**Overview of Fifth Grade Curriculum**

**Updated July, 2017 for the 2017-2018 School Year**

**Language Arts, including English, Handwriting, Spelling and Reading: Bob Jones University Press Publications:** In all areas of the language arts program, fifth graders continue to build on and refine skills introduced in earlier grades. Great emphasis is placed on the writing process and use of correct grammar and sentence structure within a variety of writing styles. The particular skills that are taught and/or reviewed include identification of sentences and sentence parts, the correct usage of punctuation, capitalization and quotation of facts, an understanding of synonyms, antonyms and homonyms, dictionary and thesaurus skills, writing letters of various types, making an outline, writing a library research paper, writing book reports, refining creative writing skills, recognizing and diagramming all eight parts of speech, recognizing and diagramming complements and word usage. Correct cursive penmanship is practiced through word exercises, original composition and sentence dictation. Weekly spelling and vocabulary word lists help students refine their spelling skills as well as increase their oral and written vocabulary. As students read from an extensive selection of classic literature and character building stories, they improve their performance in oral reading, comprehension, and speed-reading.

**Mathematics---Association of Christian Schools International Purposeful Design Series (adopted by CCA school year 2012/2013):** Based on God’s principles of the order of creation, Purposeful Design Mathematics is a comprehensive math curriculum that balances conceptual understandings of mathematics with appropriate drill and practice and allows students to practice the conceptual skills they have learned with meaningful, real life problems. The use of manipulatives is viewed as critical and necessary to the study of Mathematics. As students involve themselves in hands-on activities, they grasp the mathematical concept being presented.

At the fifth grade level students are introduced to and encouraged to master the following concepts:

* Addition and subtraction: Adding whole numbers and decimals; adding fractions and mixed numbers with like and unlike denominators; estimating sums and differences; subtracting whole numbers and decimals; subtracting fractions and mixed numbers with like and unlike denominators; estimating differences
* Multiplication: Multiplying whole numbers with up to three-digit factors; multiplying decimals; multiplying fractions and mixed numbers
* Division: Dividing whole numbers with two-digit divisors; dividing decimals; dividing fractions and mixed numbers; finding averages
* Patterns: Prime and composite numbers; patterns in geometric shapes; identifying sequences; terminating and repeating decimals
* Number theory: Reading writing and problem solving with integers, rational numbers and real numbers
* Place value: Reading and writing whole numbers to hundred billions; reading and writing decimals to thousandths
* Factions and decimals: Greatest common factor; comparing and ordering fractions and mixed numbers; finding ratios, proportions and percent
* Measurement: Finding perimeter, area and circumference of geometric figures; using fractions to show length; US customary and metric: length, capacity, weight and temperature
* Time: Telling time to the nearest minute; understanding timetables, schedules, and time zones; elapsed time
* Money: Counting and comparing money amounts; making change; adding, subtracting and multiplying amounts of money
* Geometry: Identifying points, rays, lines, angles, triangles, polygons, quadrilaterals and circles; identifying solid figures; congruence and symmetry
* Algebra: Using the commutative and associative properties in addition and multiplication; understanding order of operations; writing and solving equations
* Probability and Statistics: Collecting, organizing, and analyzing data; making and interpreting graphs, charts and tables; understanding mean, median and mode; interpreting statistics

**History and Geography---A-Beka Publications:** During the fifth grade year, students study Old World history and geography. They learn geographical facts including developing an understanding of the following terms: rivers; capitals; mountains; climate; and deserts. In chronological order students travel through time and experience the following events that have led to the development of the world as we know it:

* Fertile Crescent: Cradle of civilization
* Ancient Middle East (followed by a discussion of the Middle East today)
* Countries of Central and Southern Asia
* Countries of the Far East
* Egypt: The Gift of the Nile
* Africa Long Ago
* Africa in Modern Times
* Ancient Greece: Home of Beauty
* Rome: ruler of the Ancient World
* Christianity: The Greatest force in History
* England and the British Isles
* Other Countries of Western Europe
* Countries of Eastern Europe
* Australia: Land Down Under and Beyond

**Association of Christian Schools International Purposeful Design Series:** Fifth grade students are led from the known to the unknown with the teaching of important science concepts in the context of things they can see and know. The objective of this type of an approach is to help students really understand basic principles of science rather than merely to teach them science vocabulary. The text presents the world as the creation of God and glorifies Him as its Sustainer and Upholder. Students are introduced to great scientists and naturalists who believed in the Biblical account of Creation. Specific units of study are listed below:

* **Earth Science:**
	+ Earth
		- Layers of the earth
		- Soil
		- Minerals
		- Rocks
		- Fossils
		- Layers of the atmosphere
		- Weather
	+ Space
		- Space technology
* **Life Science:**
	+ Living things
		- Dinosaurs
		- Biomes
		- Ecosystems
	+ **Human body:**
		- **Respiratory system**
		- **Circulatory system**
* **Physical Science**
	+ **Energy**
		- Heat
		- Sound
		- Light
	+ Matter
		- Measuring matter
		- Physical changes
		- Atoms and molecules
		- Mixtures

**Bible-Association of Christian Schools International: Christ and My Choices:** The fifth graders study of Bible focuses on studying the Old Testament in depth. After an overview of Old Testament, the students discuss the lives of individual personalities of the Old Testament in chronological order. Finally, they focus on the choices, good and bad, that these individuals made. At this point, the children are ready to apply what they have learned to choices they will need to make in their own lives.

**\* Computer Introduction and Instruction:** Curriculum skillfully integrates classroom studies with computer skills. Students at all grade levels learn about keyboarding, desktop publishing, data base management, spreadsheets, multimedia presentations and all other components of the Virginia Standards of Learning in the area of technology.

**\* Music:** In weekly music classes, students learn the fundamentals of rhythm and music theory. In fifth grade, students who have participated in beginning strings in 4th grade have the option to take strings in lieu of general music class. For students not enrolled in strings, a worship arts class is available. Students taking Worship Arts support worship during the weekly chapel service

   **\*Physical Education:** Our physical education teacher helps the students develop large motor skills and knowledge of games with rules.

**\*Art:** Students have an art class in addition to the art that is integrated the daily program. Students learn about different techniques and about working with different media, as well as receiving an introduction to Art History. They are introduced to famous artists and see how Bible stories and concepts have been illustrated through the centuries with art.

**\* Spanish:** Conversational Spanish is taught weekly to students through games, stories and song.

**\*Chapel:** The entire elementary school joins together in the church chapel for a short service each Wednesday morning. This is a time or worship, prayer and testimonies. Classes take turns presenting the weekly lessons. Christ Chapel pastors are frequent visitors.

We also offer at an additional fee:

Piano lessons

Dance lessons

Chess Club

Computer Club

Financial Literacy Class