

GARDEN CITY ACADEMY
ELEMENTARY COURSE CATALOG



OPENING FALL 2024

"Innovating Education for Good"

GARDEN CITY ACADEMY LITERATURE LIST

1st Grade

Corduroy
 Curious George
 Dr. Desoto
 Floss
 Frog and Toad All Year
 Long
 Frog and Toad are Friends
 Harry the Dirty Dog
 If you Give a Mouse a Cookie
 The Little Engine that Could
 Amelia Bedelia
 The Biggest Bear
 The Emperor's New Clothes
 Henry and Mudge
 Little Bear
 Little Bear's Friend
 Little Bear's Visit
 Little Rabbit's Loose Tooth
 Madeline
 Miss Nelson is Missing
 Mr. Putter and Tabby
 Pour the Tea
 Nate the Great
 Nate the Great and the Lost List
 A New Coat for Anna
 Stone Soup
 Peter Rabbit
 Frog and Toad
 The Mitten
 Stone Soup
 Chicka Chicka Boom Boom
 The Cat in the Hat
 The Littles
 Mouse Tales
 Mouse Soup
 Owl at Home
 One Fish, Two Fish
 Little Red Hen
 City Mouse, Country Mouse
 Gingerbread Man

2nd Grade

LOE Readers
 Baby Island
 BoxCar Children
 A Child's Garden of Verses
 Encyclopedia Brown Series
 Boy Detective
 Adventures of the Northwoods Series
 Little House Series
 Milly Molly Mandy
 Owls in the Family
 Pinocchio
 The Railway Children
 The Velveteen Rabbit
 Winnie the Pooh
 Book of Fairy Tales
 Long Way Westward
 Madeline
 Magic Fish
 Make Way for Ducklings
 Miss Nelson Is Missing
 Nate the Great and the Lost List
 New Coat for Anna
 Oxcart Man
 More Stories from Grandma's Attic
 Robert E Lee
 The Tale of Peter Rabbit
 Bears on Hemlock Mtn
 Biggest Bear
 A Chair for My Mother
 Amelia Bedelia
 Caps for Sale
 Curious George
 Dr. DeSoto
 Emperor's New Clothes
 Frog and Toad are Friends
 Ugly Duckling

3rd Grade

LOE Readers
 Alice in Wonderland
 Book of Fairy Tales
 Charlotte's Web
 The Dragon of Lonely Island
 Emperor's New Clothes
 Homer Price
 The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe
 The Magician's Nephew
 Misty of Chincoteague
 Peter Pan
 Story of the Treasure Seekers
 Stuart Little
 Winnie The Pooh
 Mr Popper's Penguins
 Babe The Gallant Pig
 The Odyssey of Athanasius
 Detectives in Togas
 Black Ships Before Troy
 The Church in History
 Cleopatra
 D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths
 Famous Men of Rome
 Hostage Lands
 Lysis Goes to the Play
 Pompeii Buried Alive
 Quintus
 A Triumph for Flavius
 The Children's Homer
 Hittite Warrior
 The Bronze Bow
 Augustus Caesar's World

4th Grade

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
 Dangerous Journey
 Faerie Gold
 The Hobbit
 Leepike Ridge
 Mary Poppins
 The Twenty-One Balloons
 Perilous Road
 Stuart Little
 Winter of Red Snow
 Caddie Woodlawn
 My Side of the Mountain
 Book of Three
 Prince of Caspian
 Number the Stars
 Escape from Warsaw
 The Horse and His Boy
 Athanasius
 Rabbit Hill
 The Door in the Wall
 Adventures of Robin Hood
 From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil
 Story of Rolf and the Viking Bow
 Son of Charlemagne
 King Arthur
 Joan of Arc
 Ink on His Fingers
 Early History Readers: Middle Ages
 Famous Men of the Middle Ages

5th Grade

Anne Of Green Gables
 Heidi
 Lad: A Dog
 Old Yeller
 Robinson Crusoe
 The Secret Garden
 Swiss Family Robinson
 Treasure Island
 Where the Red Fern Grows
 Silver Chair
 Tuck Everlasting
 Phantom Tollbooth
 Animal Farm
 Wind in the Willows
 Yankee Doodle Boy
 The Boston Tea Party
 George the Drummer Boy
 The Witch of Blackbird Pond
 Voyage to Freedom
 Susan Creek
 Blackthorn Winter
 Duel in the Wilderness
 Johnny Tremain
 Once on This Island
 Boston Tea Party
 American History Series
 Benjamin Franklin: The Autobiography and Other Writings
 Early History Readers
 Collection, 5th grade
 George Washington: His Legacy of Faith
 The Great Little Madison
 The Light in the Forest
 The Matchlock Gun
 The Monroe Family
 Chronicles
 Sarah Morton's Day
 Three Young Pilgrims
 William Bradford: Pilgrim Boy

