



Mission statement

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

The Pisgah Primary Experience is defined by a strong academic foundation focusing on traditional liberal arts instruction in math, science, history, language arts and the humanities with particular emphasis on the arts, technology, and Christian service.

Learning Environment

The goal of Pisgah's program is to nurture and encourage every child's positive self-image in an atmosphere of love and caring. A Christian environment provides the setting for the early school curriculum that offers opportunities for each child to grow in the awareness of the love of God.

Young children learn by doing. Activities at Mount Pisgah Christian School are planned to present topics in many different ways, such as fingerplays, songs, stories, and art experiences. Our rooms are set up with learning centers, which allow each child to choose and move to specific learning activities. Opportunities for large and small group interaction as well as independent choices are presented. Since children learn many valuable concepts in the "process" of play, please be aware that they don't always bring finished products home.

Children develop pre-reading and pre-writing skills through art by learning to visually discriminate between colors, textures and shapes and by exercising their small muscles as they work with crayons, scissors and paintbrushes. Pretend to be a two, three, four or five year old child again. What would be more fun? Having circles, squares, and triangles in all different colors put before you so you could glue them in any creative way you desired? Or, having the teacher tell you, "Put a red square on the bottom. Now put a blue triangle on top of the square. Now put a yellow circle on the very top. And look, now you have all made a tower!!" And in which instance did the child learn more? So if your children don't bring home a "teacher created" project every day, be reassured; they have experienced art in the classroom that day! Through water play and other creative activities, children learn basic science and math concepts.

While playing in the block center, children have the opportunity to explore the concepts of:

- 1) Estimation: *How many? How much? How tall?*
- 2) Balance: *Building a tower, stacking large and small blocks*
- 3) Classifying: *Grouping according to size and shape.*

Through books in the reading center, young children develop pre-reading skills. They begin to realize that symbols have meaning and that letters are grouped to form words, phrases and sentences. They begin to see a left to right pattern and develop language skills as they talk about the contents of picture books. They begin to learn the concept of sequencing.

When children participate in dramatic play, they learn other valuable pre-reading and pre-writing skills. They enjoy drawing and making the props to be used: tickets, menus, labels, etc. It is also an excellent center for emotional development. It offers children safe ways to explore their fears, anger and anxieties through role-playing. It offers an opportunity to work through many of life's real issues.

When children play outdoors, they are developing language and social skills by talking ("Watch me!"), negotiating, sharing, creating order and rules, and trying out leadership roles. Each day is structured to allow alternating time for busy, active play and quiet activities.



TWOS (TURNING THREE) PROGRAM

For many children, the twos preschool year is the first experience in a group setting. Our goal for twos is that they experience a fun and happy transition from home to school in a safe and stimulating environment.

The two-year-old curriculum is developmentally appropriate and follows the guidelines of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). It generally focuses on socialization and subjects pertinent to the world of twos such as “My World,” “My Family,” “Pets,” etc. Real life activities such as learning to be a part of a group, sharing and self-help skills are major in in the twos turning three program. Incidental exposure to letters and numbers through games is used. Rote memorization and drill of letters and numbers are not a part of our twos early school program. The academic area for twos turning three targets experiencing the world around them by physically moving, using their senses, and social interaction.

THREES THROUGH SIXES PROGRAM

The Pisgah three and four-year-old curriculum builds upon the twos program. It is also a developmentally appropriate curriculum that follows the guidelines of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for threes through sixes. These programs are not scaled down versions of school-age curriculums but are specifically formulated to address the developmental needs of these age groups.

The National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education (NAECS/SDE) notes the misconception of many that children today are smarter than in previous years and can somehow skip stages of development. Lillian Katz refers to this teaching of academics too soon as “education for the next life,” particularly in the area of reading. As Dr. David Elkind notes, “education is not a race.” A child who learns to read at age three has not “won” over a child who learns to read at six or seven.

Research by Uphoff and Gilmore cites evidence that children who are exposed to formal instruction too early experience both short-term and long-term negative effects. When curriculum and teaching methods are “pushed down,” frustrations, feelings of helplessness, and school phobias often occur. In fact, we can change the level of content and the methods we use to instruct children, but we cannot change the ways in which children learn. To say that a child can learn anything at any age ignores all that we know about the growth and development of children. According to Piaget, manipulative learning is a necessary prerequisite to the abstract, formal operations that will come later at age eleven or twelve. This fact is the foundation for learning at Mount Pisgah Christian School.

In the four-year-old program at Pisgah, children in fours turning five classes will not be working in abstract workbooks, be taught a structured writing process or “penmanship,” or learn to read through formal programs geared for school-

age children. They will, however, be immersed in language and literature using concrete manipulatives to explore pre-quantitative concepts, and experience success in fine motor activities designed for their developmental level. Because young children do not organize their thinking and knowledge in math and science, our early school students will develop skills and information thematically around projects and activities.

