



DRAFT VERSION OF K-6 COURSE OFFERINGS, April 2018

K-6 COURSE OFFERINGS

The K-6 curriculum provides students with grace-filled lessons in *Biblical studies*, a life-long plan for *wellness and fitness*, and a strong, mastery-based foundation in *reading, writing* and *mathematics*. In the afternoons, students work on project-based, service-learning units in *science, social studies, technology, and the arts*. Project-based learning units integrate two or more subjects according to Common Core, Next Generation Science, and North American Division curricular standards.

BIBLE

The primary purpose of the Encounter Bible Curriculum is for our students to have solid, deep, and personal knowledge of the truths of the Bible; to respond to Christ’s invitation to live in a vibrant, lifelong relationship with Him; and to be passionate about sharing their faith in serving the global community.

Grade K

Students learn about the love of God as they enjoy Bible stories that demonstrate His compassion and care for all of His children.

Grade 1

With a theme of “God is Trustworthy,” students discover the classic stories from the Old and New Testaments that illustrate God’s Divine dependability.

Grade 2

Students learn how God “Protects and Provides” through the life of Moses and stories of Jesus’ ministry on earth, including the feeding of the 5,000, the calming of the storm, and the healing of the paralytic.

Grade 3

Students discover that God is “Loving and Generous” through studies of Moses, Joshua, Ruth, Hannah, Samuel, Naomi, Zacchaeus, Mary, Martha, and Jesus.

Grade 4

Students learn that God is a “Wise God” as they read about Saul, David, and Solomon, and gain new insights from the Lord’s Prayer, the Beatitudes, and the parable of the ten bridesmaids.

Grade 5

Students learn that “God is Patient and Full of Grace” as they study the lives of the Old Testament kings and follow the life of John the Baptist, leading up to Jesus as their “Patient and Gracious Mentor.”

Grade 6

Students find that “God is Faithful” through studies of Daniel, Jeremiah, and Esther. New Testament studies lead to an understanding of the final days of Jesus, the establishment of the early church in the New Testament, and the spread of the gospel by Peter and Paul.

ENRICHMENT COURSES

Students in K-6 benefit from a variety of enrichment courses, with faculty and staff providing new, diverse offerings each year in such as gardening, outdoor learning, social skills, sewing, practical arts, and conversational Spanish.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

K-3 Physical Education

Students learn to perform qualities of movement, fundamental locomotor and non-locomotor skills, and manipulation of objects with a partner. Classes lead to the development of competency in a variety of fitness exercises with an emphasis on safety for self and others.

4-6 Physical Education

Students learn the correct techniques to manipulate objects with accuracy and speed; evaluate their own performance to develop and improve skills during a variety of team activities; and are introduced to basic fitness concepts, performing fitness development exercises and setting goals for lifetime health.

LITERACY

We provide a rigorous foundation in reading and writing. Students participate in whole class and small group instruction to achieve mastery, continually setting and progressing toward individualized goals. Formal and informal assessments are regularly conducted to determine student progress in phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and writing. Teachers use learning progressions aligned with the common core reading and writing standards, providing direct instruction to move students along a continuum of improvement and supplementing with digital resources to reinforce concepts at the point of need. Students learn to think critically as they read relevant text and produce authentic communication for real-world audiences, writing *opinion pieces* supported with reasons and information, conveying information clearly through *informative/explanatory writing*, and creating *narratives* to develop experiences and events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

MATHEMATICS

NTCA uses a blended approach to teaching mathematics to ensure student success. This includes whole and small group instruction and digital applications adapted to meet each student's needs and capabilities. Students are encouraged to be creative problem solvers and flexible thinkers and are challenged to work through problems on their own, fostering independence, persistence, confidence, and positive feelings about math.