6th Grade

Around the World in Eighty Days
 The Call of the Wild and White Fang
 A Christmas Carol
 Fahrenheit 451
 The Jungle Book
 Kidnapped
 Little Women
 The Lord of the Rings
 The Yearling
 The Amazing Impossible
 Erie Canal
 Basher Five-Two
 Bound for Oregon
 The Boy in the Alamo
 Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt
 Children of the Covered Wagon
 The Courage and Character of Teddy Roosevelt
 Gettysburg
 Hannah: A Young Girl with Big Dreams
 The Hiding Place
 Hitch
 Iron Scouts of the Confederacy
 Journey to America
 It Began with a Parachute
 Pecos Bill
 Sergeant York and the Great War
 Soft Rain
 With Lee in Virginia
 The Wright Brothers
 Billy and the Rebel
 Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot
 Early History Readers: Modern America
 Twenty and Ten

**Note: These are sample reading lists designed to give an idea of what the required books may look like for each grade. When teachers are hired, they will refine the curriculum and may alter these reading lists to fit their specific class plan.*

Kindergarten

Teacher/Student Ratio: 15:1

Half Day Kindergarten: 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. /11:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Full Day Kindergarten: 8:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Academics

Bible: Starting with Creation, Kindergarten students will study the Old Testament, emphasizing key stories, events, and people. Students will learn about good and evil, biblical virtues that instill Christlike character, and the beauty of obedience to God and to parents. Emphasis will be given to God's nature, His character, man's nature, his relationship to God, and God's redemptive plan for salvation. Weekly Bible memory is a part of this course.

Language Arts: Students will learn how to hold a pencil correctly and both the D'Nealian cursive and print forms of penmanship. Students will learn to recognize letters and to memorize phonograms and morphemes to give them a solid foundation for spelling and reading.

Reading & Literature: Students will steadily progress through a series of beginner readers that correlate with the phonograms and morphemes being taught. In addition, students will enjoy read-aloud time each week from a vast array of beautiful works of children's literature. GCA encourages a love and enjoyment of poetry even in young students, who will also be able to participate in a speech meet.

History & Geography: Students will study history of their family and community, the Pilgrims, and famous Americans from early American history. In addition, students will learn about timelines, the history of holidays, the history of toys, the history of sports, and even a little church history. Hands on projects and activities help bring history to life for the kindergarten students. For geography, students will learn about the major land formations.

Science: The study of science is an excellent way for students to experience the awe and wonder of the amazing world God has made. Through fun books and activities students will embark on a journey to learn all about marine animals, flying creatures, and land animals. Units include aquatic animals, whales, seals, fish, sharks, reptiles, cephalopods, bugs, bats, birds, and land animals and the environments they inhabit. Hands-on activities will be abundant!

Math: Using the Saxon math curriculum, students will learn to count to 100, sequencing of numbers, acting out addition and subtraction problems, skip counting, patterns, sorting, the calendar, shapes, and geometric designs. *See Saxon math scope and sequence chart.

Art: Students will have the opportunity to practice art in many of the other subject areas throughout the day. Through art, students learn the importance of paying attention to detail and the importance of following directions. In addition, children practice fine motor skills and express creativity through art and craft projects.

Music: Students are taught how to read music, write music, how to listen to music, and to sing joyfully and skillfully to God from a young age.

Memory Hall: Memory work lays a solid foundation in each of the subject areas. Each week, students will have specific pieces of memory work for the different subject areas.

Farmer Field Studies: On Fridays, students will have the ability to practice and develop life skills that will help the child thrive as an adult. These skills will be fitting for the children's age and their individual developmental phase. Skills will build on each other year after year. Parental involvement is welcome!

Parent Communication and Student Assessment

Newsletters: To ensure clarity for parents, weekly newsletters explaining assignments and topics studied during class are sent home with the students.

RenWeb/Email: GCA uses RenWeb as a school wide communications system. School announcements and elementary newsletters can be found on RenWeb as well. Parents should check email regularly for information about upcoming events and important announcements. Please notify the school if you have a change in email address.

Homework: Homework will be kept to an average of 10-15 minutes per night. In addition, students will have a recommended 20 minutes of reading with their parent each night. Homework will not be assigned over the weekend or over holidays. Homework is an excellent way for the young student to establish routines and to have extra practice in new concepts, skills, or facts.

Parent Teacher Conferences/Report Cards: At GCA we take our partnership with parents seriously in the spiritual formation and academic formation of the child. GCA operates on a semester schedule, and parent/teacher conferences will be held at the mid-semester mark and at the end of each semester to meet and discuss with the parent the development of the child in these areas. The Kindergarten teacher will also schedule a time to briefly check in with the parent once a month.

First Grade

Teacher/Student Ratio: 20:1

School Hours: 8:00a.m. - 2:45p.m.

