

# Curriculum Philosophy

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## Bible

We teach God's Word at each grade level as is developmentally appropriate for that age. Children understand scripture as a fact to an abstract application as they progress through school.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. "

2 Timothy 3:16, 17

## Language

Language includes the crucial areas of writing, listening, and speaking. The Bible has much to say about these subjects. The ability to write, listen, and speak are a gift from God. Each is a powerful tool to communicate with God and others.

"And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God."

Exodus 31:18

"So the Lord said to him, 'who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, or deaf...? Have not I the Lord?'"

Exodus 4:11

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. "

Proverbs 15:1

## Reading

It is God's plan that people should be able to read well. He saw to it that His message was written, so people could read it and know for sure what He said. God commands us to read His word. Christ expects us to read and understand the Scriptures.

Mastering the skill of reading enables us to know eternal life:

"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."

I John 5:13

"The entrance of your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple."

Psalms 119; 130

## Mathematics

God cares about numbers. God has at various times commanded men to count, measure, and record their findings. God is concerned that we be accurate and orderly in our use of weights, measures and numbers.

“Mathematics has a consistent foundation and framework because the God who created and upholds is consistent.”

-John M. Kraus

## Science

VCS uses Association of Christian Schools International Purposeful Design Science curriculum. The following excerpts from the Foreword and Preface set the stage for the study of science:

The series offers a highly interactive, educationally engaging, and colorfully designed program. Students gain a God-centered perspective of creation, responsibility, and stewardship.

The more students’ curiosity and skills for scientific inquiry are encouraged, their natural response will be wonder. The more they learn about the complexity and intricacy of God’s handiwork, their wonder will grow into worshipful awe. As students begin to view all of life through the eyes of faith, they will see evidences of God’s power, wisdom, and love all around them.

We discuss the world view and compare it with scripture. In God’s Word lies the truth:

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.”

Psalms 19:1-2

“But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you: or speak to the earth, and it will teach you: and the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.”

Job 12:7-10

Various field trips accompany this curriculum. Students may visit the aquarium, the insectarium, a hospital, the zoo, the museum of natural history, Churchville Nature Center, Morris Arboretum, a planetarium, the Franklin Institute, or the Weller Center.

## Social Science

McGraw Hill publishing company offers a complete study in history, geography, social institutions, and government in grades one through six. God expects us to learn from a knowledge of history. He has a plan He is carrying to completion. History is our record as that plan progresses.

“For ask now concerning the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether any great thing like this has happened, or anything like it has been heard. Did any people ever hear the voice of God speaking...as you have heard, and live? Or did God ever try to...take for himself a nation from the midst of another nation...according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt...?”

Deuteronomy 4:32-34

## Physical Education

Physical size and ability are mentioned many times in Scripture. David's mighty men fought valiantly, David himself was skillful with a bow, and Saul and Jonathan are described as being swifter than eagles and stronger than lions. Games and athletic competition provide pictures of the Christian life. Paul describes the athlete as running for a goal...

"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore, I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as on who beats the air: But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."

I Corinthians 9:24-27

Self-discipline is essential to win and obedience to the rules of the game is required. Physical activities are a useful tool in developing Christian character. Our goal is to use this avenue to bring glory to our Savior...

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

I Corinthians 10:31

## Art

Creation is God's artwork and a demonstration of his love for us. He made objects that were pleasant to the sight. He saw everything that he made as good. God offers instruction and enjoyment from his creation. Man has the ability to create and appreciate art as he is made in God's image.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork."

Psalms 19:1

## Music

Scripture speaks of singing and instruments in heaven. The earth sings praises to our Lord. Christians are commanded to sing:

"Be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

Ephesians 5:18, 19

Heather Greenwood in, "Why Include Music in the Christian School Curriculum?" sets forth the following values of music in a Christian school:

- To give enjoyment
- To help children achieve successes
- To encourage participation and social development
- To develop self-discipline
- To teach communication without words
- To create a sense of serenity
- To teach discernment
- To acquaint with other cultures and historical periods
- To bring glory to God

## Technology

Technology is taught as a separate curriculum across the grades and is a tool used to enhance all subjects. VCS teaches technology safety and proper/improper use of media. Desktops, laptops, iPads and Smart Boards are used in each classroom. Technology is a tool used to increase our ability to communicate and to express our thoughts.

Technology areas include:

- Word Processing
- Spreadsheets
- Databases
- Graphic Design
- Desktop Publishing
- Multimedia
- Operating Systems
- Keyboarding
- Internet Usage
- Webpage Design
- Computer Programming

The School Technology Programs website gives safe and immediate access to over 1,200 educational websites.

## Foreign Language

Moses' aptitude with language was obviously beneficial during his time in Pharaoh's palace.

“...And the Lord said, Indeed the people are one and they all have one language...let us go down and confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech... the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.”

Genesis 11:1-9

God's creation of many languages was used to protect us from uniting against God. However, we as Christians have a command to...

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing...Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”

Matthew 28:19, 20

“Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.”

Acts 7:22

How important is the study of language? Charles V used to say that ‘the more languages a man knew, he was so many times more a man.’ Each new form of human speech introduces one into a new world of thought and life.

-Roger Ascham, 1515-1568