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Second Grade
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

mount pisgah
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Language Arts

Reading

We use the Houghton-Mifflin reading series, *A Legacy of Literacy*. This series focuses on improving reading competence through quality, award-winning literature. Emphasis is placed on reading strategies, analogies, correct grammar, basic sight vocabulary, main idea, main character, graphic organizers, and cause and effect. Students begin to distinguish between fantasy and realism and fact and opinion. Students are encouraged to discuss literature with their parents.

Spelling

Second grade students use the Houghton-Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary series. Spelling patterns and practice in context help students spell better in all content areas. High frequency words, challenge words, and sentence dictation are included. Students develop vocabulary for reading and writing through word wall activities and words applied in meaningful contexts.

Writing

Students are encouraged to write regularly and creatively using skills and strategies of the writing process. Basic grammar is taught with daily emphasis on capitalization, punctuation, and parts of speech. Second grade students learn to write for a variety of purposes which include fictional stories, poetry, non-fiction works, narratives and a friendly letter. They participate in the writing process, edit and publish class and individual books.

Second grade students continue to work on the mechanics of legible handwriting and are introduced to cursive writing. The *Zaner-Bloser* series is used to move students from manuscript to cursive handwriting.

Math

We use the *Everyday Math* series to emphasize math concepts, process skills and problem solving. Students focus on fractions, place value, geometry, numerical relations, measurement, time, two/three digit addition and subtraction. An introduction to number lines, bar graphs, pictographs, and multiplication is also emphasized. Students continue to use manipulatives and hands-on experiences as they move from concrete to abstract mathematical operations.

Science

Mount Pisgah Christian School's curriculum is used to introduce the

scientific method of discovery. Units of study include bats and owls, the human body, animals of Australia, mini units on matter and simple machines and various ecological systems. Field trips, exploration of elements, and scientific studies are used to enrich these units.

Social Studies

We use the Houghton-Mifflin series, *Some People I Know*. This series recognizes people who make a difference in a student's life and compares past and present life within a community. Emphasis is placed on history and critical thinking. Units are taught thematically and field trips are coordinated to make concepts meaningful. Major emphasis is placed on American and world geography with an in-depth study of Australia: the 50 states, the seven world continents, the world's oceans, the five Great Lakes, and the major ecosystems of the world.

Art

Kindergarten through fifth grade students have Art class each week with the Art Education Specialist. The curriculum is based on the SRA series, *Art Connections*. The program integrates the four dimensions of Art into every age-appropriate lesson: art history and culture, aesthetic perception, art production and art criticism. Students encounter a broad range of art media for both two-dimensional and three-dimensional self-expression.

Christian Education

Christian Education is taught each week by the Christian Education Specialist. Second graders learn that God worked in the everyday lives of Bible people, and He will also work in their lives as they respond to Him. They learn to praise and thank God as they grow in their understanding of Him. They learn to know about Jesus by studying His life. Finally, a study of Daniel sets an example of how to depend on God through prayer, trust and obedience. Students memorize selected Bible verses.

A daily devotion and prayer is shared at the beginning of each school day. Blessings are shared at meal times. Christianity is incorporated into the school day. Teachers intertwine moral values and Christian significance in their everyday teaching.

Second grade students attend chapel every Monday morning with the Lower School. This service is conducted by the Christian Education Specialist and members of the Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church ministerial staff. Songs, prayers and a children's sermon make this an important start to our

spiritual as well as our academic week at Mount Pisgah Christian School. All Lowers School students participate in Christmas and Easter services.

Computer Science

Second graders go to the computer lab each week for instruction with the Technology Specialist. Each classroom has a multi-media computer for their use during learning center activities. The curriculum includes using age-appropriate software to support topics and units that are introduced in the classroom. Fundamental computer skills emphasizing proper use and care of software and hardware plus computer terminology are introduced. The students add text to illustrations, and create short stories and poems while learning basic word processing skills and concepts such as saving and retrieving files. Computer networking and telecommunication skills are introduced through the use of network printing, saving files and using multiple storage drives.

Library Science

Students visit the Media Center each week for book check out and formal library science instruction. The library teacher instructs students on how to use the media center as a source of information and pleasure. Students become aware of the variety of resources available in the media center and identify specific areas of interest. They also learn specific vocabulary and reference skills necessary to effectively use the library/media center.

Foreign Language

Spanish is taught each week by the Spanish Education Specialist. Greetings and farewells, colors, numbers, weather, vocabulary, days of the week, and months of the year are introduced to students with songs and hands-on activities. Stories are read to give students an opportunity to hear the spoken dialect. Latin American culture and customs are explored. Simple skills are taught such as making a personal introduction, giving family information, and sharing personal preferences. Students learn to count in Spanish by 5s and 10s up to 100.

Music

Second graders have music each week with the Music Education Specialist. The Macmillan series, *Music and You*, is used to help students understand the relationship between music, history and culture. Students listen to a variety of musical styles, recognize tone center and distinguish beat. They respond to musical notation and learn simple musical terms. Accurate vocal pitch, tempo and rhythm are taught. Students enjoy playing musical instruments and begin recognizing the instruments of the orchestra. They

participate in several performances throughout the year.

Physical Education

Students have Physical Education twice each week. Students develop physical fitness and basic movement skills necessary for successful sports participation. They participate in developmental activities related to strength, heart-lung endurance and flexibility. Students participate in games, tumbling, and balancing activities. Good sportsmanship is always emphasized. On non-PE days, children enjoy outside recess time on the Mount Pisgah Christian School's gross motor development playground.

Enrichment Activities

After School Enrichment Classes

After School enrichment activities, such as additional art, science and computer classes are designed for both learning and fun. Classes begin immediately after school is dismissed.

Cultural Arts Experiences

Field trips and special performances serve as an important extension of the Cultural Arts Program. Each year students enjoy live performances by various professional groups.

Service Projects

Each year we provide opportunities for students to experience the joy of Christian service. Each class chooses a service project as their focus for the year. Students also participate in school-wide service projects such as Habitat for Humanity, the North Fulton Charities food drive, and Operation Christmas Child. At Mount Pisgah Christian School, our students realize that they are important members of the body of Christ.

Character Education

Character Education is an integral part of the curriculum at Mount Pisgah Christian School. We introduce the Six pillars of character: respect, responsibility, citizenship, caring, trustworthiness and fairness with scripture and a skit each month during our chapel/rally. Classroom teachers follow through with activities, discussions and devotions relating to these traits.

We encourage an incentive program with our Specials teachers to reinforce good behavior. Tickets are awarded to students and placed in a bucket for a weekly drawing at rally. If their ticket is picked, they have their picture put on our Character board and they are eligible for the bi-monthly drawing for a lunch and a trip to the game room with the Principal and other special

guests. If children are observed exemplifying outstanding character by any of the Mount Pisgah staff, they are given a “character rock.” Their example of character is shared with the students in chapel and they get to take our Special Character Award to their homeroom until the next character rock winner is selected.

*Mount Pisgah Christian School incorporates differentiated instructional practices to meet the needs of individual learners.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide an outstanding college-preparatory education
grounded in Christian faith and values



mount pisgah
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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