Academics

Bible: Students will study the New Testament, emphasizing key stories, events, and people. Students will learn about good and evil, biblical virtues that instill Christlike character, and the beauty of obedience to God and to parents. Emphasis will be given to God's nature, His character, man's nature, his relationship to God, and God's redemptive plan for salvation. Weekly Bible memory is a part of this course.

Language Arts: Students will learn how to hold a pencil correctly and both the D'Nealian cursive and print forms of penmanship. Students will learn to recognize letters and to memorize phonograms and morphemes to give them a solid foundation for spelling and reading. A spelling list that corresponds to the phonogram and morpheme for the week will be learned, and progress will be observed through weekly spelling tests. *Students will participate in a class spelling bee.

Reading & Literature: Students will start the year with beginner readers and progress to beginner chapter books over the course of the year. Readers will correlate to the phonograms and morphemes being taught. Students also will enjoy read-aloud time each week from a vast array of beautiful works of children's literature. The goal is fluency, accuracy, comprehension, and vocabulary. A love and enjoyment of poetry is fostered in class, and students will have the ability to participate in a speech meet. *See sample booklist

History & Geography: Students will study family history and the basic events of American history. Through drawing, lap-booking, and hands-on activities, students will study many famous Americans, such as Columbus, Pocahontas, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln and Reagan, and concepts such as immigration, flight, and more. Hands on projects and activities help bring history to life for the students. Students will simultaneously learn about the geography of the United States.

Science: The study of science is an excellent way for students to experience the awe and wonder of the amazing world God has made. Through fun books and activities, students will discover the design and characteristics of sea creatures, flying creatures, and more land animals. The year will also include units in plants and the human body with fun projects and hands on experiments.

Math: Using the Saxon math curriculum, students will learn to skip count by 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s, 25s and 100s. Students will be able to read, write, compare, and order numbers from 1 to 1000 by the end of the year. Through manipulatives, students will learn ordinal position, digits, basic addition and subtraction, and counting money. Students will attain mastery of math facts through daily work with flashcards and timed math facts sheets. *See Saxon math scope and sequence chart.

Physical Education: In the elementary years, there is a focus on long-term athletic development (LTAD) through the use of fun and engaging athletic games. These games are strategically designed to form a foundation in fundamental athletic movements like running, jumping, changing direction, reading and reacting, catching, throwing, squatting, pushing, pulling, and more. Students will participate in physical education classes 3x/week in a fun, competitive, high-tempo, challenging, and engaging environment.

Art: Students will have the opportunity to practice art in many of the other subject areas throughout the day. Through art, students learn the importance of paying attention to detail and the importance of following directions. In addition, children practice fine motor skills and express creativity through art and craft projects.

Music: Students are taught how to read music, write music, how to listen to music, and to sing joyfully and skillfully to God from a young age.

Memory Hall: Memory work lays a solid foundation in each of the subject areas. Each week, students will have specific pieces of memory work for the different subject areas.

Farmer Field Studies: On Fridays, students will have the ability to practice and develop life skills that will help the child thrive as an adult. These skills will be fitting for the children's age and their individual developmental phase. Skills will build on each other year after year. Parental involvement is welcome!

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RenWeb/Email: GCA uses RenWeb as a school wide communications system. School announcements and elementary newsletters can be found on RenWeb as well. Parents should check email regularly for information about upcoming events and important announcements. Please notify the school if you have a change in email address.

Homework: Homework will be kept to an average of 15 minutes per night. In addition, students will have a recommended 20 minutes of reading with their parent each night. Homework will not be assigned over the weekend or over holidays. Homework is an excellent way for the young student to establish routines and to have extra practice in new concepts, skills, or facts.

Parent Teacher Conferences/Report Cards: At GCA we take our partnership with parents seriously in the spiritual formation and academic formation of the child. GCA operates on a semester schedule, and parent/teacher conferences will be held at the mid-semester mark and at the end of each semester to meet and discuss with the parent the development of the child in these areas. The first-grade teacher will also schedule a time to briefly check in with the parent once a month.

Second Grade

Teacher/Student Ratio: 20:1

School Hours: 8:00a.m. - 2:45p.m.

Academics

Bible: Students will study Genesis through Joshua, emphasizing key stories, events, and people. Students will learn about good and evil, biblical virtues that instill Christlike character, and the beauty of obedience to God and to parents. Emphasis will be given to God's nature, His character, man's nature, his relationship to God, and God's redemptive plan for salvation. Weekly Bible memory is a part of this course. Students will use a Bible in class to read along with the teacher.

Language Arts: Students will learn how to hold a pencil correctly and both the D'Nealian cursive and print forms of penmanship. Students will learn and practice grammar in preparation for writing in the coming years. Through continued work with phonograms and morphemes, students are given a solid foundation for spelling and reading. A spelling list that corresponds to the phonogram and morpheme for the week will be learned, and progress will be observed through weekly spelling tests. Students will participate in a class spelling bee.

