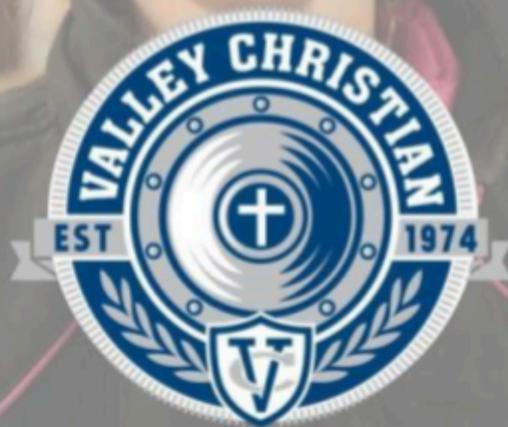


VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Course Descriptions
Elementary School



Elementary Course Descriptions 2025-2026

Bible

Early Elementary Bible (Kindergarten–Grade 2)

In early elementary, students are introduced to the major components of the story of God: creation, the fall, and redemption. Students learn the big picture of how God has been working in His creation through the study of key stories. Learning the big picture provides a solid foundation for the development of Biblical theology and a Biblical worldview, and the integration of God's love and truth into daily life.

Students recite Bible verses weekly.

Textbook: DeepRoots

Upper Elementary Bible (Grades 3-5)

In upper elementary, students learn the many parts of the story of God written in the Old and New Testaments. Students expand their knowledge of Biblical stories and their meaning in the context of the larger Biblical narrative. This foundation of Biblical theology is paired with an introduction to major systematic doctrines about God, the world, and redemption; this combination increases understanding of salvation and its integration into daily life.

Textbook: *DeepRoots*

Kindergarten

The objective of the full-day kindergarten program is to build a solid foundation upon which students grow academically, physically, spiritually, emotionally, and socially. The program is designed to be academically challenging, as well as developmentally appropriate. The kindergarten classrooms are organized and structured to support all areas of development, and a wide variety of materials are used to stimulate students' curiosity, initiative, and inquiry. Problem-solving and conflict resolution are modeled and promoted on a daily basis, and mutual respect is built and maintained through positive reinforcement and open communication. Every learning experience in the classroom incorporates a component of the seven learning styles and includes: songs, games, group activities, individual seatwork, small group collaboration, and inquiry-based discovery.

Language Arts

Superkids is a comprehensive approach to Kindergarten Literacy. Kindergartners learn to read and write using various provided materials. Instruction centers around student books that align with the teaching and give opportunities for practicing letter-sound correspondence, handwriting, decoding, encoding and grammar. Also included are decodable stories for developing fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary skills. In addition, the curriculum provides alphabet cards, tactile cards, picture cards, handwriting practice paper, skill-building ideas, and Superkids bendable characters, all used for whole-group, small-group, and individual instruction.

Textbooks:

Word Work-Superkids Student Books, Superkids Teacher Guides, The Big Book of Blending, Superkids Skill-Building Book, Superkids Program Guide

Reading- Super Smart Informational Digital Read Alouds, Superkids' Club Leveled Libraries

Writing- Superkids Writing Teacher Guide

Mathematics

The student is introduced to a wide variety of math concepts and skills, such as sorting, position, counting and recognizing numbers to 100, place value of tens and ones, time to the hour, value of coins, reading bar and pictographs, beginning measurement, patterning, geometric figures, addition facts through ten, subtraction of one and zero, ordinal numbers, skip counting, number words, one to ten, and calendar knowledge.

Textbook: *Math K*, BJU Press

Science

Students will learn facts about different animals and their habitats. Changes of the seasons, fire safety, and plant growth/needs are also introduced and discussed. Life Science lessons include facts about photosynthesis, insects, spiders, and farm animals. Earth Science and Space topics include an ocean life unit and the solar system. Kindergartners also enjoy science units from the Einstein Project, which incorporates various hands-on activities, experiments, and field trips.

Source: Einstein Project and Teacher-Generated

Social Studies

Students learn about most holidays that are celebrated and the important people associated with them, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Christopher Columbus. The Pilgrims are also studied, as well as the Pioneer and Native American cultures. The students also learn appropriate social and conflict resolution skills, as well as good citizenship and community helpers.

