help us resolve conflict
With the goal of reconciliation.

Sometimes students get lost along the way.
Give parents wisdom in knowing when to step in,
Help students find their voice to ask for help,
Grant teachers ears to hear and hearts to respond.
Take heart,
Remember this is part of the transformation process too.

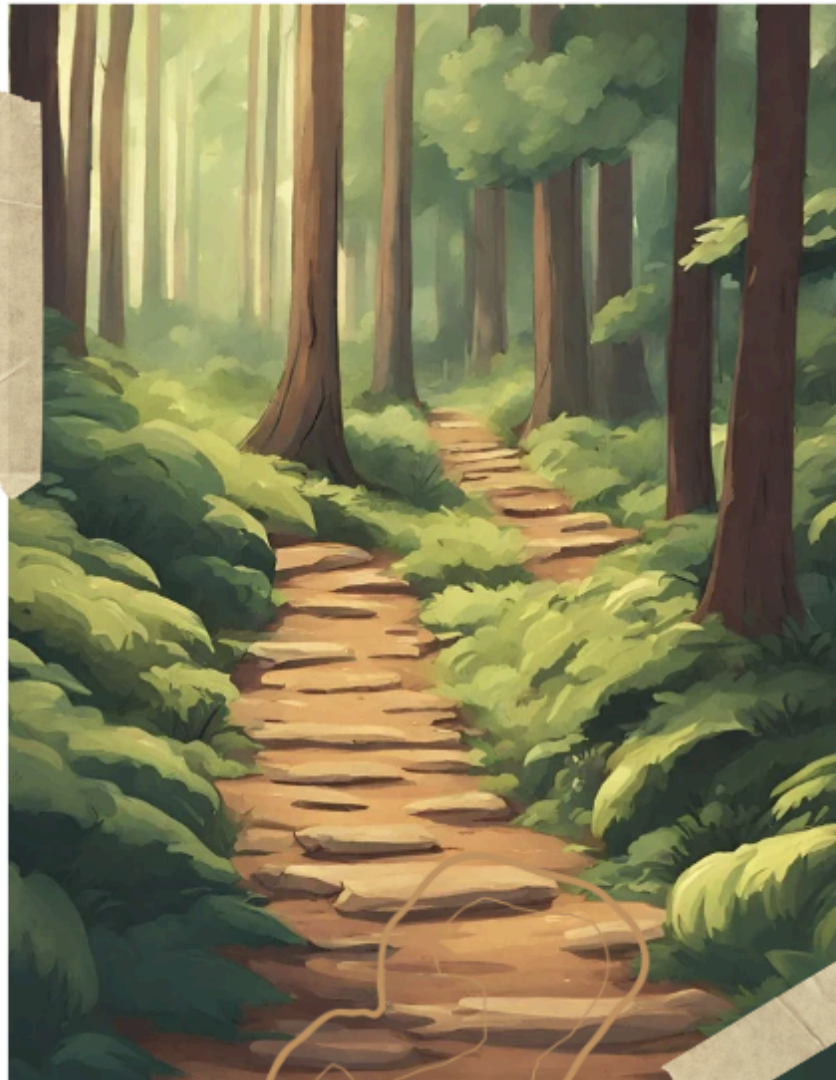
Prayer for Guidance:

Grant us strength and wisdom for the trail ahead.
Illuminate the Way.
Be the lamp unto our feet,
And the light unto our path.

May this trail of education lead us toward transformation
Spiritually, academically, physically, socially, and emotionally.
Shape us into compassionate and engaged people
Who seek out ways to touch this world with Your Love.



“THE TRAIL”





GENERAL INFORMATION

EXTRACURRICULAR

Students may choose to participate in extracurricular opportunities. Sports offerings for boys include football and basketball, and sports offerings for girls include cheer, volleyball, and basketball. Students may be asked to try out for sports teams, but their evaluation results do not keep them from making the team.