Reading & Literature: The goal is to instill a love of reading through lessons and practice, opening the children's imaginations and strengthening their ability to learn independently. Students will read chapter books and non-fiction readers. Students also will enjoy read-aloud time each week from a vast array of beautiful works of children's literature. The goal is fluency, accuracy, comprehension, and vocabulary. A love and enjoyment of poetry is fostered in class, and students will have the ability to participate in a speech meet. *See sample booklist.

History & Geography: Through the study of history, students are given a valuable tool to see the mighty work of God in past events and how He is working today. Thus, students begin their study at the very beginning---Creation. The focus of the year is the Old Testament and Ancient Egypt. As the students study this history, they will enjoy memorizing dates, names, and facts, and they will engage historical fiction that accompanies the events they are learning. Geography lessons correlate to history lessons.

Science: The study of science is an excellent way for students to experience the awe and wonder of the amazing world God has made. The students awe and wonder for God and the world He made will be taken to new heights about the earth and the expanse of the heavens with unit studies in clouds, dirt, the atmosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere, the sun, moon, and stars, planets, asteroids, meteors, dwarf planets, and galaxies. Hands-on activities will be abundant!

Math: Various concepts and age-appropriate problems and investigations build the students mathematical thinking and reasoning skills. Mastery of math facts through 15 are developed through daily work with flash cards and timed math facts sheets. *See Saxon Math Scope and Sequence Chart.

Physical Education: In the elementary years, there is a focus on long-term athletic development (LTAD) through the use of fun and engaging athletic games. These games are strategically designed to form a foundation in fundamental athletic movements like running, jumping, changing direction, reading and reacting, catching, throwing, squatting, pushing, pulling, and more. Students will participate in physical education classes 3x/week in a fun, competitive, high-tempo, challenging, and engaging environment.

Art: Students will have the opportunity to practice art in many of the other subject areas throughout the day. Through art, students learn the importance of paying attention to detail and the importance of following directions. In addition, children practice fine motor skills and express creativity through art and craft projects.

Music: Students are taught how to read music, write music, how to listen to music, and to sing joyfully and skillfully to God from a young age.

Memory Hall: Memory work lays a solid foundation in each of the subject areas. Each week, students will have specific pieces of memory work for the different subject areas. The entire history timeline and math facts through 15 will be memorized every year in elementary.

Farmer Field Studies: On Fridays, students will have the ability to practice and develop life skills that will help the child thrive as an adult. These skills will be fitting for the children's age and their individual developmental phase. Skills will build on each other year after year. Parental involvement is welcome!

Parent Communication and Student Assessment

Newsletters: To ensure clarity for parents, weekly newsletters explaining assignments and topics studied during class are sent home with the students.

RenWeb/Email: GCA uses RenWeb as a school wide communications system. School announcements and elementary newsletters can be found on RenWeb as well. Parents should check email regularly for information about upcoming events and important announcements. Please notify the school if you have a change in email address.

Homework: Homework will be kept to an average of 30 minutes per night. In addition, students will have a recommended 20 minutes of reading with their parent each night. Homework will not be assigned over the weekend or over holidays. Homework is an excellent way for the young student to establish routines and to have extra practice in new concepts, skills, or facts.

Parent Teacher Conferences/Report Cards: At GCA we take our partnership with parents seriously in the spiritual formation and academic formation of the child. GCA operates on a semester schedule, and parent/teacher conferences will be held at the mid-semester mark and at the end of each semester to meet and discuss with the parent the development of the child in these areas. The second-grade teacher will also schedule a time to briefly check in with the parent once a month.

Third Grade

Teacher/Student Ratio: 20:1

School Hours: 8:00a.m. - 2:45p.m.

Academics

Bible: Students will study Judges through Kings, emphasizing key stories, events, and people. Students will learn about good and evil, biblical virtues that instill Christlike character, and the beauty of obedience to God and to parents. Emphasis will be given to God's nature, His character, man's nature, his relationship to God, and God's redemptive plan for salvation. Weekly Bible memory is a part of this course. Students will use a Bible in class to read along with the teacher.

Language Arts: The Logic of English curriculum emphasizes English grammar more heavily this year, preparing the student for an in-depth grammar study their fourth, fifth, and sixth-grade years. Students practice grammar as they craft their own sentences and paragraphs for writing projects. Students continue to practice D'Nealian cursive to practice neat penmanship for spelling and writing assignments. Through continued work with phonograms and morphemes, students are given a solid foundation for spelling and reading. A spelling list that corresponds to the phonogram and morpheme for the week will be learned, and progress will be observed through weekly spelling tests. Students will participate in a spelling bee.

Reading & Literature: The goal is to instill a love of reading through lessons and practice, opening the children's imaginations and strengthening their ability to learn independently. Students will read quality chapter books and many historical fiction books that correlate to the history studied. Students also will enjoy read-aloud time each week from a vast array of beautiful works of children's literature. The goal is fluency, accuracy, comprehension, and vocabulary. A love and enjoyment of poetry is fostered in class, and students will have the ability to participate in a speech meet. *See sample booklist.

