

Risen Savior Christian Academy

Elementary & Middle School Curriculum

Overview

The curriculum at RSCA seeks to educate the mind and enlighten the heart through the timeless truths of God's Word. RSCA teachers demonstrate how the truths of God's Word flow through the various subject-area disciplines that are part of the curriculum. The curricular framework is balanced and comprehensive. Its design promotes cognitive growth in all of its objectives, activities, strategies, and resources. The curriculum takes into account the wide range of cultural backgrounds and learning styles of its students, offering flexibility to remediate the struggling student while at the same time enriching the gifted learner. Our goal is to fully equip our students with the tools needed to succeed in and out of the classroom.

Religion

The religion curriculum helps students build a knowledge and understanding of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The key component of the religion curriculum is the Christ Light series, which presents both Old and New Testament Bible stories in an exciting, colorful, and memorable way. Each lesson has a key truth that is meaningfully discussed and applied to the children's lives. This comprehensive curriculum gives students a strongly-rooted foundation in God's Word, equipping them to live as children of God. Memorization skills are enhanced as students commit Bible passages to memory. Since the truths of God's Word are often set to music, songs of faith are also taught each week. Every Friday morning the students gather for a brief chapel service in the church. Family members are invited to join the Academy family for this devotion.

Language Arts

Language, a unique gift from God, is the complex, interactive process of acquiring and using information. RSCA will integrate the skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will embrace a positive attitude by engaging in active literacy that broadens understanding and enables effective communication, thus gaining a true mastery of language to spread the Gospel. A clear understanding of the English language is imperative for success in all areas of the curriculum and everyday life. The language arts curriculum accomplishes this through its integration of reading, phonics programs, writing, spelling, grammar, and oral expression in a sequential and developmentally appropriate order.

- **Reading:** Students develop a love for reading through phonics-based instruction that incorporates thematic units of high quality literature, poetry, short stories, and plays. The curriculum emphasizes listening and comprehension skills, while developing the ability to read critically. Classroom and school libraries are available with age-appropriate fiction and nonfiction literature.
- **Writing & Grammar:** Students are taught to be proficient writers in a step-by-step composition process that includes phrases, sentences, paragraphs, essays, letters, poetry, journals, and short stories. Grammar is taught and stressed in all writing lessons. Students are encouraged to exercise their free expression and creativity.
- **Spelling:** The spelling component of the curriculum develops the sound-spelling connection in language, provides dictation practice, and incorporates and reviews vocabulary words in weekly units.
- **Oral Expression:** Students develop public speaking skills through experiences in show-and-tell, oral reports, and class presentations.

Mathematics

Mathematics is included in the curriculum of RSCA because it is really a study of God's creation. As God created the world with order, so we use mathematics to put aspects of his creation in order. Every concept reveals more about that order he used at creation. A thorough mathematics curriculum is critical for success in our ever-changing world. The traditional math approach gives students a firm foundation in computation, math concepts, problem solving strategies, and data interpretation. This foundation is constructed through daily instruction and review in a cumulative manner. Our teachers incorporate hands-on instructional strategies when appropriate through the use of manipulatives and real life applications to build mathematical knowledge.

Technology

The development and use of modern technology continues to evolve and shape our lives. Technology is also a God-given tool that can enhance student learning. In order to gain proficiency in this technological age, developmentally-appropriate technology education begins in kindergarten. Students are given the opportunity to become familiar with the physical structure and operation of various forms of personal computing devices to supplement cognitive growth. Each classroom is equipped with high-speed Internet access for use together with technology devices (iPads & Chromebooks). Technology is integrated into teacher instruction and student learning in a way that enhances educational learning opportunities.

Science

We believe science, an ever-changing body of knowledge, is the investigation and appreciation of God's ordered creation. Our science curriculum allows children to see the wisdom and skill of our Creator. God's perfect creation (Genesis 1:1) has been affected by sin. Worldly philosophies are promoted as truth. For that reason, RSCA explores and examines various areas of science in light of God's Word to better understand and appreciate the truths of God's creation. The science curriculum leads children to a greater appreciation of the awe-inspiring world in which they live. By means of textbook investigation, hands-on experimentation, special group projects, and technology-aided presentations, students discover various aspects of physical, earth, and life science. Special emphasis is placed on developing skills such as observing, comparing, hypothesizing, predicting, measuring, testing, and interpreting.

