

EXCELLENCE
in
ACADEMICS

*Preparing students
for tomorrow's world*



2010-2011 ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

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2010-2011 Elementary Program

At NCS, Excellence in Academics is a culture. It is our strategic plan for immersing students in a culture of excellence—in a culture where achievement is valued and excellence is encouraged; or even better, where excellence is required. Our goal is to help all students realize their God-given gifts and to create a learning environment that provides opportunities to develop and use their gifts to the fullest to the glory of God.

Northland Christian School's mission is to provide academic excellence in a Christian environment enabling children to grow spiritually, intellectually, physically and socially.

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2010-2011 Elementary Program

About NCS

Northland Christian School, a co-educational, college preparatory school, was founded in 1974. NCS currently enrolls more than 800 students in preschool through 12th grade. The faculty is composed of dedicated, degreed Christian professionals. Many hold advanced degrees and are leaders in their fields of study.

NCS offers a demanding college preparatory curriculum, which includes practical training to help students in each grade level cope with the stage of life they are facing. Sensitive, competent, Christian teachers implement a challenging and complex curriculum designed to meet individual needs.

NCS has two campuses in Northwest Houston. The preschool through 5th grade campus is housed in the Bammel Church of Christ facility on FM 1960 West. The 6th through 12th grade campus is located five minutes away on a beautiful 17-acre campus.

Accreditations/Affiliations/Memberships

- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- Texas Private School Accreditation Commission
- National Association of Christian Schools
- Texas Association of Non-Public Schools
- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

Admissions Office

(Located at our Secondary Campus)
4363 Sylvanfield
Houston, TX 77014
281-440-1060 Fax 281-440-7572
www.northlandchristian.org

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Northland Christian School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin regarding her policies, educational offerings, financial assistance programs, athletic programs, or other school-sponsored activities.

Enrollment Requirements

Northland Christian School is a college-preparatory school. Students wishing to make application to Northland Christian School must furnish evidence that they are physically and emotionally fit, of good moral character, and academically capable. All applicants must:

- Complete all of the application procedures;
- Be eligible for re-enrollment in all schools previously attended;
- Score at or above the 50th percentile or higher on the reading comprehension and math entrance exam;
- Be free of severe learning and behavioral problems;
- Must not be coming directly from any type of rehabilitation program (i.e., behavioral, mental);
- Agree to abide by the rules outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook;
- Participate in an interview with member/members of the enrollment committee.

It is standard procedure for new students to be placed on academic and behavioral probation for the first year. If the student maintains satisfactory grades, conduct, and work habits during the first year of enrollment, the probationary status will be lifted.

Testing Procedures

In order to maintain our high academic standards, prospective students will be required to complete and pass a battery of tests during the admissions process. These tests include the following:

Preliminary Assessments:

- IQ testing with the school counselor;
- Stanford Early Achievement Test (K only);
- Assessment for reading comprehension and mathematics (grades 1-5);

Further Assessments:

- Learning Styles Inventory;
- STAR reading level assessment (grades 1-5);
- Fluency/comprehension benchmark assessment (grades 1-3);
- Further diagnostic testing may be required.

Pre-Kindergarten Core Curriculum

NCS offers a pre-kindergarten class as part of the elementary school program. This class varies slightly from the traditional kindergarten class in that it provides children the additional time to develop the academic, social, and/or emotional skills needed to progress successfully through the elementary program. The pre-kindergarten curriculum is academic in nature while remaining developmentally appropriate. Learning is enhanced through discovery and hands-on activities. Students are encouraged to develop and learn at a pace that is achievable, yet challenging at the same time. Emphasis is placed on the individual learner's needs. Student teacher ratio is low, allowing for one-on-one interaction and individualized attention. Small learning groups encourage students to participate in lessons and centers. Students have a one hour rest time in the afternoon. Parents may choose to have their child participate in extra-curricular activities during this time for an additional fee. These activities are listed on page 14.

Bible

The Biblical Choices for a New Generation curriculum is designed specifically for private Christian schools. Students study Old Testament stories in the fall and New Testament stories in the spring. Weekly memory verses help students "hide God's Word" in their hearts. Bible crafts are done weekly, encouraging students to be artistic and creative with the gifts God has provided them while reinforcing the concepts of the lesson. NCS does not teach a particular doctrine, but simply focuses on the stories read directly from the Bible.

Reading Readiness

The Neuhaus Reading Readiness curriculum places students into small groups for direct instruction in the English alphabet, phonics and phonemic awareness. Word play, patterns, songs and hands-on activities are utilized to ensure all students master the skills of the alphabet, which is the foundation for reading. Introduction of the Dolch sight word list is made in the spring semester.

Guided Reading

Students who are ready for more advanced reading challenges are able to participate in guided reading groups using the Wright Group's Gear Up! guided reading series. This series teaches a good balance of fiction and non-fiction selections using leveled readers. It is our policy at NCS to provide opportunities for students to excel in the areas in which they are ready to be academically challenged.

Fluency

The Wright Group's Fluency First program is introduced in the fall semester. This program is based on the Fluency Development Lesson which is highly researched by doctors Timothy Rasinski and Nancy Padak of Kent State University. Daily lessons use simple and brief reading selections. Students practice these lessons multiple times before performing for their peers. Vocabulary, fluency and comprehensions and word recognition skills are the focus of this entertaining and motivating curriculum.

Writing

Students are introduced to the basic skills of writing. Pre-writing skills are taught during the fall semester. The School-Wide Publisher's Writing Fundamentals curriculum will be taught in the spring. Children work in small groups with the teacher for guided writing instruction and practice.

Math

The Houghton Mifflin Math Expressions curriculum guides students to an understanding of patterns, shapes and relationships to build a foundation for higher level math. Manipulatives provide a developmentally appropriate method for reinforcing the concepts being taught.

Science

The pre-kindergarten science curriculum is teacher-created and includes many hands-on activities that are engaging and age-appropriate. Short units focus on areas that are interesting and relevant to the students. Seasonal topics are included. The science curriculum is taught from a Christian perspective.

Pre-Kindergarten Core Curriculum *continued*

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum for pre-kindergarten is teacher-created to meet the needs of students at this age. Certain topics coincide with the seasons so that they are relevant to the students. Basic globe and map skills are taught, along with patriotic symbols. Native Americans and Pilgrims are the focus for the fall season. Students also learn the concept of families, communities, community helpers and basic safety practices. Christian values are included in this curriculum.

Music

Musicplay for pre-kindergarten by Denise Gagne, published in 2003, helps students learn to distinguish between the speaking and singing voice. Movement is a key aspect of this curriculum. Students learn to enjoy listening to different types of music. They also gain the experience of performing their newly-learned skills in front of an audience. Pre-kindergarten students participate in a spring musical each year.

Art

Art is taught by an experienced art instructor several days per week. Students learn basic lines, shapes and colors. Art is also integrated into the regular classroom curriculum. Bible crafts and seasonal art projects allow students to be creative on a weekly basis. Students enjoy making Christmas crafts during the holiday season. Special projects include Rodeo Art drawings for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Physical Education

The elementary Physical Education program was developed by SPARK (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids) and is taught by two highly-qualified coaches who have many years of teaching and coaching experience. P.E. classes are designed to develop skills that enhance learning in the classroom. All students participate in 30 minutes of P.E. daily. Classes are taught in the school's gymnasium and are highly structured in nature. Our belief is that daily physical activity is essential for good health and well-being. Pre-kindergarten students focus on balancing skills and tumbling. Large-motor and fine-motor skills are further developed through various games and activities.

Computer/Technology

Pre-kindergarten students are introduced to computer basics designated by the NETS (National Educational Technology Standards). Fundamental computer terminology becomes more familiar to students as they experience lessons integrated into their regular classroom studies. Students have facilitated time to use individual computers in the school's computer lab. Classroom computers allow students to use educational software to develop math and alphabet skills. The Pre-K classroom uses ActivInspire software to enhance learning in core subjects.

Junior Achievement

NCS participates in the Junior Achievement Program. Trained community volunteers present five lessons during the spring semester. Students are exposed to personal economics through a collection of short stories read aloud by the volunteer. Children learn the role of self and of appreciating individual differences. They are introduced to the concept of money, spending and saving. They also learn to recognize the importance of working together. Lessons are designed around the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills).

Kindergarten Core Curriculum

The NCS kindergarten curriculum is very academic in nature while remaining developmentally appropriate. Students have a one hour rest time in the afternoon. Parents may choose to have their child participate in extra-curricular activities during this time for an additional fee. These activities are listed on page 14. Student-teacher ratio is low, allowing for one-on-one interaction and individualized attention. Small learning groups encourage students to participate in lessons and centers.

