



LOWER SCHOOL
2024-2025 CURRICULUM GUIDE

Mission Statement

SouthLake Christian Academy exists for the sake of God's glory and mission; proclaiming the gospel, educating and discipling the whole person in all aspects of God's reality.

Vision

SouthLake Christian Academy is that Christ may be preeminent in all things (Colossians 1:18).

Core Values

Standards and expectations are the guideposts for success at SouthLake Christian Academy. Our students learn to embrace the school's core values of **respect, integrity, kindness, and joy** while pursuing academic excellence. By living these values, SouthLake Christian students prepare themselves for a fulfilling life of meaning and purpose.

Our Commitment To Christian Faith

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are verbally-inspired by God, wherein He reveals Himself to humankind, reveals His will and ways for all men and women; and which are of supreme and final authority in faith, life, and standards of education.

Faculty

With over 100+, SouthLake Christian's faculty and staff exhibit deep loyalty to the institution, with an average tenure of more than 12 years. Despite this continuity, the teachers consistently innovate in their instruction, curriculum, and assessments, frequently leveraging technology to deepen students' learning experiences.

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OVERVIEW



INTRODUCTION TO THE LOWER SCHOOL

Guiding Hearts, Educating Minds

At SouthLake Christian Academy, we believe that education extends beyond textbooks and classrooms. Here, we are dedicated to cultivating both the intellectual and spiritual growth of our students. Our mission is to provide a robust, Christ-centered education that prepares students to excel academically while fostering a deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ.

Academic Excellence

Our academic program is designed to challenge and inspire. We offer a comprehensive curriculum that includes rigorous core classes such as Mathematics, Science, English, Social Studies, & World Language. Our qualified teachers are passionate about their subjects and are committed to helping students achieve their full potential. For those seeking additional academic challenges, we offer fourteen Advanced Placement (AP) courses. These courses provide college-level curricula, the potential to earn college credit, and help our students to stand out in the college admissions process. We offer a wide array of electives and Fine Arts that allow students to explore their interests and develop new skills.

Electives and Extracurricular Activities

We believe that a well-rounded education includes opportunities for creative expression, physical activity, and leadership development. Our elective courses provide a platform for students to discover their talents and passions. Outside the classroom, students can join a variety of clubs and organizations that enrich their school experience. Our Student Mission Fellowship (SMF) club offers a unique opportunity for students to engage in global mission work and local community service. Through SMF, students learn to apply their faith in practical ways, developing a heart for service and a deeper understanding of global issues from a Christian perspective. Additionally, our Beta Club, Chess Club, STEM Club, and National Honor Society (NHS) chapters are vibrant communities where students can engage in service projects, develop leadership skills, and build lasting friendships.

Biblical Integration

At SouthLake Christian Academy, faith is the cornerstone of our educational philosophy. Biblical principles are integrated into every aspect of our curriculum, ensuring that students not only gain knowledge but also wisdom rooted in Christian values. Daily Bible classes, weekly chapel services, and various opportunities for spiritual development are all integral parts of our school life. We also hold weekly Advisory sessions where each high school teacher mentors a small group of students, fostering deep relationships and encouraging spiritual growth. Our aim is to nurture a strong, personal faith in each student, equipping them to navigate life with integrity, compassion, and purpose.

A Community Like No Other

SouthLake Christian Academy is more than just a school; it is a community where students are known, loved, and encouraged to thrive. Our dedicated faculty and staff are committed to providing a supportive and nurturing environment where every student can succeed. From personalized academic support to spiritual mentoring, we are here to guide each student on their unique journey. We invite you to join our SouthLake Christian Academy family, where academic excellence and faith-based education come together to create an exceptional high school experience. Here, you will find a place to grow, learn, and become all that God has called you to be.

