

A FOUNDATION FOR LIFE

CURRICULUM GUIDE

A photograph of two young girls standing on a stage. The girl on the left is wearing a blue t-shirt and has a large, decorative headpiece made of many silver and gold stars. The girl on the right is wearing a yellow t-shirt and has a white headband. Behind them are large, decorative elements including a crescent moon and a sunburst. A microphone is visible on the right side of the frame. A blue text box is overlaid in the upper right corner.

No one is more excited about Cornerstone than our kindergartners. They gleefully begin their educational journey with an eye towards discovery, and our inquiry-based pedagogy is designed to ignite that passion for learning. Our warm-hearted teachers take an experiential approach to the curriculum by incorporating language arts, math, science and social studies concepts with biblical integration to form a well-rounded foundation. A highlight of the year includes serving our community helpers. We will deliver notes of thanks and a few other treats to our local fire department. However, it seems that nothing surpasses the excitement surrounding the celebration of the 50th and 100th days of school.

FOUNDATIONS

BIBLE

- Learns about the seven days of creation, the birth and resurrection of Christ, and daily applications to each one's life
- Explores important biblical figures, such as Noah, Abraham, Joseph, David, Jesus and many others
- Takes part in daily devotions and the development of individual, heartfelt prayers
- Participates in weekly Chapel experiences
- Integrate Biblical truth throughout our kindergarten curriculum

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Participates in the four main components of language (i.e. listening, speaking, reading and writing to develop a strong language arts foundation)
- Uses Orton-Gillingham approach to learn language
- Develops oral fluency by participating in creative drama and choral speaking
- Utilizes phonics and phonemic awareness as a beginning step to reading and writing
- Records ideas and thoughts by keeping a writing journal
- Develops an appreciation of literature by listening to a variety of literary forms
- Explores the essential strategies for becoming good readers and writers

MATH

- Develops number sense through numeral identification, rote counting, comparing sets of objects and other number concepts
- Explores the passage of time through daily calendar activities
- Learns to identify, copy, extend and create patterns
- Estimates, adds and subtracts using concrete objects
- Practices problem solving through the use of pictures, numbers and words

SCIENCE

- Uses the five senses to make observations in the environment
- Explores the characteristics of seasons and weather
- Begins to understand the components of the scientific method by participating in a variety of hands-on experiments
- Learns to distinguish the differences between living and non-living things
- Observes the life cycles of living things

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Learns how to be a cooperative member of a learning community
- Explores the importance of national holidays, such as Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Presidents' Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and others
- Identifies important symbols of the United States

KINDERGARTEN

FIRST GRADE

BIBLE

- Learns about Christian holidays
- Studies biblical figures
- Memorizes scripture and locates verses in the Bible
- Participates in service trips to Ivy Hall, an assisted living communities

LANGUAGE ARTS

- LANGUAGE ARTS
- Learns phonics through an Orton-Gillingham approach
- Learns and applies letter sounds and phonics rules to spelling and decoding
- Uses reading strategies for decoding, fluency, and comprehension
- Uses grammar skills in writing: capitalize first letter in sentence and end sentence with punctuation
- Expresses ideas through narrative, informational, and opinion writing
- Explores beginning/middle/end of stories

MATH

- Develops number sense: 1-120
- Adds and subtracts to 20
- Identifies plane and solid shapes
- Tells time to the hour and ½ hour
- Explores place value to the hundreds place
- Solves word problems

SCIENCE

- Compares and contrasts the basic needs of plants and animals
- Studies the weather: clouds and water cycle
- Observes the life cycle of butterflies
- Explores magnetism, light, and sound

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Understands rights and responsibilities of citizenship
- Learns about historical figures in American history
- Identify goods and services
- Uses basic map skills

DEVELOP



The amazing adventure through the world of books begins in first grade! The boys and girls immerse themselves in exciting works of literature through which they experience the rhythm of language, enrich their vocabulary, and engage the creative side of their brain. Reading groups, in correlation with the Recipe for Reading Curriculum and the Orton-Gillingham methodology, are designed to develop a life-long approach to reading that will improve students' comprehension skills. In addition, the children are presented with small increments of new information and daily review in order to develop a strong foundation for phonics rules, which facilitates the move from inventive spelling to conventional spelling. This movement also allows for a smooth transition to reading for meaning and pleasure rather than reading solely to acquire information. Our goal is to develop a love for reading that lasts a lifetime. Finally, experiential learning continues as first graders pay a visit to Washington Farms, and in the spring, they have an opportunity to participate in a Fairy Tale Ball where characters and settings come to life!