History & Geography: Through the study of history, students are given a valuable tool to see the mighty work of God in past events and how He is working today. T Students will embark on studying ancient Greece starting with Minoan culture and leading up to the time of Christ, the early church, and continue through the years of Jesus' ministry. As the students study this history, they will enjoy memorizing dates, names, and facts, and they will engage historical fiction that accompanies the events they are learning. Geography lessons correlate to the history lessons.

Science: The study of science is an excellent way for students to experience the awe and wonder of the amazing world God has made. Through the study of chemistry and physics,

students will learn about the building blocks of creation through the exploration of: Matter--atoms and molecules, pH levels, types of mixtures, and Energy—mechanics, laws of motion, dynamics of motion, energy, waves, light, machines, magnets and more. Fun experiments and questions continually drawing the student back to the awesomeness of our Creator will abound!

Math: Various concepts and age-appropriate problems and investigations build the students mathematical thinking and reasoning skills. Mastery of math facts through 15 are developed through daily work with flash cards and timed math facts sheets. *See Saxon Math Scope and Sequence Chart.

Physical Education: In the elementary years, there is a focus on long-term athletic development (LTAD) through the use of fun and engaging athletic games. These games are strategically designed to form a foundation in fundamental athletic movements like running, jumping, changing direction, reading and reacting, catching, throwing, squatting, pushing, pulling, and more. Students will participate in physical education classes 3x/week in a fun, competitive, high-tempo, challenging, and engaging environment.

Art: Students will have the opportunity to practice art in many of the other subject areas throughout the day. Through art, students learn the importance of paying attention to detail and the importance of following directions. In addition, children practice fine motor skills and express creativity through art and craft projects.

Music: Students are taught how to read music, write music, how to listen to music, and to sing joyfully and skillfully to God from a young age.

Memory Hall: Memory work lays a solid foundation in each of the subject areas. Each week, students will have specific pieces of memory work for the different subject areas. The entire history timeline and math facts through 15 will be memorized every year in elementary.

Farmer Field Studies: On Fridays, students will have the ability to practice and develop life skills that will help the child thrive as an adult. These skills will be fitting for the children's age and their individual developmental phase. Skills will build on each other year after year. Parental involvement is welcome!

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RenWeb/Email: GCA uses RenWeb as a school wide communications system. School announcements and elementary newsletters can be found on RenWeb as well. Parents should

check email regularly for information about upcoming events and important announcements. Please notify the school if you have a change in email address.

Homework: Homework will be kept to an average of 45 minutes per night. In addition, students will have a recommended 20 minutes of reading with their parent each night. Homework will not be assigned over the weekend or over holidays. Homework is an excellent way for the young student to establish routines and to have extra practice in new concepts, skills, or facts.

Parent Teacher Conferences/Report Cards: At GCA we take our partnership with parents seriously in the spiritual formation and academic formation of the child. GCA operates on a semester schedule, and parent/teacher conferences will be held at the mid-semester mark and at the end of each semester to meet and discuss with the parent the development of the child in these areas. The third-grade teacher will also schedule a time to briefly check in with the parent once a month.

Fourth Grade

Teacher/Student Ratio: 20:1

School Hours: 8:00a.m. - 2:45p.m.

Academics

Bible: Students study Chronicles through Malachi, emphasizing key stories, events, and people. From Elijah destroying the prophets of Baal to Elijah and Elisha, Jonah, Nebuchadnezzar, Jeremiah, Daniel and the lion's den, Esther, and Job, students will learn about good and evil, biblical virtues that instill Christlike character, and the beauty of obedience to God and to parents. Emphasis will be given to God's nature, His character, man's nature, his relationship to God, and God's redemptive plan for salvation. Weekly Bible memory is a part of this course. Students will use a Bible in class to read along with the teacher.

Language Arts:

English Grammar: In the fourth-grade year, students transition to Grammar for the Well-Trained Mind. In fourth through sixth grades, students will receive a thorough and comprehensive education in English grammar, and the foundation that was built in the earlier elementary years will serve them well as they continue building their English grammar skills. In addition to the basics, students learn how to parse and diagram sentences to further solidify their understanding of grammar.

Spelling: Using phonograms, morphemes, rules, and patterns, students improve their ability to spell. Checking for accurate spelling is included in proofreading of written work, and students are also given a weekly spelling list with a practice test and final test given each week. Students will participate in a spelling bee.

Writing: Using Institute for Excellence in Writing, students learn how to read a source text, pull out the significant facts and create a key word outline. From that key word outline, students will use their own words to summarize the source text. In addition to inventing what to write and arranging the structure, students will learn important dress ups that help to make their writing more expressive. Students will also build a large vocabulary bank with weekly vocab words to memorize and use in their writing assignments.