Lower School (JK-4th Grade)

Welcome to SouthLake Christian Academy, where faith and learning converge to shape the hearts and minds of our students. We are committed to integrating Biblical principles into every subject, offering an education that reveals God's presence in disciplines ranging from science and math to literature and history. By weaving faith into our academic programs, we ensure that students excel intellectually and grow spiritually. Our dedicated faculty fosters an environment where students can explore and strengthen their faith while achieving academic excellence.

CORE COURSES

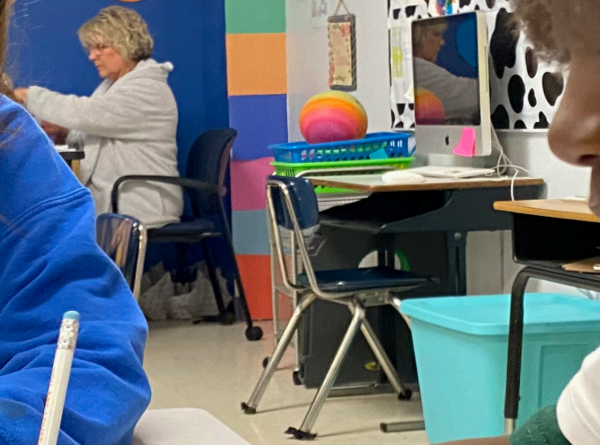
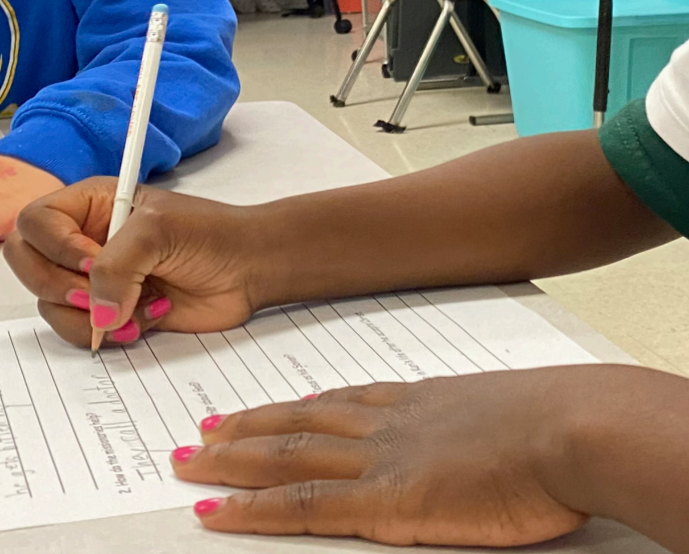


Quarter 1 Test Chapter 57
Comprehension Check

Name _____

1. What happens in the next scene?
The _____

2. How do the characters feel?
The _____



Vertical Alignment: A Collaborative Approach

At SouthLake Christian, we believe that each grade's content should serve as a steppingstone for the next grade. Vertical alignment is a priority in our educational model, ensuring that:

- Continuity in Learning: Skills and knowledge are built progressively from one grade to the next.
- Collaborative Teaching: Our teachers participate in vertical alignment meetings throughout the school year to discuss curriculum, share insights, and align teaching strategies.
- Community Model: This collaborative approach fosters a strong community of educators who support each other and work together to meet the needs of every student.

Bible: Nurturing a Foundation for Biblical Understanding

Our elementary students benefit from the Deep Roots curriculum, complementing our weekly chapel services. This program enhances their understanding of spiritual lessons, laying a strong foundation in Biblical knowledge and Christian character for a lifetime of faith and service. In addition to Deep Roots, we also use The Gospel Project chapel curriculum, further enriching their spiritual education and fostering a deeper connection with Biblical teachings.

Joy in the Journey (Junior Kindergarten)

- Junior Kindergarten: Introduction to Bible Basics

Deep Roots (K-4th Grade)

This curriculum covers:

- Kindergarten: Survey of the Bible
- 1st Grade: Creation through the Promised Land
- 2nd Grade: The Gospels
- 3rd Grade: Israel
- 4th Grade: Acts and the Early Church

Literacy: Cultivating Strong Readers

We offer a robust literacy curriculum that establishes a strong foundation from early school years through higher grades, ensuring a cohesive educational path. Our approach integrates a progressive, research-backed curriculum tailored to each grade level's developmental needs.