Bible

The Biblical Choices for a New Generation curriculum is designed specifically for private Christian schools. Students study Old Testament stories in the fall and New Testament stories in the spring. Weekly memory verses help students “hide God’s Word” in their hearts. Bible crafts are done weekly, encouraging students to be artistic and creative with the gifts God has provided them while reinforcing the concepts of the lesson. NCS does not teach a particular doctrine, but simply focuses on the stories read directly from the Bible.

Reading Readiness

The Neuhaus Reading Readiness curriculum place students into small groups for direct instruction in the English alphabet. Word play, patterns, songs and hands-on activities are utilized to ensure all students master the skills of the alphabet, which is the foundation for reading. Memorization of the 11 Dolch sight word lists is highly recommended during the spring semester. Students who are academically ready are encouraged to participate in the Accelerated Reader program.

Guided Reading

Students who are ready for more advanced reading challenges are able to participate in guided reading groups using the Wright Group’s Gear Up! guided reading series. This series teaches a good balance of fiction and non-fiction selections using leveled readers. It is our policy at NCS to provide opportunities for students to excel in the areas in which they are ready to be academically challenged.

Fluency

The Wright Group’s Fluency First program is taught in the spring semester of kindergarten. This program is based on The Fluency Development Lesson, which was highly researched by Drs. Timothy Rasinski and Nancy Padak of Kent State University. Daily lessons use simple and brief reading selections. Students practice these lessons multiple times before performing for their peers. Teachers assess students on reading rate, accuracy, expression, volume, clarity, eye contact and gestures. Vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and word recognition skills are the focus of this entertaining and motivating curriculum.

Writing

Students are introduced to the basic skills of writing using the Schoolwide Publisher’s Writing Fundamentals curriculum. Children work in small groups with the teacher for guided writing instruction and practice modeling their writing after the styles of well-known published authors.

Math

The Houghton Mifflin Math Expressions curriculum guides students to an understanding of patterns, shapes and relationships to build a foundation for higher level math. Manipulatives provide a developmentally appropriate method for reinforcing the concepts being taught.

Science

The kindergarten science curriculum is teacher-created and includes many hands-on activities that are engaging and age-appropriate. Short units focus on areas that are interesting and relevant to the students. Seasonal topics are included. The science curriculum is taught from a Christian perspective.

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum for kindergarten is teacher-created to meet the needs of students at this age. Certain topics coincide with the seasons so that they are relevant to the students. Basic globe and map skills are taught, along with patriotic symbols. Native Americans and Pilgrims are the focus for the fall season. Students also learn the concept of families, communities, community helpers and basic safety practices. Christian values are included in this curriculum.

Kindergarten Core Curriculum *continued*

Music

Musicplay for kindergarten by Denise Gagne, published in 2003, helps students learn to distinguish between the speaking and singing voice. Movement is a key aspect of this curriculum. Students learn to enjoy listening to different types of music. They also gain the experience of performing their newly-learned skills in front of an audience. Kindergarten students participate in a spring musical each year.

Art

Art is taught by an experienced art instructor several times per week. Students learn basic lines, shapes and colors. Art is also integrated into the regular classroom curriculum. Bible crafts and seasonal art projects allow students to be creative on a weekly basis. Students enjoy making Christmas crafts during the holiday season. Special projects include Rodeo Art drawings for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Physical Education

The elementary Physical Education program was developed by SPARK (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids) and is taught by two highly-qualified coaches who have many years of teaching and coaching experience. P.E. classes are designed to develop skills that enhance learning in the classroom. All students participate in 30 minutes of P.E. daily. Classes are taught in the school's gymnasium and are highly structured in nature. Our belief is that daily physical activity is essential for good health and well-being. Kindergarten students focus on balancing skills and tumbling. Large-motor and fine-motor skills are further developed through various games and activities.

Computer/Technology

Kindergarten students are introduced to computer basics designated by the NETS (National Educational Technology Standards). Fundamental computer terminology becomes more familiar to students as they experience lessons integrated into their regular classroom studies. through Learning.com's Easy Tech curriculum. Students have facilitated time to use individual computers in the school's computer lab. Classroom computers allow students to use educational software and websites to develop math and alphabet skills.

Junior Achievement

NCS participates in the Junior Achievement Program. Trained community volunteers present five lessons during the spring semester. Students are exposed to personal economics through a collection of short stories read aloud by the volunteer. Children learn the role of self and of appreciating individual differences. They are introduced to the concept of money, spending and saving. They also learn to recognize the importance of working together. Lessons are designed around the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills).

L.E.A.P. Core Curriculum

Learning Enrichment at an Accelerated Pace (LEAP) serves as a bridge class between kindergarten and first grade. This class is comprised of two different groups of students. One group includes students who have completed kindergarten and need another year for academic growth or maturity before moving on to first grade. The other group includes students who have completed preschool or Pre-K and have already mastered the concepts needed for the kindergarten class. The curriculum for LEAP is more challenging than our kindergarten program. Since LEAP students do not have a rest time in the afternoon, the entire day is spent focusing on academics and social interaction.

Bible

The LEAP class uses the Positive Action Bible curriculum designed specifically for private Christian schools. Students study major Bible characters and their faith in God. Weekly memory verses help students to “hide God’s Word” in their hearts. Bible crafts encourage students to be artistic and creative with the gifts God has provided them, while reinforcing the concepts of the lesson. NCS does not teach a particular religion, but simply focuses on the stories read directly from the Bible.

Guided Reading

LEAP students participate in guided reading groups using the Wright Group’s *Gear Up!* guided reading series and the Wright Group’s *Take-Two’s* reading series. These series provide a good balance of fiction and non-fiction selections using leveled readers. Students experience learning in small groups with individualized attention. The five components of reading are taught explicitly with this curriculum. Phonics, phonemic awareness, comprehension, vocabulary and fluency are all addressed. It is our policy at NCS to provide opportunities for students to excel in areas where they are ready to be academically challenged.

Fluency

NCS recently adopted the Wright Group’s Fluency First program to be used during the spring semester of LEAP. This program is based on The Fluency Development Lesson, which was highly researched by Drs. Timothy Rasinski and Nancy Padak of Kent State University. Daily lessons use simple and brief reading selections that students practice multiple times before performing for their peers. Teachers assess students on reading rate, accuracy, expression, volume, clarity, eye contact and gestures. Vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and word recognition skills are the focus of this fun and motivating curriculum.

English

NCS recently adopted the Houghton Mifflin English program. This program is very age-appropriate, utilizing centers, bulletin boards and small groups for instruction. Students are taught skills that form the basic foundation for writing and communicating. Parts of speech, rhyming words, listening, and basic sentences are introduced.

Writing

LEAP students use writing curriculum developed by Schoolwide Publishers. Students are provided with multiple examples of excellent writing by published authors of children’s literature. Various genres are taught throughout the year through the use of small groups and guided instruction. Touchstone texts, mini-lessons, feedback and assessments give students the best environment possible for the Writing Workshop experience.

Math

NCS recently adopted the Houghton Mifflin Math Expressions curriculum for LEAP. Students are guided to an understanding of patterns, shapes and relationships to build a foundation for higher math. Manipulatives provide a developmentally appropriate method for reinforcing the concepts being taught.

L.E.A.P. Core Curriculum *continued*

Science

LEAP students use the Scott Foresman Science Diamond Edition published in 2008. Units of study include life science, physical science, earth science and the human body. Science is taught from a Christian perspective using labs and hands-on activities.

Social Studies

LEAP students use the MacMillan/McGraw-Hill Social Studies curriculum. A basic introduction to life in our society comes through the use of bulletin board activities, songs and games. Students are able to grasp basic social concepts that are taught using all learning modalities.

Music

NCS uses the Musicplay curriculum, 2003, by Denise Gagne. Students spend 30 minutes 3 times per week with a trained music professional. Beat, rhythm and meter are introduced at this level. Melody and basic harmony are taught as well. Students learn to distinguish different voices, instruments and environmental sounds. LEAP students sing in a spring program every year.

Art

Art is taught by an experienced art instructor several times per week. Students learn basic lines, shapes and colors. Art is also integrated into the regular classroom curriculum. Bible crafts and seasonal art projects allow students to be creative on a weekly basis. Students enjoy making Christmas crafts during the holiday season. Special projects include Rodeo Art drawings for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Physical Education

The elementary Physical Education program was developed by SPARK (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids) and is taught by two highly-qualified coaches with many years of teaching and coaching experience. PE classes are designed to develop skills that enhance learning in the classroom. All students participate in 30 minutes of PE classes daily. Classes are taught in the school's gymnasium and are highly structured in nature. At NCS we believe that daily physical activity is essential for good health and well-being. LEAP students continue to hone large and fine motor skills through various games and activities.

