

Pella Christian Grade School Bible Curriculum

Philosophy Statement

The foundational basis of Pella Christian Grade School is the infallible Word of God as interpreted in the Forms of Unity of the Reformed confessions. The nine basic principles of Christian education articulated in our statement of purpose further explain our purposes for all of the curriculum at PCGS.

Rationale

Our students need to become knowledgeable in God's Word to make application to all areas of life. We teach Bible as an academic subject at PCGS in order to equip children with Biblical knowledge and a perspective of how the Bible relates to learning and drives the entire curriculum. We teach children that the Bible is God's Word to His covenant people, a rule for nurturing faith and developing a life of discipleship. We teach our children that God has given us His word in order that we may know Him and ourselves, know the way of salvation, and know how to respond thankfully in obedient and joy-filled service. We recognize that Biblical themes such as creation, the fall, redemption, human beings as image bearers of God, the covenant, and the kingdom are vital to proper teaching of Bible. We humbly recognize that is only through the work of the Holy Spirit that our children may gain these insights.

Pella Christian Grade School Bible Standards

Article I. God's Infallible/Inspired Word (Bible Knowledge)

- A. The student will demonstrate a knowledge of all of Scripture as the infallible inspired Word of God.

Article II. Creation/Fall/Covenant/Redemption (Sin/Salvation/Service)

- A. The student will indicate an understanding of the origin and effect of sin and of redemption through Christ.
- B. The student will respond to the understanding of sin and redemption by living a holy obedient life, thankfully serving God, neighbor, and creation.
- C. The student will understand the covenant in terms of its origin, purpose, demands, continuity, blessings, curses, and effect of its participants.
- D. The student will indicate an understanding of how Scripture reveals that God maintains His covenants in the thread of redemptive history.
- E. The student will view himself/herself as an image bearer of God through a knowledge of the Creational Ordinances*, the Law, and the teachings of the Gospels.
(*Creation Ordinances – God's primary directives, Law – God's redirectives necessitated by sin, and Teachings of the Gospels – God's expanded directives.)

Article III. Application/Obedience/Testimony

- A. The student will be able to confront ungodly philosophies and behavior with the truth of Scripture.
- B. The student will understand the implications of the Great Commission as a call of missions to God's entire world.
- C. The student will recognize the indicators of a Christian lifestyle such as
 - _having a healthy view of self as a unique image bearer of Christ.
 - _administering love and care and showing concern and responsibility for others and creation and
 - _maintaining a personal devotional life.

- D. The student will be able to articulate what it means to be a child of God and be able to explain to others what faith in Christ means.

Article IV. Committing the Bible to Memory.

- A. The student will be able to recite memorized designated passages of Scripture which are aligned with the Bible curriculum and are helpful for teaching, rebuking, correction, comfort, and training in righteousness.

Kindergarten Benchmarks for Bible

- A. Students will know and understand that Jesus loved and welcomed children.
- B. Students will recognize God as the Creator of a good world.
- C. Students will know that a Savior was promised shortly after Adam and Eve sinned.
- D. Students will recognize God's Providential care in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and in the lives of his people.
- E. Students will recall that God cared for His chosen people, kept His promise to them, and showed His power through His mighty acts throughout their history.
- F. Students will learn how God chose and equipped people (Joshua, Gideon, Samson, and Samuel) to lead Israel and recall the major events of their lives.
- G. Students will learn about the lives of Saul, David, and Solomon, and acknowledge God's mercy and power in the lives of Elijah, Elisha, and Jonah.
- H. Students will understand why the Israelites were exiled from their own land, and be able to see that God's promise to Abraham's line was kept by the return of the remnant to Judah.
- I. Students will learn through the stories of Jesus' life on earth that He was truly God and man.
- J. Students will learn that Jesus taught with parables about God's kingdom (concerning love, prayer, forgiveness, and repentance.)
- K. Students will learn that thankfulness is an appropriate and expected response to God's goodness to us.
- L. Students will identify the major events and characters surrounding Christ's birth and will understand and believe that Jesus is God's son, the promised One of Israel's history.
- M. Students will learn about Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection and will conclude that God kept his promise to Abraham and His descendants.
- N. Students will learn about Christ's ascension to His Father, and the sending of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, as well as becoming aware of the role of the Holy Spirit today.