Wilson Foundations (JK-2nd Grade)

Wilson Foundations is our chosen program for phonemic awareness and early literacy skills for junior kindergarten through 2nd grade. This program provides:

- Systematic Phonics Instruction: Children learn to decode and spell words through explicit, multisensory phonics lessons.
- Foundational Skills: Letter formation, phonological awareness, and sound-symbol relationships.
- Additionally, JK uses Heggerty Phonics.

IEW – Institute for Excellence in Writing (2nd-4th)

For students in 2nd through 4th grades, we incorporate the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) program, which focuses on developing strong writing skills. This program includes:

- Structured Writing Process: Students learn to write clear, concise, and structured compositions.
- Incremental Learning: Techniques are taught step-by-step, building on previous knowledge.
- Creative Expression: Encourages students to express their ideas creatively and effectively.

Little Minds at Work for Literacy (JK)

The Junior Kindergarten Literacy Program from Tara West, Little Minds at Work, builds a strong foundation in early literacy. It focuses on phonemic awareness, letter recognition, vocabulary development, and early reading skills through engaging activities and interactive lessons.

Into Reading (K-4th)

Into Reading is our comprehensive program for literacy development and grammar extension. It provides:

- Integrated Literacy Instruction: Combines reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities.
- Rich Texts: Engages students with a variety of high-quality texts to foster a love of reading.
- Grammar and Language: Builds vocabulary and language usage to enhance communication.
- Differentiation: Provides opportunity for small group instruction in addition to whole group.
- Literary Variety: Encompasses a range of genres such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama.

Math: Building a Foundation for Mathematical Success

At SouthLake Elementary School, we are dedicated to nurturing not only literacy skills but also a strong foundation in mathematics. We use the Big Ideas Math program for Kindergarten through 4th grade, a curriculum designed to develop deep thinkers and proficient problem solvers.

Big Ideas Math (K-4th Grade)

Big Ideas Math is a comprehensive and engaging math program that aligns with our goal to create students who are confident and capable in mathematics. The key benefits of this program include:

- Deep Comprehension: Solid understanding of concepts rather than just memorizing procedures.
- Multiple Representations: Concepts are presented visually, verbally, and symbolically to cater to different learning styles and deepen understanding.
- Real-World Applications: Math problems are connected to real-life situations, helping students see the relevance of what they learn.
- Balanced Approach: Combines procedural fluency with conceptual understanding.
- Practice and Reinforcement: Offers practice problems, including higher-order thinking tasks.
- Diverse Methods: Use of different strategies to solve problems, fostering flexibility in thinking.

Little Minds at Work for Math (JK)

The Junior Kindergarten Math Program from Tara West, Little Minds at Work, builds foundational math skills. It covers number recognition, counting, basic addition and subtraction, and shapes through fun, hands-on activities. The program engages diverse learning styles, fostering a love for math and preparing children for future success.

Social Studies: Exploring the Past & Present

At SouthLake Elementary School, we understand the importance of a well-rounded education that includes a strong foundation in social studies. To this end, we use Social Studies Weekly for our Kindergarten through 4th-grade students. This dynamic program engages young learners with captivating content and interactive learning experiences

Social Studies Weekly (K-4th Grade)

Social Studies Weekly is an innovative and engaging curriculum for elementary students. This program includes:

- Full-Color Newspapers: Each week, students receive a visually appealing newspaper filled with articles, illustrations, and activities that make learning social studies fun and exciting.
- Topics: Content is tailored to be age-appropriate, ensuring that it is accessible and interesting.
- Exploring History: Students learn about significant historical events and figures, helping them understand how the past has shaped the present.
- Geographical Awareness through mapping skills: Students develop essential geography skills, including reading maps and understanding spatial relationships.
- Civic Responsibility: Students learn about the principles of democracy, citizenship, and government, preparing them to be informed and active citizens.
- Community Involvement: Lessons encourage students to think about their roles in their communities and the importance of civic engagement.

