

Bethlehem Christian Academy

Third 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).

Throughout the year, the third-graders focus on the life of Christ, the book of Acts, and missions. The Bob Jones **Bible** curriculum effectively guides the teacher in implementing the principles from the messages, parables, miracles, and life events of Jesus into classroom discussions and activities. Application of these Biblical principles to daily life is emphasized. Bible classes are held Monday through Thursday each week. Throughout the year the students are tested on memory verses that correspond to the theme currently being studied. On Fridays, the entire student body attends chapel services where the children share with their peers Biblical themes they are studying in class.

To ensure success with upper-elementary school **Mathematics**, it is imperative that third grade students master specific key concepts. Each lesson is introduced with learning activities that help to make palpable the concept being studied. Additionally, they work with manipulatives whenever possible for reinforcement. The third grade scope and sequence covers place value, money, time, addition and subtraction of higher numbers, multiplication and division, fractions, and measurement. Each lesson also involves problem solving, an invaluable component that initiates logical reasoning skills. The Sadlier-Oxford curriculum is designed so that a variety of skills are introduced and build upon in each lesson.

The third grade Bob Jones **Language** program successfully paves the way for concise and imaginative writing. Word order; singular, plural, possessive, common, and proper nouns; proper punctuation; and verbs are the core skills covered. To develop application of these skills, the program employs several different writing activities. From writing a single complete sentence, the students graduate to paragraph construction through journal, letter and story writing. All published (shared and displayed) writing assignments are produced through the five stages of the writing process. The students are involved in preparing a class book throughout the year to reinforce what they have been learning.

The third grade **Reading** program focuses on oral reading skills with an emphasis on comprehension. Each week the students participate in reading a short story from the Bob Jones curriculum. The students are introduced to many types of genres, including non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and folk tales. After reading the short stories, the students are evaluated on comprehension through completing the Bob Jones reading workbook pages. The workbook also provides a presentation of reinforcements of basic reading skills. In addition to short stories, the students will read a novel.

The Bob Jones **History** curriculum provides many exciting learning experiences for the students. The study begins with the aftermath of the American Revolution and how the United States progressed afterwards. The children participate in Civil War Day, Pioneer Life Day, and Indian Day. The children are also introduced to other cultures from Asia, Europe, and Africa. The students work with their teacher to transform their room and plan feasts according to the culture being studied. The third graders will concentrate on Egypt, Japan, China, Russia, and different European countries.

The Harcourt third grade **Science** curriculum is devoted to an investigative study of God's creation through practical experiences and "hands-on" activities. Students will become acquainted with scientific tools and practice observation techniques while learning about sound, the human body, animals, rocks and minerals, mass and weight, birds, motion, plants, and the solar system. Also, each child will choose from the concepts to construct either an experimental or demonstrational project/display to be entered in the school science fair.

The Harcourt **Health** curriculum is designed to stimulate the student's interest in health, safety, and manners so they learn more about the body God has given them and how to take care of it. Students will learn the importance exercise and posture have on their health. Nutrition, cleanliness, first aid, and disease prevention are also covered.

If children are to become successful students, they must become accustomed to criticizing their own work. Recognizing **Spelling** errors in their writing is an important part of this process. At the beginning of each week, a list of twenty words is used. Throughout the week, the students engage in activities that aid in the memorization and use of the words in sentences. Every Friday there is a test on all words studied during the week.

Now that the students are generating a larger amount of written material, good **Penmanship** is imperative. During the third grade, the child will develop ease and fluency in cursive handwriting.

Art, physical education, music, library, and computer classes are offered weekly. Those third graders with a special interest in music may also try out for *Sounds of Honor* (our vocal ensemble) and *One Accord* (our chime choir). Additionally, students participate in the following ACSI events: Spelling Bee, Speech Meet, Math Olympics, and the Music Festival. Through these activities, students are encouraged to use their special gifts and talents for the Lord.

Third grade is designed to engender enthusiasm for learning, to motivate students to self-study, and to encourage and strengthen them as they grow in wisdom and stature before the Lord.