

ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



**Salem Academy Christian Schools
942 Lancaster Drive
Salem, OR 97301**

SALEM ACADEMY ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CURRICULUM PHILOSOPHY	3
ENRICHMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS.....	4
KINDERGARTEN.....	7
FIRST GRADE.....	9
SECOND GRADE.....	11
THIRD GRADE	14
FOURTH GRADE	17
FIFTH & SIXTH GRADE – <i>BRIDGE 56</i>	20
GRADING SCALES	23



SALEM ACADEMY CURRICULUM

Curriculum Philosophy

Curriculum can be defined in a variety of terms. Here at Salem Academy we chose to define curriculum as a purposeful organized program of study and courses required for a specific program or goal. The goal that SA has created for our students is found in our Mission and Vision Statement.

“The mission and vision of Salem Academy Christian Schools is to provide an excellent education, from a Christ-centered, Biblical perspective, so that our students might know and serve God.”

The Scriptural basis for “an excellent education” is found in Colossians 3:23, which says, “Whatever you do, do it with your whole heart as unto the Lord, not unto men.”

The Scriptural basis for “Christ-centered” is found in Mark 12:30, which says “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

The Scriptural basis for “Biblical perspective” is Philippians 2:2-5, which says “Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...”

The Scriptural basis for “knowing and serving God” is found in Philippians 3:10, which says “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”

The learning experience at Salem Academy also takes place in the context that all truth is God’s Truth, and the foundation of that Truth is found in the person of Jesus Christ. The Scriptural basis for this context is found in John 1:1, which states “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Education – specifically Christian education – is not a simple or easy task. Competent Christians are needed in every area of life as we strive to bring a small piece of redemption into a fallen world. Whether our students enter fields of law, medicine, politics, education, journalism, film-making, business, ministry, science and, most importantly, the homes they establish, they need to be equipped with a sound Biblical perspective that allows them to bring glory to God in whatever calling He has led them into.

The curriculum at SA contains sufficient breadth so that students begin to discover how God has gifted them, and also includes enough depth so that those gifts can be developed, honored, and mastered. The curriculum is designed to provide a broad view of the world from a Biblical perspective, and also designed to give students a vision for their place and role within that world.



ENRICHMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Art

Description: The Salem Academy Elementary Art program provides students with the opportunity to explore and discover through creative expression. Students begin the year with the knowledge that God is the Great Creator of everything and they are made in His image to glorify Him through every piece of artwork that they produce. Students learn a variety of techniques and use a variety of media as they draw and paint. Elements of art and principles of design are introduced and reviewed: line, color, shape and form, pattern, texture, space, and composition. Art lessons are process-oriented and hands-on. Students study the art of other artists, cultures, and historic periods. They are taught to see and understand the aesthetic elements which give a work of art lasting beauty and meaning. Students develop confidence in the process of creating art and begin to show a richer background and center of interest in their artwork.

Curriculum: *Art Attack*

Physical Education

Description: Our program offers a variety of activities to help our students to grow physically, mentally, socially and spiritually. In addition to offering basic sport skills, brain activities such as cup stacking, juggling, and creative rope jumping are also taught. Each student will be made aware of individual capabilities and fitness levels, along with activities and an understanding of wellness. Students may participate in the Mileage Club which promotes walking, jogging, and running during recess and early arrival times. Other PE opportunities include Country Kids Relays and the annual Eagles Invitational Track and Field Meet for our 1st-6th graders. 5th and 6th grade students can also participate in after school cross country (fall) and track and field (spring).

Library (K-4) and Journalism (5-6)

Description: Lessons emphasize library skills and literature appreciation. Literacy instructional objectives are offered in collaboration with the classroom teachers. In library we also connect the students with the outside world using our extensive selection of books and technology that allows us to go on virtual field trips. We use Skype to connect with classrooms, missionaries, and people all over the world. Students also check out books

weekly from the library and receive direction and help with the Accelerated Reader Program and research projects.

Bridge 56 students will study basic principles and skills of online journalism. They will learn investigative skills, responsible reporting and journalistic writing techniques as they compose their own articles. Students will also have an opportunity to explore photojournalism that will enhance their journalist writing.