Science: Uncovering the Wonders of the World

At SouthLake Elementary School, we believe in fostering a sense of curiosity and discovery in our students. To achieve this, we utilize Mystery Science for our Kindergarten through 4th-grade science curriculum. This innovative program engages students with hands-on experiments and creative lessons, helping them build a strong foundation in scientific inquiry and understanding.

Mystery Science (K-4th Grade)

Mystery Science is an engaging and interactive science program that captivates young learners through inquiry-based learning and hands-on activities. Here's how the program benefits our students:

- **Interactive Learning:** Each lesson includes hands-on science experiments that allow students to actively engage with scientific concepts.
- **Mystery-Based Approach:** Lessons are designed as mysteries that students solve through investigation and experimentation, making learning exciting.
- **Real-World Connections:** Lessons make connections to real-world phenomena, helping students understand the relevance of science in their everyday lives.
- **Critical Thinking:** The program encourages students to think critically, analyze data, and draw conclusions based on their findings.
- **Diverse Topics:** The curriculum covers a wide range of topics, including earth science, life science, physical science, and engineering.

FINE ARTS & ELECTIVES



FINE ARTS & ELECTIVES: Cultivating Well-Rounded Students

At SouthLake Elementary School, we believe in providing a holistic education that nurtures the diverse talents and interests of our students. Beyond core academic subjects, we offer a rich array of fine arts and elective programs designed to foster creativity, physical fitness, and intellectual curiosity from junior kindergarten through 4th grade.

Physical Education (PE)

Physical Education is a vital part of our curriculum, promoting physical health and well-being. Our PE program includes:

- **Active Lifestyle:** Encouraging students to develop healthy habits through regular physical activity.
- **Skill Development:** Teaching fundamental motor skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship.
- **Fun and Fitness:** Engaging activities and games that make fitness enjoyable and accessible.

Music

Music education at SouthLake allows students to explore their musical talents and develop an appreciation for the arts. Our music program features:

- **Musical Foundations:** Introduction to basic music theory, rhythm, and melody.
- **Instrument Exploration:** Opportunities for students to experience playing different instruments.
- **Performance Opportunities:** School concerts and performances that build confidence and showcase student talent.

Library

Our Library program is designed to foster a love of reading and support literacy development. Key features include:

- **Reading Enrichment:** Access to a wide variety of books that cater to different interests and reading levels.
- **Research Skills:** Teaching students how to find and use information effectively.
- **Storytime and Activities:** Engaging storytelling sessions and library activities make reading fun.

Art

Art education at SouthLake encourages creativity and self-expression through various artistic mediums. Our art program includes:

- **Creative Expression:** Opportunities for students to explore their creativity through drawing, painting, sculpture, and more.
- **Artistic Techniques:** Instruction in basic art techniques and principles.
- **Art Appreciation:** Learning about famous artists and different art styles.

STEM

Our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program integrates these disciplines to promote problem-solving and critical thinking. The STEM program includes:

- **Hands-On Projects:** Engaging projects and experiments that encourage innovation and practical application of STEM concepts.
- **Collaborative Learning:** Group activities that foster teamwork and communication skills.
- **Technology Integration:** Using technology tools and resources to enhance exploration.