Kindergarten

Students focus on strategies, concepts, and applications in five critical areas:

1. *Numbers and operations*: Count, sequence and identify numbers up to 100; compare numbers to 20; work with numbers to gain foundation for place value.
2. *Operations and algebraic thinking*: Understand addition as putting together and adding to, understand subtraction as taking apart and taking from, and add and subtract combinations of five.
3. *Measurement*: Describe and compare measurable attributes.
4. *Geometry*: Identify, describe, analyze, compare, create, and compose shapes.
5. *Data, analysis, statistics, and probability*: Classify objects and count the number of objects in categories.

Grade 1

Students focus on strategies, concepts, and applications in five critical areas:

1. *Numbers and operations*: Extend the counting sequence and use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract.
2. *Operations and algebraic thinking*: Represent, solve, and apply properties of operations between addition and subtraction sentences; add and subtract within 20; work with addition and subtraction families.
3. *Measurement*: Measure length indirectly, predict length units, and tell and write time.
4. *Geometry*: Reason with shapes and their attributes.
5. *Data, analysis, statistics, and probability*: Represent and interpret data.

Grade 2

Students focus on procedures, concepts, and applications in five critical areas:

1. *Numbers and operations*: Understand and work with numbers up to 1,000.

2. *Operations and algebraic thinking*: Add and subtract within 100, represent and solve problems with addition and subtraction, work with equal groups to gain a foundation for multiplication, and memorize one-digit addition and subtraction equations.
3. *Measurement*: Measure and estimate lengths in standard units, relate addition and subtraction to length, and work with time and money.
4. *Geometry*: Reason with shapes and their attributes.
5. *Data analysis, statistics, and probability*: Represent and interpret data.

Grade 3

Students focus on procedures, concepts, and applications in five critical areas:

1. *Numbers and operations*: Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic and develop understanding of fractions as numbers.
2. *Operations and algebraic thinking*: Represent and solve problems, understand properties within 100 involving multiplication and division, solve problems involving the four operations, and identify and explain patterns in arithmetic.
3. *Measurement*: Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time, liquid, volume, and masses of objects; understand concepts of area and relate it to multiplication and addition; recognize perimeter as an attribute of plane figures and distinguish between linear and area measures.
4. *Geometry*: Reason with shapes and their attributes.
5. *Data, analysis, statistics, and probability*: Represent and interpret data.

Grade 4

Students focus on procedures, concepts, and application in five critical areas:

1. *Numbers and operations*: Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers, use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic, extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering, build fractions from unit fractions, understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare decimal fractions.

2. **Operations and algebraic thinking:** Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems, gain familiarity with factors and multiples, and generate and analyze patterns.
3. **Measurement:** Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit. understand concepts of angles, and measure angles.
4. **Geometry:** Draw and identify lines and angles, and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles.
5. **Data, analysis, statistics, and probability:** Represent and interpret data.

Grade 5

Students focus on procedures, concepts, and applications in five critical areas:

1. **Numbers and operations:** Understand the place value system, perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths, and use equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions and multiply and divide fractions.
2. **Operations and algebraic thinking:** Write and interpret numerical expressions and analyze patterns and relationships.
3. **Measurement:** Convert like measurement units within a given measurement system, understand concepts of volume, and relate volume to multiplication and addition.
4. **Geometry:** Graph points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world and mathematical problems and classify two-dimensional figures into property-based categories.
5. **Data, analysis, statistics, and probability:** Represent and interpret data.

Grade 6

Students focus on procedures, concepts, and applications in four critical areas:

1. **Numbers and operations:** Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems, compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples, apply and extend understanding of numbers to the system of rational

numbers, and apply concepts of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.

2. *Operations and algebraic thinking*: Apply and extend understanding of arithmetic to algebraic expressions, reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities, and represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.
3. *Geometry*: Solve real-world mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
4. *Data, analysis, statistics, and probability*: Develop understanding of statistical variability and summarize and describe distributions.