EXPLORE

A group of children and an adult are gathered in a schoolyard. Some children have their hands raised in excitement. In the foreground, a large, textured black sphere is shown, with a white circle on the ground around its base. The background features a white building and trees.

The transition from learning to read to reading to learn takes place in second grade. To encourage and aid in this process, second graders at Cornerstone spend a lot of time learning how to be critical and independent thinkers. Students continue to work alongside each other in Daily Five reading rotations and cooperative learning activities. They also develop their self-confidence and discover their distinct voices as they meet with our talented writing specialist. Students get to show off these newly acquired skills as they perform Aesop's Fables, the annual second grade class play. They also take field trips to the Georgia Aquarium and Stone Mountain.

BIBLE

- Studies Old and New Testament characters that exhibit Godly character traits
- Learns weekly Bible verses to reinforce weekly character trait
- Spends time in prayer daily
- Worships in weekly Chapel service
- Participates in service trips to Happy Hearts at Peachtree Corners Baptist Church

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Uses the Orton-Gillingham approach to continue language development
- Utilizes the writing process to develop and write narrative, expository and fictional pieces
- Studies and applies selected spelling rules
- Builds comprehension and fluency through a variety of personalized reading instruction
- Develops proper use of grammatical concepts including capitalization, punctuation, parts of speech and types of sentences

MATH

- Memorizes and quickly retrieves addition and subtraction facts 0-9
- Tells time to the nearest minute
- Identifies and classifies geometric shapes
- Solves word problems
- Develops number sense up to 1,000
- Adding and subtracting with numbers up to 1,000
- Develops foundational understanding of multiplication
- Identifies fractional parts of a group

SCIENCE

- Understands and uses the scientific method
- Studies animal and plant life cycles
- Experiments with the changes in matter
- Studies reasonings for environmental changes
- Develops an understanding of the patterns of the sun, the moon and the sun's effect on Earth

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Studies significant people of Georgia and the United States
- Uses basic map skills
- Identifies and studies the regions of Georgia
- Introduces the three levels of government
- Explores the economic principles of needs, wants and choices

SECOND GRADE

THIRD GRADE

BIBLE

- Participates in weekly chapel lesson as skit leaders
- Studies the lives of biblical characters
- Discusses biblical history, so that students may recognize how God worked through His people for their benefit and His glory
- Worships in weekly Chapel service
- Memorizes scripture related to Bible lessons
- Serves the local community with food drives and collections for Neighborhood Cooperative Ministries

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Continues use of the Orton-Gillingham approach to solidify language development and review phonics rules
- Applies spelling rules and strategies in reading and writing
- Expands vocabulary
- Reads with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension through class novel studies
- Identifies and applies parts of speech
- Demonstrates proper capitalization and punctuation
- Creates writing pieces incorporating the use of details
- Develops cursive and typing skills

MATH

- Develops number sense up to 10,000
- Memorizes multiplication facts 0-12 and division facts 1-12
- Represents data using tables, charts, line plots and graphs
- Reasons with geometric shapes and their attributes
- Solves real-world problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division

SCIENCE

- Investigates the physical attributes of rocks and minerals
- Measures and describes the attributes of rocks and soil
- Studies the habitats of Georgia
- Investigates how heat is produced and the transfer of heat energy
- Describes properties of soil types
- Describes the sequence of conditions required for an organism to become fossilized
- Explores the effects of pollution and communicates solutions to protect the environment