Technology Integration (K-4th Grade)

Our comprehensive technology program includes:

- **Usage of iPads and Laptops:** Students use iPads and laptops for interactive lessons, educational games, and research projects.
- **Digital Literacy:** Early exposure to technology helps students develop essential digital literacy skills, including typing, navigating digital platforms, and online safety.
- **Classroom:** SmartBoards in every classroom allow for dynamic and interactive teaching, making lessons more engaging and visually appealing.
- **Librarian-Led Instruction:** Our librarian visits classrooms weekly to provide dedicated technology lessons, ensuring students learn to use digital tools effectively and responsibly.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

SPECIALIZED



Academic Development Center

The purpose of Academic Development Center (ADC)/Specialized Academic Support at SouthLake Christian is to enable students to meet their potential and to facilitate the classroom teachers' meeting the needs of all learners in their classrooms. Our specialized academic support specialists are here to provide expert guidance to ensure your child's academic success. Their expertise and dedication are invaluable assets designed to enhance your child's educational experience and help them achieve their academic goals. Don't hesitate to contact our specialists for any assistance you may require. Please reach out directly to them for personalized support and to address any concerns you may have.

The Academic Development Center collaborate with teachers who embrace strategies of differentiation to meet the needs of the learners in their classrooms, with parents who want to better understand the learning needs of their children, and with outside providers who partner in supporting students.

We seek to provide a learning environment that allows all students to meet their SouthLake Christian's Learning Center is home to four learning specialists who provide a variety of services for students, teachers, and parents.

Acknowledging the demanding nature of SouthLake Christian Academy's curriculum, the institution provides numerous learning programs for students requiring extra help. The academic development center at the school offers Math and Language Enrichment Groups, a tutorial study hall, speech and occupational therapy, mental health counseling, and resources from the National Institute of Learning Development and the Search & Teach program. These resources cater to students needing different levels of educational support and assistance.

**Enrollment in programs offered through the Academic Development Center is based on a combination of criteria, such as evaluation results and teacher recommendations and are not covered by general tuition. Acceptance into these programs is at the discretion of the program director.*

Academic Support Resources

National Institute for Learning Development (NILD): The NILD is a nonprofit organization dedicated to training educators to work with children and adults with learning difficulties.

Search & Teach: Search & Teach© is an early intervention program developed to meet the educational needs of young learners (K-1) before they experience the frustration of learning failure.

Discovery for Reading Rx:

Discovery for Math Rx:

Language Enrichment: The Language Enrichment Groups are offered for grades 1-3 and 4-6. Students participate in 45-minute small group sessions. Each session focuses on targeted reading strategies to increase reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension. Students receive additional support correlating with classroom instruction in the areas of reading and written expression.

Math Enrichment: The Mathematics Enrichment Groups are offered for grades 1-3 and 4-6. Students participate in 45-minute small group sessions. Each session focuses on foundational math skills that are designed to increase problem solving ability and improve mathematical reasoning. Also, students receive tutoring with the concepts currently being taught in their individual classrooms.

Tutorial Study Hall: Tutorial Study Hall is designed for middle and upper school students who have a documented condition which affects their learning. These study halls provide directed assistance in study skills, time management, test-taking strategies, and organizational skills.

Mental Health: Here at SouthLake Christian Academy we want to carefully show consideration and compassion to our students who may be processing difficult thoughts, fears and emotions. Teachers and staff members have been provided related resource materials to help encourage all the more sensitivity, understanding, and discussion for students in need.

Occupational Therapy: Occupational Therapy For a child, two of their most important “occupations” are school and play. As the Occupational Therapist at SouthLake. My goal is to help children of all ages gain confidence and success in these occupations by addressing areas such as coordination, fine motor skills, visual perceptual skills, the ability to focus and attend, handwriting, self-regulation, and classroom skills.

With 25 years of experience as an Occupational Therapist and a parent of two children at Southlake, it is my privilege to work with the students, teachers, and families to enhance students’ abilities by helping to get to the root of any struggles they are having that impact their occupations. In addition to my time at Southlake, I work with children in private practice, have authored a book titled “Why Is My Kid Doing That? A sensory approach to understanding your child’s behavior”, am a guest on parenting podcasts, and write for local parent magazines. You can find me at www.whymykiddoingthat.com.

Speech Therapy: Speech therapy is offered on a contracted basis. Natasha Kearney, M.A., CCC-SLP, is our contracted Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist.