Preschool Curriculum

St. Mark Christian Academy's Preschool Curriculum provides a clear overview of your child's educational journey throughout the year. It ensures that all essential topics and skills are thoughtfully covered, fostering well-rounded growth and development for your little learner.

Literacy

- Recognize first name.
- Able to Identify Uppercase letters A-Z and its sound.
- Identify parts of a book.
- Retell a story.
- Introduction to public speaking in show and tell.
- Independently writes first name.
- Independently writes uppercase letters A-Z.
- Learn the calendar.
- Memorize a weekly bible verse.
- Greet each other by name.
- Read a bible story daily.

Math

- Able to route count to 10.
- Use 1:1 correspondence to count 10 objects.
- Sort by shape, size, and color.
- Learn basic 2d shapes.
- Recognize numerals 1-10.
- Able to count, trace, and write numbers 1-10.
- Begin to understand addition.
- Identify patterns.
- Identify basic colors.
- Identify groups of Same and Different.

Pre-K 4 Curriculum

This is a tentative curriculum map and it is subject to change. Young children learn at different rates in the various domains of their development and not all children master skills and content within a domain in the same order, although there are patterns to their development.

Social-Emotional Development

- Raise awareness of safety, cooperation and responsibility.
- Regulates his/her feelings.
- Is able to name and express emotions in an appropriate manner.
- Communicates appropriately with adults and peers.
- Follows the rules and routines of the classroom.
- Shares materials/takes turns.
- Understands the concept of 'personal space'.
- Seeks out help from familiar adults when needed.
- Is able to focus attention during classroom activities.
- Is able to participate in small and /or large group settings.

Literacy focus:

- Recognizes first and last name in print.
- Identifies upper and lowercase letters and their sounds.
- Begins to hear and identify the initial and ending sound in a word.
- Begins to Identify and/or produces rhyming words.
- Begins to count how many syllables.
- Knows that print conveys meaning.
- While looking at a book, holds the book correctly (right side up, front to back) and turns the pages individually.
- Can retell a story in the correct sequence and make predictions
- Identifies what an author and an illustrator does.
- Identifies story characters and settings.
- Independently writes some upper- and lower-case letters.
- Creates drawings, clusters letters, or letter like forms to represent an idea or concept.

Math Focus

- Is able to rote count to 20
- Uses 1:1 correspondence to count 10 objects.
- Identifies numerals 1-10 in random order.
- Is able to match numbers and their quantities up to 10, and tell how many objects are in the set.
- Identifies, sorts, matches and describes basic 2D shapes.
- Sorts objects by different attributes (e.g. color, shape, size)
- Begins to understand attributes of objects (e.g. length and weight).
- Identifies mathematical positional vocabulary (e.g. top, middle, bottom, first, last)
- Begins to understand and use mathematical measurement vocabulary (e.g. big, small, heavy, light, empty, full)
- Children explore and discover simple ways to measure.
- Begins to understand and use mathematical measurement vocabulary that refers to quantity (e.g. more, less, equal, total).

Kindergarten Curriculum

Skills and concepts to be mastered at the kindergarten level at the end of the year

Oral Language Development

Sharing thoughts, ideas, feelings and perceptions with others is an important ability for young children to develop. By providing varied opportunities to use language, children gain the skills needed to speak confidently. Listening is also an important component of communication. In the normal course of child development, listening precedes speaking, and speaking precedes writing and reading. By developing listening skills, vocabulary is enhanced as well as the child's ability to read and write.

1. Use oral language to communicate a message, to clarify understanding, and to express thoughts, feelings and experiences
- Asks and answers questions in order to seek help, get information or clarify something that is not understood
- Describes familiar people, places, things and events, and with prompting and support.
- Speaks audibly and expresses thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.

2. Participate in collaborative conversations
- Follows rules such as in listening to others, taking turns, and speaking about topics and texts under discussion

Writing

Writing is a means of thinking and communicating. Kindergarten children communicate their ideas through pictures and words using various tools. Writers rehearse, draft, revise and edit their writing. Students engage in this process daily.