SOCIAL STUDIES

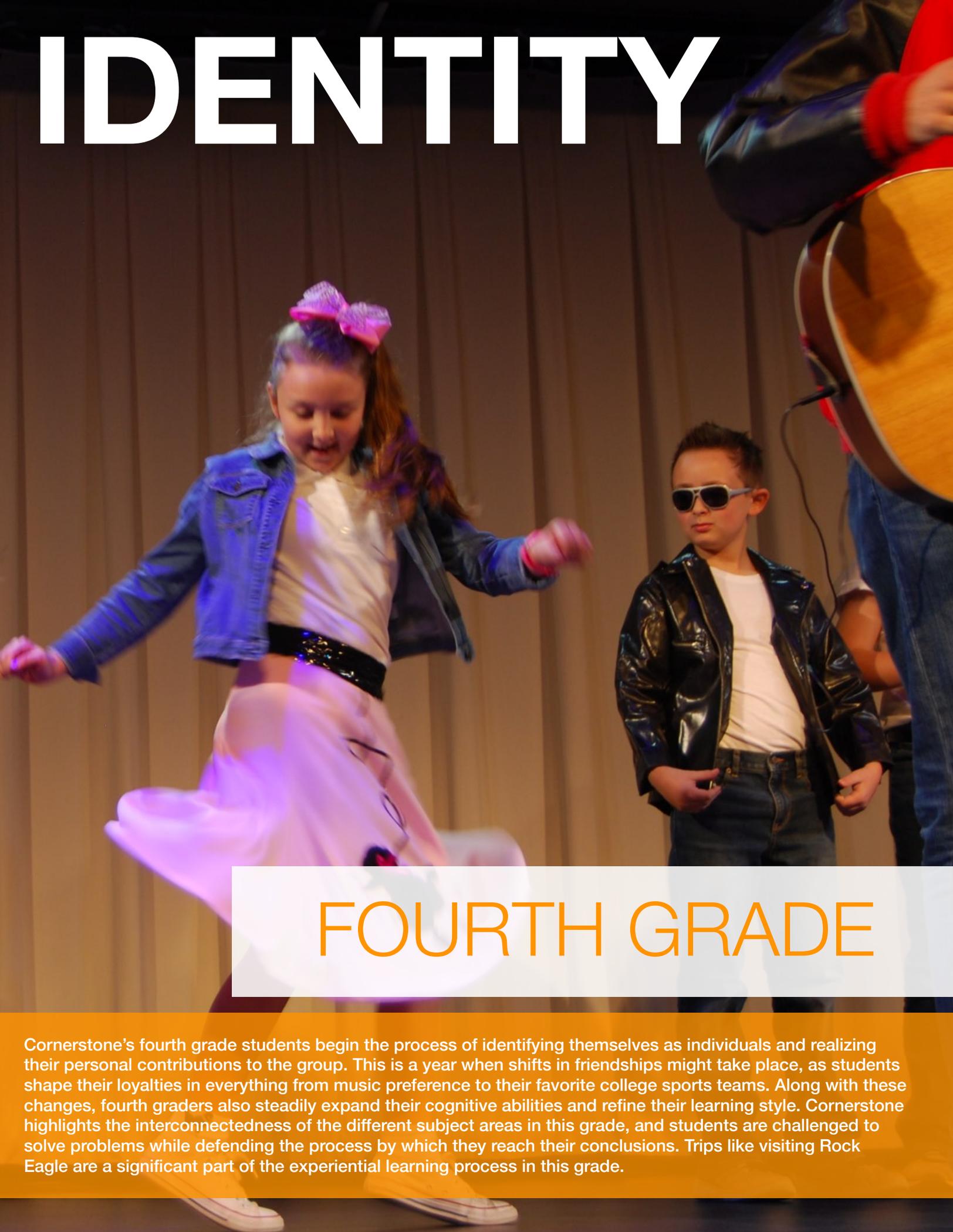
- Compares and contrasts the features of our land
- Develops an understanding of the importance of the basic principles that provide the foundation of government
- Explores basic economic concepts
- Studies Native American cultures and their development in North America
- Compares and contrasts European exploration and colonization in North America

FRIENDSHIP



Third grade is a year of flourishing. Not only do students tend to experience marked physical growth, they also begin to realize their academic potential. Our third grade students reveal an insatiable curiosity for learning and they take delight in being able to teach their parents everything from how to test minerals to modeling cursive. Instruction in the third grade continues to foster mental dexterity and intellectual prowess as students move from learning to read to reading between the lines with a focus on building lifelong intellectual connections among diverse subjects. While creativity is always endorsed, our third graders also learn the value of writing for the purpose of communication and to share ideas.

IDENTITY

A young girl with a large pink bow in her hair is dancing in a denim jacket and a light pink skirt. To her right, a boy wearing sunglasses and a black leather jacket stands next to a large, yellow-tinted drum. The background is a simple, light-colored wall.

FOURTH GRADE

Cornerstone's fourth grade students begin the process of identifying themselves as individuals and realizing their personal contributions to the group. This is a year when shifts in friendships might take place, as students shape their loyalties in everything from music preference to their favorite college sports teams. Along with these changes, fourth graders also steadily expand their cognitive abilities and refine their learning style. Cornerstone highlights the interconnectedness of the different subject areas in this grade, and students are challenged to solve problems while defending the process by which they reach their conclusions. Trips like visiting Rock Eagle are a significant part of the experiential learning process in this grade.