First Grade Benchmarks for Bible Pella Christian Grade School

- A. Students will begin to understand why we study the Bible.
- B. Students will know that God created and cares for the world, sin spoiled the creation, but God promised a Savior.
- C. Students will recall the history of the patriarchs, and see that the promises given to them were fulfilled in Christ.
- D. Students will learn how God preserved his people Israel, delivered them from Egypt, prepared them to worship him, and brought them to the promised land.
- E. Students will conclude through learning about the Judges that God showed mercy to his people by sending Judges to deliver them when they broke the covenant.
- F. God will see how God worked out his plan of salvation in history through Ruth, a foreigner, signaling that Jesus will be the Savior of the whole world, and not just of Israel.
- G. Students will know that God remained faithful to unfaithful Israel (as they asked for a king) by choosing David to work out his promise to send a Savior.
- H. Students will know that God is faithful to the covenant with David as they learn about Solomon, his wisdom, riches, honor, and his later disobedience of God's law.
- I. Students will recall the prophets, captivity, and return and conclude that God was just, but also merciful.
- J. Students will acknowledge that Jesus was the long awaited Savior who willingly died for their sins and arose to conquer death.
- K. Students will recognize that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost activated the believers and made it possible for them to obey Jesus' command as we must.
- L. Students will give special attention to being thankful to God for his blessings.
- M. Students will rejoice in Christ's birth and will be challenged to tell others the message.

Second Grade Benchmarks for Bible Pella Christian Grade School

- A. Students will remember God's mighty acts in the story of his people from creation through King Solomon remembering how God keeps his promises and learning to rely on and trust in him.
- B. Students will know and recall how God used prophets to call Israel and Judah to repentance and to warn them of coming judgment.
- C. Students will learn that God preserved His people in His grace and continued the covenant He made with Abraham and David and works judgment on those who do not serve Him,
- D. Students will know and celebrate that God kept His promise to send a Savior.
- E. Students will recall that John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus.
- F. Students will recall Jesus' rules for the kingdom and how He shows authority over all things.
- G. Students will realize that few people understood who Jesus was: the Christ, the Son of the Living God. They will know that He loves them.
- H. Students will learn more about what it means to be part of, and the nature of the Kingdom of God.
- I. Students will recall the details and purpose of Christ's death and resurrection and respond in praise.
- J. Students will recall how the Holy Spirit gave power for the spreading of the gospel and that the church grew in the face of opposition.
- K. Students will identify ways to live the Christian life at school and at home though the book of James.
- L. Students will be able to recite and understand the meaning of the various petitions of the Lord's Prayer.
- M. Students will have a general understanding of the victory we have in Christ in the study of the book of Revelation.

Third Grade Benchmarks for Bible Pella Christian Grade School

- A. Students will understand that God established His Kingdom at creation, man disobeyed, and God promised restoration and redemption.
- B. Students will see the beginning of the fulfillment of God's covenant to save and restore the rebellious world through one family (Abraham) called for a special purpose.
- C. Students will recognize that they are chosen by God as they follow the preservation of His chosen people.
- D. Students will see God molding His people, delivering them, teaching them who he is, and re-establishing His covenant through the Law at Mt. Sinai.
- E. Students will see the power of God in His mighty acts, His love and compassion through provisions, and His patience as He forgives and reaffirms His covenant again and again.
- F. Students will recognize God's holiness, anger with sin, and forgiveness of His chosen people.
- G. Students will understand God as a faithful Creator and Father. As His children we must trust and obey His law.
- H. Students will recognize the blessings of obedience along with the consequences of disobedience, seeing God's covenant as light in the darkness of sin.
- I. Students will recognize God's plan of salvation is to be carried out through the whole of history.

Fourth Grade Bible Benchmarks

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- A. Students will understand the development of the written Bible and learn how to use the Bible as a book.
- B. Students will recall the names and characteristics of the four main divisions in the Old Testament and will recall which Old Testament books belong to each division.
- C. Students will trace and recall the monarchy era in Israel's history which begins in I Samuel.
- D. Students will recall the stories of the rulers and prophets of the united kingdom of Israel and the divided kingdom of Israel and Judah.
- E. Students will understand that when the kings and people obeyed God's commands they were blessed, but when they broke God's commands they were punished.
- F. Students will recognize the blessings of obedience, the consequences of disobedience, and God's covenant and plan of salvation throughout history.
- G. Students will become aware that God works through his people to influence the world's people as evidenced in the stories of Daniel and Esther.
- H. Students will remember that God always fulfills his promises as evidenced in the story of the return of his people to Jerusalem.
- I. Students will grow in their skills of using Biblelands maps to locate important places from the historical books of the Old Testament.
- J. Students will gain skill in locating specific Bible passages (as a result of having mastered the order of the books of the Bible.)
- K. Students will grow in their oral and silent Bible-reading skills and in their ability to locate information or concepts within a given passage.