Latin: Students begin their study of Latin in the fourth grade. Through derivatives, conjugations (verbs), declensions (nouns), and weekly vocabulary, students begin to see the connection of Latin to the English language. Latin serves as a tool to give the student a better understanding of English, and through the application of English grammar to the structure of the Latin language, the child can begin translating sentences from Latin to English and from English to Latin. Latin in these early years lays the foundation for the student to expand with their Latin studies in the secondary years.

Reading & Literature: The goal is to instill a love of reading through lessons and practice, opening the children's imaginations and strengthening their ability to learn independently. Students will read quality chapter books and many historical fiction books that correlate to the history studied. Students also will enjoy read-aloud time each week from a vast array of beautiful works of children's literature. The goal is fluency, accuracy, comprehension, and vocabulary. A love and enjoyment of poetry is fostered in class, and students will have the ability to participate in a speech meet. *See sample booklist.

History & Geography: Students will study the Middle Ages through the Reformation. From St. Augustine to Justinian the Great and the feudal system to William the Conqueror, the Crusades, Magna Carta, the Hundred Years War, Black Death, Joan of Arc, John Calvin and John Knox, students will have a lively year learning about this fascinating period in history. Through the study of history, children are given a valuable tool to see the work of God in past events and how He is working today. As the students make their way through history, they will enjoy memorizing dates, names, facts, they will also enjoy reading engaging historical fiction like *Beowulf*, *Door In the Wall*, *King Arthur*, *This was John Calvin*, and *Thunderstorm in the Church* to accompany the events and people they are learning about. Geography will correlate to the history lessons.

Science: The study of science is an excellent way for students to experience the awe and wonder of the amazing world God has made. Through fun books and activities, students will discover the design and characteristics of sea creatures, birds, bats, bugs, and more land animals. The year will also include units in plants and the human body with fun projects and hands-on experiments using the scientific method.

Math: Various concepts and age-appropriate problems and investigations build the students mathematical thinking and reasoning skills. Mastery of math facts through 15 are developed through daily work with flash cards and timed math facts sheets. *See Saxon Math Scope and Sequence Chart.

Physical Education: In the elementary years, there is a focus on long-term athletic development (LTAD) through the use of fun and engaging athletic games. These games are strategically designed to form a foundation in fundamental athletic movements like running, jumping, changing direction, reading and reacting, catching, throwing, squatting, pushing, pulling, and more. Students will participate in physical education classes 3x/week in a fun, competitive, high-tempo, challenging, and engaging environment.

Art: Students will have the opportunity to practice art in many of the other subject areas throughout the day. Through art, students learn the importance of paying attention to detail and the importance of following directions. In addition, children practice fine motor skills and express creativity through art and craft projects.

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Memory Hall: Memory work lays a solid foundation in each of the subject areas. Each week, students will have specific pieces of memory work for the different subject areas. The entire history timeline and math facts through 15 will be memorized every year in elementary.

Farmer Field Studies: On Fridays, students will have the ability to practice and develop life skills that will help the child thrive as an adult. These skills will be fitting for the children's age and their individual developmental phase. Skills will build on each other year after year. Parental involvement is welcome!

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Homework: Homework will be kept to an average of 45 minutes per night. In addition, students will have a recommended 20 minutes of reading with their parent each night. Homework will not be assigned over the weekend or over holidays. Homework is an excellent way for the young student to establish routines and to have extra practice in new concepts, skills, or facts.

Parent Teacher Conferences/Report Cards: At GCA we take our partnership with parents seriously in the spiritual formation and academic formation of the child. GCA operates on a semester schedule, and parent/teacher conferences will be held at the mid-semester mark and at the end of each semester to meet and discuss with the parent the development of the child in these areas. The fourth-grade teacher will also schedule a time to briefly check in with the parent once a month.

Fifth Grade

Teacher/Student Ratio: 20:1

School Hours: 8:00a.m. - 2:45p.m.

Academics

Bible: Students study the four gospels, emphasizing key stories, events, and people. From John the Baptist to the birth of Christ, the life and ministry of Jesus, the woman at the well, the twelve apostles, and the Sermon on the Mount to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, students will learn about good and evil, biblical virtues that instill Christlike character, and the beauty of obedience to God and to parents. Emphasis will be given to God's nature, His character, man's nature, his relationship to God, and God's redemptive plan for salvation. Weekly Bible memory is a part of this course. Students will use a Bible in class to read along with the teacher.

Language Arts:

English Grammar: In the fourth-grade year, students transition to Grammar for the Well-Trained Mind. In fourth through sixth grades, students will receive a thorough and comprehensive education in English grammar, and the foundation that was built in the earlier elementary years will serve them well as they continue building their English grammar skills. In addition to the basics, students learn capitalization, sentence structures, patterns, and purposes, the eight parts of speech, specific classifications for verbs, nouns, and pronouns. Students also practice parsing and diagramming sentences to further solidify their understanding of grammar.