At Mount Pisgah Christian School, we recognize that when we ignore what the child has to learn and instead impose what we want to teach, we put young children at risk for no purpose. While it is certainly true that children today are exposed to much more information than ever before, that exposure does not guarantee that children will learn from it if it is not talked about, examined and experienced!

KPrep

The KPrep curriculum is designed to provide children a developmentally appropriate, hands-on learning experience that will be instrumental in preparing them for kindergarten. Each of our weekly themes focuses on science or social studies topics that are age appropriate and interesting for four and five year olds. The classrooms are organized into “centers” which allow children to explore and discover while building social skills and interacting with their peers.

Parents often ask how the KPrep program differs from the four-year-old preschool program. Children entering KPrep must be age five by September 1st. Many parents consider this year a gift of time given to their child to grow and mature before heading off to kindergarten. In addition, KPrep is enriched with the following curriculums:

LANGUAGE ARTS

Animal Island and Letter Island

On Animal Island the children meet a crew of happy animals who lead them on a hunt to find the letters of the alphabet. Students learn about capital and lower case letters, alphabetical order, and left and right. As the book progresses, the children begin to discover the relationship between letters and sounds. Animal Island is taught using a big book and tape providing the children with many opportunities to improve listening comprehension. Our weekly visit to the computer lab enriches our language arts curriculum while teaching early computer skills.

MATH

Everyday Math

Children are active learners and do best when they can freely explore materials and concepts. Our math instruction is based on Everyday Math, a hands on approach to learning mathematical concepts. Young children learn best when they can manipulate materials and explore ideas concretely before using symbols (in this case numerals) to represent concepts. In KPrep, children are exposed to pre-math concepts while exploring a wide variety of materials. They participate in both whole group and small group lessons. Topics covered include counting and number skills, patterns, sorting, classifying and comparisons. Because Everyday Math is a hands-on program, each child is able to progress at his own speed over the course of the year.

It is our goal to make learning fun – after all - play is child's work!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The preschool curriculum is designed to integrate Christian principles throughout daily activities and lessons. All teachers are Christians who value the opportunity to share their faith with the children. Once a week, all classes attend Chapel for a child-oriented worship service based on the needs of the students. On a more regular basis, teachers incorporate into the daily schedule classroom time to share and encourage a relationship with Jesus through Bible study.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

In addition to a curriculum that integrates music as a learning tool, all ES students have music each week with the Music Specialist. We use a variety of methods to introduce preschool children to concepts in rhythm, movement, and spatial awareness. As well as introducing a basic understanding and instilling the joy of music, the class provides a setting for peer interaction and builds self-confidence, auditory and memory skills. A weekly visit to Physical Education class enhances gross motor skills while increasing the children's ability to follow directions in a group setting.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Character or moral education has been identified as a key need for our citizens in America. Good manners are a focus for our two year olds and we have implemented the Character Critters curriculum for all of our older preschool children.

The Character Critters program features stories for very young children with a message about six key elements of character development – Responsibility, Caring, Trustworthiness, Fairness, Citizenship and Respect. These basic elements of character are believed to be relevant for all individuals. It is felt that these elements of character reflect the highest form of human behavior and are important to instill in our children and our nation's citizens.

SPANISH

To enhance our culturally rich curriculum, each week, all four year old classes look forward to a special time of introduction to the Spanish language. The age-appropriate curriculum consists of basic words and phrases that are used daily, both in the classroom and at home.

SCIENCE

“When we offer intriguing science experiences to young children, we nourish their natural human capacity to know!” (Harlan & Rivkin 1996:3). At Pisgah, we recognize that children are natural scientists for they are constantly exploring and growing an awareness of self, living things, and the environment. We are pleased to offer our recently acquired “Happy” Lab - a science laboratory the provides opportunities for hands-on experience and discovery. Pisgah teachers have been trained and equipped to maximize our resources for experimentation in the science laboratory.

ART

KPrep students participate in a special Art program: Introduction to Elements of Design. They learn how the elements of design are available to all artists as they create their works of art.

SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

STAY & PLAY

On a quarterly basis, you may enroll your two, three, or four-year-old child in the Stay & Play program. An extended day is offered on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday ending at 2:30 p.m. The children are escorted by their teachers to the Stay & Play teacher's room. Children bring their lunch and towel or rest mat for resting. The additional time provides for social interaction in a less structured environment than the morning schedule, both in the classroom and on the playground.

CULTURAL ARTS

Special performances serve as an extension of the Cultural Arts program. Three performances are presented each year for students, enhancing their awareness of the unique characteristics of various cultures and challenges. Students consider the many differences in the way other cultures live, work, and play.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Each class chooses three service projects in which to participate. These service projects focus on family, school, and community. The joy of Christian service has been extended to local firefighters, nursing homes, Veteran's Hospital, The Beacon of Hope and Operation Christmas Child.