Computer/Technology

NCS integrates the use of computers and technology into the regular curriculum. Leapsters have access to computers in the classroom as well as a fully equipped computer lab, providing a computer for each individual. Basic terminology is taught based upon the NETS (National Educational Technology Standards). Students use the Learning.com's *Easy Tech* curriculum which includes a unit on computer safety. Accelerated Reader and other educational software and websites are incorporated into the curriculum.

Junior Achievement

NCS participates in the Junior Achievement program. Trained community volunteers present five lessons during the spring semester. The LEAP class is provided with practical information about family members and their interdependence. Lessons are designed around the TEKS. This program utilizes technology enhancements.

First Grade Core Curriculum

The first grade curriculum is academically challenging while remaining developmentally appropriate. Students are expected to enter first grade with a good working knowledge of the English alphabet and basic reading and math skills. Students are frequently placed into small groups for guided instruction and centers. Basic organizational skills and small amounts of daily homework help develop increasing independence and time management skills. Students in the first grade are encouraged to take more responsibility in managing themselves in centers and in small groups.

Bible

The first grade students use curriculum published by Positive Action for Christ, designed specifically for Christian schools. The primary goal is to make the Word of God more meaningful to the lives of our students. A key emphasis in this curriculum is establishing students in the Word of God so that they begin to find answers for themselves. By the second semester, first graders are able to find easily located Scriptures in order to answer questions. Students study and identify important character traits through the life of Bible characters. The curriculum utilizes a variety of methods including puzzles, artwork, skits, compositions and discussion to research and emphasize the character traits being taught. Students are encouraged to make commitments to develop these qualities in their own lives. Higher order thinking skills are developed in our students through the use of this curriculum.

Reading

Through use of the Wright Group's Gear Up! guided reading series, students are leveled using benchmark assessment books. They are then placed on an individualized reading plan. Teachers give direct instruction in comprehension, vocabulary, phonics, phonemic awareness and fluency. Small groups of students who are on similar levels work together with the teacher to progress in their reading skills. First graders are expected to finish the year on an independent reading level of J or higher. This is the national standard. NCS utilizes the STAR assessment program to determine the exact reading level at which a student is proficient. Levels are reassessed each month. The online Accelerated Reader program encourages the love of reading while developing comprehension and vocabulary skills. Students progress through seven different AR levels, attempting to earn either a bronze, silver or gold medal at the end of the year. The Reading A-Z program allows teachers to provide supplemental readers to students who need additional instruction and for students in need of greater challenges. Students are also expected to master all eleven Dolch sight word lists by the end of first grade.

Fluency

The Wright Group's Fluency First! Program curriculum is based upon The Fluency Development Lesson, which was highly researched by Drs. Timothy Rasinski and Nancy Padak of Kent State University. Daily lessons use simple and brief reading selections that students practice multiple times before performing for their peers. Teachers assess students based upon reading rate, accuracy, expression, volume, clarity, eye contact and gestures. A total of six formal assessments are conducted each year. Vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and word recognition skills are the focus of this entertaining and motivating program.

Phonics

Explicit phonics and phonemic awareness is taught in grades 1-3 using the Neuhaus Language Enrichment method. The Neuhaus program, developed here in Houston, uses research-based methods of literacy instruction. This curriculum caters to all learning styles, whether auditory, visual or kinesthetic. Research shows that emerging readers who receive phonemic awareness training score significantly higher in reading and spelling in the early elementary years.

English

The Houghton Mifflin English curriculum is used to teach basic sentence structure and types of sentences. Nouns, pronouns, verbs and adjectives are explored as well. Capitalization and punctuation skills are reinforced throughout the year. Cumulative reviews help students continually revisit skills previously learned. Student workbooks are colorful with large easy-to-read print. Technology links are included in this curriculum.

Writing

The first grade writing program correlates with our Houghton Mifflin English curriculum. Students learn the basics of writing complete sentences. Teachers model the various types of writing with the help of the class. The steps in the writing process are directly taught and practiced throughout the year. Students utilize journals to document weekly events in their lives and to develop writing fluency. Schoolwide Publisher's Writing Fundamentals curriculum is also used to assist students in modeling their writing after the styles of well-known published authors.

First Grade Core Curriculum *continued*

Spelling

The Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary series, published in 2006, is used to focus on basic letters of the alphabet, short and long vowels, consonant blends, suffixes and compound words. Daily exercises provide practice with handwriting, spelling and vocabulary. First grade also utilizes the Spelling City website for students to be able to review words at home, take practice tests, play educational games with their unit words, etc.

Math

Through use of the Houghton Mifflin Math Expressions curriculum students are expected to memorize and master the 0-9 addition facts. This curriculum challenges students to think critically in order to apply what they learn in class to everyday situations. Students are expected to analyze and evaluate the thinking of other students. They are taught how to communicate mathematical thinking and how to organize their thinking. First grade covers addition, subtraction and multiplication skills. Place value, patterns and equations set the stage for later algebraic math. Basic geometry and measurement concepts are also introduced. Data analysis, probability and problem solving are continually reinforced throughout the year.

Science

The Scott Foresman 2010 Diamond Edition was adopted in 2010. Students explore the differences between living and nonliving things. They study various habitats, plants and animals, life cycles and food chains. Earth science units include land, water, air and weather. Matter, movement and sound, and energy make up the study of physical science. Students also are given a glimpse into the world of space and technology. Publisher created science kits allow the teachers to readily provide hands-on experiments and labs.

Social Studies

The Harcourt Social Studies 2010 edition shares with the students the world from a child's view. Basic rules and laws, including a study on government, helps children to understand how our country works. Map and globe skills are scattered throughout the text. A unit on patriotism assists the students in having a better appreciation for our country. A brief study of changes throughout history is also included. Students are introduced to various cultures and the basics of how the marketplace works. A field trip to the local police academy reinforces the concept of community helpers. Critical thinking and higher-level reading skills are integrated into this challenging curriculum.

Music

The Musicplay curriculum is used to teach students about beat, rhythm, melody and harmony. Students learn to distinguish different voices, instruments and environmental sounds. Students participate in a spring program.

Art

Art is taught by an experienced art instructor several times per week. Students learn basic lines, shapes and colors. Art is also integrated into the regular classroom curriculum. Bible crafts and seasonal art projects allow students to be creative on a weekly basis. Students enjoy making Christmas crafts during the holiday season. Special projects include Rodeo Art drawings for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Physical Education

The elementary Physical Education program was developed by SPARK (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids) and is taught by two highly-qualified coaches who have many years of teaching and coaching experience. P.E. classes are designed to develop skills that enhance learning in the classroom. All students participate in 30 minutes of P.E. daily. Classes are taught in the school's gymnasium and are highly structured in nature. Our belief is that daily physical activity is essential for good health and well-being. First grade students continue to hone large-motor and fine-motor skills through various games and activities.

Computer/Technology

NCS integrates the use of computers and technology into the regular curriculum. First grade has access to computers in the classroom as well as in a fully equipped computer lab, providing a computer for each individual. Basic terminology is taught based upon the NETS (National Educational Technology Standards). Students use Learning.com's *Easy Tech* curriculum which includes a unit on computer safety. Accelerated Reader and other educational software and websites are incorporated into the curriculum.

Junior Achievement

NCS participates in the Junior Achievement Program. Trained community volunteers present five lessons during the spring semester. The first grade curriculum is designed to provide practical information about family members and their interdependence. Lessons are designed around TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills). This program utilizes technology enhancements.

Second Grade Core Curriculum

The second grade program is designed to prepare our students for the upper elementary experience. This is a pivotal age where children are beginning to soar with their math and reading skills, opening up new opportunities for more advanced learning. A higher level of expectations regarding responsibility and independence is a hallmark of this grade level. The curriculum challenges students to think critically and promotes problem-solving skills that are vital in today's society.

Bible

The second grade students use curriculum published by Positive Action for Christ, designed specifically for Christian schools. The primary goal is to make the Word of God more meaningful to the lives of our students. A key emphasis in this curriculum is establishing students in the Word of God so that they begin to find answers for themselves. Students study and identify important character traits through the life of Bible characters. The curriculum utilizes a variety of methods including puzzles, artwork, skits, compositions and discussion to research and emphasize the character traits being taught. Students are encouraged to make commitments to develop these qualities in their own lives. Higher order thinking skills are developed in our students through the use of this curriculum. Students are expected to go beyond factual knowledge to grow in wisdom and understanding.