1. Hears and records sounds in words
2. Engages productively in the writing process.
3. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing.
4. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose explanatory texts.
5. Participate in shared research in order to answer a question and/or produce shared writing

Mathematical Practices

The standard for mathematical practices describes a variety of expertise that should be developed in students in order to develop a mathematical mindset and to become a problem solver.

1. Makes sense of problems and perseveres in solving them
2 Constructs viable arguments and critiques the reasoning of others
3. Models with mathematics
4 Uses appropriate tools strategically
5. Attends to precision
6. Looks for and makes use of structure
7. Looks for and expresses regularity in repeated reasoning.

Counting

1. Counts in a sequence
- Counts to 100 by ones and by tens
- Counts forward beginning from a given number within the known sequence (instead of having to begin at 1)
- Understands the relationship between numbers and quantities; connects counts to cardinality • Counts to answer "how many" question

2. Reads and writes numbers
- Writes numbers from 0 to 100. Represents a number of objects with a written numeral 0-20

3. Compares numbers
- Identifies whether the number of objects in one group is greater than, less than, or equal to the number of objects in another group

First Grade Curriculum

Math

In first grade math, your child will build on what they learned in kindergarten using hands-on manipulatives like base ten rods, units and snap cubes to more concretely visualize basic addition and subtraction (within a range of zero to 20).

They will also learn to reason abstractly and quantitatively by creating and solving story problems involving addition and subtraction (e.g. If Jane had one apple and her sister gave her another, how many does she have now?). Your child will also learn to:

- Use an analog clock to tell time to the minute
- Recognize coins and count money
- Solve simple mathematical word problems
- Recognize shapes and know how many sides they have
- Count, read, and write whole numbers exceeding 100
- Understand basic place value
- Count and group objects in ones and tens
- Identify one more than, one less than, 10 more than, 10 less than a given number, and learn to use the symbols <, >, and =
- Compare the length, weight, and volume of two or more objects
- Organize, represent, and interpret data up to three categories; ask and answer questions about each

Reading

First grade is the year when many students seemingly learn to read overnight. By the time kindergarten is over, your child should be able to recognize their name and some other core words in print.

They should also be able to write, recognize, and correspond to the sound of most of the letters in the alphabet. Even if they are not reading yet, your child likely has a good grasp of concepts about print.

In first grade, your child will continue to build phonemic awareness with more complicated sounds like blends and digraphs. They will be taught a number of strategies for decoding words they don't know or are unable to sound out and start to answer questions about the meaning of what's been read. In addition, the first-grade curriculum covers:

- Learning comprehension of grade-level materials
- Reading fluency with grade-level material
- Identifying the meaning of words in a variety of texts
- Retelling a story's beginning, middle, and ending
- Comparing the experiences of characters
- Identifying similarities and differences between two texts on the same topic
- Spelling, taught in skills lessons and reinforced daily

Writing

Your child's fine motor skills have improved a great deal since kindergarten, providing the control needed to really begin writing. In first grade, expect your child to begin formal work on handwriting skills in addition to creative writing.

Your first grader will learn how to use punctuation and capitals, but, more importantly, they will start to use writing as a tool for communication.

SECOND GRADE CURRICULUM

Second grade is an exciting time for students as they learn to be more independent in their assignments and discover how to work in groups and collaborate with peers. Students develop the basis for reading comprehension and strengthen problem solving skills.