Kindergarten

Language Arts

Reading

Mount Pisgah Christian School uses the Macmillan/McGraw-Hill reading series, Treasures. This series uses award-winning literature based on themes to teach kindergarten students to read. We recognize that a balanced reading program, one that incorporates phonics with whole language, is most effective in providing long term reading success. Our reading program exposes children to quality, award-winning literature while implementing a structured phonics program, which is important in helping students acquire necessary decoding skills.

Writing

Pisgah's Language Arts program encourages kindergarten students to put thoughts into words. Students are encouraged to use their invented spelling to "author" individual books as well as class books through a creative writing process.

Kindergarten students also begin formal handwriting skills using the Zaner-Bloser method of handwriting. Students are taught correct pencil grip, letter and number formation.

Math

Kindergarten students learn numbers and math concepts through hands-on, everyday experiences. We use Everyday Mathematics, which utilizes a variety of materials that encourage hand-on exploration and discovery. Children become excited through activities, including counting, numbering, measurement, geometry, patterns, data, collecting, and calculator use.

Social Studies

The Social Studies curriculum is focused on school, family, community, and going places with connections to long ago. Activities are introduced thematically and field trips make unit concepts meaningful. Students begin to see social studies as the story of real people, past and present. Map skills are taught using interactive Smartboards, as well as Rand McNally maps and globes.

Science

Science is taught thematically by gathering information, making predictions, conducting simple experiments and going on field trips. We utilize themes, poems, posters and hands-on exploration to discover God's world and its many wonders. Science is taught as a balance between science concepts and hands-on activities. Students learn about health and safety, weather, temperature, sound, time frames, motion, five senses, living and non-living things, characteristics of objects, growth and change, and the earth. A dedicated Primary School Science lab is used weekly for experiments and exploration.

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.

Computer

Students go to the computer lab each week for instruction with the Technology Specialist. Each classroom has a multi-media computer for use during learning center activities. The curriculum includes learning the proper names and functions of the computer system's hardware, properly caring for hardware and software and learning basic computer skills, i.e. using a mouse and keyboard to manipulate paint and storybook programs. Additionally, the students use a variety of multi-media programs to supplement topics and units that support the classroom curriculum.

Music

Kindergarten students have music each week with the Music Education Specialist. The Macmillan music series, Music and You, is used to introduce students to beginning music concepts. Kindergartners listen and respond to simple musical concepts, recognize and play musical instruments, sing and respond rhythmically to music. Kindergartners attend a symphony performance each year. They participate in several musical performances throughout the year.

Christian Education

Christian Education is taught by the Christian Education Specialist each week. Kindergarten students focus on the many gifts of love provided for us by God. Emphasis is placed on aspects of creation, families, and Jesus Christ. A study of David and children of the Bible helps them discover how they can follow and please God. Concepts introduced are: kindness, manners, truthfulness and acceptance. Once a week, the Kindergarten Chapel leader provides enrichment opportunities for all Kindergarten students.

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

Kindergarten students attend chapel every Monday afternoon with the Lower School. This service is conducted by the Christian Education Specialist, as well as by members of Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church's 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 Lower School students participate in Christmas and Easter services.

World Language

Spanish is taught weekly by the Spanish Education Specialist. Greetings, colors, numbers, days of the week, and the months of the year are introduced to students through songs and finger plays. Stories are read to give the children an opportunity to hear the spoken dialect. Spanish culture and customs are explored. Students are taught to understand and answer simple greetings in Spanish and to act out simple commands, to sing songs in Spanish, to count to 50 in Spanish and to recognize vocabulary from various thematic units.

Library Science

Students visit the media center each week for book check-out and for formal library science instruction. The library teacher teaches students to use the media center as a source of information and pleasure.

Physical Education

Kindergarten students participate in Physical Education twice a week. Students acquire basic locomotor skills and spatial awareness through various creative and innovative lessons and games. Children have an awareness of body parts and subsequently the range of uses of those parts. We introduce a fitness program to increase strength and flexibility. Children also enjoy outdoor recess time on Mount Pisgah Christian School's gross motor development playground.

Character Education

Character Education is an integral part of the curriculum at Mount Pisgah Christian School. We introduce 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. Those students whose tickets are picked have their pictures posted on the Character board and are eligible for the bimonthly 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 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 Pillar of Character to their homeroom until the next character rock winner is selected.

Learning Environment

Mount Pisgah Christian School recognizes the importance of the kindergarten experience in setting the tone for a child’s outlook on learning for his entire life. Our focus is the development of the whole child in a nurturing, Christian environment. We provide developmentally appropriate kindergarten classrooms that encourage the growth of children’s self-esteem, their cultural identities, their independence and their individual strengths.

