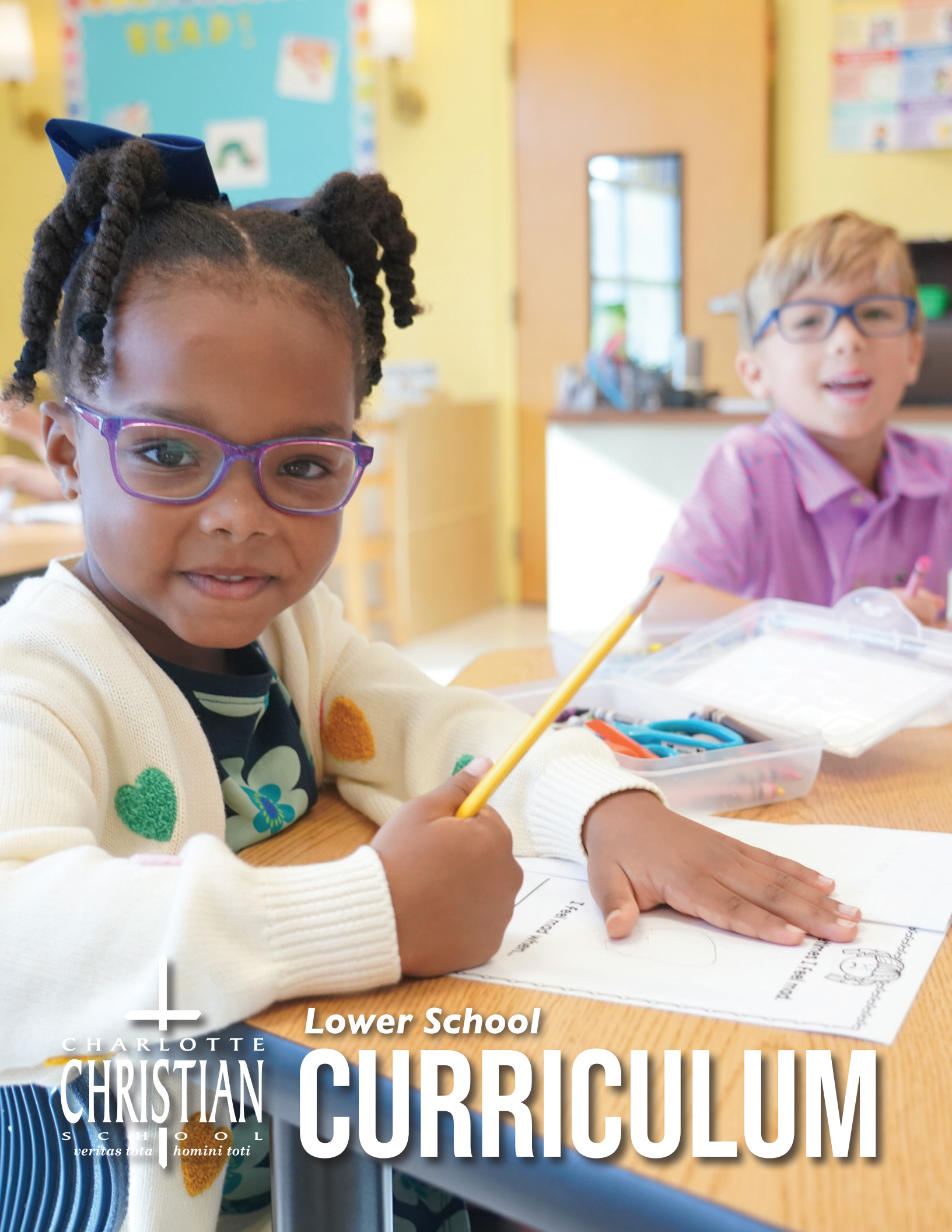

CHARLOTTE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Lower School

CURRICULUM

BIBLE & SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

BIBLE CURRICULUM - Students are immersed in the Bible from the beginning of their time at Charlotte Christian. Along with reading God's word, our curriculum establishes a base of biblical knowledge as it works through both the Old and New Testament. To bring the Bible to life, teachers lead class discussions, take time to pray with students and daily model walking with Christ. As the capstone of biblical learning in lower school, fourth grade students take an introductory course to Christian apologetics as they work through the young reader's versions of *Case for Christ*.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT - Through ongoing discipleship, innovative learning opportunities, weekly chapels and our Spiritual Life and Meaning Week, our students further deepen their understanding of the unique calling that God has placed in each of their lives. During their time in lower school, students have the opportunity to learn about and celebrate other cultures, explore global heritages and expand their understanding of God's world through literature, guest speakers and project-based activities. They actively participate in discussions that help strengthen their multicultural awareness as well as build empathy and understanding for the experience of others.