Reading

Through the use of the Wright Group's Gear Up! guided reading series, students are leveled using benchmark assessment books. They are then placed on an individualized reading plan. Teachers give direct instruction in comprehension, vocabulary, phonics, phonemic awareness and fluency. Small groups of students who are on similar levels work together with the teacher to progress in their reading skills. NCS expects students to finish second grade on an independent reading level of M or higher. This is the national standard. NCS utilizes the STAR assessment program to show teachers and parents the exact reading level at which a student is proficient. Levels are reassessed each month. The online Accelerated Reader program encourages the love of reading while developing comprehension and vocabulary skills. Students progress through seven different AR levels, attempting to earn either a bronze, silver or gold medal at the end of the year. The Reading A-Z program allows teachers to provide supplemental readers to students who need additional instruction and for students in need of greater challenges.

Fluency

The Wright Group's Fluency First curriculum is based upon The Fluency Development Lesson, which was highly researched by Drs. Timothy Rasinski and Nancy Padak of Kent State University. Daily lessons use simple and brief reading selections that students practice multiple times before performing for their peers. Teachers assess students based upon reading rate, accuracy, expression, volume, clarity, eye contact and gestures. A total of 6 formal assessments are conducted each year. Vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and word recognition skills are the focus of this entertaining and motivating program.

Phonics

Explicit phonics and phonemic awareness is taught in grades 1-3 using the Neuhaus Language Enrichment method. The Neuhaus program, developed here in Houston, uses research-based methods of literacy instruction. This curriculum caters to all learning styles, whether auditory, visual or kinesthetic. Research shows that emerging readers who receive phonemic awareness training score significantly higher in reading and spelling in the early elementary years.

English

The Houghton Mifflin English series is used to teach grammar and writing. The second grade curriculum focuses on basic parts of speech and complete sentences. Capitalization and punctuation are stressed. Daily editing practice is included. This curriculum includes technology links for students and parents to reinforce skills at home.

Writing

The Houghton Mifflin English curriculum is used to reinforce writing skills. Students are specifically taught the various genres of writing. Different professional models show students examples of good written composition. Inspiration software allows students to create stories with colorful illustrations. Frequent journal writing encourages students to be comfortable with writing informal thoughts, feelings and responses on a regular basis. This also helps students become fluent writers.

Spelling

The Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary series focuses on short and long vowels, words with suffixes, compound words and contractions. Daily practice reinforces concepts. Weekly tests are administered to check for mastery. Houghton Mifflin provides an educational website for students, teachers and parents that assist with lesson extensions and additional practice.

Second Grade Core Curriculum *continued*

Math

The Houghton Mifflin Math Expressions curriculum provides an excellent balance between computation skills and analysis. Students are expected not only to derive answers, but to justify them as well. Math Expressions focuses on Math Talk, Quick Practice, Student Leaders, Building Concepts and Helping Community. Second grade students learn to add, subtract and multiply. They are introduced to higher level thinking using real-world story problems that may require multiple steps. Hands-on manipulatives and math boards help students understand concepts more fully.

Science

The Scott Foresman 2010 Diamond Edition for science was adopted in 2010. Life, earth and physical science are all included in the second grade study. Students learn about plants and animals and how living things grow and change. Students explore the earth's land, air and water. They discover how weather changes and how it is affected by the various seasons. Fossils and dinosaurs are also introduced. Matter, energy, forces, motion and sound make up the study on physical science. Second graders explore space and technology as well. Publisher created science kits allow the teachers to provide hands-on experiments and labs for all students.

Social Studies

Second graders utilize the 2010 Harcourt Social Studies curriculum. This curriculum was adopted by the school in the fall of 2010. Students begin the year by studying the concept of governance. They spend some time exploring the world around them as well as natural resources and how they are used. Students are introduced to famous people throughout American history and various cultures in our country. The second grade curriculum builds upon the first grade curriculum and provides a more in-depth look into the United States marketplace. The Harcourt series encourages higher-level thinking and advanced reading skills.

Music

The Musicplay curriculum is used to teach students very specific skills using flashcards, games, hands-on activities, listening and singing. Music is always one of the students' favorite classes in elementary school. Second graders perform in the spring musical program.

Art

Art is taught by an experienced art instructor several days per week. Art is also integrated into the regular classroom curriculum. Students learn basic lines, shapes and colors. Bible crafts and seasonal art projects allow students to be creative on a weekly basis. Students enjoy making Christmas crafts during the holiday season. Special projects include Rodeo Art drawings for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Physical Education

The elementary Physical Education program was developed by SPARK (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids) and is taught by two highly-qualified coaches with many years of teaching and coaching experience. P.E. classes are designed to develop skills that enhance learning in the classroom. All students participate in 30 minutes of P.E. daily. Classes are taught in the school's gymnasium and are highly structured in nature. Our belief is that daily physical activity is essential for good health and well-being. Second grade students continue to develop large-motor and fine-motor skills through various games and activities.

Computer/Technology

NCS integrates the use of computers and technology into the regular curriculum. Second graders have access to laptop computers in the classroom, as well as in a fully equipped computer lab, providing a computer for each individual. Basic terminology is taught based upon the NETS (National Educational Technology Standards). Students use the Learning.com's Easy Tech curriculum which includes a unit on computer safety. Accelerated Reader, Power Point and other educational software are incorporated into the curriculum. Educational websites are also used to reinforce math and reading skills.

Junior Achievement

NCS participates in the Junior Achievement Program. Trained community volunteers present five lessons during the spring semester. The second grade curriculum is designed to provide practical information about businesses and the many occupations found in those businesses in a typical community such as ours. Lessons are designed around the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills). This program utilizes technology enhancements.

Enrichment Opportunities Grades PreKindergarten-2

Our belief is that meaningful enrichment activities are vital for extending the learning that takes place in the regular classroom. These activities provide students the opportunity to explore their gifts, talents and interests. The following activities are available on campus either during or after school hours for an additional fee.

Gymnastics

- Athletics On Wheels full gymnastics program
- Available Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:00 (Kindergarten)
- Available Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:15-4:15 (1st & 2nd grades)
- Coached by Jeff Martin, BS Ed, University of Houston
- Students are taught the same skills as in a full-size gymnastics facility
- Promotes physical fitness, balance, strength and coordination
- Gym Exhibition at end of year
- All-school competition during the year

Junior Cheer

- September - May
- Fridays 1:00-2:00 (Kindergarten only) and 3:15-4:15 (1st & 2nd grade)
- One additional day of gymnastics through Athletics On Wheels is required
- Coached by Daysha Sanford, 17 years of cheer coaching experience
- Students are taught cheer skills, jumps and dance routines
- Tumbling and athleticism are stressed
- Performances at Spirit Games, high school football games and the NCS P.E. Show
- Cheerleaders wear matching cheer T-shirts for performances

Spanish

- September - May
- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:10-4:10
- Taught by two of our preschool teachers who are fluent in Spanish, multi-sensory program designed to excite students and keep them engaged
- Encourages students to develop a love for new languages

Third Grade Core Curriculum

Third grade is truly a rite of passage into the upper-elementary program. Students are given more opportunities to develop their independence and to make certain choices in areas of study. Third graders are expected to take responsibility for their actions. They have the opportunity to experience all of the third grade teachers and other specialists in various subject areas throughout the week. This allows for exposure to different perspectives and various teaching styles. Students are placed in reading and math classes (based on test scores and teacher recommendations) that adequately meet their individual learning needs. Third grade requires more rigorous study than the earlier grades, yet remains enjoyable and rewarding.

Bible

The third grade students use curriculum published by Positive Action for Christ, designed specifically for Christian schools. The primary goal is to make the Word of God more meaningful to the lives of our students. A key emphasis in this curriculum is establishing students in the Word of God so that they begin to find answers for themselves. Students study and identify important character traits through the life of Bible characters. The curriculum utilizes a variety of methods including puzzles, artwork, skits, compositions and discussion to research and emphasize the character traits being taught. Students are encouraged to make commitments to develop these qualities in their own lives. Higher order thinking skills are developed in our students through the use of this curriculum. Students are expected to go beyond factual knowledge to grow in wisdom and understanding.