BIBLE

- Uses weekly memory verses for reflection and application
- Participates in daily prayer and Bible study
- Worships weekly with the student body during Chapel
- Focuses on the life of Christ and the Holy Spirit from the gospels, and cultivates an understanding of how Christian character develops through a study of Paul
- Serves the Lower School through various activities such as Safety Patrol, afternoon carpool leaders, the Cougar Cash Carnival, Chapel dancers, encouraging K-3 before class plays and modeling exemplary behavior throughout the school

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Individualized instruction focused on writing, reading vocabulary and fluency
- Alternates between small group guided reading and whole class novel studies
- Focuses on reading strategies and skills including making connections, asking questions, visualizing, inferring information, author's purpose and summarizing texts
- Uses RACE strategy to formulate quality responses to comprehension questions within fiction and nonfiction texts
- Applies biblical framework to text discussions

MATH

- Develops skills and communicates ideas for problem solving and critical thinking using mathematical language
- Read, compare, order, round, add, subtract, multiply and divide multi-digit whole numbers
- Use fractions and mixed numbers to name wholes and parts of wholes
- Add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers
- Understand decimals as part of a whole up to the hundredths place
- Add and subtract decimals to the hundredths
- Exploring geometry: supplementary and complementary angles, perpendicular and parallel lines, area and perimeter

SCIENCE

- Studies physical science, earth science and life science
- Applies important features of scientific inquiry to all areas of science
- Uses science tools to aid discovery and research content
- Evaluates the night sky, including the moon cycle and star patterns
- Investigates the water cycle and its importance
- Analyzes and predicts weather using charts and data
- Investigates sound, light, force, mass, and motion
- Analyzes ecosystems, the food chain and adaptation (survival and extinction)

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Studies major landforms and regions of the United States
- Compares and contrasts life in New England, the Mid-Atlantic and Southern colonies
- Explores the cause and effects of the American Revolution
- Examines the early formation of the United States government
- Investigates western expansion in America (1801-1861)
- Discusses the causes and effects of the Civil War
- Studies the reconstruction of the United States



LOWER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

ART

Cornerstone's Lower School art classes are designed to show God as the artful, ultimate Creator that He is. As students explore His wonderful creations they are encouraged to create their own unique artwork. Included in the curriculum are various creative and challenging projects which teach students the formal elements and principles of art. With each project, students are exposed to biblical correlations, art history, art criticism and a wide selection of art mediums.

MUSIC

The performing arts program at Cornerstone Christian Academy offers tremendous opportunities for Lower School students to share and refine their God given gifts and talents. Students have opportunities to explore music history and a wide variety of music media in the Fine Arts classroom. We believe that each child is uniquely and wonderfully created in God's image and we foster and encourage the development of these talents through participation in the many offerings through our Fine Arts program.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PE at Cornerstone is designed to build a foundation and appreciation for healthy living and to provide students with a variety of activities to stay mobile and fit. Through the study of movement and learning the importance of taking care of our bodies, students not only gain a basic understanding of the responsibility we have to maintain our overall well-being, but more importantly, they have the opportunity to honor God by sustaining His temple (our bodies).

A photograph of several children climbing a grey rock wall with colorful handholds. The word "ENRICH" is overlaid in large white letters on the right side of the image.

ENRICH

SPANISH

It is the mission of the Spanish program at Cornerstone Christian Academy to introduce students to a wide variety of Spanish vocabulary and culture. The development of a second world language reinforces cognitive skills. Through an emphasis on performance in the target language, students will become well-rounded learners who possess a lens through which they will experience the diversities of the world around them.

TECHNOLOGY

Cornerstone encourages students not to be merely consumers, but creators using technology to represent Christ as they explore. Our K-4th grade classes have access to over 150 devices including Smartboards, iPads, MacBook Airs, and Chromebooks. The technology-integration specialist works collaboratively with the teachers and students to assist them in flexing their creative muscles.

WRITING

Making writing a lifelong habit is a priority with our Writer's Workshop experience. The weekly lessons to produce fluent writers include a mini-lesson, independent writing, conferencing, and sharing. Our writing specialist works with the students multiple times a week and gives them an opportunity to write in a variety of genres. The students learn to find the right topic, word choice, voice, and sentence fluency. The writing specialist is able to meet students at their specific skill level and help foster a love for writing.



CORNERSTONE
CHRISTIAN • ACADEMY



**MIDDLE
SCHOOL**

FIFTH GRADE

Fifth graders at Cornerstone experience the excitement of growing personal accountability and the increased responsibility that comes with being a middle school student. In a year filled with firsts, such as moving away from the self-contained classroom, acquiring personal locker space, and getting involved in after school opportunities—just to name a few—fifth graders take their first steps towards specialization in education. In other words, this is where individual strengths begin to surface. After completing a research project, the students acquire strong presentation skills in fifth grade through the staging of a wax museum that features famous Americans. They will also experience a memorable recreation of the immigration process at Ellis Island.



