

# Lower School Curriculum

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## *Summary by Subject*

**Bible** – Beginning with an overview, the students will then study each section of Scripture, reading and discovering the Word of God under the guidance of their teacher. Stories, songs, and scripture memory give our students a solid foundation in Bible knowledge. A passion for the Gospel enables these stories to connect with each student as a unique image bearer.

**Reading** – A strong emphasis on phonics is presented in all grades using the Spalding Method in every grade. Starting in second grade, the students are introduced to mythology, poetry and fables from around the world. Each grade also features classic children’s literature that is age appropriate.

**Math** – The Math in Focus curriculum is an excellent resource for teaching the grammar of mathematics and problem solving. Rich in mathematics vocabulary and balanced in all areas of math skills, these lessons provide a framework for teachers to enrich with hands-on materials, stories, chants and songs.

**History** – Beginning with what they know, students learn about their own families and their story of coming to Texas. They explore communities and their state; their knowledge of the world grows each year. Beginning in second grade, the students begin to study the Story of the World, with an emphasis in understanding God’s redemptive purposes for every culture. History is taught chronologically with an emphasis on God’s hand in the history of every continent.

**Geography** – Map skills are integrated into history lessons using the Story of the World and students memorize the countries, rivers and important geographic features of the world.

**Science** – Students complete grammar school with a solid foundation in all four domains of science in the context of a Christian world view. The information from the domains of chemistry, physics, earth science and biology are presented to children as it pertains to their historical studies so that the facts that they memorize have both context and meaning.

**English** – Students are taught the grammar of their own language and its fundamental rules and principles using Shurley Grammar. Classifying and diagramming sentences gives students the ability to understand the structure of sentences and how to write skillfully. Students write about what they have learned in all subjects with growing skills in being succinct, effective and eloquent. The Ancient Greeks developed several exercises in storytelling and writing instruction: the Ancient Progymnasmata. Grades K-9 are taught how to write well using these exercises from the world’s greatest writers.



**Foreign Language** – Latin instruction begins in third grade and continues through tenth grade using resources from Classical Academic Press and Wheelocks. Students learn Latin grammar: parts of speech, conjugations, declensions and principles for interpretation. In the later grades, Latin literature is studied.

**Art** – Art history and appreciation are presented in the context of historical studies so that culture and beauty are put in the proper light. Students are trained in the Monart Method as appropriate to ability as they seek to replicate and imitate classic art. Students are exposed to good, true and beautiful things to imitate so that their creations will reflect these values.

**Music** – Music appreciation and history are intertwined with developing strong vocal skills. Students are introduced to the essentials of performance, music theory and notation along with a love for music through monthly hymns and composers.

**Physical Education** – Students are taught to move with skill and coordination in K-2 as they develop skills that will prepare them for our athletic program, learning rules and sportsmanship in grades 3-5. Team sports begin as early as grade 5. Character training and endurance is of the utmost importance in training future warriors for Christ.