Music

Description: This program is taught by our music specialist. In addition to vocal instruction, the use of Orff instruments, percussion, bells, piano keyboarding, and guitar instruction offer a broad base of musical experiences and appreciation for general music classes. Concert opportunities at Christmas and in the spring musical encourage the development of performance skills as well as a touch of drama and role play. Our annual Christmas performance at the State Capital is an outreach opportunity to the community. Additionally, band and choir are offered to our 5th and 6th grade students as a music elective during the school day. For an additional fee, strings is available to elementary students after school.

Computers

Description: All elementary students are involved in computer classes designed to enrich and enhance what is taught within their regular classroom setting. Engaging lessons will give students hands-on experience in six key areas: keyboarding, communication & research, productivity tools, multimedia, computer literacy, and computer science.

S.T.E.M. (5th and 6th Grade Only)

Description: S.T.E.M. is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines: science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This is an interdisciplinary, hands-on, real world, problem-based learning model connecting all four of the S.T.E.M. subjects.

Foods – Farm to Table (5th and 6th Grade Only)

Description: This is a fun introduction to cooking, home living, and farming. Students will learn basic cooking skills such as; how to follow a recipe, measure properly, use kitchen utensils, cook on a stovetop, and clean a kitchen. They will enjoy decorating a cake for their final project. Students may do a simple sewing project as well. Students will also learn a bit

about farming, reading a seed packet, and growing your own food in Oregon.

Field Trips

Description: All classes go on field trips throughout the year that enhance the learning in the classroom. 5th grade students go to Outdoor School for a week in May.

KINDERGARTEN

Student/Teacher Ratio: 18:1

Half Day Kindergarten: 8:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Full Day Kindergarten: 8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ACADEMICS

Bible: In kindergarten, the first half of the year focuses on God’s Creation. Students also learn about what the Bible says about good choices vs. bad choices, being obedient to our parents, and how to react and respond to others through the reading of Bible stories. The second half of the year focuses on Jesus’ birth and life on earth, His promise to take care of all our needs, hear our prayers, and always be there to help us do our best. Students also memorize short scripture verses that are from the lesson.

All preschool-1st grade students meet together and participate in a weekly, age appropriate chapel once a week. Students have a time of praise and worship and hear Bible-based teaching.

Curriculum: Bible (NIV), *Purposeful Design Bible Kindergarten* (ACSI)

Literacy: Initial assessments are used to determine the reading readiness and/or ability of each child. Students are instructed phonetically at their ability level. Reading readiness time is never boring! Learning letters and sounds is taught in a variety of fun, creative ways including sign language, music, poems, and art! As children show mastery of letter recognition and know the sounds of each letter, they begin to learn to decode words by introducing “word families”. Literacy principles are integrated throughout all subject areas.

Curriculum: *Wonders* (McGraw Hill), *Nellie Edge*, teacher generated materials and books.

Handwriting: Lessons teach students how to correctly write numbers, capitals, and lowercase letters. Activities form good handwriting habits and develop strong writers.

Mathematics: Age appropriate problems and investigations are used to develop the students’ mathematical thinking and reasoning skills, as well as building their knowledge of basic math facts. Integrated themes are frequently used throughout the curriculum. Students learn sorting, graphing, counting, early addition and subtraction, patterning, count to 100, story problems, measuring, money, and the exploration of geometry and 2-3 dimensional shapes.

Curriculum: *Number Skills* (A Beka) and teacher generated units

Science: Science is taught through a hands-on approach. Kindergarten students learn about animals, insects, dinosaurs, nutrition, weather and plants. God has made a wonderful world for our students to explore in kindergarten!

Social Studies: Units include holidays, cultures, community helpers, leaders, and transportation.

Art: Art is incorporated in many areas of the kindergarten day. Students use art to develop fine motor skills, attention to detail, following directions, and self-expression in discovery based lessons.

Parent Communication and Student Assessment

Newsletters: Newsletters are sent home every week as a means of communication between parent and teacher.

RenWeb/Email: Our school wide computer communication system is called RenWeb. Parents can use RenWeb to look for important school announcements, monthly elementary newsletters, and copies of classroom newsletters from our teachers. Grades are posted weekly on RenWeb for our 3rd-5th grade students. Salem Academy also uses email to send eblasts to families about upcoming events and important announcements. Parents are encouraged to check their email regularly and notify the school of any changes to their email address.

