



Curriculum at The Oaks School

Reading/Phonics - Lower Grades

The Oaks School will use the All About Reading spelling and phonics program for grades PreK-2nd grade. All About Reading is a multi-sensory program that teaches phonics in a fun and engaging way. Students will complete activities using sight, sound, and touch to help them become fluent readers with a love for reading. All About Reading is based on the Orton - Gillinham approach, which was originally designed to help students with dyslexia, but is now known to be an effective program for all types of learners. Students will be placed in reading groups that best match their skill level, so they can develop a positive association with reading without any gaps.

Reading and English - Upper Grades

Grades 3 and above will use *Bob Jones Press Reading and English*. Reading skills will focus on fluency, reading comprehension, and analysis of the text with a variety of interesting stories and novels. The recently updated program includes colorful, engaging material, so that students look forward to reading time each day. Students in older grades are encouraged to develop and apply critical thinking skills as they analyze the literature pieces in light of a Christian worldview. The English program alternates a chapter of grammar followed by a chapter of writing, so that students learn to apply grammar skills towards the goal of becoming a strong writer.

Math - Grades PreK-6th

Students in PreK through sixth grades will use the highly respected Saxon math program. Saxon Math encourages mastery through the spiral based approach of learning. Concepts are introduced and then repeated through several lessons, while students learn new concepts in small segments that build upon each other. Students will use a variety of hands-on manipulatives to learn new math concepts. The goal for The Oaks School is to offer math at the same time each day for all grades, so students can be placed in the proper math group. We will encourage mastery of subject matter, so all students can move forward in their understanding of math concepts. Saxon is known to meet state standards and help students prepare for standardized testing.

Math - Upper Grades

The students in grades 7th-9th will study Chalkdust Math, which uses a video curriculum taught by Professor Dana Mosely. We will take advantage of Professor Mosely's many years of teaching experience and his ability to clarify difficult math concepts. Students will watch the video with a teacher present, work problems with their classroom teacher, and then work problems on their own. The multi-step teaching process will create multiple ways for students to absorb the material. If a student needs to review a lesson, he or she may re-watch the video lesson. Most importantly, students will be given time to complete math work during the school day, so parents aren't teaching the material at night. Students can choose to take Basic Math, PreAlgebra, Algebra I, or Geometry.

Science - Lower Grades

This year our lower grades will study *Land Animals of the Sixth Day* by Apologia. This will include a study of animals in our own backyards, a study of safaris, and the varied inhabitants of jungles, deserts, forests, farms and other ecosystems. We hope to tour some local farms and zoos to enrich the study even more. Students will use a note-booking journal to learn to take notes of their reading as well as hands-on experiments and projects.

Science - Upper Grades (7th-9th)

The Upper Grades will complete Apologia's *Exploring Creation with Physical Science*.

As described by the author:

"From the composition of air to icebergs to astrophysics, students will receive thorough lessons in each element of the physical world. Topics include the atmosphere; hydrosphere; weather; structure of Earth; environmentalism; physics of motion; Newton's laws; gravity; and astrophysics."

History - Lower Grades

Students in PreK and K will use a variety of hands on lessons to learn about various cultures and continents. Students in grades 1-6 will complete the Heritage Studies series by Bob Jones Press. This program includes history, geography, and cultural studies from a Christian perspective. Students will study famous historical figures including missionaries and leaders.

History - Upper Grades (7th-9th) World History, Geography and Missions Class

A note from our history teacher Anna Pamperin:

"This fall at The Oaks School, our class will embark on an adventure of discovering God's amazing world and the people who are so dear to His heart! We will learn where various countries are on the globe and then "travel" there through the study of history, literature, music, videos, cooking international cuisine, and art. Our class will conduct science projects such as building a miniature rainforest and practicing ancient Egyptian techniques to mummify a chicken! When our class learns about global water insecurity, we will experience carrying heavy water like millions of women around the world do every day. After testing the water for impurities, we will build a water purifier to make the water safe. Then we will research illnesses associated with drinking dirty water and also ministries that provide water purifiers and wells to needy communities around the world, as well as ways that we can get involved. We will correspond with missionaries on the field and through a pen pal program with an orphanage in Africa, we will make friends with our brothers and sisters in Christ across the globe. We will learn together about God's faithfulness in equipping missionaries to share the Kingdom with the hurting and then host them as guest speakers. Each student will conduct weekly research on a variety of topics related to our subject for the week and then report findings back to the class. In this way, everyone will be a valuable contributor to the overall learning experience. My desire is that each student will come away from the class with a deep appreciation for different countries and cultures and a sense of God's sovereignty and heart for the nations."