Reading

Third graders move from guided reading instruction to a more advanced approach using class chapter books. Various genres of literature are studied, including a balanced combination of fiction and non-fiction selections. Literature units are designed to meet the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) and allow for curriculum integration of other subjects. Students are evaluated monthly using the STAR assessment program. Reading progress is tracked for teachers and parents to see. Students are encouraged to take Accelerated Reader tests on a regular basis. Weekly visits to the school's library keep students well supplied with good books. Third grade students are placed in reading classes that are designed to meet their individual learning needs.

Fluency

The Wright Group's Fluency First curriculum is based upon The Fluency Development Lesson, which was highly researched by Drs. Timothy Rasinski and

Nancy Padak of Kent State University. Daily lessons use simple and brief reading selections that students practice multiple times before performing for their peers. Teachers assess students based upon reading rate, accuracy, expression, volume, clarity, eye contact and gestures. A total of six formal assessments are conducted each year. Vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and word recognition skills are the focus of this entertaining and motivating program.

Phonics

Explicit phonics and phonemic awareness is taught in grades 1-3 using the Neuhaus Language Enrichment method. The Neuhaus program, developed here in Houston, uses research-based methods of literacy instruction. This program caters to all learning styles, whether auditory, visual or kinesthetic. Research shows that emerging readers who receive phonemic awareness training score significantly higher in reading and spelling in the early elementary years.

English

The Houghton Mifflin English curriculum is used to teach basic grammar. Good sentences versus run-on sentences are explored in depth. Parts of speech are reinforced as well as using punctuation correctly. Editing skills are honed during weekly exercises. Mastery of the basic grammar skills is expected by the end of 3rd grade. The Houghton Mifflin educational website provides teachers, parents and students additional resources to extend each lesson.

Writing

The Houghton Mifflin English curriculum is used to reinforce writing skills. Students are specifically taught the various genres of writing. Students are expected to be able to write a personal narrative, a story, detailed instructions and a research report. Different professional models from the curriculum show students examples of good written composition in these areas. Frequent journal writing encourages students to be comfortable with writing informal thoughts, feelings and responses on a regular basis.

Spelling

The Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary series utilizes daily activities to reinforce concepts such as short and long vowels, consonant patterns and other spelling patterns. Tests are given weekly.

Third Grade Core Curriculum *continued*

Math

The Houghton Mifflin Math Expressions curriculum provides an excellent balance between computation skills and analysis. Students are expected not only to derive answers, but to justify them as well. Math Expressions focuses on Math Talk, Quick Practice, Student Leaders, Building Concepts and Helping Community. Third grade students learn to add, subtract, multiply and divide. They are introduced to higher-level thinking using real-world story problems that require multiple steps. Hands-on manipulatives help students understand concepts more fully.

Science

The Scott Foresman 2008 Diamond Edition curriculum focuses on life, physical and earth science. The year begins studying a unit on the human body. Students experience science with a science specialist who loves to share from a Christian perspective. *Aha Science!* from Learning.com is a supplemental curriculum that is also used. It is web based and highly interactive. Technology is heavily integrated into this class. Labs, projects and hands-on activities help make science a favorite among the third grade students.

Social Studies

The Harcourt Social Studies 2010 curriculum was adopted for third grade in 2010. The focus of this study is communities. Students take an in-depth look at various communities throughout history and today. A unit on government is also included. Map and globe skills are scattered throughout the text. Critical thinking and higher-level reading skills make this curriculum thought-provoking and challenging.

Spanish

Third grade students attend Spanish three times per week with an instructor who is fluent in the language. Students learn basic colors, numbers and greetings. Basic conversational Spanish is taught. The class is very interactive and hands-on. Students are assessed through participation, short assignments and quizzes.

Music

The Musicplay curriculum is used to teach students very specific skills using flashcards, games, hands-on activities, listening and singing. Music is always one of the students' favorite classes in elementary school. Third graders perform in the Christmas musical program.

Orchestra (elective)

This program is conducted by the NCS high school orchestra teacher using the Suzuki method. Students may

choose between the violin, viola, cello or bass. Students learn to play by ear and progress to actually reading music by the end of the year. Students are given the opportunity to perform at the annual Christmas concert and at the Community Open House. Additional off-campus community service performances are offered. An instrument rental fee applies. Purchase of music books is required as well. Students who participate in orchestra class do not attend regular music classes.

Art

Art is integrated into the regular classroom curriculum. Bible crafts and seasonal art projects allow students to be creative on a weekly basis. Students enjoy making Christmas crafts during the holiday season. Special projects include Rodeo Art drawings for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Physical Education

The elementary Physical Education program was developed by SPARK (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids) and is taught by two highly-qualified coaches who have many years of teaching and coaching experience. P.E. classes are designed to develop skills that enhance learning in the classroom. All students participate in 30 minutes of P.E. daily. Classes are taught in the school's gymnasium and are highly structured in nature. Our belief is that daily physical activity is essential for good health and well-being. Third grade students continue to hone large-motor and fine-motor skills through various games and activities.

Computer/Technology

Reinforcement of keyboarding skills begins with Learning.com's Easy Tech curriculum. These skills are assessed on a regular basis. The curriculum also introduces the students to computer safety and the concept of cyber bullying. In third grade, students become more adept at using the Microsoft Office suite. ClassroomMac Books for each student, a fully equipped computer lab, Smart Boards and projectors in each room enhance the learning experience.

Junior Achievement

NCS participates in the Junior Achievement Program. Trained community volunteers present five lessons during the fall semester. The curriculum is designed to provide practical information about businesses and the many occupations found in those businesses in a typical city such as ours. Lessons are designed around TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills). This program utilizes technology enhancements.

Fourth Grade Core Curriculum

Fourth grade provides an excellent balance between very challenging academics and the pure enjoyment of learning. Students are placed in reading and math classes that meet their individual needs. Placement is based on test scores and recommendations. Students are offered more options for areas of study. Activities such as the Gen Yes program, orchestra, cheerleading, TGI Fridays and TCSA Academic Meet are only a few of these options. The opportunity for such challenging and enriching activities make this grade level one of the highlights of our students' elementary years.

Bible

The Picture This! curriculum for Bible presents stories that are read directly from the Bible rather than using a storybook. Students make detailed drawings of symbols that represent events from each book of the Bible. This curriculum is excellent for children who are word smart, picture smart, body smart and is appealing to all students. Fourth graders often beg to stay in from recess in order to continue their Bible lessons. Weekly memory verses help students "hide God's Word" in their hearts. Weekly Chapel services provide an opportunity for all elementary students, faculty, staff and parents to enjoy a time of praise and worship.

Reading

The fourth grade reading curriculum is teacher-created. It is challenging as well as enjoyable. Students are now truly "reading to learn". Higher level thinking skills are needed to evaluate and respond to various genres of literature. Students are expected to be able to compare/contrast, make predictions, note important details and support judgments in their readings. Book reports and various projects enrich the lessons. An "Expert's Journal" project is created in the spring semester, covering a period of four months. Students are evaluated monthly using the STAR assessment program and reading progress is tracked. Students are encouraged to take Accelerated Reader tests on a regular basis. Weekly visits to the school's library keep students well supplied with good books. Students are placed in reading classes that best meet their individual needs.

English

The Houghton Mifflin English curriculum is used to reinforce basic grammar skills mastered in the 3rd grade. Daily editing procedures ensure regular practice. The Houghton Mifflin company provides an educational website that assists teachers, parents and students with additional practice for each lesson.

Writing

The Houghton Mifflin English curriculum further develops writing skills. Students are specifically taught the various genres of writing and students are expected to be able to write a personal narrative, a story, detailed instructions and a research report. Different professional models from the curriculum show examples of well written composition in these areas. Frequent journal writing encourages students to be comfortable with writing informal thoughts, feelings and responses.

Spelling

The Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary series uses an emphasis on spelling patterns, phonics, vocabulary and editing. Houghton Mifflin provides an educational website for students, teachers and parents to reinforce concepts learned in the classroom and to further extend lessons.

Math

The Houghton Mifflin Math Expressions curriculum provides an excellent balance between computation skills and analysis. Students are expected not only to derive answers, but to justify them as well. Math Expressions focuses on Math Talk, Quick Practice, Student Leaders, Building Concepts and Helping Community. Students review addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They are introduced to higher-level thinking using real-world story problems that require multiple steps. Hands-on manipulatives help students understand concepts more fully.

Science

The Scott Foresman curriculum focuses on life, physical and earth science. A unit on the human body concludes the year. Learning.com's *Aha! Science* supplemental curriculum is also used. It is web based and highly interactive. Students experience science with a science specialist who has a passion for this subject and loves to share it from a Christian perspective. Technology is heavily integrated into the class. Labs, projects and hands-on activities help make science a favorite among the fourth grade students.