REQUIRED ELECTIVES

Sixth Grade students are required to take a music elective: band, choir, or orchestra. They are also required to take either STEM or Math Lab. Students may be required to take Math Lab based on mastery of concepts in 5th Grade, MAP, or IXL scores.

Fifth Grade students take the same elective classes. These elective classes rotate on a 6-week cycle.

SCHEDULES

Middle School uses a block schedule. The schedule has “A” days and “B” days that alternate. Each class is approximately 75 minutes long. Math meets every day. Compass (which includes chapels, assemblies, house competitions, Bible studies, and other special events) is approximately 30 minutes long. Individual student schedules are available at a communicated date in August.

Classes required for the 5th and 6th grade include Bible/History, Latin, Math, Physical Education, Reader’s Workshop, Science, and Writer’s Workshop.

SCHEDULE CHANGE REQUEST

Sixth-grade students should be very careful about which elective classes they request. Schedule changes will only be made if new or unforeseen factors necessitate them and the requested class has an opening.



ACADEMIC POLICIES

ABSENT WORK POLICY

The goal is for students to take responsibility for arranging to make up missed school work. Students should check FACTS and Schoology information regarding missed class assignments. Students are encouraged to email their teachers with any additional questions regarding classwork.

For each day missed, a student has two school days to complete make-up work. Work that builds, such as math, should be done more quickly. Assignments must be completed within the designated time to avoid a grade of zero. Some work, such as class participation, cannot be made up and may affect grades to a degree.

Other assignments or experiences, like quizzes or labs, may also not lend themselves to make-up work. If a parent has called in advance to request them, daily assignments may be picked up in the school office at the end of the school day. Most school assignments can be found on Schoology.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity refers to honesty in completing and submitting class or homework assignments. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, unapproved collaboration, and submitting the work of others as one's own.

Academic integrity violations could result in anything from a zero on an assignment to possible suspension from school. Multiple offenses will carry progressively more serious consequences.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

A student with two or more D's (below 70%) or one F at the semester's end will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation will include closer scrutiny and accountability toward student achievement. LRCA desires to partner with families of students struggling academically.

If a student is placed on academic probation, parental involvement, Learner Services (if applicable), and/or other faculty resources are expected to be jointly used to help the struggling student achieve to the best of his or her ability. The administration may place students on individualized action plans to help ensure progress. If the student has not shown improvement after a semester, the administration will determine if dismissal will occur.

AI

Students may not use ChatGPT or any similar artificial intelligence (AI) to generate original content, including, but not limited to, summary or analysis. Consequences may include conversations with the teacher, administration, and/or a zero on the assignment. The opportunity to redo the assignment will be at the school's discretion. All sources used for projects and essays must be accessible to and approved by the instructor.

GRADING SCALE

Percentage grades are rounded up or down to determine letter grades.

A+	97 - 100	C+	77 - 79
A	93 - 96	C+	73 - 76
A-	90 - 92	C-	70 - 72
B+	87 - 89	D+	67 - 69
B	83 - 86	D	63 - 66
B-	80 - 82	D-	60 - 62
		F	59 and lower

HOMework

The amount of homework will vary depending on the course, the time of the grading period, and the student's abilities and goals. If a student seems to spend an excessive amount of time on homework, investigate these possibilities first: student procrastination with long-range assignments (e.g., projects, notebooks, book reports, etc.), improper use of study time at school, or inefficient study habits at home. Please consult the teacher if none of these apply and the homework is frequently excessive in a particular class. If your child is consistently experiencing difficulties with overall class load or homework assignments, please contact LeAnn Murry, Assistant Principal for Middle School and Junior High.

LATE WORK POLICY

Homework is expected to be turned in on time. Failure to meet this expectation will result in the following grading penalty:

1st class after due date = 50% off

2nd class after due date = Zero

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

A goal of our school is to minimize the need for retention. Strong effort in developmental screening, while not infallible, is intended to be a part of this effort. Early communication between the home and school, combined with vigorous intervention efforts, will always be made to reduce the potential for retention.