Junior Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Heroes of the Faith, God's Love for All, the Truth of God's Word	Survey of the Bible	Creation through the Promised Land	The Gospels	Israel	Acts and the Early Church, Case for Christ study

LITERACY

READING - In our early grades, great attention is given to the foundational concepts of phonemic awareness and phonics through our structured literacy approach. Through whole group lessons as well as small group differentiated practice, students quickly become comfortable identifying and manipulating letters and sounds which reinforces their decoding skills. As their accuracy and fluency increase, students are well-equipped to handle more complex text as they make the transition from "learning to read" into "reading to learn" in the upper grades. Word work instruction also continues in the upper grades, but its focus shifts to the understanding of morphology including prefixes, suffixes, and word meaning. During Language Arts, students are exposed to various genres of text as they practice the active comprehension skills of inferring, summarizing, analyzing and more.

WRITING - Students learn to communicate and organize ideas in the form of small moments and seed stories focused on their lives. As their capacity develops, students learn the elements of research, organization and story-telling. Before departing for middle school, students receive extensive practice in narrative, informative and persuasive writing styles. The workshop model allows students to flourish as writers via mini-lessons which equip them with tools to write. This system is paired with individualized instruction as the teacher conferences one-on-one with their students.

Experience life

IN THE LOWER SCHOOL

- Weekly chapels led by spiritual life director
- Robotics club for fourth grade students
- Leadership opportunities for students in classrooms, chapel and lower school office
- Athletic intramural programs in basketball and cheerleading
- Semester after school clubs provide enrichment opportunities in academics, fine arts and sports
- Extended Day care available for beyond the regular school day

MATH

Our approach to learning ensures students are well-versed in the "why" of math rather than rote memorization of the "how." The foundation of the program is building number sense and flexibility. Activities in the classroom help students become comfortable composing and decomposing and manipulating numbers. Skilled instruction moves students from concrete manipulatives, to pictorial representation and lastly, algorithmic understanding. Ultimately the program is designed to provide deep mathematical understanding alongside an academically rigorous course of study.

SOCIAL STUDIES

As students transition from grade to grade, the curriculum slowly expands their scope of the world. Beginning with families and neighborhoods and ending with global geography, students learn about human society and the important role they play in a globally connected world. Collaboration plays a central role in our Social Studies curriculum. Students often engage in research and explore and create alongside one another in small groups.

Junior Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Friends and family, beginning maps, great Americans, community helpers	Looking at our town, country and world	Communities (neighborhood, school, town, county)	Exploring change in local communities	Continents and oceans, community development	Geography, history and culture of North Carolina, economics, government

SCIENCE

All investigations begin with the scientific method as students question, form a hypothesis, test the hypothesis, record data and come to a conclusion. Students also learn and utilize the engineering design process (ask, imagine, plan, create and improve) to become scientists, technicians, engineers and mathematicians and to gain the knowledge they need for the future. Hands-on learning is prioritized through a curriculum that blends classroom and STEM Lab experiences together.

Junior Kindergarten	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
My Five Senses, Animals, Weather and Sky, Plants	Trees and Weather, Materials and Motion, Animals Two by Two	Air and Weather, Sound and Light, Plants and Animals	Pebbles, Sand and Silt, Solids and Liquids, Insects and Plants	Water and Climate, Motion and Matter, Structures of Life	Soils, Rocks and Landforms, Environments, Energy

Lower School ENRICHMENT CLASSES

ART

The visual arts program encourages students to express creativity and build confidence while working on their technical skills and conceptualization.

MUSIC

The music curriculum is designed to build sequentially each year and explores music in a creative and caring environment through movement, listening, singing, performing, interacting and serving the community.

MEDIA CENTER

The lower school media specialist works closely with classroom teachers to support instruction as well as ways to incorporate research and literature into their work in all subject areas. Students are able to select and check out books of personal interest and resources to encourage the love of reading and its importance as a lifelong pursuit.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The program emphasizes continued motor and movement skill development and the development of an appreciation for participation in physical activity while fostering habits of lifetime wellness and inclusive social skills.

SPANISH

Spanish instruction emphasis is on the communication skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing according to grade level.

TECHNOLOGY

The technology curriculum is a collection of cross-curricular projects that integrates current and emerging technologies and equips students to become moral and ethical digital citizens. Additionally, keyboarding skills are taught starting in kindergarten through fourth grade.