GROW

BIBLE

- Understands the Bible is the spoken Word of God and is the source of biblical truth
- Surveys the basic layout of the Old Testament, New Testament and the Bible as a whole
- Develops a love of learning about the people and events in the Bible
- Examines the people and events of the Bible from Creation to King David: Creation, Noah, Tower of Babel, the Patriarchs, Joseph, Moses, Exodus, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Eli and Samuel, Saul and David
- Pursues spiritual growth through weekly chapel, service projects and discipleship groups
- Observes God's presence through Biblically integrated curriculum
- Participates in various community service projects

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Fosters an appreciation of language as a gift from God while recognizing the function of various forms of standard English
- Applies parts of speech
- Recognizes and understands verb tenses
- Identifies sentence parts and uses diagramming to analyze sentence structures
- Identifies and uses various sentence types
- Identifies and uses Greek and Latin roots to decode new vocabulary words
- Prioritization of comprehension skills, vocabulary development, literary devices and clear written and oral expression of thought

MATH

(Standard and advanced paced math classes are available in Middle School)

- Classifies numbers according to their factors, multiples and divisibility rules
- Shows proficiency in multiplication and division of large numbers by one and two divisors
- Uses decimal numbers and knowledge of place value to compare, multiply and divide, and add and subtract
- Uses equivalent fractions to add and subtract fractions including interchanging between improper fractions and mixed numbers
- Converts between fractions, decimals and percents
- Applies the order of operations to write and solve complex numerical expressions
- Discovers the rules that govern the addition and subtraction of integers
- Classifies two and three-dimensional figures based on their properties
- Understands basic Geometry concepts - area and perimeter
- Analyzing statistical displays and calculating basic statistical measures

TECHNOLOGY

- Pursues best practices for internet research and safety
- Engages in digital citizenship
- Explores robotics (Botbrain and VEX)
- Prepares and organizes presentations using software
- Utilizes creative applications
- Explores programming
- Models tasks on interactive white boards
- Engages in intra-school robotics competition

HISTORY

- Explores the progression of United States history from the Westward Movement of early 1800's to 1940's including World War II
- Identifies the roles religion, geography and leadership played in shaping this country
- Explores the roles of the Presidents of the United States, their conflicts, and contributions
- Uses geographical concepts like map studies and globe skills
- Project-based learning events: 1910 Immigration Simulation and Wax Museum

SPANISH

- This introductory course focuses on the elements of the Hispanic culture. In a 9-week period, students will be exposed to artistic, cultural, and historical elements from various Spanish speaking countries

SCIENCE

- Define a simple design problem reflecting a need or a want that includes specified criteria for success and constraints on materials, time, or cost
- Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem
- Plan and carry out fair tests in which variables are controlled and failure points are considered to identify aspects of a model or prototype that can be improved
- Explain and model that matter is made of particles too small to be seen
- Measure and graph quantities to provide evidence that regardless of the type of change that occurs when heating, cooling, or mixing substances, the total weight of matter is conserved
- Make observations and measurements to identify materials based on their properties
- Conduct an investigation to determine whether the mixing of two or more substances results in new substances
- Use models to describe that energy in animals' food was once energy from the sun
- Support an argument that plants get the materials they need for growth chiefly from air and water
- Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment
- Develop a model using an example to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and/or atmosphere interact
- Describe and graph the amounts and percentages of water and fresh water in various reservoirs to provide evidence about the distribution of water on Earth
- Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment
- Support an argument that the gravitational force exerted by Earth on objects is directed down
- Support an argument that differences in the apparent brightness of the sun compared to other stars is due to their relative distances from Earth
- Represent data in graphical displays to reveal patterns of daily changes in length and direction of shadows, day and night, and the seasonal appearance of some stars in the night sky

SIXTH GRADE

MATH

(Sixth Math and Advanced Sixth Math are offered)

- Works flexibly with fractions, decimals and percents
- Solves one-step equations with whole numbers, decimals and fractions
- Solves problems using ratio and proportion
- Uses similar triangles and proportions to solve realworld problems
- Explores the use of the coordinate plane, and plots points in all four quadrants
- Collects, organizes, analyzes and graphs data using measures of central tendency and variation
- Converts both metric and customary units of measurement
- Analyzes geometric properties and relationships including polygons and their angles
- Computes rational numbers including integers
- Uses formulas to find the perimeter, circumference, area and volume of geometric figures

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Uses textual evidence to critically analyze literature
- Answers literal and inferential questions regarding text
- Develops character sketches using both direct and indirect textual evidence
- Identifies, evaluates and uses figurative language
- Reads, writes and interprets poetry
- Develops a well-written paragraph, essay and research paper
- Creates original poetry
- Identifies sentence parts and uses diagramming to analyze sentence structures
- Identifies and uses Greek and Latin roots to decode new vocabulary words
- Applies spelling rules in writing
- Identifies and labels word functions and parts of speech in a sentence
- Differentiates among and uses singular, plural and possessive nouns
- Identifies types of sentences
- Edits for standard conventions of English language

