



## **FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM – Keizer Campus**

### **Chapel**

Every week the faculty and student body gathers together to express devotion to our Lord through praise and worship. Biblical truths and principles of life are taught by our staff, pastors, and guest speakers. We welcome parents to attend with their children and worship with us.

### **Character Formation**

At the heart of the discipleship mission is to worship God in a pleasing way. This requires no longer conforming to the patterns of this world, but to become transformed into the new creation we are in Christ. To this end, a unique biblical character trait will be emphasized each month in every aspect of the school. At the end of the month, each student should have a firm understanding of the scriptural value of demonstrating the character trait, as well as the tools to practice the character trait in real life. Over the course of 4 years, 36 unique character traits will be emphasized.

### **Bible**

Bible study is an integral part of the school curriculum at Crosshill Christian School. At Crosshill all Elementary classes use ACSI Purposeful Design Bible curriculum to instill biblical knowledge and principles to each student. The truth of God's Word will be taught and applied to our daily life and struggles. Familiarity with God's father-heart toward us and His amazing plan for our future are a source of hope and guidance. Acceptance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and maintaining a personal relationship with Him is the main focus in the classroom. Students learn to imitate Christ through the use of our Bible curriculum, individual and corporate prayer, memorization of Bible verses, and application of biblical principles in daily life.

## **Phonics**

Crosshill Christian School incorporates a logical phonics system, coupled with reading texts that are interesting, challenging and geared to the development of Christian character. Besides building the necessary background for word attack skills and confident reading, phonics teaching trains students to listen carefully, to develop good habits of thinking, analyzing, organizing, memorizing and applying important facts and rules. A workbook, Bob Jones Phonics and English, provides daily seatwork activities to reinforce the phonics concepts vital to the mastery of reading skills.

## **Reading**

The Bob Jones Phonics and English reading program leads to early independence in reading by developing early word analysis and comprehension skills. The A Beka and Bob Jones Christian readers are the basic readers for the first grade. A wide variety of quality reading selections stimulates the students' appreciation of literature and enjoyment of reading. The stories for these readers are chosen for character-building themes, Biblical principles, literary excellence and appeal to young readers. Along with classroom reading, students have the opportunity to participate in reading incentives offered through our library program. The children have library class, and are able to check out books.

## **Spelling**

Part of God's plan for our lives includes the ability to communicate with one another and with God. Writing requires accurate spelling. Thus, spelling becomes an important part of the communication process. Writing allows the transfer of information over space and time. This ability is unique to humans and is a clear reflection of the nature of God. Bob Jones Spelling curriculum is utilized in grade one. Each week a set of spelling words is taught, a practice worksheet is sent home, with a spelling test at the end of the week. The weekly spelling lists are arranged phonetically and coincide beautifully with the phonics that is being taught.

## **Language/Grammar**

In addition, students receive daily practice in the principles of language in both written and oral communication. The workbook, Phonics and English by Bob Jones, provides an interesting introduction to written language for the first grader. Designed for use during seat work time, this write-in text increases thinking skills, improves reading comprehension and develops creative writing ability. By the end of the year, first graders will write in complete sentences, capitalize the first letter of the word in a sentence, the days and months and names, place a period at the end of a sentence, know and use suffixes and prefixes, determined the number of syllables in a word, and alphabetize to the first letter. Lively reading comprehension and creative writing exercises appear throughout the

book and special story sheets at the end of the book are provided for additional creative writing. Through classroom discussions, students review previously learned skills and learn new applications.

Students solve verbal or representational analogies daily, which enables them to understand the connecting relationships between words. By this process, students develop skills in critical and creative thinking, vocabulary and test taking skills.

### **Writing/Penmanship**

The first grade works on pre cursive writing. Daily practice of this writing reinforces phonics concepts, beginning with single letters and progressing to blends, special sounds and words. Students learn to be neat, exacting and persistent by having a standard to follow.