Report Cards: Specially designed kindergarten report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter. They are designed to communicate specific academic progress, character development, and study habits for each kindergarten student. Mandatory parent/teacher conferences are held at the end of the first quarter and optional parent/teacher conferences are held at the end of the third quarter.

Homework: Students are given weekly homework to help establish routines and to independently practice skills that have been learned at school.

FIRST GRADE

Student/Teacher Ratio: 20:1

School Hours: 8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ACADEMICS

Bible: In 1st grade the Bible program is designed to develop an understanding of the Scriptures, building a foundation for in-depth knowledge of Bible truth, as well as the ability to apply Scripture to the students' daily lives. This is accomplished through Bible stories, Scripture memory, prayer, songs, and weekly chapels. Creation, some of the Old Testament leaders, the life of Christ, and early church leaders are presented. Character building qualities focus on loving and serving God and others.

All preschool-1st grade students meet together and participate in a weekly, age appropriate chapel once a week. Students have a time of praise and worship and hear Bible-based teaching.

Curriculum: The Bible (NIV), *Purposeful Design Bible 1* (ACSI)

Literacy: Initial assessment is used to determine reading levels and skills at the beginning of the school year. Our program invites children into the joy and benefits of reading. The Christian content reflects biblical truth and fosters character growth. A phonetic approach is used to teach decoding skills by recognizing special sounds and blends. A variety of literature is used to reinforce fluency, accuracy, comprehension, vocabulary, and sequencing. Writing is used to develop creative thinking, expression, and to reinforce language skills. The Accelerated Reader Program is introduced in 1st grade to develop comprehension skills and a love of reading.

Curriculum: *Wonders* (McGraw Hill)

Spelling: The 1st grade spelling program uses a phonetic approach, emphasizing patterns and memorization of common sight words. Progress is measured through weekly spelling tests and assignments.

Curriculum: *Wonders* (McGraw Hill)

Handwriting: Our handwriting program helps students develop the necessary skills to express themselves through writing. Our purpose is to help them achieve legibility and neatness in order to make handwriting a useful and enjoyable activity.

Mathematics: Our math program is an age-appropriate approach, emphasizing problem solving, critical thinking, application, and mastery of basic math facts through manipulative exploration, group activities, independent work, and memorization.

Curriculum: A Beka

Science: Science in 1st grade engages students in investigating, observing, and thinking about the created world. It relates to the creative work of God and wonders of His creation. Topics include exposure to Life, Physical, and Earth and Space Sciences.

Curriculum: *Purposeful Design Science 1* (ACSI)

Social Studies: Our social studies program includes exposure to American citizenship, goods and services, map skills, cultures, and how American life has changed throughout history. We also introduce the concept of how God works out His plan for each person's life as seen through the timeline of history.

Parent Communication and Student Assessment

Newsletters: Newsletters are sent home every week as a means of communication between parent and teacher. Newsletters include spelling words, Bible memory work, and school news.

RenWeb/Email: Our school wide computer communication system is called RenWeb. Parents can use RenWeb to look for important school announcements, monthly elementary newsletters, and copies of classroom newsletters from our teachers. Grades are posted weekly on RenWeb for our 3rd-5th grade students. Salem Academy also uses email to send eblasts to families about upcoming events and important announcements. Parents are encouraged to check their email regularly and notify the school of any changes to their email address.

Report Cards: Specially designed 1st grade report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter. They are designed to communicate specific academic progress, character development, and study habits for each 1st grade student. Mandatory parent/teacher conferences are held at the end of the first quarter and optional parent/teacher conferences are held at the end of the third quarter.

Homework: Students are given spelling and reading homework each week to help establish routines and to independently practice skills that have been learned at school.

SECOND GRADE

Student/Teacher Ratio: 20:1

School Hours: 8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ACADEMICS

Bible: In 2nd grade the Bible program is designed to develop an understanding of the Scriptures, building a foundation for in-depth knowledge of Bible truth, as well as the ability to apply Scripture to the students' daily lives. Bible lessons include the story of creation, the lives of important Old Testament people such as Abraham and Moses, Jesus: birth to resurrection, Peter and Paul. Students also memorize weekly Scripture verses that align with the Bible lesson for the week.

All 2nd-4th grade students meet together and participate in an age appropriate chapel once a week. Students have a time of praise and worship and hear Bible-based teaching.