SCIENCE

- Uses appropriate scientific tools to observe, record, organize, interpret, write and present the results of scientific investigations clearly and accurately
- Describes the composition, location and topography of the world's oceans
- Recognizes the role of water in Earth's water-related processes including water cycle, waves, currents, tides, wind systems, distribution of heat, weather and climate
- Identifies and describes the structure and nature of the Earth's crust, mantle and core
- Classifies rocks and explains the processes involved in the formation and cycle including the characteristics of mineral and how they relate to rocks
- Explores different types of weathering and erosional forces and how it relates to soil and fossil development
- Describes the various sources of energy, their uses, and conservation including the sun, renewable, and nonrenewable resources
- Understands weather patterns and how they are used to forecast the weather
- Investigates environmental impacts on oceans, fresh water, and air and how we can manage our land resources to positively impact our environment

HISTORY

- Studies the development of empires in ancient civilizations
- Describes and classifies the five themes of geography among the ancient civilizations
- Understands the impact religion has had on the development of our world culture
- Recognizes the interdependence that comes with trade and sharing of resources
- Uses geographical concepts like map studies and globe skills

SPANISH

- Introduces and develops the four basic skills of reading, listening, writing and speaking
- Emphasis on pronunciation
- Vocabulary required for mastery includes greetings, family members, friends, colors, clothing, community, school, animals, foods and health
- Grammatical concepts include: structure of words, verbs, -ar, ser, estar



Cornerstone's sixth grade students prepare to accept the challenge of becoming thoughtful, independent learners. Students are challenged to expand their cognitive abilities through analytical tasks such as comparing and contrasting, differentiating, hypothesizing and synthesizing. Sixth graders are encouraged to consider the world around them through these lenses of thought. Additionally, they are taught how to engage in open discourse about their worldview and their beliefs. Cornerstone ratchets up the character education, with a focus on core values, good citizenship and the challenge to live a life that glorifies God.

EXPAND

BIBLE

- Understands the Bible is the spoken Word of God and is the source of biblical truth
- Surveys the basic layout of the Old Testament, New Testament and the Bible as a whole
- Develops a love of learning about the people and events in the Bible
- Examines the people and events of the Bible from King David to the birth of Christ: David, Solomon and Proverbs, splitting of the kingdoms, focus on certain kings from each kingdom, prophets before exile, exile to Babylon, Daniel, Esther, Job, return from exile, 400 years of silence and Herod's rule
- Pursues spiritual growth through weekly chapel, service projects and discipleship groups
- Observes God's presence through biblically integrated curriculum
- Participates in various community service projects

TECHNOLOGY

- Learn to use Google drive to create, organize and save projects for class projects in all disciplines using all the various apps provided such as sheets, slides, docs, etc
- Use email to effectively communicate with teachers for educational purposes
- Models tasks with interactive whiteboards
- Explore computers, programming and robotics
- Utilizes creative applications
- Pursues best practices for internet research and safety
- Engages in digital citizenship

SEVENTH GRADE

MATH

(Pre-Algebra and Advanced Pre-Algebra are offered)

- Solves one and two-step equations and inequalities that include fractions, decimals and integers
- Graphs linear equations using slope-intercept form and point-slope form
- Uses properties of exponents and scientific notation
- Applies proportional relationships and percents to real world problems and situations
- Uses formulas to find the area and perimeter of two dimensional figures, and to find the surface area and volume of three-dimensional objects
- Comprehends vocabulary of basic geometric figures, polygons and coordinate geometry
- Applies the Pythagorean Theorem to find the unknown side in a right triangle
- Collects, displays, and analyzes data, and exposes biased data and misleading graphs
- Explores experimental and theoretical probability
- Determines the correct coordinates of a figure resulting from translation, rotation, dilation or reflection

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Uses textual evidence to critically analyze literature
- Answers literal and inferential questions regarding text
- Identifies plot elements in a novel and short story
- Determines a theme or central idea of literature
- Develops a well-written paragraph, essay and research paper
- Writes a three-pronged thesis
- Reflects and responds to fiction and nonfiction in writing
- Identifies and uses Greek and Latin roots to decode new vocabulary words
- Identifies and labels word functions and parts of speech in a sentence
- Identifies proper pronoun usage
- Uses punctuation marks correctly in writing
- Edits for standard conventions of English language

HISTORY

- Explores the connections of the Roman Empire to modern Europe
- Compares and contrasts different types of government systems found in European history
- Identifies the key role of geography in history and the formation of civilizations
- Examines the spread of ideas and cultural diffusion found in the ages of exploration and the Renaissance
- Discusses the relationship between citizens and government as found in the French Revolution

