

Bethlehem Christian Academy

Second Grade Conspectus

Bethlehem Christian Academy is committed to providing a quality education that is thoroughly Christian. All subjects are taught from a Christian perspective, and Biblical truth is integrated throughout by teachers who are committed to Jesus Christ and dedicated to preparing young people to serve our Savior (Luke 6:40).

Second grade is an exciting year of building on the learning foundations developed in first grade and challenging each child to grow in all areas of life.

Bible is a very important subject. Using the Association of Christian Schools International Bible curriculum, we focus on character traits demonstrated throughout the Bible, explaining as how to apply these traits in our daily lives. For example, in the study of Joshua, students learn about obedience, loving God's Word, and following God wholeheartedly. We learn these things through Bible study and Scripture memorization. Special activities and dramatizations help reinforce these truths. The principles learned in Bible class are applied throughout other subjects and areas of our school day. We also hear missionary speakers, learn about their culture, pray for them, and keep in touch with them. Chapel, which is held weekly, teaches the student that worship is important in his spiritual life. We participate in chapel with songs, skits, and other types of presentations.

Our *Reading for Christian Schools* by Bob Jones University Press program focuses on developing critical thinking skills, comprehension, and reading with accuracy, smoothness, and expression. Students are given an opportunity to read good literature and respond to it. They are graded on oral reading each week and take regular comprehension tests. All **phonics** rules are applied and the children are tested on use of these phonics rules.

In **Language**, the student's writing skills and use of grammar are challenged. Dictionary skills are developed and practiced throughout the year. Using the English for Christian School Writing and Grammar curriculum, the five-part writing process is introduced: pre-writing, writing, revision, proofreading and publishing. Applying the steps of this process, students learn to write a personal story, instructions, postcard, friendly letter, poetry, and research paper. Grammar is explored, learning to recognize noun, pronoun, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.

Math in second grade builds on the skills learned in first grade and introduces new skills such as three-digit addition and subtraction with renaming and borrowing, multiplication, division, fractions, and basic geometry. The children learn to apply these skills through problem-solving activities incorporated in the A Beka mathematics program. Each morning we start off with a class story problem.

Our Zaner-Bloser **Spelling** curriculum gives each student the opportunity to use his words in many challenging ways. Each week, children must be able to write sentences using their spelling words and recognize the definition and spelling of each word in relation to similar words. Students also have weekly vocabulary words for which they must memorize the definition as well as the spelling.

As we begin the year in **Handwriting**, each child masters the neatness of his manuscript. We then take off in the world of cursive writing. At the end of the year, cursive becomes part of their daily routine, using the Zaner-Bloser handwriting curriculum.

In **Health** we spend time learning the importance of good posture, nutrition, exercise and cleanliness. As we learn how to be courteous and polite, the student uses proper manners. We also spend time learning to practice safety at home, away from home, around water, and during bad weather. Harcourt Health & Fitness is used. Each morning we start off with a ½ hour exercise program.

The focus in **Social Studies** is on working together in communities. We start out by learning about communities and government, old and new, and farming. We look at the make-up of our country. We investigate resources and conservation and take a field trip to an Apple farm.

Science is an exciting subject in second grade. We spend time understanding God's awesome design for our universe. We also take time to learn about forces, our bones, muscles, layers of the earth, living and non-living things, and the plant world. Using Harcourt science we get involved with many hand-on activities. The highlight of the year is following the life cycle of the Painted-Lady butterfly.

Art, physical education, music, library, and computer classes are offered weekly. Also, our students participate in the following ACSI events: Spelling Bee, and Speech Meet, Through these activities, students are encouraged to use their special gifts and talents for the Lord.

To further challenge the students in specific areas of learning, our second grade room contains a learning center, the content of which changes regularly to maintain student interest.

Our field trips may include visits to a fire station, the Cleveland Orchestra, literary plays, and the apple farm. We also traveled up the Cuyahoga River on the Goodtime III.

Second grade will prepare your child to work independently and continue the improvement of his communication skills, both written and spoken. Our foundational spiritual goal is for each student to grow to become more like Jesus Christ.