Language Arts

Language Arts emphasizes concentration in comprehension, vocabulary development, grade-level phonics and word analysis skills. Informational texts and literature of varied genres are used. Opinion and narrative writing are explored. A few additional points of emphasis are shown below:

- Exploration of diverse cultures
- Listening comprehension
- Cause / Effect
- Compare / Contrast
- Developing Characters

Mathematics

Problem-solving tasks in math are performed daily. Math skills are reinforced using a variety of methods including paper and pencil tasks, technology, and the use of manipulatives. Topics such as addition and subtraction with regrouping, time, money, and graphs are taught. Some additional areas of development relate to:

- Place value
- Using a table to solve a problem
- Addition of 2 and 3-digit numbers with and without regrouping
- Subtraction of 2 and 3-digit number with and without regrouping
- Addition of money

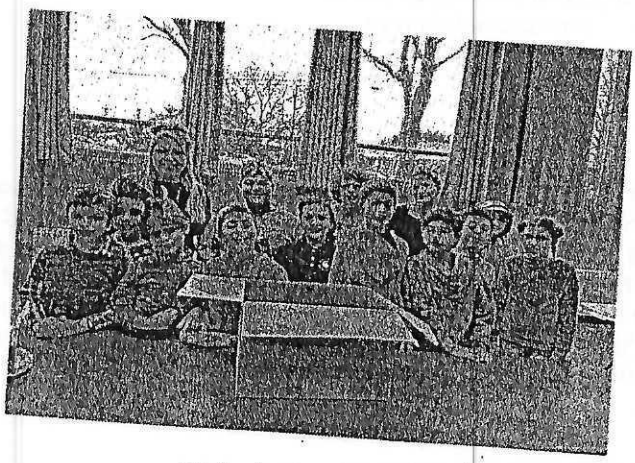
Science

The Life Science curriculum concentrates on plants. animals, and habitats while Earth Science investigates land, water, and Earth's resources as well as weather and space. Physical Science explores matter, motion, and energy. A few additional topics of study will be:

- Earth's land and water
- Natural Resources
- Sand, rocks and soil
- Pollution
- Minerals
- The Weather

Social Studies

- Topics explored in Social Studies are the community, workers such as firefighters and policemen, along with citizenship. Landforms, maps, and natural resources are reinforced as well as biographies and timelines. Second grade will also study holidays and traditions around the world. We will also study:
- Needs, wants and choices
- Climate, weather, drought and irrigation
- Farms
- Producers / Consumers



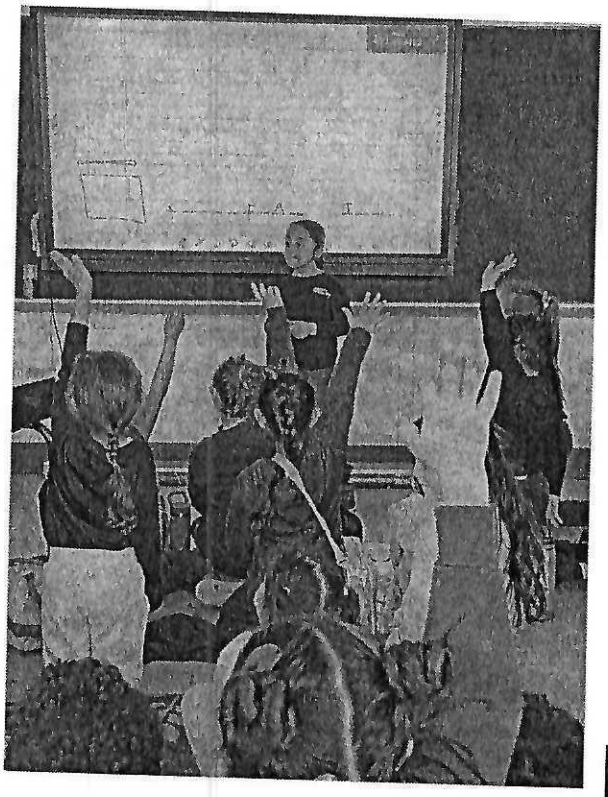
Third Grade Curriculum

Third grade is a year of great academic growth. Children transition from concrete thinking to become more open to abstract ideas. Third-graders take on more responsibility, and engage in more critical thinking skills and techniques.

