

# Bethlehem Christian Academy

## Fifth 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).*

We use the Bob Jones Bible curriculum in the fifth grade when we study the **Bible**. Our study begins at the beginning with Genesis and the creation of the universe. We move into different aspects of sin, and how God views and deals with it. We then discuss how God offers us grace and how we must accept that grace from Him in order to love a holy life for the Lord. While learning these aspects of sin and grace, we integrate Bible characters and the ways they learned about them in their lives. The goal is for the students to learn from the mistakes of others so they do not repeat those mistakes. To help them in this effort, they will also be memorizing Scripture. As the Bible says we need to hide His Word in our hearts that we may not sin against God.

Our **Science** curriculum covers many different fields, from the study of insects and animals to light and the solar system. We plan different projects to enhance the curriculum and to stimulate interest in each chapter. In order for the students to see that science extends outside the classroom, we take several field trips that encourage them to study and experience science on their own. The fifth grade field trips include a trip to the zoo and rainforest, the natural history museum and planetarium, a trip to NASA where we learn about living and working in space. Each of these trips include many fascinating displays that give additional information from which the students may learn.

Our study of **Language** leads students to understand the mechanics of English and to practice correct usage in their daily conversation. Initially, the eight parts of speech are covered in order to develop and understanding of their uses. The basic writing process is reviewed with an emphasis on organizational development (topic sentence, body, and conclusion). They will then apply this knowledge in writing reports, essays, and creative writing. Our goal is to have each student become a better communicator using our rich language. A Beka language curriculum materials are used.

Our **Spelling** curriculum reviews the phonics rules the students learned in younger grades. They will match words with meanings and use them in sentences. The students will then write original narratives or stories using the spelling words in order to use them in proper context. We have added a vocabulary book to the curriculum to enable the students to apply words to their vocabulary so they may speak and write with more clarity.

The **History** curriculum is a continuation of the book used in fourth grade. We pick up after the Revolutionary War with the founding of the U.S. Constitution, the three branches of the federal government and how laws are made. This leads to the exploration and expansion of the United States westward. We explore the causes, conflict and aftermath of the Civil War along with its results on the United States. We also discuss new industries and immigration and how they affected American life. This leads us to into the 20<sup>th</sup> century and America's involvement in the world wars and subsequent leadership role in world events. We investigate civil rights for all Americans, the space race and arms race between major world powers which then leads us into the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

It is our goal that the students will grow to love **Reading**. Using the Bob Jones reading series, the students will be exposed to different forms of literature. We hope to encourage them to seek

books to read for enjoyment. They learn about points of view, comparing and contrasting information, figurative language, understanding the plots of stories, library skills, and much more. By the time children are in fifth grade, they should have a good grasp of reading; it is important, however, that they understand what they are reading. Therefore, it is one of the main objectives in the fifth grade for students to improve their comprehension skills and to develop their ability to identify the main idea that the writer is trying to convey.

Our **Math** program is built upon what was learned in the fourth grade. Addition and subtraction are reviewed, along with place value and measurements. Multiplication up to a three-digit multiplier is taught, as is division with a three-digit divisor. Mathematical operations involving the addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of decimals and fractions are covered. Geometry is introduced in preparation for development in succeeding years. There is also an emphasis on problem solving strategies in the textbook along with supplementary material. We use the A Beka curriculum.

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