

Fifth Grade Curriculum

At Canyon Heights Academy, a leading private Catholic school in Campbell, California, our Fifth Grade curriculum fosters confident, capable students for a lifelong joy for learning. Our Integral Formation model is designed to foster intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, compassionate leadership, and a moral character rooted in Catholic values.

Language Arts - Reading, Grammar, and Writing

Our language arts program is designed to develop strong literacy skills while cultivating a love of reading and writing, using the Lucy Caulkins methodology.

In reading, students will:

- Master reading strategies for comprehension and discussion, such as synthesizing and categorizing information, developing a mental picture, making inferences and predictions, drawing conclusions, and identifying point of view
- Analyze story elements, such as characters, setting, plot, climax, resolution, theme, cause/effect, compare/contrast, and fact/opinion
- Read several class novels and additional literary genres with the aim of strengthening reading as well as comprehension
- Respond to texts through oral presentations and structured writing, including literal, interpretive, and allegorical responses
- Apply phonetic and decoding strategies for new vocabulary and spelling practice
- Conduct research projects using digital and print sources

In writing composition, students will:

- Apply the Lucy-Caulkins writing process to plan, draft, revise, and publish writing
- Identify and employ literary devices such as characterization, imagery, humor, point of view, foreshadowing, alliteration, rhyme and rhythm
- Create a variety of writing pieces: narrative, expository, and creative
- Strengthen skills in report writing that discuss cause and effect as well as comparison/contrast
- Strengthen skills in descriptive and expository essays

In grammar, students will:

- Compose structured paragraphs with a clear topic sentence and supporting details
- Write a variety of different sentence structures using proper grammar and punctuation in complete sentences
- Identify parts of speech such as subjects, predicates, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections

Communication Skills - Listening and Speaking

We give students many opportunities to share their voice through classroom projects, socratic method instruction, and wider audience engagements, which fosters confidence and poise for a lifetime of self-advocacy.

Students will:

- Ask and answer questions clearly and respectfully
- Recite poems and passages from memory
- Present oral reports with organized main ideas
- Use technology (typing, digital research, formatting, slide deck building, etc) to conduct research projects and present findings
- Learn note-taking and studying skills in preparation for cumulative exams in Middle School
- Practice public speaking skills with poise and confidence

Mathematics - Deepening Problem-Solving Skills

Our elementary math curriculum emphasizes logical thinking and problem-solving abilities to deepen core math skills and apply them in real-world scenarios, using the Sadlier Math program.

Students will:

- Master all four operations up to six digits
- Develop and master strategies for problem solving
- Master multi-step, complex word problems with real-world applications
- Explore concepts like averages, operations with fractions and decimals, geometrical formulae (perimeter, volume, area), algebraic reasoning, probability and ratios, statistics
- Read and interpret graphs and tables, modeling multiple data sets
- Use technology to build graphs and tables
- Develop study skills to prepare for cumulative exams in Middle School

Science - Experiential and Inventive

Our science program encourages inquiry, exploration, and wonder about God's creation. Students learn through hands-on experiments and discovery-based learning.

Students will:

- Engage in hands-on experiments and STEM-based investigations, using the scientific method

- Develop scientific thinking skills, including analyzing, predicting, classifying, and hypothesizing
- Use scientific tools and lab practices to apply skills and habits
- Frame questions, design research approaches, conduct trial runs, write reports, and report findings
- Study astronomy, geology, biology (plant and animal classification and ecosystems), oceanography, and physical science (electricity, light, and sound)
- Study human biology (endocrine, skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems), cells and heredity
- Explore human health, and nutrition through the lens of God's design
- Explore the use and care of natural resources, renewable and non-renewable
- Complete an individual science fair project

Social Studies - World History (Ancient Civilizations through Medieval Europe)

Fifth Grade social studies at Canyon Heights Academy encourages students to engage with community, history, and the world around them.

Students will:

- Use archeological, anthropological, and historical evidence to understand early settlements and civilizations
- Explore world civilizations their cultural legacy (Prehistoric ages through the Neolithic Revolution, Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Israel, Phoenicia, India, China, Ancient Greece, and Ancient Rome)
- Study the development of early Christianity and the life of the Church (Emperor Constantine, adoption of Christianity by Roman Empire, Church fathers and their writings)
- Examine the fall of the Roman Empire and rise of Byzantium and Islam
- Recognize and discuss major characteristics of medieval European culture
- Identify location, physical features, political regions, and human/environment interactions in the geography of the historical period (North Africa, Middle East, South Asia, and Europe)

Faith Formation - Christ-Centered

Through our religious education program, children begin to understand that they are intentionally and uniquely created in God's image and called to live with purpose and love.

Students will:

- Deepen their understanding of moral law and conscience formation
- Continue direct Bible study, focusing on Old Testament leading up to the life of Christ
- Study Scripture and Church doctrine to identify passages related to the Sacraments

- Embrace the personal call and vocation to love and serve others in Christ's image
- Participate in local service projects
- Learn the structure and meaning of the Mass
- Develop a stronger connection with and understanding of the community of Saints and their role in our lives
- Participate in the sacramental life of the school, including weekly Mass (serving the role of altar servers and lectors), Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Adoration
- Understand how their body is a gift from God through the Theology of the Body curriculum
- Use Sacred Story prayer as a daily reflective practice

Enrichment Programs - Co-curricular

To nurture the whole child, Fifth Grade students also attend weekly classes in:

- Art
- Music
- Library
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Spanish Language
- Physical Education

These subjects enrich creativity, expression, motor skills, and global awareness.

Why Families Choose Canyon Heights Academy

As one of the top-rated Catholic private schools in Campbell, CA, Canyon Heights Academy offers a comprehensive, Christ-centered education that forms students in academics, character, and leadership. Our Second Grade curriculum is carefully crafted to support children's intellectual and spiritual development in a nurturing and joyful environment.

Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, we proudly serve families from Campbell, San Jose, Los Gatos, Saratoga, and the greater Bay Area.