

Intermediate School Course Guide

The intermediate curriculum is a biblically integrated, quality academic program. Using textbooks from both secular and Christian publishers, teachers direct students to discover the truths of God's Word found in each subject area. Lessons are designed to increase academic rigor, deepen understandings, encourage application, and develop abstract thinking.

Fifth Grade Course of Study

Bible

The purpose of this course is to provide students with opportunities to continue their understanding of God's promises throughout His Word. Students will learn of God's Old Testament covenants and their fulfillment in the New Testament. We will look at the life and ministry of Jesus and use that to help us grow in our relationship with God. Students will understand God's faithfulness and that He has a plan for those who love and follow Him. We will use Scripture memorization to help guide us in living a life pleasing to God.

Literature

This course is designed to help students interpret literature through a Christian worldview. Through this course, students will learn to cite text evidence in both fiction and informational text. Students will learn and review literary elements (character, setting, plot, and theme), types of conflict (internal and external), main idea, context clues, and text structure. We will look at how author's use their writing to influence point of view and purpose. Students will continue to fine tune their phonics, phrasing, and fluency so that by the end of the year they can read and comprehend grade level appropriate text.

Language

This course focuses on grammar, vocabulary and writing. The study of grammar includes parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization and sentence structure. A great deal of time is spent learning the structure of our language. Vocabulary is another emphasis in this course. We regularly work with words, learning their spelling and use. Students will also learn to express themselves through many different types of writing. We begin with sentences and paragraphs and work toward more creative writing styles such as descriptive, narrative and poetry.

US History

The year begins the year with a brief study of the early exploration of the United States. We touch on several explorers and discuss the areas they explored. We then jump to the 20th century and spend the remainder of the year studying the events from the 20th century to today. Using our textbooks, primary and secondary sources and technology, we study the events and people that made history in the United States during those years. We also spend time memorizing the locations and capitals of each of the 50 states. As we study, we use the Bible as our second textbook, using our Biblical framework as the reference for everything we do.

Math

Students are expected to have fact fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Students will be transitioning to showing work throughout the year in preparation for problems in the future that have multiple steps. Throughout the year students will review their addition and subtraction skills as well as work on their long multiplication and long division skills. Working with decimal place values, decimals, and fractions will be a major part of the year. Students will also explore geometry and measurement.

Science

In this course, students will begin with an introductory look at scientific research and the Scientific Method. Students will study Life Science as they learn about Ecosystems and Habitats. Earth and Space Science is viewed in a study of the Solar System and its cycles and patterns, with an emphasis on how God uniquely created the Earth with the necessary conditions for humans to live. Our study of Physical Science will include light and sound, energy and motion, and simple machines.

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Sixth Grade Course of Study

Bible

Paul and his missionary journeys are the focus of this course. We start out the year in the book of Colossians then move to a unit that teaches what the canon of Scripture is and where it came from. We complete a brief study of Jesus' earthly life and ministry at the close of the first semester then begin our focus on Paul. We spend the majority of the remainder of the year studying his three missionary journeys in depth: we map them and talk about significant events in the different cities he visited, we discuss how God used him in each journey and we take time to apply these lessons to our lives. We close the year with a quick unit on Revelation. Our memory focus for the year is to recite the complete chapter of James 1.

Literature

This course is designed to help students interpret literature through a Christian worldview. Through this course, students will review and learn to cite text evidence, review literary elements, and understand and use figurative language. Students will continue to develop understanding of how to use context clues and text structure, as well as author's purpose and point of view. By the end of the year, students will be able to read and understand both literature and informational text appropriate for their grade level.

Language

This class focuses on grammar, vocabulary and writing. The study of grammar includes parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization and sentence structure. Vocabulary is another emphasis in this course. We regularly work with words, learning their spelling and use. Students will also learn to express themselves through many different types of writing. We explore creative writing styles such as descriptive, narrative and persuasive. Students will also focus on developing their research skills and learn to write a research paper.

