

# SYLVAN WAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



Curriculum Guide  
First-Third

## Sylvan Way Christian School First Grade

### Bible

In *Enjoying God's Gifts* by Positive Action for Christ first graders learn that all we have comes from God and that the ultimate gift that God gave us is His Son, Jesus Christ. Stories from everyday life are used to encourage the development of specific character traits. Bible verses are memorized throughout the year. Prayer and sharing from God's Word are integrated throughout each day.

### Reading

In first grade Reading is a major, serious, and intricate part of our curriculum. We use a literature-based approach with a high phonics emphasis leveled for each child. Students learn the elements of plot, characterization, and setting.

### Language Arts

Students write daily. They learn the phonetic rules for reading, and for writing and spelling. These rules are then practiced in each student's own creative **writing**. They learn and use punctuation, alphabetical order, word families, contractions, synonyms and antonyms in their work. They write many small books of their work.

In **English** students learn basic parts of speech, proper sentence structure, and proofreading skills. We use the *Write Source Handbook* published by Houghton Mifflin.

We use Rebecca Sitton's **Spelling** program which places an emphasis on retention of commonly used words, spelling correctly in context in all subjects, and understanding spelling conventions.

### Mathematics

Along with basic math concepts, addition, and subtraction, students learn about the calendar, time, money, graphs, and shapes. With the Harcourt Brace *Math Advantage* curriculum students are challenged to think beyond the process and procedure to the mathematical concept. They are given many hands-on opportunities to practice using math manipulatives.

### **Science**

Science is a unit-based curriculum, based upon the Concordia Edition of *Discovery Works* by Silver Burdett. This gives a Christian perspective emphasizing the wonder of the world God has given us. Students are challenged to make predictions, estimations and discoveries about the topics covered. Units covered in first grade are plants, water, weather, birds and mammals. The class watches a dozen chicken eggs hatch in an incubator in the Spring. Students go to the Point Defiance Zoo as the concluding activity in their study of mammals.

We have an optional Science Fair in May in which the children may participate.

### **Social Studies**

Our Social Studies is a unit-based curriculum. Students learn from a variety of activities centered on the topic of each unit. Units covered in first grade are Family, Neighborhood, and America. Students also learn basic map skills.

### **Art**

Artists studied in first grade are Monet and Matisse. Students learn the basic elements of art including line, shape, form, color and texture. They learn to be creative in their weekly projects.

### **Physical Education**

First graders have Physical Education twice a week. Students participate in activities to develop strength, endurance and flexibility. They develop basic skills in individual and team sports. Emphasis is placed on cooperation as a team and showing good sportsmanship.

## Sylvan Way Christian School Second Grade

### Bible

*Finding God's Promises* by Positive Action for Christ teaches students about God's promises through His dealings with Israel. They will learn that when God gives a command, He also gives a promise. Second graders will begin to see how obedience to God's commands brings blessings as God fulfills His promises in their lives. Bible verses are learned and memorized during the school year. Prayer and sharing from God's Word are integrated throughout each day.

### Reading

We use *Victory Drill* for the phonics portion of our program. We read literature books on reading lists, that advance in difficulty as children master each level. We do choral reading with poetry and comprehension checks with assigned stories and chapter books. Our major focus is on reading with fluency and natural expression, reinforced with reading homework assigned on a monthly basis.

### Language Arts

In **Writing** we develop the story components of character, setting, plot, and resolution. We produce several stories from rough draft to final publication. Writing forms covered are letters, fairy tales, fables, poetry and interviews. The major focus in writing is proper sentence structure and parts of speech, proper grammar and punctuation. Students learn the writing process in detail so that they become better writers, thinkers, and learners. We use the *Write Source Handbook* by Houghton Mifflin.

We use Rebecca Sitton's **Spelling** program which places an emphasis on retention of commonly used words, spelling correctly in context in all subjects, and understanding spelling conventions.