Fifth Grade Bible Benchmarks Pella Christian Grade School

- A. Students will recognize the contributions of writers' style as the Bible was written.
- B. Students will identify types of psalms.
- C. Students will relate to the psalms personally.
- D. Students will identify the need of the prophets' messages as a means to prepare for the coming Christ, to call sinners to repentance, and to be God's spokesmen.
- E. Students will relate Jesus' early life to a fulfillment of prophecy.
- F. Students will identify the distinctiveness of the gospels.
- G. Students will identify with Christ as one who suffered and died for His children.
- H. Students will share the news of salvation with others.
- I. Students will identify the characteristics of the early church.
- J. Students will survey the letters written to the early church and will identify themes found in I Thessalonians and I Corinthians.

Sixth Grade Bible Benchmarks Pella Christian Grade School

- A. Students will understand that the Bible is the historical account of God's redemptive work, fulfilled through Christ and that God continues to work through believers today.
- B. Students will recall the setting of God's story, (who, what, how, where, when, and why.)
- C. Students will read the biblical accounts of creation, fall, flood, and understand the effect of sin on the world.
- D. Students will recall the covenant God made with Abraham and see how God worked through the actions of the patriarchs to accomplish his plan for their lives.
- E. Students will recall the stories of the Exodus to Mount Sinai and see God's power and protection for his people and how the Ten Commandments applied to the Israelites and to their daily life.
- F. Students will recall the story of God's people from Sinai to the Promised Land and recognize the sin of rebellion, like Israel, in themselves.
- G. Students will recall Israel's conquest and division of Canaan, God's faithfulness, and Israel's unfaithfulness.
- H. Students will identify the cycle of Israel's oppression and deliverance as related to disobedience and obedience.
- I. Students will recall the stories of Samuel, Saul, David, and identify the flip-flopping of hope and disappointment, and justice and mercy in early monarchy.
- J. Students will understand the role of the psalms of David in his life and in their lives and the nature and themes of the book of Proverbs.

Seventh Grade Bible Benchmarks Pella Christian Grade School

- A. The student will understand the Biblical meaning of the term covenant.
- B. The student will discover that the Bible is a book about relationships: God's relationship to Creation, to man, and to His people.
- C. The student will learn that in the act of creation, God establishes His sovereign authority over all as Creator and establishes laws for Creation:
 - 1. Creational Ordinances that govern Creation and
 - 2. Creational Ordinances that govern man's relationships to Creation and to fellow man.
- D. The student will learn of man's fall into sin from a perfect existence before God and how he/she is redeemed from that now sinful state by God's grace and sovereignty.
- E. The student will learn the facts concerning the Historical Reformation of God's church and that in the Reformation God returned the teachings of the Church to the teaching of Scripture.
- F. The student will learn that God, in grace, provided the way for His redeemer to enter the world.
- G. The student will learn to distinguish between the line of Cain, and the line of Seth leading to Noah, Abraham, the nation of Israel, and the Christ.
- H. The student will learn by way of review that God leads History to accomplish His purpose.
- I. The student will learn of the establishment of the Kingdom of Israel and with Saul and its first king and why each king was accepted or rejected by God as king.
- J. The students will understand that disobedience led to captivity.
- K. The student will learn that God dwells among His people in His specified time and place. Man's attempts to care for himself outside God's special love, leads to failure.
- L. The student will learn that God extends His love and mercy to all who repent of their sin.
- M. The student will be introduced to and learn the term and meaning of 'synoptic gospels.'

Eighth Grade Bible Benchmarks Pella Christian Grade School

- A.** The student will demonstrate that he/she understands, in review, that God used the patriarchs, Israel, and even heathen nations to bring to fulfillment His Kingdom as revealed in and redeemed by Jesus.
- B.** The student will demonstrate that he/she understands that the purpose of Jesus' ministry of healing and teaching was to reveal Jesus as Messiah.
- C.** The student will demonstrate that he/she understands that Jesus demanded a response to His claim of Messiahship.
- D.** The student will demonstrate knowledge of and an understanding of the plan by which God used man to bring about redemption through His son.
- E.** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the birth of the new church and how that church received its power.
- F.** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the birth of the new church and how that church received its power.
- G.** The student will demonstrate a knowledge of the expansion of the new church and how that church received its power.
- H.** The student will demonstrate a knowledge of the expansion of the new church to the world, outside of the Jewish influence sphere, through the study of the journeys of Paul.
- I.** The student will demonstrate a knowledge of the growing power and faith of the new church through a study of the closing writings and days of the lives of Peter and Paul,
- J.** The student will demonstrate a knowledge of and an understanding of the truth that Jesus is the fulfillment of the old covenant and that the new covenant is an extension of the old covenant.
- K.** The student will demonstrate a knowledge of and an understanding of the growth and struggles of the church during the second to fifth centuries and that many struggles of that time still affect the church today.