MUSIC

K-4 Music

Students in Grades K-4 receive sequential instruction in music following children's natural development using the Kodaly method. With the belief that everyone is capable and has the right to musical literacy, the Kodaly method uses singing as the foundation of musical learning, with an emphasis on folk music, games, movement, instruments, and reading and writing music.

Kindergarten General Music

Kindergarten General Music is a year-long general music course teaching the concepts of steady beat, tone, rhythm, melody, form, tempo, and tonality. Students experience and explore music by singing, playing, moving, reading, and listening.

Grades 1-2 General Music

Students in Grades 1 and 2 continue studying the concepts of steady beat, tone, rhythm, melody, harmony, form, texture, and tonality in this year-long course. They build on their kindergarten experience, exploring music by singing, playing, moving, reading, and listening.

Grades 3-4 General Music

Students in Grades 3 and 4 continue to experience a year-long, general music course, developing a more sophisticated understanding of tone, rhythm, melody, harmony, form, texture, and tonality. Students experience and explore music by singing, playing instruments, moving, reading, and listening.

Grades 5-6 Music

Students in Grades 5 and 6 must select *at least* one course in Music: Band or Choir. The classes meet on alternate days and are performance based.

Beginning Band (Grades 5-6)

The Beginning Band program introduces students to band and prepares them to participate at the middle school level and up. Students learn the basic techniques involved in reading music and playing their instrument. Prior experience is not necessary.

Intermediate Band (Grades 6-8)

Students in Grade 6 who are ready to move beyond Beginning Band, as determined by the music teacher, will join students in Grades 7 and 8 for Intermediate Band.

Youth Choir (Grades 5-6)

Youth Choir is a year-long music class that focuses on singing, improvising, composing, performing, and reading and notating music, as well as analyzing, evaluating, and integrating music with other academic disciplines.

SCIENCE

Grades K-2

The complexity, order, and design of living organisms provide strong evidence of God as the Designer, Creator, and Sustainer of life. Students discover that God created humans to wonder, question, and develop an attitude of inquiry as they explore His world. Students encounter real-world science, formulating questions and exploring answers as they:

Kindergarten

- Develop an understanding of patterns and variations in local weather;
- Test the effects of different strengths and directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of an object to analyze a design solution;
- Learn how plants and animals thrive as they grow according to the Master Designer's natural laws;
- Discover what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive and the relationship between their needs and where they live.

Grade 1

- Develop understanding of the relationship between sound and vibrating materials as well as between the availability of light and the ability to see objects;
- Discover the ways plants and animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs;
- Learn how behaviors of parents and offspring help the young survive;
- Observe, describe, and predict some patterns of the movement of objects in the sky.

Grade 2

- Discover what plants need to grow and how plants depend on animals for seed dispersal and pollination;
- Compare the diversity of life in different habitats;
- Apply their understanding of the idea that wind and water can change the shape of the land to compare design solutions to slow or prevent such change;
- Use information and models to identify and represent the shapes and kinds of land and bodies of water found on Earth.

Grades 3-5

Students demonstrate grade-appropriate proficiency in asking questions, defining problems, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, constructing explanations and designing solutions, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

In third grade, students develop answers to questions such as:

- What is typical weather in different parts of the world and during different times of the year?
- How can the impact of weather-related hazards be reduced?
- How do organisms vary in their traits?
- How are plants, animals, and environments of the past similar to or different from current plants, animals, and environments?
- What happens to organisms when their environment changes?
- How do equal and unequal forces on an object affect the object?
- How can magnets be used?

In fourth grade, students develop answers to questions such as:

- What are waves and what are some things they can do?
- How can water, ice, wind, and vegetation change the land?
- What patterns of Earth's features can be determined with the use of maps?
- How do internal and external structures support the survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction of plants and animals?
- What is energy and how is it related to motion?
- How is energy transferred?
- How can energy be used to solve a problem?

In fifth grade, students develop answers to questions such as:

- When matter changes, does its weight change?
- How much water can be found in different places on Earth?