Social Studies

History, geography, and current events are part of the many areas of social studies. These and others will be taught with the guidance of what the Bible teaches us. Social Studies is a means to learn about our world and use that information to teach others about God and His story. Secular content, infused with God's Word for instruction, prepares students to become contributing citizens and leaders in today's world. The scope of study in the social studies curriculum includes exposure to a variety of social science disciplines: world cultures, values and customs, history, geography, sociology, current events, economics, and civics. Instruction and activities are structured to help students develop skills such as critical thinking, decision-making, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, considering diverse points of view, and reading charts, maps, and graphs.

Music

Music is the study of combining tones to create pleasing, expressive, or intelligible sounds. We teach music to equip children with the ability to appreciate music and worship of the Lord through compositions, voice, and instruments (Psalm 150:3-5). The music program contains the integrated components of music theory, voice development, and music appreciation. Basic elements such as notation, rhythm, and music terminology prepare the children to read music and explore musical instruments. Students practice note reading and rhythmic exercises through the use of handbells, recorders, boomwhackers, xylophones, drums, and other percussion instruments. Vocal skills are developed through pitch exploration, ear training, and daily classroom singing. Students are introduced to famous composers and some of their works. In an effort to showcase the musical talents and accomplishments of our young musicians for the glory of God, several public performances are planned throughout the year.

Art

God created a perfect world, and He created man and woman to enjoy all that He had made. While not perfect anymore, all that the human senses can assimilate from God's creation is still amazing (Ecclesiastes 3:11-12). Part of enjoying God's creation is fulfilled in the area of art. Art is a visual form of communication where individuals can translate God's creation around them into self-expression of ideas while developing flexible, original, and imaginative thinking. Concepts such as line, shape, form, color, pattern, design, and composition are developed in an art curriculum that allows children to express their creativity and discover their talents. Young artists learn to value not only the product, but also the process. The children also enjoy exposure to well-known artists, their unique styles, and classical works. Other goals include development of fine-motor skills, improvement of hand-eye coordination, and experiences in collaborative learning. Student artwork is displayed in classrooms and hallways.

Physical Education

RSCA teaches life-long skills, understanding, and attitudes, so that each child regards their body as a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). Physical Education teaches the "whole" body by using all three domains: cognitive, affective and motor. Physical Education aids each child in proper care and exercise to develop physical abilities to their highest potential. As children learn to care for and use their bodies they are taught to do everything for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). The goals of the physical education program include: instruction in the rules, skills, and strategies of team and individual sports; physical fitness and cardiovascular development; practical experiences in leadership, teamwork, and sportsmanship; and development of a positive self-image in a safe, structured environment. Expectations include participation in all games and activities, respect for peers and instructors, proper care of equipment, and cooperation. The PE program is designed to enable each child to achieve success while developing an interest in life-long physical activity. Participation in PE for students with medical concerns or physical limitations will be modified as needed.

Foreign Language

RSCA incorporates foreign language instruction in the curriculum to assist our students in developing appreciation and understanding of people of other cultures and backgrounds. Studying a foreign language deepens understanding of the English language. God wants us to love all people and share His Word with them. In order to effectively share God's Word with others, we seek to grow in our understanding of their language and culture. Students in kindergarten participate in a Spanish language instructional unit during the school year. Students in 1st and 2nd grade have Spanish language class once each week. In these primary grades students are introduced to numbers, colors, animals, etc. The curriculum includes rich and relevant vocabulary in context, including relevant phrases for the target age. Listening, speaking, writing, and drawing tasks are alternated with physical activities to maintain the attention of the youngest students. Students in grades 3 through 8 may participate in self-directed learning through the online foreign language instruction tool Duolingo.

Recess

RSCA recognizes the value of recess for all students in grades K-8. Recess provides a mental break from academic studies, promotes physical fitness, socio-emotional learning, and provides opportunities for teachers and students to build relationships outside of the classroom. Recess is supervised by teachers or teacher's aides at all times. Children are expected to participate in recess activities unless a written excuse is sent by a parent, guardian, or doctor. Playground and athletic equipment is to be treated with care and respect.