Curriculum: The Bible (NIV), *Purposeful Design Bible 2* (ACSI)

Literacy: Students are involved in activities that motivate them to read for a purpose and tighten the link between the reading lesson and the way reading enriches their lives. Reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension are emphasized, as well as literature appreciation. The Accelerated Reader Program is also used in second grade to develop comprehension skills and a love of reading.

Grammar is the foundation to good writing and focuses on the development and practice of grammar skills. In the writing process, students learn to plan, draft, revise, proofread, and publish personal stories, instructions, descriptions, make-believe stories, and poetry.

Curriculum: *Wonders* (McGraw Hill)

Spelling: The 2nd grade spelling program uses a phonetic approach, emphasizing common practices and rules as well as memorization of basic sight words. A practice test is given at the beginning of the week with a final test at the end of each week. Spelling assignments in class and nightly practice at home help students to be successful.

Curriculum: *Wonders* (McGraw Hill)

Handwriting: Our handwriting program helps students develop the necessary skills to express themselves through writing. We focus on proper letter formation, spacing, and neatness. Manuscript is used at the beginning of the year and cursive is used for the remainder of the year.

Mathematics: Age appropriate problems and investigations develop students' mathematical thinking and reasoning skills, as well as build their knowledge of basic math facts. Mastery of addition and subtraction facts is expected by the end of the first semester. Students will also learn counting patterns, place value, counting money, recognition of coins and bills, story problems, measuring, time, borrowing, fractions, and beginning multiplication.

Curriculum: A Beka

Science: The study of science is activity based with the goal of developing processing, critical thinking, and scientific reasoning skills through the study and examination of living things, their habitats, force and gravity, air, light, weather, and oceans.

Curriculum: *Purposeful Design Science 2* (ACSI)

Social Studies: Students study how American citizens best cooperate, goods and services, map skills, how culture is shared and how American life has changed throughout history. 2nd grade has their annual Colonial Day in February when students research a colonial occupation, create a sign, and dress up in a colonial costume. Students experience butter making, candle making, corn husk dolls, placemat weaving, and tin punch luminaires.

Curriculum: *Our America 2* (A Beka)

Parent Communication and Student Assessment

Newsletters: Newsletters are sent home every week as a means of communication between parent and teacher. Newsletters include spelling words, Bible memory work, and school news.

RenWeb/Email: Our school wide computer communication system is called RenWeb. Parents can use RenWeb to look for important school announcements, monthly elementary newsletters, and copies of classroom newsletters from our teachers. Grades are posted weekly on RenWeb for our 3rd-5th grade students. Salem Academy also uses email to send eblasts to families about upcoming events and important announcements. Parents are encouraged to check their email regularly and notify the school of any changes to their email address.

Report Cards: Specially designed 2nd grade report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter. They are designed to communicate specific academic progress, character development, and study habits for each 2nd grade student. Mandatory parent/teacher conferences are held at the

end of the first quarter and optional parent/teacher conferences are held at the end of the third quarter.

Homework: Homework consists of daily review of Bible memory verses, spelling words, 15 minutes of reading, and specific homework assignments which review a skill or a daily assignment that was not completed in class. Homework is an integral part of the school program and is assigned to aid the student in learning. It provides the student an opportunity to advance in his/her studies, learn time management, and to demonstrate and practice the knowledge gained in class. The work assigned is a supplement to work that occurs in the classroom. Homework is considered both vital and necessary.

THIRD GRADE

Student/Teacher Ratio: 20:1

School Hours: 8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ACADEMICS

Bible: Bible accounts and application stories teach students how to live the Bible as well as know the Bible through a thematic study of the life of Christ, the early church, and missions from the time of Paul until now. Students also memorize weekly Scripture verses that align with the Bible lesson for the week.

All 2nd-4th grade students meet together and participate in an age appropriate chapel once a week. Students have a time of praise and worship and hear Bible-based teaching.

Curriculum: The Bible (NIV), *Purposeful Design Bible 3* (ACSI)

Literacy: Students are involved in activities that motivate them to read for a purpose. Our reading program moves students beyond the basal and into books of all kinds, reaching every child with good literature. It tightens the link between the reading lesson and the way reading enriches their lives. Growth in fluency, accuracy, comprehension, identification of the parts of a story, and a number of other reading skills is emphasized. The Accelerated Reader Program is also used in 3rd grade to develop comprehension skills and a love of reading.

Emphasis on traditional grammar skills as well as practice with reference skills and step-by-step use of the writing process is used for different types of writing assignments. In the writing process, students learn to plan, draft, revise, proofread, and publish personal stories, instructions, descriptions, make-believe stories, and poetry.

Curriculum: *Wonders* (McGraw Hill)

Spelling: The 3rd grade spelling program uses a phonetic approach, emphasizing common practices and rules as well as memorization of basic sight words. A practice test is given at the beginning of the week with a final test at the end of each week. Spelling assignments in class and nightly practice at home help students to be successful.

Curriculum: *Wonders* (McGraw Hill)

Handwriting: Our handwriting program helps students develop the necessary skills to express themselves through writing. We focus on proper letter formation, spacing, and neatness. Cursive writing is taught and mastered in 3rd grade.

Curriculum: *Handwriting Without Tears* (HWT)

Mathematics: Age appropriate problems and investigations develop students' mathematical thinking and reasoning skills, as well as build their knowledge of basic math facts. Concepts taught include place value, geometry, multiplication and division, time, money, measurement, fractions, graphing, and review of addition and subtraction facts.

Curriculum: A Beka

Science: Students will learn about plants, animals, human biology, earth and space through the use of an activity based program, as well as develop critical thinking and reasoning skills. As part of these studies, students learn how to research, create, and write reports on animals and space.

Curriculum: *Purposeful Design Science 3* (ACSI)

Social Studies: Students learn about communities, their environment and the formation of our government. They learn about their responsibility as a US citizen in a growing nation. Students are also introduced to map skills and important figures in American history. They will write a research report on a famous American from the past.

Curriculum: *Our American Heritage* (A Beka)

Parent Communication and Student Assessment

Newsletters: Newsletters are sent home every week as a means of communication between parent and teacher. Newsletters include spelling words, Bible memory work, and school news.

RenWeb/Email: Our school wide computer communication system is called RenWeb. Parents can use RenWeb to look for important school announcements, monthly elementary newsletters, and copies of classroom newsletters from our teachers. Grades are posted weekly on RenWeb for our 3rd-5th grade students. Salem Academy also uses email to send eblasts to families about upcoming events and important announcements. Parents are encouraged to check their email regularly and notify the school of any changes to their email address.

Report Cards: Specially designed 3rd grade report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter. They are designed to communicate specific academic progress, character development, and study habits for each 3rd grade student. Mandatory parent/teacher conferences are held at the end of the first quarter and optional parent/teacher conferences are held at the end of the third quarter.

Homework: Homework is kept to a minimum and consists primarily of spelling words, memory verses, independent practice, follow up of daily assignments, and test preparation. Homework is an integral part of the school program and is assigned to aid the student in learning. It provides the student an opportunity to advance in his/her studies, learn time management, and to demonstrate and practice the knowledge gained in class. The work assigned is a supplement to work that occurs in the classroom. Homework is considered both vital and necessary.

FOURTH GRADE

Student/Teacher Ratio: 20:1

School Hours: 8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ACADEMICS

Bible: Students will be studying the doctrines of the Christian faith. The students will develop a Christian worldview through both knowledge and application of Scripture. They will be given weekly verses to memorize that apply to the week's lesson.

All 2nd-4th grade students meet together and participate in an age appropriate chapel once a week. Students have a time of praise and worship and hear Bible-based teaching.

Curriculum: The Bible (NIV), *Purposeful Design Bible 4* (ACSI)

Literacy: Students are involved in activities that extend and deepen their reading comprehension, literacy appreciation, and vocabulary. Student learning is differentiated through the Accelerated Reader Program and grouped reading instruction.

Traditional grammar skills are taught with guided practice, independent practice, and review. Use of the writing process is used for a variety of writing assignments. Each student publishes an Oregon Trail book and writes a research paper.

Curriculum: *Wonders Balanced Literacy* (McGraw Hill), Bob Jones English 4, various literature books

Spelling: A phonetic approach is used emphasizing common patterns and rules, as well as memorization of words. Prefixes, suffixes, and root words are taught to enhance vocabulary and spelling. Spelling is included in proofreading of written work. A practice test is given at the beginning of the week with a final test at the end of each week. Spelling assignments in class and nightly practice at home help students to be successful.