Mastering foundational math and language arts concepts is critical to a student's future academic success. At semester, a student with a 65% average in math and language arts will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation will include closer accountability toward student achievement. Students will be assigned a mentor to help ensure progress, and individualized plans may be written. Parents will be notified if a student is placed on academic probation by the Middle School and Junior High Assistant Principal.

If it is determined that a 5th-grade student is not likely to experience success in the next grade level, retention may be required. This decision will be made with input from the teacher(s), parent(s), and administration by evaluating the child's academic performance, work habits, and achievement test scores.

Students in 6th grade must maintain a 65% in math and language arts. Not maintaining a passing average in math and language arts will result in retention of 6th grade. Foundations for these areas are necessary for students to succeed in upper school.

SEMESTER EXAMS

Middle School students do not take semester exams. However, fifth and sixth grade students will take a year-end assessment in math, which counts as a regular test grade.

 **MATH
PLACEMENT**

Our goal is to place each student in the best class for the student's continued growth and development. In addition to readiness in reasoning and working with abstract ideas and concepts, other factors to consider are mastery of mathematical skills, academic achievement, motivation, and work ethic.

We recognize that students mature at different rates, which is often the most important factor in placing students in the correct math class. Optimal placement allows students to learn best. If a student is placed in a class that is too difficult, discouragement and a fixed mindset about his or her ability in mathematics may result.

Math placement in any given year does not lock students on a "track." Students are re-evaluated every year to determine the best placement. Because math is sequential, we gather input from several sources to recommend which math class is best for a particular student. Evaluation points include the student's previous mathematics grade, MAP and IXL scores, Orleans Hannah testing results, teacher recommendation, and overall academic maturation.

5th Grade - Students are placed in 5th Grade Mathematics.

6th Grade - Students are placed in 6th Grade Mathematics, 6th Grade Honors Mathematics, or 6/7 Honors Mathematics.

These mathematics courses differ in complexity, challenge, speed, depth, and prior necessary knowledge. The LRCA math department has overarching goals of developing mathematical thinkers who understand mathematical patterns and problem-solving at the conceptual level so that math knowledge and skill are applied to be fluid, adaptive, and advanced.

5th Grade Mathematics (full year)

Fifth Grade Mathematics aims to help students understand the orderliness and precision of God's creation. The fifth-grade math curriculum engages students by providing time for discussion, practice, and hands-on activities to help build deep comprehension of math concepts. Through these activities, students will become proficient with place value, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, ratios, algebra, and geometry and deepen their problem-solving skills.

6th Grade Mathematics (full year)

Sixth Grade Mathematics seeks to develop a deep comprehension of math concepts. The students will gain problem-solving skills and strategies. Through class activities, discussion, and practice, students should become proficient with fractions, decimals, ratios, rates, percentages, pre-algebra, and geometry.

6th Grade Honors Mathematics (full year)

Sixth Grade Honors Mathematics seeks to deepen comprehension of fractions, decimals, ratios, rates, percents, pre-algebra, and geometry. In addition to demonstrating mathematical understanding, problem-solving, and reasoning skills, students who find success in the honors math class are able to grasp concepts quickly, see patterns, think flexibly, and make connections across disciplines. The pace of the class and the complexity of problems assigned are the two main differences between the honors math and the regular math classroom.

Prerequisite: Completion of 5th Grade math with a 90% average or higher, qualifying scores from the year-end test, MAP, IXL, Orleans Hanna Algebra Prognosis Test, and teacher recommendation

6th/7th Grade Honors Mathematics (full year)

6th/7th Honors covers 6th-grade standards and 7th-grade pre-algebra standards. Students should desire a higher order of thinking to draw on a deep prior knowledge of math and recently acquired concepts. Students will combine problem-solving strategies with critical thinking skills through word problems and real-world projects. Because this is an honors 6/7 class, students will take the 7th-grade final math exam at the end of the spring semester.