Our kindergarten students develop control of their own behavior through the guidance and support of warm, caring adults. At this stage of development, children are eager to learn and they possess an innate curiosity. Our teachers have a strong background in early childhood education and child development and provide for children what they need to grow physically, emotionally, socially, intellectually, and spiritually.

At Mount Pisgah Christian School, children work and play with materials while interacting with peers. Because of a carefully structured learning environment, children are purposeful in their work and enjoy school. Students learn numbers and the alphabet in the context of their everyday experiences. Exploring the natural world of plants and animals, taking attendance and serving snacks are all meaningful activities to children. Our kindergartners work on projects in learning centers and have long periods of time to play and explore. Filling out worksheets is not their primary activity. Students have an opportunity to play outside every day that weather permits. This play is never sacrificed for more instructional time. Teachers read books to children throughout the day, not just at group story time. Kindergarten “curriculum” actually includes such events as snack time, recess, and individual and group activities in addition to those activities we think of as traditionally educational. Mount Pisgah Christian School incorporates differentiated instructional practices to meet the needs of individual learners.

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. Students attend symphony and/or ballet performances annually. Each year students enjoy live performances by various professional groups. Each year in conjunction with our annual Book Fair, we host guest authors of children’s books.

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.

First Grade

Language Arts

Reading

We use the Macmillan/McGraw-Hill reading series, Treasures. This series focuses on the teaching of reading through quality, award-winning literature. An integrated language approach is utilized to interest students through the use of thematic units, genres, and author studies. This series is used to introduce and develop decoding skills and phonemic awareness to assist in reading and writing abilities.

Our Spelling curriculum is also incorporated in this series. Spelling patterns and practice in context improves students' spelling in all content areas. Students develop vocabulary for reading and writing through words applied in meaningful contexts.

Writing

Students write daily and creatively using skills and strategies of the writing process. Students write, illustrate, and publish class and individual books.

Students are provided a foundation of basic strokes for correct letter and numeral formation, correct pencil grip and paper placement using the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Series.

Math

We incorporate the Wright Group's Everyday Math series to introduce students to math concepts and to help them move from concrete to abstract thinking via a spiraling curriculum. The manipulatives, math games, and small group activities allow students to record, demonstrate, and practice what they are learning. Students learn addition, subtraction, place value, time, money, measurement, geometry, fractions, graphing and problem-solving strategies.

Social Studies

We use a thematic approach designed to incorporate and enrich the Social Studies content to allow students to examine families and communities near and far, today and long ago. Units include history, Canada, Mexico, presidents, U.S. symbols, and holidays. Field trips make unit concepts meaningful. Map skills are also taught using Rand McNally maps and globes.

Science

Mount Pisgah Christian School's curriculum is used to introduce the scientific method of discovery. Units of study include health and safety, animals and their habitats, life cycles, sound, seasons, weather, magnets, and various ecological systems. Field trips, exploration of elements, and scientific studies are used to enrich these units. Use of a dedicated Primary School Science Lab is available for weekly experiments and exploration.

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 daily in the classroom. First grade students are introduced to God's love and faithfulness through stories in Genesis. They learn about Deborah, Gideon, Ruth and David. Students learn about the importance of prayer. The life of Jesus is shared from birth through the Resurrection. They study about Paul and his witness for Jesus. Once a week, the first grade Chapel leader provides enrichment opportunities for all first grade students.

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

All Lower School students attend chapel every Monday afternoon. This service is conducted by a member of the Mount Pisgah Chapel Team 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 Lower School students participate in Christmas and Easter services.

Computer

Students go to the computer lab each week for instruction with the Technology Specialist. Each classroom has a multi-media computer for 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 and saving files. The use of the internet is introduced.

World Language

Spanish is taught by the Spanish Education Specialist each week. Greetings and farewells, colors, numbers, body parts, 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 the students an opportunity to hear the spoken dialect. Spanish culture and customs are explored. Simple skills such as making a personal introduction, giving family information, and sharing personal preferences are introduced.

Library Science

First graders 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.

Music

First grade students 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 sing and play rhythm instruments to a varied repertoire of music. They move creatively to music, listen for melody and rhythm patterns and recognize high-low-same sounds. They respond to simple musical concepts, such as up/down. They participate in a musical performance at Christmas.

Physical Education

First grade students participate in physical education twice each week. During this time, they engage in developmental activities related to gross motor

movement and begin the more specific developmental process of throwing and catching, kicking, tumbling and dodging. We also begin emphasizing aerobic fitness.