Fourth Grade Core Curriculum *continued*

Social Studies

Harcourt Social Studies 2010 curriculum was adopted by NCS in 2010. This States and Regions curriculum guides the students in a geographical study of the United States. A unit of Texas history is also included, using MacGraw Hill's Adventures in Time and Place. A major research project called the Wax Museum is required. It utilizes language arts skills such as research strategies, writing, poetry, display designs and speech presentations. Classroom McBooks are used throughout the year for many tasks, including project-based assignments. Various field trips to Dewberry Farms and the San Jacinto monument reinforce state studies. Students also get a glimpse into local, state and national government/economics. Critical thinking and higher level reading skills make this curriculum very interactive and highly challenging.

Spanish

Fourth grade students attend a Spanish class three times per week with an instructor who is fluent in the language. Colors, numbers and greetings are taught. Basic conversational Spanish is the focus of the class. It is very interactive with hands-on experience. Students are assessed periodically through participation, short assignments and quizzes.

Music

The Musicplay curriculum is used to reinforce concepts taught in earlier years, while new concepts are introduced. Students study beat, rhythm, melody, harmony and are given the opportunity to create and perform music using basic instruments. Listening to various types of music and playing musical games help develop an appreciation for this area of the performing arts.

Orchestra (elective)

This program is conducted by the NCS high school orchestra teacher using the Suzuki method. Students may choose between the violin, viola, cello or bass. Students learn to play by ear and progress to actually reading music by the end of the year. Students are given the opportunity to perform at the annual Christmas concert and at the Community Open House. Additional off-campus community service performances are offered. An instrument rental fee applies. Purchase of music books is required as well. Students who participate in orchestra class do not attend the regular music class.

Art

Art is integrated into the regular classroom curriculum. Bible lessons are taught using student artwork and seasonal art projects allow students to be creative on a regular basis. Students enjoy making Christmas crafts during the holiday season. Special projects include Rodeo Art drawings for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Physical Education

The elementary Physical Education program was developed by SPARK (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids) and is taught by two highly-qualified coaches who have many years of teaching and coaching experience. P.E. classes are designed to develop skills that enhance learning in the classroom. All students participate in 30 minutes of P.E. daily. Classes are taught in the school's gymnasium and are highly structured in nature. Our belief is that daily physical activity is essential for good health and well-being. Students continue to hone large-motor and fine-motor skills through various games and activities.

Computer/Technology

Reinforcement of keyboarding skills and internet safety continues with the use of Learning.com's Easy Tech curriculum. These skills are assessed on a regular basis. Students become more adept at using the Microsoft Office suite. Classroom Mac Books for each student, a fully equipped computer lab, Smart Boards and projectors in each room enhance the learning experience.

Junior Achievement

NCS participates in the Junior Achievement Program. Trained community volunteers present five lessons during the fall semester. The curriculum is designed to provide practical information about natural, human and capital resources found in regions and used by businesses to produce goods and services. Lessons are designed around TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills). This program utilizes technology enhancement.

Fifth Grade Core Curriculum

Fifth grade students are the leaders on campus. They provide models of behavior and citizenship for our younger students to follow. This grade level is designed to prepare students for the middle school years. A higher level of responsibility is expected to ensure success in the years to come. Fifth grade provides more opportunities for various learning activities than the previous grades. A special relationship with Exxon Mobil allows for field trips, science fairs, and labs that other grade levels are not able to experience. Nine months of rigorous study, research, testing, and presentations culminate in the anxiously anticipated graduation day.

Bible

A teacher-created curriculum is used during the fall semester to help students discover the “Fruits of the Spirit” in depth and understand how to apply those characteristics in their own lives. Weekly memory verses help students “hide God’s Word” in their hearts. The spring semester is spent studying a “Purity” series developed by our teachers and the school’s registered nurse. Students discover ways in which to keep their minds, bodies and hearts pure, not only in the teenage years, but in the adult years as well. Weekly Chapel services provide an opportunity for all elementary students, faculty, staff and parents to enjoy a time of praise and worship.

Reading

The reading curriculum is teacher-created and is challenging as well as enjoyable. Higher level thinking skills are needed to evaluate and respond to various genres of literature. Students are expected to be able to compare/contrast, make predictions, note important details and support judgments in their readings. Book reports and various projects enrich the lessons. Students are evaluated monthly using the STAR assessment program and reading progress is tracked. Students are required to read outside of class and to take Accelerated Reader tests on a regular basis. Weekly visits to the school’s library keep students well supplied with good books. Students are placed in classes that best meet their individual needs.

English

The Houghton Mifflin English series is used to help students hone their grammar, usage and mechanics skills, preparing them for the more intense middle school years. Higher level concepts are taught such as subject and object pronouns, double subjects, and negatives. Irregular verbs, linking verbs, and plural possessive nouns are taught in-depth. The curriculum publisher provides an educational website for students, teachers and parents to use for additional practice and for extending classroom lessons.

Writing

The Houghton Mifflin English curriculum is used to enhance writing skills. Students are specifically taught the various genres of writing. Fifth grade students are expected to be able to write a personal narrative, a story, detailed instructions, a research report, an opinion essay, and a persuasive essay. Different professional models from the curriculum show students examples of well written composition in these areas. The skill of writing outlines and bibliographies will serve our students well as they enter the upper grades. Frequent journal writing encourages students to be comfortable with writing informal thoughts, feelings and responses on a regular basis.

Spelling

The Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary series emphasizes spelling patterns, phonics, vocabulary and editing. Houghton Mifflin provides an educational website for students, teachers and parents to reinforce concepts learned in the classroom and to further extend lessons.

Math

The Houghton Mifflin Math Expressions curriculum provides an excellent balance between computation skills and analysis. Students are expected not only to derive answers, but to justify them as well. Math Expressions focuses on Math Talk, Quick Practice, Student Leaders, Building Concepts and Helping Community. Students hone their addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills. Students are expected to utilize higher level thinking using real-world story problems that require multiple steps. Hands-on manipulatives and math boards help students understand concepts more fully. Fifth grade students develop their foundation for middle school and high school math courses.

Science

The Scott Foresman curriculum focuses Technology is heavily integrated into the class. Learning.com’s Aha Science! curriculum is a web based program that is used as well. It is highly interactive. Labs, projects and hands-on activities help make science a favorite among the fifth grade students. A spring science fair sponsored by Exxon Mobil is one of the many ways the fifth graders are challenged to show their research from throughout the year. A guided trip to Exxon Mobile is one of the favorite fifth grade field trips.

Fifth Grade Core Curriculum *continued*

Social Studies

Fifth grade adopted the Harcourt Social Studies 2010 curriculum in 2010. The study focuses on United States history, as well as a taking a brief look at the United States today. Students learn about our nation's earliest people, Native Americans and the thirteen original colonies. A unit on the American Revolution helps students better understand our nation's struggle for freedom and independence. The Civil War is also covered. Our nation's economy and environment are included in the study the study as well. Critical thinking and higher-order reading skills make this curriculum engaging as well as challenging.

Spanish

Fifth grade students attend Spanish class three times per week with an instructor who is fluent in the language. Colors, numbers and greetings are taught. Basic conversational Spanish is the focus of the class. It is very interactive with hands-on experience. Students are assessed periodically through participation, short assignments and quizzes.

Music

NCS uses the Musicplay curriculum for fifth grade. This curriculum does an excellent job of integrating music and other arts and disciplines outside the arts. Fifth grade students spend time in review of concepts from previous years while building on new concepts as well. Fifth graders learn how to play various notes on their own recorders. Listening to masterpieces from famous composers helps students acquire an appreciation of music. Fifth grade music students perform in the Christmas program and at fifth grade graduation.

Orchestra (elective)

This program is conducted by the NCS high school orchestra teacher using the Suzuki method. Students may choose between the violin, viola, cello or bass. Students learn to play by ear and progress to actually reading music by the end of the year. Students are given the opportunity to perform at the annual Christmas concert and at the Community Open House. Additional off-campus community service performances are offered. An instrument rental fee applies. Purchase of music books is required as well.

Art

Art is integrated into the regular classroom curriculum. Bible lessons are taught using student artwork. Seasonal art projects allow students to be creative on a regular basis. Students enjoy making Christmas crafts during the holiday season. Special projects include Rodeo Art drawings for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Physical Education

The elementary Physical Education program was developed by SPARK (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids) and is taught by two highly-qualified coaches who have many years of teaching and coaching experience. P.E. classes are designed to develop skills that enhance learning in the classroom. All students participate in 30 minutes of P.E. daily. Classes are taught in the school's gymnasium and are highly structured in nature. Our belief is that daily physical activity is essential for good health and well-being. Students continue to hone large-motor and fine-motor skills through various games and activities.

Computer/Technology

Reinforcement of keyboarding skills continues with the use of Learning.com's *Easy Tech* curriculum. These skills are assessed on a regular basis. Students also discuss online safety as well as cyber bullying. Students become more adept at using the Microsoft Office suite. Students work in groups to develop technology projects that will benefit the school. Classroom Mac Books for each student, a fully equipped computer lab, Smart Boards and projectors enhance the learning experience.

Junior Achievement

NCS participates in the Junior Achievement Program. Trained community volunteers present five lessons during the fall semester. The curriculum examines how businesses operate in the U.S. and explores various economic issues that impact those businesses. Lessons are designed around TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills). This program utilizes technology enhancements.

TGI Fridays

It is our belief that all students are gifted by God with special talents and abilities just waiting to be discovered and developed for the purpose of furthering His kingdom. Students in grades 3-5 are given the unique opportunity to apply for different clubs on campus that utilize their strengths and skills. Students are assigned to clubs based upon interest level, test scores and parent/teacher recommendations. All students are allowed to participate in 1 club per semester, one hour in length, every Friday afternoon. These clubs are led by NCS faculty/staff members and parent/community volunteers during school hours. Frequently professionals in these fields are our honored guests. Students are given the opportunity to explore and apply the skills they have learned in the regular classroom.

This innovative program makes us unique among the other elementary schools in the area. Students are able to put their various multiple intelligences to work and to assist with career development. Examples of clubs available:

Art Club—designed for students who are interested in drawing, designing and other art media. Guest artists enrich and enhance this experience.

Cooking Club—designed for the child who loves to create culinary works of art. The most recently published food pyramid, balanced menus on restricted budgets and accurate measuring are explored in depth. Guest chefs add varied perspectives to this area of interest.

Creative Writing Club—designed for the child who is interested in writing his or her own book, short story or collection of poems. Published student books are displayed in the school's library. Various genres of writing and the writing process are explored in depth.

Drama Club—designed for the child who loves to be on stage. Specific acting skills and terminologies are emphasized. This class culminates in a final performance at the end of the semester.

Fun With Numbers Club—designed for the child who passionately loves math and wishes to further expand his or her skills in this area. Teams participate in international competitions.

Praise Team—designed for the students who love to sing and who have a desire to lead the singing portion of worship during weekly Chapels.

Rollercoasters & Robotics—designed for the student who loves a hands-on experience. Students learn how to follow directions to build models of roller coasters and working robots. Math, science and technology skills are reinforced.

Science Club—designed for the student who has a passion for more in-depth labs and experiments that cannot be completed during the regular science time. The various areas of life, earth and physical science are explored.

Technology Club—designed for the child who loves to explore the realm of computers and other technological tools. Gen Yes projects are created and perfected during this time as well.

Enrichment Opportunities Grades 3-5

It is our belief that meaningful enrichment activities are vital for extending the learning that takes place in the regular classroom. These activities allow students to explore in further depth their gifts, talents and interests. The following activities are available on campus, some for an additional fee.

Cheerleading

- Wednesdays and Fridays 3:15-4:30
- Choose between Cheer Recreation & Cheer Plus
- Available to students in grades 3-5
- Conducted by Athletics On Wheels
- Gymnastics and dance skills taught
- Cheerleaders order professional style uniforms
- Performances at monthly Spirit Games, NCS high school football games and P.E. Show
- Registration and tuition fees apply

Gymnastics

- Athletics On Wheels full gymnastics program
- Available Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:15-4:15
- Coached by Jeff Martin, BS Ed, University of Houston
- Students are taught the same skills as in a full-size gymnastics facility
- Promotes physical fitness, balance, strength and coordination
- Gym Exhibition at end of year
- All-school competition during the year

Honor Choir

- More advanced than general music class.
- Close two-part harmony and reading choral scores are emphasized.
- The Honor Choir performs on various occasions for community and school functions.
- Practice sessions are before school hours.

Orchestra

- Optional elective for grades 3-5
- Meets during choir class
- Conducted by NCS high school orchestra teacher
- Suzuki method taught
- Requires dedicated practice and parent involvement
- Complex music reading and theory skills
- Choose between violin, viola, cello and bass
- Performances at Christmas and Open House
- Off-campus community service performances
- Fee required for instrument rental and music books

Spanish

- September - May
- Thursdays from 3:30-4:30
- Taught by two of our preschool teachers who are fluent in Spanish
- Multi-sensory program designed to excite students and keep them engaged
- Encourages students to develop a love for new languages

School-wide Activities and Programs

Compassion International

It is our belief that service to others is at the heart of our relationship with God. The Bible specifically directs us to care for the orphans and widows. Students in grades K-5th grade participate in the Compassion International program headquartered in Colorado Springs. This program began in 1952 when Rev. Everett Swanson had contact with the Korean War orphans. Since then more than one million children in 20 different countries have been helped. Each grade level sponsors one boy and one girl who are in need. Classes will continue to sponsor these children until they graduate from high school. Our sponsorship allows these children to participate in a non-denominational church-based program that offers direct benefits, such as education, health care, Christian training and social skills. Students write letters to these children and pray for them on a regular basis.

Good Will Tours

Each December our 3rd-5th grade students visit local nursing homes to sing and visit with the residents. This act of service not only uplifts the residents but brings a blessing to the students as well.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Each spring semester students participate in the city-wide Souper Bowl of Caring. Students provide a service to the community by collecting canned goods for those in need. Students celebrate the culmination of this service project by wearing their favorite team jerseys.

Elementary Chapel

Students in grades 1-5 gather together each Wednesday afternoon to spend time in praise and worship to God. Chapels are student-led and include songs, prayers, Bible readings and skits. Students are given the opportunity to develop leadership skills in these areas. Kindergarten students participate in their own individual chapel time on Fridays as well.

Field Trips

NCS students are privileged to be able to take several educational field trips throughout the school year. Trips include plays, symphonies, museums, historical sites, etc. Most grade levels take six trips per year. Previous destinations have included Main Street Theater, Exploration Station, George Observatory, Moody Gardens, San Jacinto Monument, George Ranch and Exxon Mobil Refinery.

Orchestra

Students in grades 3-5 have the option of choosing orchestra in lieu of choir. Students are taught by a Suzuki trained professional. The Suzuki method of teaching reinforces that all children have the ability to learn and play an instrument through daily listening and repetition of pieces, dedicated practice and parent involvement. Students choose from the violin, the viola, or the cello. An additional instrument rental fee is required. Training at the elementary level prepares students to be a part of our secondary orchestra. The elementary program includes school performances and off-campus community service performances.

Stone Soup

It is an NCS tradition to celebrate Thanksgiving by making Stone Soup. Each class reads the book Stone Soup and makes its own version of the stew for lunch that day. Other traditional Thanksgiving foods are served as well. Students take this time together to focus on the blessings God has given us all.

Christmas Programs

Students in all grades perform each December in the school Christmas program. Both choir and orchestra students are given the opportunity to perform in separate programs. Auditions for solo and speaking parts are held for all students who are interested. These programs are always a favorite of NCS students!

Rodeo Art

It is a tradition at NCS for students in grades K-5 to participate in the annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Contest. Students are given the opportunity to creatively express themselves using various media to show their Texas pride. Many of our students earn red and blue ribbons at the show.

Spelling Bee

In coordination with the Houston Chronicle, a 1st-5th grade student from each homeroom participates in the annual Spelling Bee. The winner competes with the NCS middle school winner to determine the overall NCS champion. The champion then goes on to compete with other schools in the area.

School-wide Activities and Programs *continued*

Physical Education Show

Students in grades K-5 spend several months preparing for the annual P.E. Show in the spring. This show is open to parents, family members and friends. Students have the opportunity to show off the amazing physical skills they learn throughout the year. Each student is showcased during the program and is given the chance to shine. This is one of NCS's favorite traditions!

Grandparents' Day

An NCS favorite is our annual Grandparents' Day. Grandparents play such a vital role in the development of our children. Weekly Chapel services, classroom visits, a special encore performance of the P.E. Show and a catered lunch provided by the PTO make this day one of the most memorable during the year.

Science Fair

Our 5th grade students, in coordination with Exxon Mobil, participate in our annual Science Fair. Categories include life science and physical science. Projects are displayed for the rest of the school to enjoy. Judges from Exxon Mobil choose winners in each category and ribbons are awarded.

Mad Science

The NCS PTO funds the Mad Science program for our school. Each homeroom class is treated to a special workshop from a Mad Science trained instructor. Categories include life, health and physical science. Through its innovative concept of "Edu-tainment", Mad Science has been able to spark the imagination and curiosity of children everywhere. Their goal is to provide fun, entertaining and exciting activities that instill a clearer understanding of what science is really about and how it affects the world around them. 713.663.7623 <http://www.madscience.org/houston>

Mobil Education Assemblies

Each year our generous PTO funds a Mobile Ed. Productions assembly for our students. This company has been providing assemblies throughout the US since 1979. They are members and supporters of the National Education Association. Their shows reinforce social studies/history and science skills..

Field Day

Students in grades K-5 look forward to the annual Field Day. The P.E. coaches and parent volunteers prepare many events in which all students are given the opportunity to compete. Ribbons are awarded as well as good sportsmanship certificates. The focus is on team work and encouragement.

Recess

We believe it is extremely important for children to participate in free play to develop social skills and creativity. Exercise also promotes good physical, mental and emotional health. All students participate in recess.

Library

Our library houses a wonderful selection of fiction and non-fiction selections on every grade level. New books are added each year. Accelerated Reader books are clearly marked so that students know immediately which books will have quizzes available. A full-time librarian is available to assist students in checking out age-appropriate books and research materials. Several computers are located in the library for student use.

Book Fairs

The school hosts two Scholastic Book Fairs during the year. Students and parents are able to purchase top quality books at reasonable prices on our campus. Proceeds benefit the NCS library.

Read-A-Thons

Many grade levels enjoy several Read-A-Thon days throughout the school year. Students often wear comfortable pajamas and bring pillows and sleeping bags. A relaxed environment for reading is a big hit with our students!

Accelerated Reader Program

The on-line version of Accelerated Reader was recently adopted. This allows students to take quizzes from any computer with Internet access. This flexibility allows students to test from school or home. Each child reads books at his or her own assessed level to earn points toward an individual goal. Top level readers are awarded medals at the end of the year.

School-wide Activities and Programs *continued*

Red Ribbon Week

Each October our students participate in Red Ribbon Week to learn more about saying “no” to drugs and standing up for what is right. Fifth grade students are given the opportunity to prepare a Power Point presentation that is shown to the entire school. Students enjoy dressing up during the week to reinforce the importance of remaining pure.

Homecoming

Each fall the elementary campus joins with the secondary campus to celebrate Homecoming Week. Students enjoy activities that surround the Homecoming theme. Special dress days, an elementary pep rally and the Homecoming football game are always favorites.

Fall Festival

Each year our school celebrates the beginning of the fall season with a special Fall Festival celebration. Our students always look forward to this family-friendly event. Students from the high school plan and run all booths.

Breakfast With Santa

Each December the NCS senior class hosts Breakfast with Santa. Elementary students are given the opportunity to eat a special breakfast and to sit on Santa’s lap to reveal their wish lists! The younger students look forward to this event where they can get a sneak peek at the man in red.

Student Safety Patrol

Fourth and fifth graders have the opportunity to serve the school through the Student Safety Patrol program. Students are selected to leadership positions by their teachers based on grades, behavior and work habits. Students serve one month shifts. This duty is considered an honor. Safety patrol members lead the pledges and patriotic songs every week at the end of Chapel.

Spirit Games

Once each month the entire elementary school gathers in the gymnasium for a Spirit Game. Each grade level is given one opportunity per year to show off the skills they are learning in P.E. The PTO provides free popcorn and Sprite to all the students and faculty. Parents are always invited. The elementary and junior cheerleaders kick off the games with dances routines and cheers. This is one of the students’ favorite memories of elementary school.

See You at the Pole

Every September the elementary school gathers at the flag-pole for this nationally recognized day. The services are student-led. Fifth grade students lead various prayers for our families, our government leaders and our troops. The Boy Scout troop leads the flag ceremony. We are so blessed to live in a country where we are free to gather in such a way to praise God and to ask for His blessings upon us.

TGI Fridays

Talents/Gifts Investigations Fridays are designed for students in grades 3-5. Students participate in various academic clubs on Friday afternoons. These are designed to challenge students to discover and utilize their gifts and talents to enrich their learning experience. Detailed descriptions of possible club choices are listed on page 31.

Kindergarten/LEAP Graduation

Kindergarten and LEAP students look forward to the day they will graduate on the big stage and receive their diplomas. The students conduct the major portion of the assembly by singing and leading prayers. A nice reception in the gymnasium follows.

Fifth Grade Graduation

The fifth grade students are always proud to receive their elementary school diplomas after years of hard work. The assembly is special, complete with a Power Point slide show of photos throughout the years. The fifth grade teachers sing a good-bye song to the students each year, sure to bring tears to even the driest of eyes. A nice reception is included, with a graduation party the following day.

Student Recognition Programs

It is extremely important for our students to be recognized for their outstanding academic efforts, achievements and leadership skills. NCS provides multiple opportunities to nominate students for various programs and awards. Below are some of the ways our students are recognized each year.

Summer Institute for the Gifted

This program is nationally recognized and has been in existence for over 20 years. Many of our academically advanced students who meet strict criteria are nominated for summer programs at various prestigious universities throughout the United States. Residential programs for grades 4 and 5 are available at institutions such as Emory University, UCLA, UC Berkeley, University of Michigan, Amherst College, Vassar College, Bryn Mawr College and the University of Texas at Austin. Students take courses that cover humanities, sciences and math, visual and performing arts, and fitness and recreation. A fee for this program applies.

Duke Talent Identification Program

Students in grades 4 and 5 who meet the strict criteria for Gifted and Talented are invited to register with the Duke TIP program. Students may also qualify in 7th grade.

Lone Star State Scholars

Many of our students in grades 3-5 are named as Lone Star State Scholars each year. These students are required to not only be dedicated to academics, but also to community service and extra-curricular activities. We are proud to have many well-rounded students who attend NCS.

National Young Scholars Program

Students in grades 2-5 who are mature and independent with outstanding academic achievement are nominated each year by their teachers for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in a six-day residential program in the Texas Hill Country. Students choose between various Discovery Strands of study including science and leadership.

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth

Johns Hopkins Talent Search Award students in grades 2-5 who score in the 95th percentile or higher on certain subtests of the SAT 10 or OLSAT test are recommended for this prestigious award.

TCSA Academic Meet

Texas Christian Schools Association hosts an annual Academic Meet for students in grades 4 and 5 during February. The meets are held in various cities throughout Texas. Strict requirements allow us to register a limited number of students. Qualification depends upon grades, conduct and work habits. Nominated students must be approved by the Academic Meet Committee in order to participate. Students are awarded ribbons based upon individual performance.

Citizenship Awards

Many students at NCS receive a citizenship award for the year. Students are chosen based upon character, behavior, willingness to be a good friend, etc. This is a very prestigious award at NCS and is considered one of the highest honors.

Accelerated Reader Awards

All students in grades K-5 are eligible to win either a bronze, silver or gold medal for Accelerated Reader depending upon the number of points earned throughout the year. Point levels are individualized and are determined by the child's STAR Reading Assessment score.

Honor Roll Awards

All students in grades 1-5 are eligible to receive the Honor Roll award based upon each nine weeks' report card grades. "A" Honor Roll and "A-B" Honor Roll students receive recognition for their academic achievement.

Math League Press Awards

Fourth and fifth grade students participate each spring in the national Math League Press competition. The top ten scorers in each grade level receive awards at the end of the year.

Student Recognition Programs *continued*

National Geography Challenge Awards

Students in grades 4 and 5 participate each spring in the National Geography Challenge. The top ten scores in each grade level are compared with other schools across the nation. The top NCS award winner in each grade level receives a medal. Several years ago NCS ranked 11th in the nation in this competition!

National Science Challenge Awards

Students in grades 4 and 5 participate each spring in the National Science Challenge. The top ten scores in each grade level are compared with other schools across the nation. The top NCS award winner in each grade level receives a medal at the end of the year.

Presidential Physical Education Awards

This award recognizes our students who achieve an outstanding level of physical fitness. Boys and girls who score at or above the 85th percentile (based on the 1985 School Population Fitness Survey) on all five events are eligible for this prestigious award. Many of our students qualify each year.

National Physical Education Awards

This award recognizes students who score above the 50th percentile on all five physical events. Students must be able to demonstrate a basic, yet challenging level of physical fitness. Many of our students qualify for this award each year.

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