Prerequisite: Completion of 5th Grade math or higher with a 90% average or higher, qualifying scores from the year-end test, MAP, IXL scores, Orleans Hanna Algebra Prognosis Test, and teacher recommendation

5TH GRADE REQUIRED CLASSES

5th Grade Bible (full year)

Biblical Foundations helps students understand God's nature and character, man's fall and need for restoration, and God's plan for redemption. Fifth graders will learn about God's covenants with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Israel. The final covenant of Christ's sacrifice finishes this unit. Students will also study Jesus's early life and parables. We pray that students will desire and pursue

knowledge and application of Scripture as God’s inspired, inerrant Word.

5th Grade Math (full year)

See the descriptions above in Math Placement.

5th Grade Science (full year)

Students explore the science discipline by exploring and investigating God’s perfect creation. Fifth-grade science is filled with curiosity, inquiry, and exploration. Students will explore the broad areas of life, earth, and physical sciences. Emphasis will be placed on developing those skills necessary to become a lifelong scientist. A hands-on approach will be utilized daily, with opportunities to learn from each other through labs and group work.

5th Grade Reader’s Workshop (full year)

The goal of Reader’s Workshop is to instill a love for reading and an appreciation for various texts, including fiction, nonfiction, short stories, and poetry. The students are required to read one independent book per quarter and are taught reading strategies to help build their comprehension as they read independently. Literary plot structure and figurative language are highlighted in book clubs and class novels, including *The BFG*, *Bud Not Buddy*, and *The Phantom Tollbooth*.

5th Grade Social Studies (full year)

Through the investigation of social studies, students will be guided to recognize God’s providence in people, places, cultures, and events throughout history. In fifth grade American history, students explore Colonial America to the present. This study includes the Civil War, Westward Expansion, the Industrial Revolution, World Wars I and II, and the Civil Rights Movement. Students will also learn basic geography skills, the foundations of American government, the importance of responsible citizenship, and the process of economic decision-making.

5th Grade Writer’s Workshop (full year)

Writer’s Workshop aims to equip students to write and speak clearly and skillfully and tailor their communication to the intended audience. The focus is on narrative, informational, poetic, and research writing. Grammar is taught in the context of writing, and sentence structure and patterns are emphasized to enhance writing skills.



6TH GRADE REQUIRED CLASSES

6th Grade Ancient Civilizations (full year)

Students will recognize God's providence in people, places, cultures, and historical events. Through the study of the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, India, China, Greece, Rome, and Eastern Europe, students will examine how geography, inventions, government, religion, and trade impacted the group and development of each region.

6th Grade Bible (full year)

The goal of sixth-grade biblical foundations is to build a strong understanding of God's story through the study of scripture to help students view their world and world events with a biblical perspective. Through the Old Testament books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Ezra, and Nehemiah, and the New Testament books of Romans, Philippians, and Hebrews, students will learn about God's character, His plan for His people, and how His redemption story is revealed through all of Scripture. Students will also examine the major world religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and discuss the impact of religion on society.

6th Grade Math (full year)

See Math class descriptions above in Math Placement.

6th Grade Science (full year)

Students explore the science discipline by exploring and investigating God's perfect creation. Students will learn to think like scientists as they gather data, analyze results, and explain the evidence through charts, graphs, and diagrams. Sixth-grade science is integrated to learn earth science, physics, chemistry, and life science. Science is filled with the fun of exploration and problem-solving. We will do many labs, activities, and projects throughout the year.

6th Grade Reader's Workshop (full year)

The goal of Reader's Workshop is for students to use literary skills to construct meaning from text. Students will read various literature, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, fables, myths, and ancient stories. The four reading units will encourage making meaningful connections to the text, using textual evidence to conclude, and evaluating how an author's perspective, historical, or cultural context can enhance a reader's perspective and deepen understanding. Class novels include *The Boys in the Boat*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, and various literature circle books. Students will recognize

unknown words from texts and craft meaning using contextual clues, roots, morphemes, and various classroom resources. This approach will effectively expand and enrich their vocabulary.