Character Education

Character Education is an integral part of the curriculum at Mount Pisgah Christian School. We introduce 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 randomly selected at a weekly drawing at rally. Those students whose tickets are picked have their pictures posted on the Character board and are eligible for the bimonthly 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 Pisgah staff, they are given a "character rock." Their example of character is shared with the students in chapel and they get to take The Character Trophy to their homeroom until the next character rock winner is selected.

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 Pennies for Patients, 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.

Second Grade

Language Arts

Reading

We use the Macmillan/McGraw-Hill reading series, Treasures. 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

Spelling is integrated into our reading program. This flexible program is designed for multilevel classrooms and accommodates children of varying abilities. The skills taught are cumulative and the program is intended to provide spelling challenge and relevance.

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, including 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.

Study Skills

Students are introduced to systematic study skills in second grade. They are taught to organize study materials to maintain assignments and strengthen techniques for studying. A student agenda is used for assignment and project planning.

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. Use of a dedicated Primary School Science Lab is available for weekly experiments and exploration.

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 daily in the classroom. 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. Once a week, the second grade Chapel leader provides enrichment opportunities for all second graders.

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

Second grade students attend chapel every Monday morning with the Lower School. This service is conducted by a member of Pisgah's Chapel Team and by 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 Lower 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. The students use the internet with teacher assistance.

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.

World Language

Spanish is taught by the Spanish Education Specialist each week. 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, such as making a personal introduction, giving family information, and sharing personal preferences, are taught.

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 gross motor development playground.

Character Education

Character Education is an integral part of the curriculum at Mount Pisgah Christian School. We introduce 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 randomly selected at a weekly drawing at rally. Those students whose tickets are picked have their pictures posted on the Character board and are eligible for the bimonthly 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 Pisgah staff, they are given a "character rock." Their example of character is shared with the students in chapel and they get to take the Character Trophy to their homeroom until the next character rock winner is selected.

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. Author visits and concerts also provide enrichment opportunities.

Service Projects

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Third Grade

Language Arts

Reading

We use the Macmillan/McGraw-Hill reading series, *Treasures*. This series focuses on the teaching of reading through quality, award-winning literature. An integrated language approach is utilized to interest students through the use of thematic units. Students experience a variety of traditional and contemporary literature: fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Analogies, predictions, cause and effect and story elements are emphasized. Vocabulary is taught through daily vocabulary exercises with an emphasis on increasing vocabulary for daily use. A structured program is used to emphasize decoding skills and phonemic awareness to assist in reading and writing abilities.

English

Third graders use the Macmillan/McGraw-Hill reading series with English taught as a separate component. Students apply writing and grammar skills: capitalization, punctuation, and usage. The students demonstrate an understanding of the nature and function of the English language.

Spelling

Spelling is integrated into our reading program. Components consist of pretests and posttests, daily practice, phonemic awareness and application, and use of words in dictation sentences. The skills taught are cumulative and the program is intended to provide spelling challenge and relevance.

Writing

Students are encouraged to write regularly and creatively using skills and strategies of the writing process. Prewriting, writing, editing and publishing are emphasized. Students write paragraphs, identify the main idea and summarize stories. They learn to recognize and write poetry in its various forms. In addition, students write in a variety of texts, including expository and narrative.

Handwriting

Third graders continue to work on the mechanics of legible cursive handwriting. The Zaner-Bloser handwriting series is used to help students write in cursive using legible letter formation.

Study Skills

Students are introduced to systematic study skills in third grade. They are taught to organize study materials to maintain assignments and strengthen techniques for studying. A student agenda is used for assignment and project planning.

Math

We use the Wright Group/McGraw Hill Series Everyday Math. Lessons and activities focus on active learning, computational proficiency, problem solving and cooperative learning. Students learn to think, question and make decisions with confidence. Students focus on whole numbers up to ten thousands, fractions, place value, number patterns, time graphing, geometry, data, measurement, multiplying and dividing by single digit numbers, probability, estimation, mental math, and calculator proficiency.

Science

McGraw Hill Science is used to introduce students to the scientific method of discovery through thematic units and a hands-on, interdisciplinary approach. Units include: Plant and animal groups and their life cycles, fossils, rocks, soil, minerals, the structure of matter, weather, and climate. Use of a dedicated Primary School Science lab is available for weekly experiments and exploration.

Social Studies

Students use the Macmillan-McGraw Hill series. Additional material is integrated into the curriculum for the study of Georgia, as well as a basic government unit. A study of Japan and Native Americans is included. Map and globe skills are also taught.

Christian Education

Students have Christian Education daily in the classroom. Third graders study Bible lessons that deal with life in Biblical times. They discover the geography and customs of the people. Students learn of God's relationship with the people of ancient times. Students memorize scripture verses. Once a week, the third grade Chapel Leader provides enrichment opportunities for all third graders. Students attend Chapel every Monday afternoon with the entire Lower School.