Curriculum: *Wonders Balanced Literacy* (McGraw Hill)

Keyboarding: Keyboarding skills will be taught using home row alignment. As their skills progress, students will begin using the computer to type assigned work.

Mathematics: Problem solving, real-world correlation, and manipulatives develop students' mathematical thinking skills and build knowledge of basic math. Concepts covered are place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, geometry, fractions, decimals and measurement. Multiplication facts are required to be memorized fluently.

Curriculum: A Beka

Science: Our studies include life science, energy, earth science, and human body systems. Hands-on activities are incorporated along with the scientific method. Class projects and field trips reinforce and enrich these subjects.

Curriculum: *Purposeful Design Science 4* (ACSI)

Social Studies: In 4th grade students study Oregon history. Units include Native Americans, explorers, pioneers, statehood, government and Oregon's regions. Geography skills are also developed. An extensive unit on the Oregon Trail and Pioneer Day are a highlight of the year. Students take many field trips relating to their study of Oregon.

Curriculum: *Get Oregonized, Oregon's History* (Oregon AITC)

Parent Communication and Student Assessment

Newsletters: Newsletters are sent home every week as a means of communication between parent and teacher. Newsletters include spelling words, Bible memory work, and school news.

RenWeb/Email: Our school wide computer communication system is called RenWeb. Parents can use RenWeb to look for important school announcements, monthly elementary newsletters, and copies of classroom newsletters from our teachers. Grades are posted weekly on RenWeb for our 3rd-5th grade students. Salem Academy also uses email to send eblasts to families about upcoming events and important announcements. Parents are encouraged to check their email regularly and notify the school of any changes to their email address.

Report Cards: Specially designed 4th grade report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter. They are designed to communicate specific academic progress, character development, and study habits for each 4th grade student. Mandatory parent/teacher conferences are held at the end of the first quarter and optional parent/teacher conferences are held at the end of the third quarter.

Homework: Homework is kept to approximately 45 minutes nightly and consists of mainly reading, spelling word practice, math fact drills, memory work, and follow-up of daily work.

Students will also spend time studying for tests and assigned projects throughout the year. Homework is an integral part of the school program and is assigned to aid the student in learning. It provides the student an opportunity to advance in his/her studies, learn time management, and to demonstrate and practice the knowledge gained in class. The work assigned is a supplement to work that occurs in the classroom. Homework is considered both vital and necessary.

FIFTH & SIXTH GRADE – *Bridge 56*

Student/Teacher Ratio: 20:1 (5th) and 25:1 (6th)

School Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

The Salem Academy *Bridge 56* is organized so that the 5th and 6th grade years are a transition into a full junior high school schedule in the 7th and 8th grade years. Students in the 5th and 6th grade will be introduced to switching classrooms for core academic subjects, as well as P.E. and elective classes. There are six (6) core classes that students will take each year: Bible, Writing/Grammar, Math, Science, History, and Reading.

All students will be introduced to a variety of elective courses throughout the school year: Art, S.T.E.M., Computer, Leadership and Spiritual Growth, and World Connections. In addition, students will select one music elective to participate in all school year: Choir, Band, or General Music.

ACADEMICS

Bible: 5th grade students will work through a chronological survey of major Old Testament events. During this process students will begin to better understand God's Person, His plan, and His principles for living. Scripture memory is a vital part of the curriculum as well.

6th grade students will assimilate foundational bible knowledge with life application demonstrated by Christian living through the study of the book of Genesis. They will gain a true understanding of the nature of God, redemption, and Christian purpose. They learn to align themselves with the truth of God's word through daily engagement with the characters, victories/battles, and stories from book of Genesis and other stories in the Old Testament. Students will also spend time studying the birth and death of Christ. This is accomplished through reader's theatre, media, discussion, lecture and the practice personal daily devotions.

All 5th and 6th grade students meet together and participate in an age appropriate chapel once a week. Students have a time of praise and worship and hear Bible-based teaching.

Curriculum: The Bible (NIV), *Purposeful Design Bible 5* (ACSI), Genesis

Literacy: Students are involved in activities that motivate them to read for a purpose and enjoy reading for pleasure. Students participate in The Accelerated Reader Program to develop comprehension skills and a love of reading. The reading skills that are emphasized in 5th and 6th grade include fluency, accuracy, reading with expression, comprehension, vocabulary,

identification of parts of a story and relating story content to Biblical truth. Literature units are used with differentiated instruction in reading groups. Students are also assigned specific book report projects throughout the year.