6th Grade Writer's Workshop (full year)

Students will learn to think like authors as they consider how to craft a story that maintains the reader's interest. They will progress through the writing process by planning, revising, editing, and publishing specific types of writing. Our writing focus includes descriptive, narrative, research, poetry, and creative writing. Grammar is taught through the context of writing.



5TH GRADE ELECTIVE CLASSES

Art

Students will explore the artistic process, plan, create, reflect, and present. We will discuss how to begin a project, explore materials and techniques, and learn how to reflect on their work. Ultimately, our goal is to help students love art, grow comfortable expressing themselves, think more independently, and ultimately glorify the Lord with the creative mind He has given us.

Instrument Discovery

Fifth grade students will explore the diverse world of band and orchestra instruments. Under the guidance of Mr. Moya and Mr. Brandon, students will learn to play their first notes on several instruments in the band and orchestra. Additionally, students will dive into rhythm concepts and get hands-on experience with bucket drumming, culminating in performances of various songs!

Latin: Introduction to Roman Culture and Language I

In this course, students will embark on an enriching journey to explore the language and culture of ancient Rome. Students will discover how Latin contributes to the foundation of English and many other modern languages and will hone essential literacy skills such as phonics, vocabulary acquisition, and comprehension strategies. By studying Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes, students will unlock the meanings of unfamiliar words, empowering them to become proficient readers, effective communicators, and savvy test takers.

Math Lab

Math Lab challenges students to stretch and extend their mathematical thinking. Students develop number sense and flexible thinking through collaborative explorations, games, logic puzzles, and discussions.

Music

In the fifth-grade music course, students will focus on developing foundational music skills for any musical endeavor. They will be exposed to multiple genres of exciting music literature as well as rhythmic and vocal games. Students will also gain a better understanding of the ensemble options they can choose from once they reach the 6th grade.

STEM

Students will learn about the design process and how to apply it when working in groups to solve problems and build models. They will also learn how to properly sketch, measure, and plan as they work through various tasks with their teams.

Step Up

Students learn and put into practice the 6 E's that make up the Middle School's Own the Opportunity principles. Step Up is an opportunity for fifth-grade students to refine their communication, leadership, and team-building skills to equip them for their growth throughout the middle school and junior high years. Through presentations, teamwork, games, and discussions, fifth-grade students can realize their potential as the young men and women God created them to be.

Tech

Tech provides hands-on tech training to prepare students for using Chromebooks well throughout their years at LRCA. Students will practice keyboarding and do various projects to enhance and expand their computer knowledge. In addition, students will be taught digital citizenship.

Theater

This is an introductory course designed to introduce students to the art of theatre. Students will learn about many things, including the parts of a theatre, basic stage terminology, acting, and technical theatre. Throughout this course, students will be exposed to many aspects of theatre, which will, in turn, allow them to have a better understanding and appreciation for the art form.



6TH GRADE REQUIRED CLASSES

Beginning Band

Beginning Band is designed for students with minimal to no instrumental experience.. Beginning Band participates in approximately 1-2 yearly performances, including concerts and show events. Beginning Band provides an environment where students of various abilities can grow and be challenged together. **Prerequisite:** None **Course Fee:** none - Instruments provided

Beginning Choir

Beginning Choir is a performing ensemble open to students in 6th Grade. This introductory choral ensemble will equip the beginner choir student with foundational singing technique and music sight-reading skills. Students will discover a safe place to overcome singing anxiety and hone their gifts with great proficiency and excellence. Beginning Choir gives 1-2 performances a year. **Prerequisite:** none

Beginning Orchestra

Beginning Orchestra is designed for students with minimal to no instrumental experience. Beginning Orchestra participates in approximately 1-2 yearly performances, including concerts and show events. Beginning Orchestra provides an environment where students of various abilities can grow and be challenged together. **Prerequisite:** None **Course Fee:** Instrument Rental through LR Violin Shop

Beginning Studio Arts

Beginning Studio Arts builds on the concepts students have gained in lower school art classes to further expand their abilities with multiple art mediums. Students spend the semester exploring various art concepts seen in specific cultures throughout history (i.e., Greek, Roman, African, South American, etc.) and creating projects utilizing specific art elements and principles of design.