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

Computer Science

Third graders go to the computer lab each week for instruction with the Technology Specialist. Each classroom has a multi-media computer for use during learning center activities. Students use intermediate word processing and desktop publishing skills to create and edit stories, poems and reports. Keyboarding skills continue to develop. The students are also introduced to multimedia software with which they create and present multimedia projects. Information management skills such as accessing and retrieving information and identifying appropriate resources are reinforced. Fundamental computer skills emphasizing proper use and care of software and hardware plus computer terminology and legal and ethical skills are reinforced. Computer networking and telecommunication skills are reinforced through the use of network printing, saving files, and using multiple storage drives. The students use the internet with teacher assistance.

World Language

Spanish is taught each week by the Spanish Education Specialist. Greetings and farewells, colors, numbers, weather, days of the week, and months of the year are introduced and applied by students with songs and hands-on activities. Stories are read to give students an opportunity to hear the spoken dialect. Spanish culture and customs are discussed and learned. Simple skills, such as making a personal introduction, giving family information and sharing personal preferences, are developed. Students learn to: count by 10s up to 100, and by 100s to 1000, talk about family, and family members. They learn basic knowledge of the customs and culture of Latin America, basic geography of North, Central, and South America, the Spanish alphabet, as well as how to spell simple vocabulary. Students begin to read and write phonetically in Spanish. Mathematics in Spanish is introduced.

Library Science

Students visit the Media Center each week for book check out and formal library science instruction. The Media Specialist teaches students to use the Media Center as a source of information and pleasure. Information management skills such as accessing and retrieving information are reinforced.

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.

Music

Third 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 musical selections of various ethnic cultural groups, learn simple folk rhythmic games, read simple rhythmic patterns from notation, and begin choral singing. Third graders focus on the orchestra, the instruments of the orchestra, and the lives and works of various composers. Students play instruments including the recorder. Students participate in several performances during the year.

Physical Education

Third grade students come to physical education three times a week. The emphasis is on fitness and basic movement skills necessary for successful sports participation. Activities in class are designed to help refine eye-hand and eye-foot coordination as well as body control needed in soccer, flag football, wiffleball, volleyball, team handball, tumbling, track and field, tennis, hockey, and basketball. They are administered the Presidential Fitness Test for the first time in third grade. On non-PE days, children enjoy outside recess time on the Mount Pisgah Christian School gross motor development playground.

Character Education

Character Education is an integral part of the curriculum at Mount Pisgah Christian School. We introduce 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 randomly selected at a weekly drawing at rally. Those students whose tickets are picked have their pictures posted on the Character board and are eligible for the bimonthly 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 Pisgah staff, they are given a "character rock." Their example of character is shared with the students in chapel and they get to take the Character Trophy to their homeroom until the next character rock winner is selected.

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. Author visits and concerts also provide enrichment opportunities.

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 Pennies for Patients, 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.

Fourth Grade

Language Arts

Reading

We use the Macmillan/McGraw-Hill reading series, Treasures. This series focuses the teaching of reading on mastering reading skills and reading proficiency through quality award-winning literature, as well as a variety of non-fiction selections. Students experience traditional and contemporary literature, as they focus on the following reading strategies: summarize, predict/infer, monitor/clarify, question and phonics/decoding. Vocabulary is taught through reading, writing and challenging vocabulary exercises. Students also participate in literature circles using quality childrens' novels.

English

We use the McGraw Hill Language Arts Series. Fourth graders apply writing and grammar skills: composition, story mapping, listening and speaking, language and usage, capitalization and punctuation, parts of speech and proofreading.

Spelling

We use the spelling program within Treasures. This flexible program, based on current research principles, accomodates children of varying abilities. The program includes a pretest, independent homework activities, an in-class post test, editing, writing application and standardized test practice. The skills taught are cumulative and the program is intended to provide spelling challenge and relevance.

Writing

Fourth graders are encouraged to write regularly and creatively using skills and strategies of the writing process. Prewriting, writing, editing and publishing are emphasized. Students write stories, poetry and tales/myths, news articles, journal entries and informational essays.

Study Skills/Organizational Skills

Students develop many study skill strategies during the year. They learn how to manage their time wisely, how to stay organized, how to be good listeners, how to take tests, how to read textbooks, and how to use resources for research.

Students are introduced to systematic study skills in fourth grade. They are taught to organize study materials to maintain assignments and strengthen techniques for studying. A student agenda is used for assignment and project planning.

Math

We use the Wright Group/McGraw Hill Series Everyday Math. Lessons and activities focus on active learning, computational proficiency, problem solving and cooperative learning. Students learn to think, question and make decisions with confidence. Students focus on whole numbers up to ten thousands, fractions, place value, number patterns, time graphing, geometry, data, measurement, multiplying and dividing by single digit numbers, probability, estimation, mental math, and calculator proficiency.