SCIENCE

- Investigates the diversity of living organisms and how they can be compared scientifically
- Describes the structure and function of cells, tissues, organs and organ systems
- Investigates a complete study of human body systems: digestive, skeletal/muscular, circulatory, respiratory, nervous and excretory
- Recognizes how biological traits are passed on to successive generations
- Examines the dependence of organisms on one another and their environments
- Discusses the creation/evolution controversy and defends beliefs based on Biblical references

BIBLE

- Examines the wisdom of God through the book of Proverbs by using relevant life situations
- Discuss the importance of the family
- Examine and discuss the purpose of obedience
- Acknowledge the counsel and direction of one's parents and other authority figures
- Analyze unspoken attitudes
- Observe the Holy Spirit at work in students' daily lives as they learn to model the image of Jesus

BUILD

A photograph of a student with glasses playing a piano on a stage. The student is wearing a dark t-shirt and is looking down at the keys. In the background, there are other people and stage lights, suggesting a performance or rehearsal setting.

The seventh grade classes at Cornerstone build upon the foundation of the higher order cognitive skills established in previous grades, while adding the rudiments of time management, organizational strategies and study skills. As upperclassmen at Cornerstone, seventh graders have a full menu of after-school options from which to choose including numerous athletic events, fine arts performances and service opportunities. Advanced mathematics and science challenges await these students, as do electives in foreign language and technology. Special highlights for the older students at Cornerstone include the 7th and 8th grade retreat in the fall, and participation in the Ranger Graduation.

SPANISH

- Advances the four basic skills of reading, listening, writing and speaking
- Emphasis on pronunciation
- Incorporates vocabulary for mastery including: food and health, descriptions of physical characteristics and basic personality traits, community, sports and activities
- Covers grammatical concepts: verb tenses in the present indicative of –er and –ir verbs; verb ir; plural of adjectives; asking questions; verb jugar and ir+a+infinitive
- Develops grammatical concepts: structure of words; infinitives; negatives; verb tenses in the present indicative; regular -ar verbs; subject pronouns; adjectives; definite and indefinite articles; verb estar

TECHNOLOGY

- Demonstrates keyboard mastery
- Models internet safety and digital citizenship
- Utilizes both software and web-based presentation formats
- Explores a variety of programming applications
- Uses creative applications
- Engages in robotics competition
- Explores financial stewardship through multiple applications and web-based resources
- Models tasks on interactive white boards

As the oldest members of the learning community, Cornerstone eighth graders are given the opportunity to realize their potential as leaders. Cornerstone promotes leadership through service to others; therefore, our eighth graders make up the membership of numerous essential school initiatives: the Cougar Ambassador program, House leaders, chapel band and various other service opportunities that present themselves throughout the year. Students in the eighth grade take an academically rigorous course load in preparation for their advancement into high school. Cornerstone attempts to equip its eldest students academically, socially and spiritually to enter the next phase of their educational journey with an unmatched work ethic, a strong sense of self, a burgeoning relationship with Christ and a biblical worldview. The Middle School retreat and a trip to Washington D.C. in the fall are highlights not only of the grade, but also of their entire time at Cornerstone.

MATH

(Standard and advanced paced Algebra 1 classes are available in Middle School)

- Solves multi-step equations and inequalities with one or more variables
- Explores functions, direct variations and linear functions in real-world contexts
- Determines rates of change and intercepts of linear functions in standard, slope-intercept and point-slope form.
- Transforms functions, including translation, rotation and reflection
- Solves real-world problems applying proportions, percents and linear functions
- Solves systems of equations and inequalities by methods of graphing, substitution and elimination
- Applies properties of exponents fluidly
- Adds, subtracts, multiplies and divides polynomials
- Factors polynomials using various methods
- Compares linear, quadratic and exponential functions
- Uses real-world problems to apply statistics and probability

(Honors Algebra 1 and Geometry A are available for students who qualify academically)

- All concepts shown for standard and advanced paced Algebra 1
- Radical functions and trigonometry
- Rational functions and equations including adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing rational functions
- Transformations in the coordinate plane
- Similarity, congruence and proof including rigid motions
- Geometric constructions
- Proving statements using the appropriate sequence of theorems and postulates

EIGHTH GRADE

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Writes short story analysis with a focus on character, theme, plot and setting
- Analyzes poetry with a focus on figurative language
- Novel analysis, with a focus on breaking down characters and thematic elements, using *The Outsiders*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, and *Romeo & Juliet*
- Demonstrates mastery of parts of speech, punctuation, and sentence parts in grammar through traditional methods including diagramming
- Practices learning vocabulary with a goal of being able to use words in context and with a focus on acquiring a solid basis of common Greek and Latin root words
- Writes with an emphasis on solid paragraph development, including strong topic sentences and strong supporting details in order to prepare them for writing on assessments in high school