Beginning Theatre

Beginning Theatre allows students to learn about various acting and theatre elements. Students not only study acting and design, but they will also learn to look at plays critically. Beginning 6 Theatre provides an excellent place for students to learn new things, discover unknown elements of their personalities, and hone skills and abilities related to this field. It is also a place where students can work on overcoming shyness and gain confidence as they learn to interact and encourage others by studying and

performing in various genres. All students will perform in a short production at the end of the semester.

Latin: Introduction to Roman Culture and Language II

This course continues the exploration of the language and culture of ancient Rome. Students will discover how Latin contributes to the foundation of English and many other modern languages and will continue to hone essential literacy skills such as phonics, vocabulary acquisition, and comprehension strategies. By studying Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes, students will unlock the meanings of unfamiliar words, empowering them to become proficient readers, effective communicators, and savvy test takers.

Math Lab A

Math Lab reinforces foundational concepts and skills to support student success with their current math study. The primary focus will be basic operations and word problems with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percents. In Math Lab, students will be provided with additional examples, re-teaching, enrichment, and opportunities for project-based learning. The goal of Math Lab is to provide students with the assistance and time they may need to gain confidence in their mathematical ability. There will be minimal, if any, outside work assigned for this class. **Note:** Students may be required to take Math Lab based on mastery of concepts in 5th Grade, MAP, or IXL scores.

Math Lab B

Math Lab challenges students to stretch and extend their math and science interests. Through project-based learning, students will apply principles of number theory, finance, measurement, and probability. This class will assign minimal, if any, outside work. **Note:** Students in advanced math placement will be required to take this class.

Beginning Robotics

Beginning Robotics Education EV3 is a hands-on, cross-curricular STEM solution that engages students by providing the resources to design, build, and program their creations while helping them develop essential 21st-century skills such as creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication.

STEM - Design and Modeling

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a cerebral palsy child.

5th Grade

All fifth-grade students get to experience each of these electives.

*Latin will be part of the spring rotation.

Six Week Rotating Electives*

- Art
- Music
- PE
- Instrument Discovery
- Math Lab
- Latin*
- STEM
- STEP UP
- Theater
- Tech

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

5th GRADE ENRICHMENT ROTATION 2024/25

First Semester: A3 (Split Block)

	Aug 15 - Sept 19 (13 days)	Sept 23 - Oct 30 (14 days)	Nov 1 - Dec 18 (14 days)
Group A	Art	PE STEM	Theater Choir
Group B	Theater Choir	Art	PE STEM
Group C	PE STEM	Theater Choir	Art
Group D	Tech STEP Up	STEM PE	Choir Theater
Group E	Choir Theater	Tech STEP Up	STEM PE
Group F	STEM PE	Choir Theater	Tech STEP Up

5th GRADE ENRICHMENT ROTATION 2024/25

First Semester: B3 (Split Block)

	Aug 16 - Sept 20 (13 days)	Sept 24 - Oct 31 (14 days)	Nov 4 - Dec 19 (14 days)
Group A	STEP Up Tech	PE STEM	PE Math Lab
Group B	PE Math Lab	STEP UP Tech	PE STEM
Group C	PE STEM	PE Math Lab	STEP UP Tech
Group D	Art	STEM PE	Math Lab PE
Group E	Math Lab PE	Art	STEM PE
Group F	STEM PE	Math Lab PE	Art



6th GRADE

COURSE SELECTION HELPFUL INFORMATION

Full-Year Electives

Choir
Band
Orchestra

One Semester Electives

Beginning Studio Arts
Beginning Theater
Beginning Robotics
Math Lab B
STEM

One or Two Semester Electives

Math Lab A





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