In **Handwriting** we review proper letter form, shape and size for printing in the first trimester. In January students begin learning cursive writing. Students do not use cursive in daily work in second grade.

### **Mathematics**

We follow the Harcourt Brace *Math Advantage* curriculum for second grade with addition and subtraction to three digits with regrouping, and introduce the concepts of fractions, multiplication, and division. Math manipulatives are used when appropriate, and weekly homework is given to reinforce concepts taught in class with additional practice.

### **Science**

Our text for Science is *Discovery Works, Concordia Edition* by Silver Burdett. The topics covered include The Interactions of Living Things; Light and Color; Earth through Time; and Solids, Liquids and Gases. The children keep a science journal to record definitions and experiments. They are introduced to the scientific method and implement it in their experiments. We have an optional Science Fair in May in which the children may participate. Students learn about science from a Christian perspective emphasizing the wonders of the world God has given us.

### **Social Studies**

The children learn about communities. Each child completes a workbook project about the community we live in and shares it with the class. We visit four different communities in Kitsap County, touching on their history, services, and businesses. The children are introduced to and develop map-reading skills.

### **Art**

Artists studied in second grade are Rockwell and Renoir. Students learn the basic elements of art including line, shape, form, color and texture. They learn to be creative in their weekly projects.

### **Physical Education**

Second graders have Physical Education twice a week. Students participate in activities to develop strength, endurance and flexibility. They develop basic skills in individual and team sports. Emphasis is placed on cooperation as a team and showing good sportsmanship.

## Sylvan Way Christian School Third Grade

### Bible

*Growing With God* by Positive Action for Christ teaches character from the life of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and Daniel. Students will grow and develop strong character as they draw upon the experiences of these four biblical heroes. Bible verses are learned and memorized during the school year. Prayer and sharing from God's Word are integrated throughout each day.

### Reading

We use a literature-based approach to reading instruction, with an emphasis on phonics, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The books we study in third grade are *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*; and *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. Students also are required to read independently, keep reading logs, and do book reports.

### Language Arts

**Writing** is integrated into all subjects and studied independently. Students write journals, personal narratives, notes and letters, stories, reports, and poetry. Students learn about the writing process in detail so that they become better writers, thinkers, and learners. We use the *Write Source Handbook* by Houghton Mifflin.

We use Rebecca Sitton's **Spelling** program which places an emphasis on retention of commonly used words, spelling correctly in context in all subjects, and understanding spelling conventions.

### Mathematics

We follow the Harcourt Brace *Math Advantage* curriculum for third grade. Students learn three and four digit addition and subtraction equations with regrouping, multiplication facts up to 12's, basic division facts and equations with one digit divisors, multiplication and division, basic fractions, and geometry. Math manipulatives are used when appropriate and homework is given to reinforce concepts taught in class with additional practice.

### **Science**

Science is a unit-based curriculum, based upon the Concordia Edition of *Discovery Works* by Silver Burdett. This gives a Christian perspective emphasizing the wonder of the world God has given us. Students are challenged to make predictions, estimations and discoveries about the topics covered. Units covered in third grade are Life Cycles; Forms of Energy; Sun, Moon, Earth; and Earth's Water. Students participate in the "Salmon in the Classroom" program sponsored by Kiwanis. We explore local parks and learning to identify native plants in our region. We have an optional Science Fair in May in which the children may participate.

### **Social Studies**

Our emphasis in Social Studies is learning about our community, government and economy, our diverse cultures, and transportation. We go on field trips our Bremerton and surrounding areas to offer children an opportunity to explore this region of the Pacific Northwest.

### **Art**

Artists studied in third grade are Manet and DaVinci. Students learn the basic elements of art including line, shape, form, color and texture. They learn to be creative in their weekly projects.

### **Physical Education**

Third graders have Physical Education twice a week. Students participate in activities to develop strength, endurance and flexibility. They develop basic skills in individual and team sports. Emphasis is placed on cooperation as a team and showing good sportsmanship.