Spelling: Using phonograms, morphemes, rules, and patterns, students improve their ability to spell. Checking for accurate spelling is included in proofreading of written work, and students are also given a weekly spelling list with a practice test and final test given each week. Students will participate in a spelling bee.

Writing: Using Institute for Excellence in Writing, students learn how to read a source text, pull out the significant facts and create a key word outline. From that key word outline, students will use their own words to summarize the source text. In addition to inventing what to write and arranging the structure, students will learn important dress ups that help to make their writing more expressive. Students will also build a large vocabulary bank with weekly vocab words to memorize and use in their writing assignments. Writing lessons will correspond with what the student is learning in history class.

Latin: Students build on their study of Latin in the fifth grade and continue to learn Latin derivatives, conjugations (verbs), declensions (nouns), and weekly vocabulary. Students begin to see the connection of Latin to the English language. Latin serves as a tool to give the student a better understanding of English, and through the application of English grammar to the

structure of the Latin language, the child can begin translating sentences from Latin to English and from English to Latin. Latin in these early years lays the foundation for the student to expand with their Latin studies in the secondary years.

Reading & Literature: The goal is to instill a love of reading through lessons and practice, opening the children's imaginations and strengthening their ability to learn independently. Students will read quality chapter books and many historical fiction books that correlate to the history studied. Students also will enjoy read-aloud time each week from a vast array of beautiful works of children's literature. The goal is fluency, accuracy, comprehension, and vocabulary. A love and enjoyment of poetry is fostered in class, and students will have the ability to participate in a speech meet. *See sample booklist.

History & Geography: Students study the explorers to 1815 in the fifth grade. From Prince Henry the Navigator, Columbus, and the Spanish explorers to the founding of Jamestown and Plymouth Colony, the Salem Witch Trials and the founding of the thirteen colonies, the First Great Awakening, the French and Indian Wars, the American War for Independence, the Constitutional Convention and the Founding Fathers, this year gives the student a thorough understanding of the beginning of the United States. Through the study of history, children are given a valuable tool to see the work of God in past events and how He is working today. As the students make their way through history, they will enjoy memorizing dates, names, facts. They will also enjoy reading engaging historical fiction like *Duel in the Wilderness*, *Johnny Tremain*, *Voyage to Freedom*, *Witch of Blackbird Pond*, and *Yankee Doodle Boy* to accompany the events and people they are studying. Geography will correlate to the history lessons.

Science: The study of science is an excellent way for students to experience the awe and wonder of the amazing world God has made. The students awe and wonder for God and the world He made will be taken to new heights about the earth and the expanse of the heavens with unit studies in clouds, dirt, the atmosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere, the sun, moon, and stars, planets, asteroids, meteors, dwarf planets, and galaxies. Hands on activities and experiments will be abundant!

Math: Various concepts and age-appropriate problems and investigations build the students mathematical thinking and reasoning skills. Mastery of math facts through 15 are developed through daily work with flash cards and timed math facts sheets. *See Saxon Math Scope and Sequence Chart.

Physical Education: In the elementary years, there is a focus on long-term athletic development (LTAD) through the use of fun and engaging athletic games. These games are strategically designed to form a foundation in fundamental athletic movements like running, jumping, changing direction, reading and reacting, catching, throwing, squatting, pushing, pulling, and more. Students will participate in physical education classes 3x/week in a fun, competitive, high-tempo, challenging, and engaging environment.

Art: Students will have the opportunity to practice art in many of the other subject areas throughout the day. Through art, students learn the importance of paying attention to detail and the importance of following directions. In addition, children practice fine motor skills and express creativity through art and craft projects.

Music: Students are taught how to read music, write music, how to listen to music, and to sing joyfully and skillfully to God from a young age.

Memory Hall: Memory work lays a solid foundation in each of the subject areas. Each week, students will have specific pieces of memory work for the different subject areas. The entire history timeline and math facts through 15 will be memorized every year in elementary.

Farmer Field Studies: On Fridays, students will have the ability to practice and develop life skills that will help the child thrive as an adult. These skills will be fitting for the children's age and their individual developmental phase. Skills will build on each other year after year. Parental involvement is welcome!

Parent Communication and Student Assessment

Newsletters: To ensure clarity for parents, weekly newsletters explaining assignments and topics studied during class are sent home with the students.

RenWeb/Email: GCA uses RenWeb as a school wide communications system. School announcements and elementary newsletters can be found on RenWeb as well. Parents should check email regularly for information about upcoming events and important announcements. Please notify the school if you have a change in email address.

Homework: Homework will be kept to an average of 45 minutes per night. In addition, students will have a recommended 20 minutes of reading with their parent each night. Homework will not be assigned over the weekend or over holidays. Homework is an excellent way for the young student to establish routines and to have extra practice in new concepts, skills, or facts.

