

EASTSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Eastside Christian School gives instruction to pre-kindergarten through eighth grade classes in a multi-grade classroom setting. The Bible and the Reformed Creeds provide the direction for the teaching and the curriculum. The curriculum is traditional with an emphasis on the mastery of the tools of learning, "the three R's", and the acquisition of a basic core of information. In addition to the traditional subjects, Eastside Christian School will offer, if at all possible, instruction in Computer Skills (especially keyboarding) Latin, and Logic.

BIBLE

Bible lessons are taught in all grades. Included with Bible instruction is a Bible memorization program. The King James Version is used in all the instruction. Because all the instruction in the school is based on the Word of God, every class and every lesson is a Bible lesson.

MATHEMATICS

Instruction in the mathematics classes follows a system that makes it possible for students to progress at their own rate. Some students will progress more rapidly through the material than others and this is encouraged. Students are encouraged to work beyond the strict grade level designation of the textbooks. In the middle and upper grades, the classroom format is teacher directed self-study. This has proved to be a very successful and exciting method for both the students and the teacher. Currently the school employs the Saxon Mathematics program in all classes and the Geometry material of the Chicago Mathematics program to accomplish the cited goals.

READING AND ENGLISH

Students are taught to read at Eastside in kindergarten through the sixth grade by using a phonics and phonemic-based program. Currently, the school uses the Open Court Reading Program by McGraw Hill to implement the goals of the program. All students that are able to read are taught grammar, writing and a variety of literary selections. Handwriting, penmanship and spelling complete the English program.

SCIENCE

The primary grades are exposed to science with an emphasis on a hands-on experience with nature. Starting at the fourth grade the science program systematically covers Life, Earth, and Physical Sciences to explore and understand God's wonders in the book of Creation. Creationism, strictly following the Bible's teaching of creation in six literal days, is upheld and taught against all forms of evolutionism.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

United States and World History is taught from a Biblical perspective at appropriate grade levels (4-8). Government (Civics) is covered as part of US History. The geography of the western and eastern hemispheres is taught primarily in grades 4-6.

MUSIC

Use of the human voice is the focal point of music instruction at Eastside Christian School. All students and staff participate in group singing. Special programs and chapels provide opportunity for public performances. Music instruction includes the singing of psalms, hymns, and just-for-fun songs. All students in grades 4-8 have choir instruction. Students in grades K-3 receive instruction that includes singing on pitch, understanding rhythm, and many more musical concepts. Students are also introduced to some musical instruments such as tone chimes and recorders. Students can join the band in grades 4-8. Participation in the band is voluntary and each participant is expected to contribute to the cost of the band program.

ART

All students are introduced to systematic art lessons. The instructional program is implemented by referencing a

curriculum produced by the Federation of Protestant Reformed Christians Schools—*Systematic Art Lessons*, Art Curriculum for Protestant Reformed Christian Schools in grades K-6 and Advanced Art Lessons for grades 7-8.

COMPUTERS

Computers are used in conjunction with most of the subjects, however, they are viewed primarily as tools to be used to perform a task and their correct use is taught as a means to efficiently complete the assigned task. The instruction starts at the pre-kindergarten level with basic operations such as learning to use the mouse and the keyboard. Keyboard instruction will be emphasized in grades 4-8 so that all students acquire an efficiency in this area. Instruction progresses to word processing, spreadsheet operations, and graphic arts. The yearbook, *Images*, is produced by students and an aide on a computer.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is an important aspect of the curriculum and is offered once or twice each week. Spring and fall allow structured outdoor activity at the school or a nearby park. A gymnasium is available for physical education and for free play by the students.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE – LATIN

Latin disappeared many years ago as a spoken language and is not a requirement for graduation or entrance into high school, but Eastside Christian School makes every effort to give students an opportunity to study Latin at least two periods each week. Students in grades 4-8 are introduced to the language for several reasons:

1. Help students learn a language that is the source of over half the words in English;
2. Help students in the future study of modern foreign languages; and
3. Help students understand the impact of the classical cultures on modern culture.

LOGIC

Logic is not a course required for entrance into high school but Eastside Christian School makes every effort to give students in the eighth grade an opportunity to begin a study of formal logic at least two periods each week. Because God is logical and because God created man as a moral, rational and logical creature, man can make rational statements and understand the statements of other men. Logic is the science and art of reason. Students are introduced to various topics in deductive logic.

ENRICHMENT

Eastside Christian School provides a variety of opportunities for enriching co-curricular activities. The students enjoy a variety of activities to enhance the learning experience. Although this list is not exhaustive, the activities have included the following:

1. Participation by 5th-8th grade students each year in the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee sponsored by The Grand Rapids Press and coordinated by the Kent Intermediate School District.
2. Participation in National Geographic geography bee.
3. Opportunities to appreciate local live music performances including the Bach's Lunch Series at the St. Cecelia Society and the Grand Rapids Symphony.
4. Training for and participating in the Fifth Third River Bank Run 5k and the Fun Run.