- Can new substances be created by combining other substances?
- How does matter cycle through ecosystems?
- Where does the energy in food come from and what is it used for?
- How do lengths and directions of shadows or relative lengths of day and night change from day to day, and how does the appearance of some stars change in different seasons?

Grade 6

In grade 6, students become more sophisticated in their application of scientific principles as higher-order thinking comes into play. Students learn to define problems more precisely, to conduct a more thorough process of choosing the best solution, and to optimize the final design. Students realize that the structure and processes of Earth and space are organized and governed by natural laws that give evidence of God as Designer, Creator, and Sustainer. They continue to develop their understanding of the three disciplinary core ideas in the *Earth and Space Sciences*, explaining more in-depth phenomena central not only to the Earth and space sciences, but to life and physical sciences as well. Core ideas are blended with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing usable knowledge to explain ideas across the science disciplines.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The social studies curriculum in K-6 traces historical and social events from a Christian worldview, immersing students in project-based learning units that lead them to address real-world problems. The following overarching themes are addressed:

- Culture
- Time, Continuity, and Change
- People, Places, and Environments
- Individual Development and Identity
- Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- Power, Authority, and Governance
- Production, Distribution, and Consumption

- Science, Technology, and Society
- Global Connections
- Civic Ideals and Practices

Kindergarten: Living, Learning, and Working Together

Young learners dive into their world by asking questions and discovering answers about themselves, their community, and the people around them. They learn how to care for the environment, meet some of the influential people that have shaped our nation, and discover the value of establishing rules and of being an active part of their community and country.

First Grade: Our Community and Beyond

Students in first grade continue to develop their understanding of their community and the world around them. They embark on the journey of reading and understanding basic maps and apply them to their neighborhoods. First graders are introduced to American heroes and holidays, and understand their duties as a citizen and what it means to make good choices.

Second Grade: Who We Are as Americans

Second grade students see beauty and strength in diversity as they study the United States. They investigate early Native American history and the development of North America. Second graders also learn more about their rights and responsibilities as citizens and study economics and international trade.

Third Grade: The United States Communities and Neighbors

Third graders enjoy a year-long celebration of diversity and culture in the United States. In economics, students learn the value of buying and selling and the different resources involved in every economy. They are also introduced to the three branches of government and understand how their local government works. In geography, students learn to read different types of maps such as physical, natural, and political maps.

Fourth Grade: Our Country and its Regions

In fourth grade, students take a journey throughout each region of the United States. Along the way, they discover resources, landmarks, and their significance to our nation with the forming of our country and its growing economy and government. Students spend quality time interacting with maps, timelines, charts, and graphs.

Fifth Grade: A History of the United States, Early Years

Students in the fifth grade learn about United States history beginning with the first Americans, leading all the way up to the Reconstruction Era. In between, they encounter the challenges our forefathers faced in becoming the nation we are today. From the struggle of the American Revolution to the liberating victory of the Civil War, students are immersed in the rich history of the United States early chapters.

Sixth Grade: A History of the World

Sixth grade students take their learning across the ocean to learn the history of our ancient world. Students build their knowledge on the effects of geography, economics, and citizenship in countries around the world. From the banks of Egypt to the shores of Greece, and from India to Rome, students learn that the key to understanding our present and future lies within our past.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is used in all grades as a tool to master and demonstrate learning. Students in grades K-2 use devices primarily for math and reading rotations to enable a personalized, blended method of instruction and reinforcement. In these early grades, students are introduced to the basics of keyboarding and mouse usage. Students in grades 3-6 are provided with a computer for use throughout their learning experience. Primary uses of technology are for collaborative project and document creation, submission, and presentation. Students also learn skills in internet usage, cloud storage, emailing, and basic research methods. The North American Division Keyboarding and Computer Education Standards are used for all grades.

VISUAL ARTS

Students use varied media as they explore artistic forms of expression to bring life, meaning, and personality into real-world projects.

