



Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy

Lower School Upper Elementary - Christian Studies

Scope and Sequence

Vision: At the heart of our Christian faith is the belief that God is a personal God who reveals to humanity His nature, His redemptive purpose in history, and His love for all creation. Also central to our faith is the crucified and risen Jesus Christ and our belief that the “son of God became a man so that humanity could become children of God” (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*). It is our conviction that in understanding the incarnate God we come to understand our own nature and purpose, for we are created in God’s image. Given these core convictions, the purpose of the Christian Studies curriculum is to create an environment in which we listen to God speak to us through the words of Scripture, encourage a love of learning and the exercise of reason, gain wisdom from the historic voices and traditions of the Church, and seek to understand our own human experience within this world. The goals of this curriculum are therefore to (i) develop the student holistically; (ii) allow students to articulate a distinctly Christian world view; and (iii) encourage students to pursue excellence in order to engage God’s world.

Standards: What a CHCA student will know and be able to do in **Christian Studies**

- Explain God’s love for humanity and a desire for a relationship which yields a life lived in imitation and service to Christ.
- Explain God’s purpose in restoring humanity and creation into right relationship and humanity’s participation in building the Kingdom of God.
- Explain the role and value of Scripture, reason, tradition, and experience in theologically forming a Christian world view.
- Explain the nature of the triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- Explain the unique nature of Christ as fully divine and fully human.
- Explain the tools and steps in the responsible reading and interpretation of Scripture and its application to life.
- Explain the nature of humanity as made in the image of God yet fallen.
- Explain God’s redemptive work through Christ for salvation.
- Explain the importance of spiritual formation through classic spiritual disciplines including prayer, meditation, fasting, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, worship, guidance and celebration.
- Explain the relevance of Church history and historical theology in the formation of faith and appreciation for the diversity of God’s Kingdom.
- Explain the importance of applying a theologically formed Christian world view into ethics, service and every aspect of vocation and life.

Grade 4 Topics: Attributes of God in contrast with sin; divisions and structure of Bible; reference tools; timeline of major Biblical figures; themes and messages of each New Testament book; plan of salvation; concept of sin and forgiveness; Christian holidays: essential facts of Christmas and Easter; prayer as opportunity to communicate with God; weekly Scripture memorization; service projects.

Grade 5 Topics: Old Testament Themes and History; Students will map out the major periods of Old Testament history (creation, fall, beginning of nations, God’s chosen family, exodus, conquest and judges, monarchy, divided monarchy, exile, return, and intertestamental period). As they explore these stories of how God works in the ancient world and how He prepares a nation from which the Savior will come, students will continually search for how God shows Himself to His people, what He reveals about Himself, and their own place in His story. Additionally, major Old Testament themes, such as covenant, sacrifice, promise, prophecy, and worship, will be traced throughout this chronological study of the Old Testament.

Grade 6 Topics: The Gospels: Students build a deeper understanding that throughout Jesus’ life and ministry, He claims and proves He is God; He is both divine and human. Students explore stories of Jesus’ life (birth through resurrection) going beyond simply rephrasing Biblical material but, rather, seeking insights on spiritual, historical and “simplified” theological issues presented in the gospels and the Bible as a whole. Students search for how God shows Himself to His people: what He reveals about Himself, and their individual place in His



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story. Students trace major New Testament themes such as sacrifice, promise, prophecy, and worship throughout this chronological study of the life of Christ.