Science

The McGraw Hill series is used to develop the scientific method of discovery through units separated into areas of scientific study.

- Life Science: Ecology, Food Chains, Food Webs, Classification of Organisms
- Physical Science: Energy and Its Transformation: Sound, Light, Color, Magnetism, Electricity, Chemistry
- Earth Science: Weather, Climate, Water
- Astronomy, Earth's Surface and History
- Intermediate Science Lab for experiments and exploration

Social Studies

Students use the Macmillan-McGraw Hill Social Studies series, Our Country and Its Regions, which combines history, geography and economics in an interactive format. This series studies the geographic regions of the United States from early times to present. Students identify geographic patterns, classify regions, and demonstrate an understanding of economics and civics. The text is supplemented with other materials to enrich the curriculum. Time Magazine for Kids is used for current events.

Art

Fourth and Fifth grade students visit Art class twice a week for two quarters. 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

Students have Christian Education daily in the classroom. Fourth graders study four Bible characters who are spiritual heroes. They are: Elijah, champion of obedience; Esther, champion of faith; Nehemiah, champion of action; and Peter, champion of strength. They learn how God worked in Bible times through problem-filled periods that parallel ours today and what He has promised to do for all who trust His word and obey His will. Once a week, the fourth grade Chapel Leader provides enrichment opportunities for all fourth graders.

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

Fourth grade students attend chapel every Monday afternoon with the Lower School. This service is conducted by a member of Pisgah's Chapel Team and by 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 Lower School students participate in Christmas and Easter services.

Computer Science

Students 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. Students continue to use word processing, desktop publishing, and presentation software to create, edit, and save documents and presentations. Keyboarding skills continue to develop, while sending and receiving electronic mail is introduced. Information management skills include the introduction of the internet as a research tool. Organization of information results from searches introduced.

Foreign Language

Spanish is taught each week by the Spanish Education Specialist. Greetings and farewells, colors, numbers, weather, days of the week, and months of the year are reviewed and applied by students through written and oral activities, with a special emphasis on grammatical concepts. Spanish culture and customs are discussed and learned. Students review counting by 5's and 10's up to 100, and by 100's to 1000. They learn the concept of time. Students review basic knowledge of customs and culture of Latin America, and review knowledge of basic geography of North, Central, and South America. They review the Spanish alphabet and spell simple words in Spanish. Students begin to read and write phonetically in Spanish.

Library Science

Students visit the Media Center twice a week for two quarters during the school year. The Media Specialist teaches students to use the Media Center as a source of information and pleasure. Information management skills such as assessing and retrieving information are reinforced. The Media Specialist also provides vocabulary instruction. Students are encouraged to visit the Media Center before or after school to check out books.

Music

Fourth 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 study a variety of melodic patterns, listen to musical form and style and recognize rhythmic notation. Students sing songs from other countries and sing songs in round. They identify contemporary music, composers and instruments of the orchestra by sight and sound. They participate in several performances during the year. Students may participate in handbell choir and band.

Physical Education

Fourth graders have Health/Physical Education three times a week. Students participate in developmental activities for strength, endurance, flexibility, speed, balance, power and agility. They refine skill patterns and perform skills of endurance and coordination. We introduce aspects of health such as nutrition, personal health, and alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Fitness begins to play a larger part of the curriculum as the fourth graders become aware of their Presidential Fitness scores and how to interpret them. Students participate in individual, partner and group games.

Character Education

Character Education is an integral part of the curriculum at Mount Pisgah Christian School. We introduce 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 randomly selected at a weekly drawing at rally. Those students whose tickets are picked have their pictures posted on the Character board and are eligible for the bimonthly 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 Pisgah staff, they are given a "character rock." Their example of character is shared with the students in chapel and they get to take the Character Trophy to their homeroom until the next character rock winner is selected.

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. Author visits and concerts also provide enrichment opportunities.

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 Pennies for Patients, 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.

Fifth Grade

Language Arts

Reading

We use the Macmillan/McGraw-Hill reading series, Treasures. Fifth graders demonstrate competency in the general skills and strategies of the reading process by applying these skills and strategies to the reading of literature and literary texts. Students will be focusing on the major reading strategies of: predicting, inferring, phonics/decoding, monitoring, clarifying, questioning, evaluating and summarizing.

English

Students use the McGraw Hill Language Arts series to apply writing and grammar skills: parts of speech, parts and tenses of verbs, subjective and objective pronouns, sentence types, capitalization, punctuation, speaking and listening.

Spelling

We use the spelling program in Macmillan/McGraw-Hill's Treasures which is designed for multilevel classrooms. This flexible program, based on current research principles, accomodates children of varying abilities. The program includes independent homework activities, and an in-class posttest with dictation and editing. The skills taught are cumulative and the program is intended to provide spelling challenge and relevance.

