



WYLIE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Lower School Course Descriptions

Revised 2/2020

Wylie Preparatory Academy

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students learn through instruction integrated around a weekly theme which encompasses reading, writing, and math with integrated units, all from a Biblical worldview. Reading is taught through a balanced approach of literature and phonics. Students read books on their individual level with the classroom teacher weekly through guided reading. Co-teachers conduct lessons each week in *Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons*. Classroom teachers introduce lesson concepts in class before co-teachers conduct lessons at home. In November students begin the online leveled reading program, RazKids. This program offers digital books at each child's individualized reading level, comprehension assessments online, and valuable feedback to the classroom teacher as well as the co-teacher. Each child will move through the levels at their own pace as directed by the classroom teacher. Foundational concepts of mathematics are learned through manipulatives and other hands-on activities. Students practice at home in workbooks and with fun learning games provided by the teacher. Science and social studies concepts are integrated into the weekly themes.

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1st Grade

Language Arts 1:

Through an integrated approach to reading and writing instruction, students learn the fundamentals of decoding, comprehension, language, spelling and written communication skills. Use of quality children's literature, filtered through a biblical worldview, is emphasized in addition to the core reading curriculum. Students have many opportunities to write for varied purposes throughout the year. Instruction and practice in print handwriting is continued at this level.

Math 1:

First grade students in this course become proficient with the foundational concepts of counting, addition, and subtraction. Throughout the year, they relate these basics to more challenging concepts such as time, fractions, temperature, money, graphs, sequence, geometric shapes, and units of measure. Math manipulatives and other hands-on activities are integrated into the class to enhance the students' understanding of number concepts.

Science 1/Social Studies 1 Block:

The first grade science and social studies programs are taught on an alternating basis by units of study. In science, students learn foundational concepts in life and physical science, as well as basics of earth science and the scientific method, with an emphasis on the Creator-creation relationship. Units of study include but are not limited to: Plants, Animal Habitats, Matter, and Energy. Social Studies focuses students on developing increased awareness of the world around them from a biblical perspective. Through these introductions, the students will gain an awareness of the importance of key historical people and places. Other units of study include Communities, Citizenship, US Government, Texas, and Geography.

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2nd Grade

Language Arts 2:

Students continue to build on reading comprehension and decoding skills learned in earlier grades in order to become more fluent and independent readers. Novels aligned with a biblical worldview are introduced in the second semester, and students learn to think critically as they read. The writing process is introduced, and by the year's end, students use the five step process to produce several written compositions. Spelling rules and basic grammar concepts are established through direct instruction and applied through writing. Print handwriting is mastered at this level.

Math 2:

Students practice basic skills learned in first grade while learning new math concepts. The students receive continuous practice in place value, addition and subtraction, with an emphasis on memorizing basic facts. Multiplication and division are introduced in the second semester. The following concepts are taught with increasing difficulty throughout the year: problem solving, fractions, money, temperature, time, geometric shapes, graphs, and units of measure. Math manipulatives and other hands-on activities are utilized to enhance students' understanding of number concepts.

Science 2/Social Studies 2 Block:

The second grade science and social studies programs are taught on an alternating basis by units of study. In science, students learn foundational concepts of earth science, as well as basics of health and the scientific method, with an emphasis on the Creator-creation relationship. Units of study include but are not limited to: Weather, Space and the Solar System, Energy and Forces, Nutrition, and Health. In social studies, the second grade program will continue the study of key historical people and places to the students from a biblical perspective. Students will learn the 50 states by region and review the world's continents and oceans. Other units of study include: Economics, Democracy and Government, Map and Geography Skills, and the Birth, Death and Resurrection of Christ.

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3rd Grade

Language Arts 3:

In this course, students review the fundamentals of decoding and spelling while increasing their reading fluency. Several novel studies are completed throughout the year, thinking critically from a biblical worldview is introduced, and reading comprehension is emphasized. Students continue to develop writing skills through the use of IEW (Institute for Excellence in Writing) writing process. At least three written compositions are produced by the end of the year. A more in-depth study of the basics of grammar takes place. Instruction and practice of cursive handwriting is introduced and mastered through Handwriting Without Tears as cursive is required in following grades.

Math 3:

Students in this course will receive extensive practice with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, working toward a mastery of all basic math facts. Other concepts introduced or reviewed include: problem solving, fractions, Roman numerals, averaging, money, temperature, time, estimation, rounding, geometry, one-step solving for a variable, graphs, and units of measure. Math manipulatives and other hands-on activities are utilized to enhance students' understanding of number concepts.

Science 3:

In this third-grade science course, students will learn lessons covering matter, energy, force and motion, natural resources, solar system, structures and ecosystems. Weekly attention-grabbing, "hands-on" team activities enhance this exciting science class. Students are introduced to Scripture values that tie directly to each week's science concept. Within this course, the students will also develop their writing skills across the curriculum. Students are involved in STEM activities that apply to these concepts, and they learn about real world STEM careers and the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in these careers.

Social Studies 3:

The third grade social studies program begins Wylie Prep's three-year cyclical study of history. Students will study four civilizations: Israel, Egypt, Greece, and Rome starting with Creation and ending around 30 B.C. Students will be introduced to Greek and Latin roots and learn how to apply these roots to every day words. Through direct instruction, group work, and hands-on activities and projects, students receive a solid, chronological understanding of the beginning history of the world.