SCIENCE

- Examines the scientific view of nature of matter through changing states of matter and properties of matter
- Explores chemistry through the study of characteristics of matter, atomic structure, the Periodic Table and the formation of compounds
- Surveys the forms and transformations of energy
- Investigates the relationship between force, mass and motion of objects
- Explores the wave nature of sound and electromagnetic radiation
- Recognize characteristics of gravity, electricity and magnetism as major kinds of forces acting in nature

HISTORY

- Learn about American history during significant periods, including westward expansion, Native American re-settlement, the Civil War and slavery, Reconstruction, the growth of big business, World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, World War II and the Civil Rights Movement
- Independently research historical events and figures in order to present findings to the class in a clear manner and/or in order to gain a deeper understanding of significant historical events
- Learn to write succinct paragraphs in response to critical thinking questions regarding historical events. Throughout the year, paragraphs will increasingly require factual knowledge paired with critical thinking skills.

BIBLE

- Examines the visible and personal life of Jesus through the perspective of the disciple, John
- Discusses the customs, geography, and dates pertaining to Jesus during the years A.D. 29-32
- Relives the days when Jesus walked the earth and ministered to the people in Israel
- Engages in an individual faith in God through journaling
- Discusses how to live out one's faith
- Demonstrates how living out faith in God can impact the community
- Pursues spiritual growth through weekly chapel, service projects and discipleship group
- Participates in various community service projects

SPANISH

- Advances the four basic skills of reading, listening, writing and speaking
- Learns selected vocabulary for mastery including: family members, celebrations, ask and tell ages, characteristics and basic personality traits, restaurant, rooms and items around the house, comparisons, comparatives and household chores
- Covers grammatical concepts including: differences between ser and estar; stem changing verbs (poder and dormir); affirmative tú and present progressive tense

TECHNOLOGY

- Demonstrates keyboard mastery
- Models internet safety and digital citizenship
- Utilizes both software and web-based presentation formats
- Explores a variety of programming applications
- Uses creative applications
- Explores financial stewardship through multiple applications and web-based resources
- Models tasks on interactive whiteboards



LEAD



ART

All art courses are designed to show God as the artful, ultimate Creator that He is. Students are taught about His works and encouraged to reflect on His beautiful creations and thus be inspired to create unique artwork themselves. Included in the art curriculum are various creative and challenging projects which teach students the formal elements (i.e. line, shape, form, texture, value and color) and principles (i.e. emphasis, balance, harmony, movement, rhythm, proportions and unity) of art. With each project, students are exposed to biblical correlations, art history, art criticism and a wide selection of art mediums.

CHORUS

Cornerstone's Middle School Chorus is a performance group. The purpose of Chorus is to make music with excellence to the glory of God. In Chorus, students hone their musical talents and performance skills. Students focus on sight-reading, proper vocal and Chorus technique, 2- and 3-part singing and effective communication through a variety of musical styles and genres. The Chorus will perform in several concerts throughout the year.

DRAMA

Fifth grade students are offered an introduction to improvisation, characterization, the stage, and acting techniques. Students have fun while developing self-confidence in a theatrical art form.



Through a diverse collection of enrichment classes, students are able to explore a wide variety of learning experiences. They are encouraged to engage in the expressive aspects of their lives. Class choices like STEM, art, chorus, video production, and more serve as a vehicle to develop creative comprehension. All elective disciplines are integral parts of our effort to help develop well-rounded students.



S.O.A.R. - STUDY SKILLS

S.O.A.R. is a course that focuses on learning strategies and study skills. Topics like time management, note-taking, test preparation, test-taking techniques and more will be addressed to assist the students with their transition to middle school life. Developing study skills reduces the friction between student potential and the execution of tasks.

STEM

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is designed to help students realize their potential in STEM related opportunities/careers. The focus of the program is to get students to think outside the box and use their God-given talents to solve real world problems. The activities students explore demand innovative, team-based solutions. Students are provided challenging problems that they solve using their own ideas and designs.

VIDEO PRODUCTION I: FUNDAMENTALS OF FILM

Students learn the basics of script writing, filming, directing and editing. The course requires a hands-on approach as students create short films from start to finish that will be used in Chapels throughout the year. The class will use high definition cameras for filming and iMovie '11 for editing. This course is designed to be fun, interactive and relevant for each student.



A FOUNDATION FOR LIFE