Math

In second grade, the focus was on learning to subtract two-and three-digit numbers, regrouping, and measurement. In third grade, it shifts to more complicated topics: advanced multiplication and division, fractions, number sense, geometry and probability. By the end of third grade, your child will have gained the skills to

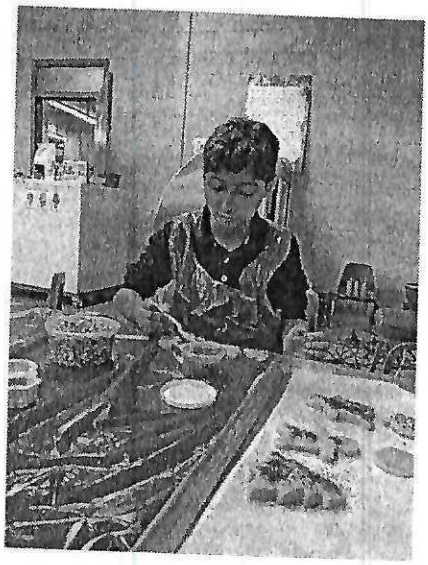
- Nature of science
- Crosscutting concepts
- Forces and interactions
- Interdependent relationships in ecosystems
- Life cycles and traits
- Weather and climate



Social Studies

Our social studies curriculum is designed to facilitate inquiry-based discussions as students apply their knowledge to investigate and engage in problem solving. Each unit has been designed based on essential questions that encourage students to inquire about who they are in relation to the world.Third-graders practice learning where the states are on the map, and the names of the capitals for each.

- Community and Citizens
- Government
- Important documents
- Map skills
- States and Capitals
- Regions on the United States
- Culture
- Economic Principles
- Personal finances



Fourth Grade Curriculum

As students move into the upper grades, they become more curious. They are now active learners with individual interests, abilities, and needs. They come to classrooms with varying knowledge, life experiences, and backgrounds. A key component in developing both mathematical literacy and authentic comprehension is making connections to backgrounds and experiences. Students learn by attaching meaning to what they do, and they need to construct their own meanings in various subject areas.

Content Area	Unit Essential Understanding	Duration
Writing Workshop	**Launch Models for reading behaviors and routines**	
Fiction Expose students to writing fiction, fantasy, realistic, historical, narrative structure, story elements, and themes, etc.		2-4 weeks
Non-fiction Expose students to writing text requiring close observation, locating information, identifying big ideas, and working through technical, persuasive, and informative styles.		4-6 weeks
Poetry: Apply specific writing skills to unlock the meaning of poems.		4-6 weeks
Reading Workshop	**Launch Models for reading behaviors and routines**	
Fiction Expose students to reading fiction, fantasy, realistic, historical, narrative		2-4 weeks

and division in order to reason answers to complex problems.

Multi-Digit Operations and Measurement: Multiplication, Division, Area, and Perimeter. — 4-6 weeks

Students will observe and apply knowledge that units of measure assist in solving problems.

Fractions, Decimals, and Measurement: Addition, Subtraction, and Multiplication

Students will apply knowledge of decimals and fractions to everyday life. — 4-6 weeks

Geometry and Measurement: Figures, Classification, and Symmetry — 4-6 weeks

Science Workshop — **Launch /Mindsets**

Students will understand scientific process and engineering, along with basic science skills. — 2-4 weeks

Energy: Students will develop understanding that Energy is a real, measurable term.

Waves: Students will develop understanding that sound and light have measurable properties. — 4-6 weeks

Structure and Function Students will identify internal and external structures of plants and animals. — 4-6 weeks

Earth's Surface and Processes — 4-6 weeks

Students develop understanding that landscapes have changed over time.

5th Grade Curriculum Overview

Reading, Writing and Grammar

In fifth grade, the curriculum continues to build critical readers, writers, communicators, and thinkers. As students read, they will expand their knowledge of high-quality informative texts as well as build on their own social emotional learning in the areas of initiative, planning and social problem-solving, as well as creativity. Students will learn to negotiate increasingly sophisticated and complex written language as well as learn to communicate effectively through their writing.

Unit Structure:

The Wonders curriculum includes 6 units, each taught over approximately 5–6 weeks. Each unit contains a central theme, targeted reading comprehension skills, writing focus, and grammar instruction.