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4th Grade

Language Arts 4:

As students' abilities in reading fluency and independence increase, vocabulary and comprehension strategies are integrated into the curriculum. Four novel studies are completed, and thinking critically from a biblical worldview is emphasized. Students receive many opportunities for practicing the writing process through the IEW (Institute for Excellence in Writing) program while sharpening the craft of writing. At least three papers will be completed this year. Mastery in grammar basics, cursive handwriting, and spelling is worked toward at this level. All work will be completed in cursive for the entire grade level.

Math 4:

This course reviews and expands the study of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. New concepts introduced include: multiplication with regrouping (problems may have up to three digits in the second factor), division with two-digit divisors, addition and subtraction of fractions and mixed numbers with common and uncommon denominators, decimals, pre-algebra concepts, classifying figures, and geometric angles.

Science 4:

The main focus of this science course will be hands-on discovery and experimentation. Within this course, the students will also develop their writing skills across the curriculum. The students will learn lessons covering ecosystems and adaptations of plants, and animals, weather, properties of matter, and changes to the earth's surface. Biblical values that tie directly to each week's science concept are integrated into the lessons. Students are involved in STEM activities that apply to these concepts, and they learn about real world STEM careers and the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in these careers.

Social Studies 4:

The fourth grade social studies program continues Wylie Prep's three-year cyclical study of history. The course begins with Ancient Rome and continues through the Reformation. Specific time periods studied include: Ancient Rome, Birth of Christ, Church and State, Middle Ages, and Reformation. Students will be introduced to Greek and Latin roots and learn how to apply these roots to every day words through note booking. Direct instruction, group work, note taking, and hands-on activities and projects will be used to ensure that the students receive a solid, chronological understanding of the history of the world.

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5th Grade

Language Arts 5:

The fifth grade course continues the development of reading and writing proficiency. Higher order thinking skills are emphasized through the analysis of literature from a biblical worldview. Reading comprehension strategies, vocabulary development, and basic literary concepts are integrated into the curriculum. Students use the IEW (Institute for Excellence in Writing) process to produce at least three compositions of different genres, in addition to a multi-source research paper. Consistent practice in the craft of writing is provided. More complex grammar concepts and diagramming are introduced. Spelling is reviewed in this course, and cursive handwriting is required in all courses in 5th grade.

Math 5:

This course develops the four basic math operations and applies them in depth to whole numbers, fractions, decimals, measurement, algebraic equations, basic geometric concepts and problem solving strategies. The curriculum reviews and investigates skills such as measurement conversion, geometric shapes, angles, lines and graphing. New concepts introduced in fifth grade include comparing and ordering decimals, division of decimals and fractions, division with 3-digit divisors, surface area and volume, exponents, and angle measurement. After each concept is introduced, the mastering process continues throughout the course.

Science 5:

In this fifth grade science course, the students will learn lessons covering life, earth, and physical science. The first semester lessons will include a study of scientific investigations, motion and force, space and nutrition. A field trip to the Perot Museum is planned to reinforce concepts taught in class. The spring semester concentrates on weather and climate, living things interactions, properties of matter, alternative energy and body systems. Hands-on activities are incorporated into the lessons at appropriate places for constructive learning to take place. There are biblical values that tie directly to each week's science concept. Students are involved in STEM activities that apply to these concepts, and they learn about real world STEM careers and the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in these careers.

Social Studies 5:

The fifth grade social studies program concludes Wylie Prep's first three-year cyclical study of history. The course begins with American history from the development of the automobile in the late 1800's through the inauguration of President Obama in 2009. In addition to the chronological study of American history, students learn the states and capitols and geography skills. Through direct instruction, group work, and hands-on activities and projects, students receive a solid, chronological understanding of the history of America presented from a biblical perspective.

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6th Grade

Language Arts 6:

Proficiency in reading and writing is expanded in this course. Students read literature selections utilizing higher order thinking skills from a biblical worldview. The fundamentals of literary analysis are introduced and reading comprehension strategies are emphasized. By following the IEW curriculum (Institute for Excellence in Writing), students will gain the tools needed to add style and structure to their writing. They will create many compositions including a multi-source research paper. Vocabulary development is continued, and students work toward mastery of more complex grammar concepts.

Math 6:

This course reviews and builds upon the four basic math operations and problem solving skills using all of the real number categories. Concepts covered in 6th grade include: word numbers through hundred billion, scientific notation, 3-digit multiplication, division with up to 3-digit decimal divisors, proportions and ratios, geometric concepts (angles, perimeter, circumference, volume, area and surface area), one- and two-step algebraic equations, statistics with graphing, and an introduction to pre-algebra calculations with negative numbers (integers).

Science 6:

God's design in nature is presented through this sixth-grade science course where students are encouraged to use investigative techniques to explore a range of topics. Studies include chemistry, cells and organisms, electricity, weathering and erosion, magnetism, energy, simple machines, earthquakes, volcanoes, introduction to genetics, solar system, and natural resources. Students are involved in STEM activities that apply to these concepts and they learn about real world STEM careers and the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in these careers.

History 6:

This sixth grade course begins Wylie Prep's second cyclical study of history. Students use a biblical worldview to study the physical geography, people groups, and cultures of the world with an emphasis on the ways this influences society. The chronological study begins in the 1100s and continues through the 1900s. This course provides many opportunities for students to think critically and evaluate history from a biblical worldview in preparation for upper level courses.