

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

STARBOARD YEARLY OVERVIEW

One of the most important aspects of Starboard Christian Academy is intentional time spent with your child(ren). It is important that our families are not only getting to spend quality educational time together but they are also spending time together as a whole family unit. The school year is approximately 166 days with 3 days a week spent at the main campus and 2 days spent at the home campus. Starboard takes off most major holidays and schedules various breaks throughout the school year. There are also days during the year dedicated to Staff Training, Parent Training, and Serve Days.

SCHOOL DAYS

Main Campus days are M, T & TH and Home Days are W & F. Main Campus school hours are 8:20am-2:45pm. Early in the week, teachers will upload lesson plans giving the parent enough time to prep for the Wednesday & Friday Home days. The Home Day work will be due the following school day. Lesson plans, class information, and teacher communication will be available using our school software program: ClassReach.

CORE STUDY

Starboard offers Math, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Bible as the five major components of Core Study. Each curriculum has been carefully researched and selected to ensure that all of our students are equipped with excellent academic knowledge and skills that enable them to grow from year to year.

Starboard's curriculum was created with different learning styles in mind. God created each one of us to be unique and Starboard wants to honor and embrace that. Not only are our individual gifts, talents, and interests different from one another, but so are our minds and how we process and relate to information. By using a variety of teaching practices, Starboard students will be exposed to several learning techniques that will keep them engaged, encourage them to think independently, and cultivate a life-long love of learning. Our goal is that our students don't just *learn about* a topic, but will truly *know about* the people, the places, and the events they study. Within each Core Study, we ensure they are aligned with current State & National Standards.

GRADING SYSTEM

Teachers will provide quarter-end progress reports and cumulative end of year report cards. With our online system of ClassReach, parents will always be apprised of their students' progress.

Grades K-1: M (Mastery), P (Progressing), B (Below Level)

Grades 2nd-5th: Letter Grades based on the NC 10 point scale

ASSESSMENTS

We believe in using assessments and standardized testing as tools to improve and enrich our students' learning experiences. We do not put undue attention on testing and do not "teach to the test." Beginning in Kindergarten we do individual benchmark assessments using mCLASS®:Reading 3D™ and mCLASS® Math three times a year and beginning in 3rd grade a nationally standardized test is administered at the end of the school year.

SPECIALS & CHARACTER TRAITS

Throughout the year students will be exposed to Art, Physical Education, Computer Lab, Music, & Worship at the Main Campus. Each of these Specials will occur on a weekly basis and within each area of focus they will be exposed to a variety of subjects and mediums. Family Worship will occur every other week and we encourage our parents to stay for our Worship Service on those days (8:20am). Each year we will have a new and exciting theme for our Family Worship time. The Biblical lessons and themes will also flow into the classroom for large group discussions and activities.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA): LOGIC OF ENGLISH

Logic of English will be used for Spelling, Grammar, Phonics, Reading & Writing. In 3rd grade and higher levels we will be teaching a complete cursive curriculum that will be incorporated into everyday learning.

The Logic of English is a systematic, multi-sensory approach to learning how to read, spell and write. The method is based upon 74 basic phonograms and 31 spelling rules that together explain 98% of English words. Learning these essential tools eliminates unnecessary 'exceptions' in spelling, explains hundreds of commonly misspelled words, and brings order to the English language. We do not put much focus on sight words; instead, students learn why words are read and spelled the way they are. Logic of English curriculum also incorporates sentence-level grammar, punctuation rules, tenses, plurals and more. Students learn to read and write in English in a systematic manner that eliminates guessing and limits the amount of rote memory work. They develop strong comprehension and critical thinking skills as they analyze words, think about meaning, and make connections to other words and concepts. In every lesson, multisensory instruction and activities engage the different centers of students' brains - visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and speech - which allows them to deepen their learning as they build connections and strengthen their areas of weakness. Logic of English is designed to be able to teach the same curriculum to different levels of individuals students which allows for differentiation within the classroom and at home.

MATH

Starboard combines the Abeka Arithmetic with Bridges to Mathematics to achieve a comprehensive, rigorous, and engaging program that provides the best of both traditional and modern learning styles.

Abeka Arithmetic provides a solid foundation of mathematical concepts and problem-solving skills by utilizing a spiral approach where students are presented with concepts in an orderly manner, building upon prior learning and including consistent year-long review.

The Bridges to Mathematics Number Corner revolves around the classroom calendar and features short daily workouts using games, activities, and manipulatives that introduce, reinforce, and extend skills and concepts related to the critical areas of study at each grade level. The Number Corner engages students in discussions and verbal problem solving skills—strengthening students' abilities to articulate the logic behind solving a problem and, therefore, providing a broader understanding that will improve their proficiency in higher level mathematics.

SCIENCE

Kindergarten and 1st grade students will be introduced to a variety of grade-level science topics in a thematic, hands-on, exploratory manner by incorporating books and various resources, science experiments, and actively exploring God's exciting creation. In grades 2nd-5th, teachers will utilize the Purposeful Design Curriculum which is an inquiry-based, hands-on approach to science instruction that will give students numerous opportunities to discover principles and truths of God's creation. Lessons are designed to engage the student in age and grade appropriate investigation giving students the opportunity to marvel at the wonders of Creation both as inhabitants and caretakers as they study, explore, and discover the world God has created.

SOCIAL STUDIES/GEOGRAPHY

Teachers will combine "living books," hands-on projects, and additional resources while using Heritage Studies (BJU Press) as our main curriculum reference.

Heritage Studies wants students to be aware of the past in order to appreciate and understand the present. They also need to be able to think critically about the issues they will face. This program is written from a conservative evangelical perspective that avoids extremes and seeks to present history in a balanced manner, challenging students to think for themselves. From Creation and the ancient world to modern-day studies, the Heritage Studies materials build a thorough understanding of world geography, culture, politics, and the founding and growth of the United States. Lessons clearly present God's sovereign hand, and godly men and women are held high.

BIBLE

Positive Action is the chosen curriculum for Bible. This stepping-stone program offers students and families rich Biblical teaching as well as practical application. Students are challenged to stand in awe of God and to know and love Him. This is the first step of any true change of character. Scripture is emphasized. In addition, this program will open up intentional time for students to talk about God's truths as they deepen their relationship with Christ.