### **Mathematics**

Critical thinking skills are incorporated into daily problem solving, by using the A Beka curriculum. Problems emphasize real-world situations, reinforcing the importance of mathematics in student's daily lives.

The A Beka math curriculum is used daily. This is a complete math program that provides daily activities including oral drills, the teaching of new material, and the practice of new material and review of basic facts. Learning centers and games are used to reinforce math skills learned during lessons. Besides training students in the basic skills that are needed in life, the mathematics curriculum teaches students to believe in absolutes, to work diligently to get right answers and to see the facts of mathematics as part of the truth and order that God has built into the real universe. Listed below are many of the skills the first grade child will learn:

- Classifying
- Numeration: counting, writing, one-to-one matching, place value, order, comparing, missing numbers
- Fractions: identification of basic fractions (whole,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ )
- Measurement: clock time, calendar time, money, length, weight, thermometers, metric measures
- Geometry: identification of simple geometric figures
- Problem solving
- Graphing
- Counting and patterning by one's, two's, three's, five's, ten's, twenty-five's and fifties
- Two and three digit additions and subtractions
- Patterning – sorting

## Science/ Health

Science is the study of God's order, provision, and general revelation as discovered in His physical creation. The science and health program at CCS offers a comprehensive study which gives the students understanding of the content and processes of life, physical and earth sciences. As children study the wonders of creation, they are led to a deeper reverence for the God who planned it all. ACSI curriculum is used and covers the following topics:

- Life Science: Mammals, Fish, Birds, Insects
- Physical Science: Movement, Machines
- Earth & Space Science: Seasons & Matter, Space
- Human Body: Teeth, Bones & Muscles, Heart & Blood, Lungs & Air, Stomach & Food

## History

Based upon the foundational truths of the scriptures, Crosshill Christian School's history program presents the firm conviction that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof". History, therefore, is a revelation of God in His dealings with man and the universe.

Crosshill Christian School uses *My America and My World* in the A Beka first grade history curriculum and *Heritage Studies* in the Bob Jones curriculum. The students will learn how our country was founded and what our basic freedoms are. Many American symbols will be introduced as well as learning about several famous American patriots. First graders will study peoples and homes of the new world, the Separatists who came to America, and colonial history comparing life then and now. Students will memorize the names and locations of the seven continents and four oceans, as well as basic knowledge of the globe, north/ south/ east/ west directions and a beginning awareness of important people in our history. Students will also participate in exciting activities, games and discussions to enhance learning in this area.

## Art

We design art classes at Crosshill Christian School to stretch the imagination of the children and challenge their creativity. Our curriculum introduces children to great artists, their works, various art techniques, and a wide selection of art products. This is accomplished through the use of theme units such as Holidays, and mixed mediums. Students learn about color mixing, shading, texture, size and color value. Foil art, origami, crayon rubbings, gingerbread houses, and hand made cards are just a few examples of the fun and exciting projects we offer to our art students.

## **Music**

God created music as a gift for us. In turn, we must use it for Him. Music is a skill that must be trained and developed, and in doing so, students will learn music as an avenue to praise and worship God. Melody, harmony, and rhythm will be points of study, with various instruments and resources being used to help enhance this program. Crosshill Christian School students will perform the Christmas program and spring program.

## **Physical Education**

Fitness and skill development are the primary goals of the P.E. program. Students participate in exercises to promote cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength and flexibility. Basic motor and manipulative skills are sequenced or combined for greater movement challenges. Games, relays, and drills are designed to enhance skill related fitness or specific sport skills. Partner and group activities are used to meet growing social needs, while emphasizing individual development.

## **Technology/Computers**

Chromebook labs are utilized throughout the Elementary department for a variety of educational enhancements. Chromebook usage and navigation are introduced on a limited basis, as hands-on, interactive games and activities are still the preferred method of learning in first grade.

## **ACSI Activities**

Throughout the year there are opportunities for students to participate in various ACSI sponsored academic competitions with students from other Christian schools. Competitions at the classroom level select grade representatives from CCS to attend the ACSI Spelling Bee and Speech Meet.