World History

The focus of our study is on ancient history. We start with a unit on why we study history and then move into the ancient cultures. We study Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, India, China, Rome and Greece. Using our textbook, our Bible, primary and secondary sources and the technology available to us, we look in depth at each culture...their way of life, their religion, the accomplishments they were known for, etc..., being mindful to keep our Biblical framework in view as we study each area.

Math

Students will continue fact fluency throughout the year. A review of computation with decimals and fractions will be a thrust of the fall semester. Students will learn to convert fractions to decimals and then to percents. Ratios and proportions are also introduced. During the second semester, students will focus on integers and the coordinate plane and other skills needed to foster abstract thinking in algebra. Students will also be working on finding area, volume, and surface area of several geometric shapes. Finally, students will work on statistical measures and displays.

Science

Students will begin the year with learning about the scientific method, keeping a science journal, and recording labs in the appropriate format. One of the things that sixth graders will be doing is to develop higher level thinking skills as they look at such ideas as the origin of the universe. The Bible will be our guide for that discussion. Next, students will study cells and the classification system as well as look at the organisms in the five kingdoms. During the latter half of the year, students will move into physical science as they study the Newton's Laws of Motion. They will also work on earth science as they discover about rocks and minerals. Other topics that may be discussed would be energy, electricity, matter, and weather.

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Specials Classes & Electives

Visual Art

This course is designed to create an environment in which the journey of personal growth and adventure can happen for every student through the study of various art mediums, techniques and methods. Biblical integration will be emphasized and students will understand historical and cultural context to make meaningful connections to other subjects being taught in school and to life experiences in the world around us. Students will learn a variety of drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpting mechanics that will nurture their confidence and create a desire to explore personal expression through art. Students will learn to have a 'can do' attitude and to appreciate art their entire lives. Students are required to attend and participate in 'The Night of Fine Arts', by having at least one art piece entered in the show.

Vocal Music

Students will be introduced to a variety of classroom instruments, composers, variety of music styles and music from around the world. Students will learn and use correct singing techniques (diaphragmatic breathing; articulation; posture), improve basic music reading, learn and use basic music notation and markings, sing his/her own part in small groups, and memorize all performance music. Sixth grade students will further apply these skills in reading and writing music and will execute a cappella singing. Students are required to memorize all performance music and attend all scheduled concerts.

Technology

Students learn MS Office programs, research techniques, keyboarding skills, Internet safety, and coding. Technology projects are usually coordinated with the core classes so students are able to maximize their learning with meaningful assignments.

Physical Education

Students will work to develop physical fitness, physical skills, and athletic skills. Good sportsmanship, participation, and an active lifestyle are encouraged. Students are required to purchase and wear a school PE uniform and tennis shoes for class.

*Art, Music and Technology classes meet once per week. Physical Education is scheduled twice per week.

Band (full year elective)

Students may begin learning to play a band instrument in fifth grade. Time is devoted at the start of the school year to exploring instruments and letting students try them before they choose which one to play. Beginners usually get their instruments in hand by mid to late September, and class is held twice per week for the remainder of the year. Grades are largely based on participation and effort in this first year of band. Expectations are raised for sixth grade band members as a bridge is built to take them from their beginning experience to becoming a successful member of the middle school band. Sixth graders build up to having band class three days per week as participation grades continue and expectations are raised as playing selections is a form of assessment. Students may begin band in sixth grade. Students are required to attend all scheduled concerts.

Intermediate Strings (full year elective)

This ungraded class is offered for those students who are interested in the development of skills and preparation for group performances. This class meets once a week during either an activity period or a study hall or may take the place of one band period a week. Students are required to attend all scheduled concerts. Placement is based on class contract, and experience on a stringed instrument is a pre-requisite. Dependent upon enrollment, this class may be combined with the middle school strings class.

6th Grade Hand Bells (full year elective)

Students will read and identify Grand Staff and basic notation, follow director's tempo and dynamics, learn and use beginning hand bell ringing techniques, determine and perform beginning rhythms, time and key signatures. Students will also be expected to work on and review music outside of class. This class meets twice per week during the band/study hall period. It is a graded class. Students are required to attend all scheduled concerts. Placement is based on class contract.