Students will continue to develop grammar skills through written and oral communication. They will work on the writing process through learning to write different types of compositions. Students will also work on developing study and reference skills and improve listening and speaking skills through various assigned projects throughout the year.

Curriculum: *Wonders Balanced Literacy* (McGraw Hill), Bob Jones English 5/6, and various literature books

Spelling: Spelling is a critical literacy skill that strengthens reading and writing ability. Word sorting by phonetic pattern and developing vocabulary through word study are strategies emphasized in every lesson. Weekly spelling tests are incorporated in the curriculum.

Curriculum: *Wonders Balanced Literacy* (McGraw Hill)

Mathematics: 5th grade students will continue to work on their basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division skills. New concepts introduced are fractions, decimals, factoring, geometric shapes, and beginning algebra. Problem solving and critical thinking are an important part of our math curriculum. Quizzes and tests will be given biweekly along with daily speed drills. Students are divided by ability levels to differentiate instruction. Once a year students are selected to participate in ACSI Math Olympics competing in computation and math reasoning.

6th grade students will focus on the following areas: Ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability.

Curriculum: A Beka (5th) and Math I (6th)

Science: In 5th grade the study of science is activity-based with the goal of developing process, critical thinking, and scientific reasoning skills through the study and examination of plants, populations, ecosystems, energy, work and machines, light and sound, the solar system, and the earth. In the spring, students attend Outdoor School, a week long science camp.

In sixth grade general science students will explore life, physical, earth and space science from a biblical worldview. Learning will take place through hands-on experiments, demonstrations, observation, working collaboratively with other students, reading, and research. Students will learn about the scientific method predicting, investigating, analyzing results and making conclusions.

Curriculum: *Purposeful Design Science 5/6* (ACSI)

Social Studies: In 5th grade history of the United States is explored from the start of the colonies; studying several aspects of how our country was formed, all the way to the greatest change our country went through, the Civil War. At the end of the year students have a Civil War Day with authentic replicas and activities. Students also participate in a Living History Museum in the spring portraying an actual person from history.

6th grade students will study Old World History and Geography and travel from the beginning of recorded history all the way to present day while meeting many famous explorers, leaders, and missionaries along the way.

Curriculum: *The History of Our United States 5* (A Beka), *Old World History 6* (A Beka)

Parent Communication and Student Assessment

Newsletters: Newsletters are sent home every week as a means of communication between parent and teacher. Newsletters include spelling words, Bible memory work, and school news.

RenWeb/Email: Our school wide computer communication system is called RenWeb. Parents can use RenWeb to look for important school announcements, monthly elementary newsletters, and copies of classroom newsletters from our teachers. Grades are posted weekly on RenWeb for our 3rd-6th grade students. Salem Academy also uses email to send eblasts to families about upcoming events and important announcements. Parents are encouraged to check their email regularly and notify the school of any changes to their email address.

Report Cards: Specially designed 5th and 6th grade report cards are sent home at the end of each quarter. They are designed to communicate specific academic progress, character development, and study habits for each 5th and 6th grade student. Mandatory parent/teacher conferences are held at the end of the first quarter and optional parent/teacher conferences are held at the end of the third quarter.

Homework: Homework is kept to a maximum of 45 minutes nightly and consists primarily of reading, spelling word practice, memory verses, math fact review, as well as applicable independent practice, follow up of daily assignments, and tests preparation. Homework is an integral part of the school program and is assigned to aid the student in learning. It provides the student an opportunity to advance in his/her studies, learn time management, and to demonstrate and practice the knowledge gained in class. The work assigned is a supplement to work that occurs in the classroom. Homework is considered both vital and necessary.

GRADING SCALES

The grading scale for K-2nd grade students at Salem Academy is based on the following:

EE= Exceeds Expectations
ME= Meets Expectations
AE= Approaching Expectations
BE= Below Expectations

The grading scale for 3rd- 6th grade students at Salem Academy is based on the following:

90% - 100% =	A - Superior
80% - 89% =	B - Excellent
70% - 79% =	C - Satisfactory
60% - 69% =	D - Below Average
0% - 59% =	F - Failing