Writing

Fifth graders write regularly and creatively using skills and strategies of the writing process. Students recognize and use simple, complex and compound sentences. They recognize and use standard editing symbols. Students write multiple quality paragraphs about a topic, using the writing process. Personal narrative, persuasive writing, explanatory writing, expository writing and persuasive essay are the focus of our vocabulary/word work.

Study Skills

Students develop many study skills strategies during the year. They learn how to manage their time wisely, how to stay organized, how to be good listeners, how to take tests, read textbooks, and use resources for research.

Students are introduced to systematic study skills in fifth grade. They are taught to organize study materials to maintain assignments and strengthen

techniques for studying. A student agenda is used for assignment and project planning.

Math

We use the Wright Group/McGraw-Hill Series Everyday Math. Lessons and activities focus on active learning, computational proficiency, problem solving and cooperative learning. Students learn to think, question and make decisions with confidence. Fifth graders focus on whole numbers up to one billion, rounding and estimating whole numbers up to one billion, multiplying and dividing by three-digit numbers, multiplying and dividing decimals and fractions, plane and solid geometry, ratios, percentages, graphs, and customary and metric units of measurement.

Science

The Science curriculum is based on the McGraw-Hill series. The series is well designed with an easy to understand book/page layout. Vocabulary is presented in an organized fashion prior to textbook presentation. The Methods of Science processing skills utilized are as follows: observation, question, hypothesis, experiment, conclusion/support or do not support hypothesis.

- Life Science views the structures of plants and animals, along with their interactions in their environments.
- Earth Science examines the Earth and its resources, as well as the weather and climate.
- Physical Science builds further on the properties of matter and energy, viewing motion and energy in our world.
- Intermediate Science Lab for experiments and exploration.

Social Studies

Students use the Macmillan-McGraw Hill series, The United States. They learn map skills, as well as renewable and non-renewable resources. They also learn to identify characteristics of various geographic areas in the United States and how to differentiate between geographic patterns. Students focus on the American Revolution through the Civil War. Time Magazine for Kids is used for current events.

Art

Fourth and fifth grade students visit Art class twice a week for two quarters. 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

Students have Christian Education daily in the classroom. Fifth graders concentrate on the Gospel of Matthew, the life of Jesus from birth to resurrection and the Great Commission. Introduction to reference skills includes using the Bible dictionary, Atlas, Concordance and other reference books. Life application of Bible truths is emphasized.

Once a week, the fifth grade Chapel Leader provides enrichment opportunities for all fifth graders.

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

Fifth grade students attend chapel every Monday. The service is conducted by a member of Pisgah's Chapel Team and members of the Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church ministerial staff. Songs, prayers and a youth sermon make this an important start to our spiritual as well as our academic week at Mount Pisgah Christian School. All Lower School students participate in Christmas and Easter services.

Computer Science

Students attend computer lab each week for instruction with the Technology Specialist. Each classroom has a multi-media computer for use during learning center activities. Students also have access to open computer lab time each week for research purposes. Students continue to use word processing, desktop publishing, and presentation software to create, edit, and save documents and presentations. Keyboarding skills continue to develop. Information management skills are reinforced and citing electronic sources is introduced.

World Language

Spanish is taught each week with the Spanish Education Specialist. Students understand and apply vocabulary words through written and oral activities with an emphasis on grammatical concepts. They continue to develop word order, sentence patterns, verb conjugation, formal and informal pronouns. Skits and short plays are learned and performed, giving students the opportunity to speak the language with adequate pronunciation, intonation and comprehension.

Library Science

Students visit the Media Center twice a week for two quarters during the school year. The Media Specialist teaches students to use the Media Center as a source of information and pleasure. Information management skills such as assessing and retrieving information are reinforced. The Media Specialist also provides vocabulary instruction. Students are encouraged to visit the Media Center before and after school to check out books.

Music

Fifth graders have music each week with the Music Education Specialist. The Silver Burdett series, *Making Music*, is used to help students understand the relationship between music history and culture. Students listen to a variety of music from different times and places. They identify major and minor scales and chords, read rhythmic patterns from musical notation and perform in choral activities. They participate in several performances during the year. Students may participate in handbell choir and band.

Physical Education

Fifth graders attend Health/Physical Education three times a week and have recess twice a week. They continue to refine their basic skills pertaining to the specific sport being taught as well as being introduced to the cognitive side of the unit with strategies and rule concepts. We relate more health issues to the curriculum in the fifth grade, such as personal health, growth and development, nutrition, alcohol, tobacco and drugs. Fitness is a large part of the year as the students come to an understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses by way of the Presidential Fitness testing program.

Character Education

Character Education is an integral part of the curriculum at Mount Pisgah Christian School. We introduce 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.

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