Parent Teacher Conferences/Report Cards: At GCA we take our partnership with parents seriously in the spiritual formation and academic formation of the child. GCA operates on a semester schedule, and parent/teacher conferences will be held at the mid-semester mark and at the end of each semester to meet and discuss with the parent the development of the child in these areas. The fifth-grade teacher will also schedule a time to briefly check in with the parent once a month.

Sixth Grade

Teacher/Student Ratio: 20:1

School Hours: 8:00a.m. - 2:45p.m.

Academics

Bible: Students study Acts to Revelation, emphasizing the timeline, key stories, events, and people. From learning about the early church, Stephen and the conversion of Paul to Paul's letters and missionary journeys, Jude, Peter and John, students will learn about good and evil, biblical virtues that instill Christlike character, and the beauty of obedience to God and to parents. Emphasis will be given to God's nature, His character, man's nature, his relationship to God, and God's redemptive plan for salvation. Weekly Bible memory is a part of this course. Students will use a Bible in class to read along with the teacher.

Language Arts:

English Grammar: In the fourth-grade year, students transition to Grammar for the Well-Trained Mind. In fourth through sixth grades, students will receive a thorough and comprehensive education in English grammar, and the foundation that was built in the earlier elementary years will serve them well as they continue building their English grammar skills. In addition to the basics, students learn capitalization, sentence structures, patterns, and purposes, the eight parts of speech, specific classifications for verbs, nouns, and pronouns. Students also practice parsing and diagramming sentences to further solidify their understanding of grammar.

Spelling: Using phonograms, morphemes, rules, and patterns, students improve their ability to spell. Checking for accurate spelling is included in proofreading of written work, and students are also given a weekly spelling list with a practice test and final test given each week. Students will participate in a spelling bee.

Writing: Using Institute for Excellence in Writing, students learn how to read a source text, pull out the significant facts and create a key word outline. From that key word outline, students will use their own words to summarize the source text. In addition to inventing what to write and arranging the structure, students will learn important dress ups that help to make their writing more expressive. Students will also build a large vocabulary bank with weekly vocab words to memorize and use in their writing assignments. Writing lessons will correspond with what the student is learning in history class.

Latin: Students build on their study of Latin in the sixth grade and continue to learn Latin derivatives, conjugations (verbs), declensions (nouns), and weekly vocabulary. Students begin to see the connection of Latin to the English language. Latin serves as a tool to give the student a better understanding of English, and through the application of English grammar to the structure of the Latin language, the child can begin translating sentences from Latin to English

and from English to Latin. Latin in these early years lays the foundation for the student to expand with their Latin studies in the secondary years.

Reading & Literature: The goal is to instill a love of reading through lessons and practice, opening the children's imaginations and strengthening their ability to learn independently. Students will read quality chapter books and many historical fiction books that correlate to the history studied. Students also will enjoy read-aloud time each week from a vast array of beautiful works of children's literature. The goal is fluency, accuracy, comprehension, and vocabulary. A love and enjoyment of poetry is fostered in class, and students will have the ability to participate in a speech meet. *See sample booklist.

History & Geography: Students study 1815 to present in the sixth grade. From the Monroe Doctrine and the Cotton Gin to slavery and westward expansion, the gold rush, the War between the States, Gettysburg, Reconstruction, the age of industry, cowboys and the West, flight, the World Wars and modern America today, this year gives the student a thorough understanding of the significant events that have shaped the present, emphasizing the biblical truth and freedom upon which the United States was founded. As the students study history, they will enjoy memorizing dates, names, facts, and they will also enjoy reading engaging historical fiction such as *Children of the Covered Wagon*, *They're Off!: The story of the pony express*, *With Lee In Virginia*, *Carry a Big Stick*, and *the Hiding Place*. Through the study of history, children are given a valuable tool to see the work of God in past events and how He is working today. Geography will correlate to the history lessons.

Science: The study of science is an excellent way for students to experience the awe and wonder of the amazing world God has made. Through the study of chemistry and physics, students will learn about the building blocks of creation through the exploration of: Matter--atoms and molecules, pH levels, types of mixtures, and Energy—mechanics, laws of motion, dynamics of motion, energy, waves, light, machines, magnets and more. Fun experiments and questions continually drawing the student back to the awesomeness of our Creator will abound!

Math: Various concepts and age-appropriate problems and investigations build the students mathematical thinking and reasoning skills. Mastery of math facts through 15 are developed through daily work with flash cards and timed math facts sheets. *See Saxon Math Scope and Sequence Chart.

Physical Education: In the elementary years, there is a focus on long-term athletic development (LTAD) through the use of fun and engaging athletic games. These games are strategically designed to form a foundation in fundamental athletic movements like running, jumping, changing direction, reading and reacting, catching, throwing, squatting, pushing, pulling, and more. Students will participate in physical education classes 3x/week in a fun, competitive, high-tempo, challenging, and engaging environment.

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