Unit 1: Stories of Change (Weeks 1-5)

Reading: Understanding character development, theme, summarizing, sequence, and making inferences

Writing: Narrative writing (personal and fictional stories)

Grammar: Subjects and predicates, types of sentences, compound/complex sentences

Unit 2: Unusual Adaptations (Weeks 6-10)

Reading: Cause and effect, text structure, author's purpose, nonfiction features

Writing: Expository writing (informational essays)

Grammar: Nouns, verbs, verb tenses, subject-verb agreement

Unit 3: Voices of the Revolution (Weeks 11-15)

Reading: Point of view, summarizing, visual elements, figurative language

Grade 5 Math

The Grade 5 curriculum is a comprehensive mathematics program designed to build a strong foundation in key math concepts through problem-solving, real-world applications, and interactive learning. Aligned with the Common Core State Standards and NJSLS, it focuses on developing students' understanding of place value, operations with whole numbers and decimals, fractions, measurement, geometry, and data. The curriculum encourages critical thinking and mathematical reasoning, preparing students for success in middle school math and beyond.

Unit 1: Place Value, Multiplication & Expressions *(Weeks 1–4)*

- Understand place value through billions
- Read, write, compare, and round whole numbers and decimals
- Use powers of ten and numerical expressions
- Multiply multi-digit numbers
- Patterns and relationships

Unit 2: Divide Whole Numbers *(Weeks 5–7)*

- Divide by one- and two-digit divisors
- Interpret remainders
- Estimate and assess reasonableness of answers
- Use models and standard algorithms

Unit 3: Add & Subtract Decimals *(Weeks 8–9)*

- Read, write, and compare decimals

- Analyze and create patterns
- Use input/output tables
- Graph points on a coordinate plane

Unit 8: Geometry & Volume *(Weeks 22–25)*

- Classify two-dimensional figures
- Understand properties of quadrilaterals
- Measure volume using unit cubes
- Find volume of rectangular prisms
- Apply formulas for volume

Unit 9: Measurement, Data, & Conversions *(Weeks 26–28)*

- Convert measurement units (metric and customary)
- Solve real-world problems using line plots and measurement data

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Review, Intervention, and Assessment *(Weeks 29–32+)*

- Review key concepts and skills
- Administer benchmark and summative assessments
- Provide targeted intervention and enrichment

- Real-life applications of energy use

Unit 4: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes *(Weeks 14–17)*

- Plant and animal structures and functions
- Photosynthesis and energy in food chains
- Life processes and systems (respiration, circulation, reproduction)
- Animal adaptations and survival

Unit 5: Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics *(Weeks 18–21)*

- Food chains and food webs
- Relationships in ecosystems (predator/prey, mutualism, competition)
- Changes in ecosystems over time
- Impact of humans on ecosystems

Unit 6: Earth's Systems *(Weeks 22–25)*

- Earth's spheres: geosphere, biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere
- Weathering, erosion, and natural processes that shape the Earth
- Patterns in weather and climate
- Use of data to track Earth system changes

Unit 7: Space Systems: Stars and the Solar System *(Weeks 26–29)*

- Solar system components (planets, moons, sun)

Weeks 7–9: Asia

- India, China, and other Asian civilizations
- Contributions to science, art, and religion
- Buddhism, Hinduism, and their contrasts with Christianity

Weeks 10–13: Europe (Part 1)

- Ancient Greece and Rome
- Middle Ages and the Renaissance
- Christian influence on European history

Weeks 14–17: Europe (Part 2)

- Modern European countries
- Key leaders, landmarks, and cultural developments

Weeks 18–21: Africa

- Geography and natural resources
- Ancient Egypt and other historic African empires
- Modern African nations and challenges

Weeks 22–24: Australia and Oceania

- Settlement, geography, and culture of Australia
- Pacific Islands and exploration

Weeks 25–27: Review of World Geography

- Continents, oceans, mountain ranges, rivers
- Map skills and identifying locations on a globe