Textbook: Teacher Generated

Art

The class will be introduced to the basics related to color, line, and shape. They will also be able to identify and create both portraiture and landscapes. Students will complete short projects as they learn how these concepts relate to the artwork they create. The students will be able to visually identify the beginning elements of art. Clean-up procedures will be regimented and defined so students begin to understand their role during the clean-up portion of class.

Music

Music K is designed to prepare the kindergarten student for music reading and performance. Through singing, reading, moving, playing, echoing, and activities presented within the course, the students will obtain the skills necessary to provide a foundation for music literacy. As the students learn to express their musical knowledge, they are reminded to use their skills and talents to glorify God. Students have music two times a week for 30 minutes each.

Physical Education

The class consists of physical activities that address fitness, motor performance, and cognitive learning. The student will be able to know the positive effects of regular participation in physical activity and to recognize changes in the body's response during physical activity. Students will be evaluated in three content areas: participation in individual and group activities, motor skill development, and fitness level.

First Grade

Language Arts

Students will master phonemic knowledge through regular practice. Reading skills such as decoding, comprehension, and fluency will be taught using a reading textbook and a variety of magazines and reading selections. Students will learn the parts of speech, the writing process, and several forms of writing. Spelling will be taught through routine practice and pattern recognition. Manuscript handwriting skills are practiced throughout the coursework.

Reading: Superkids Reading Program

Writing: Superkids Reading Program

Word Work: Superkids Reading Program

Mathematics

First graders learn to understand and use numbers while working on accuracy and speed with basic addition/subtraction facts. Students explore place value, money, measurement, time, fractions, and geometry.

Textbook: *Math 1*, BJU Press

Science

First graders learn about God's purposeful design of our world by studying matter, weather/seasons, the human body, plants, and animals.

Textbooks: *Science 1*, BJU Press

Einstein Unit (Sight and Sound)

Social Studies

First graders learn about our nation's symbols and famous Americans, experience the communities in which they live as well as world communities, and use map skills to explore the geography of our Earth. Students explore how to honor God by becoming good citizens in their communities.

Textbooks: *Heritage Studies 1*, BJU Press

Geography: Learn and Explore, DK Workbooks

Music

Music 1 is designed to provide students in the first grade with experiences to prepare them for music reading. Through singing, playing simple instruments, moving, writing, and a variety of activities presented within the course, the students demonstrate their growth in music literacy. The classroom materials provide the student with songs and activities to build singing and coordination skills, as well as to introduce new concepts in music reading. As the students learn to express their musical knowledge, they are reminded to use their skills and talents to glorify God. Students have music two times a week for 30 minutes each.

Neenah

Music 1 is designed to provide students in the first grade with experiences to prepare them for music reading. Through singing, playing simple instruments, moving, writing, and a variety of activities presented within the course, the students demonstrate their growth in music literacy. The classroom materials provide the student with songs and activities to build singing and coordination skills, as well as to introduce new concepts in music reading. Students use the Kodály Method to learn both pitch and rhythm and begin to play glockenspiel to demonstrate their learning. As the students learn to express their musical knowledge, they are reminded to use their skills and talents to glorify God. Students have music two times a week for 30 minutes each.

Art

The class will be introduced to the basics related to color, line, and shape. They will also be able to identify and create both portraiture and landscapes. Students will complete short projects as they learn how these concepts relate to the artwork they create. The students will be able to visually identify the beginning elements of art. Clean-up procedures will be regimented and defined so students begin to understand their role during the clean-up portion of class.

Physical Education

The student will know the positive and negative effects and recognize changes in body response during participation in physical activity. The student will identify likes and dislikes related to physical activity; recognize positive interaction of small group activities, practice locomotor skills, manipulative skills, and space awareness.

Second Grade

Language Arts

Students will review and master phonemic knowledge through regular practice. Reading skills such as decoding, comprehension, and accuracy will be taught using a reading textbook and a variety of novels and reading selections. Students will learn the parts of speech, the writing process, and several forms of writing. Spelling will be taught through routine practice and pattern recognition. Manuscript handwriting skills are practiced and solidified in preparation for cursive instruction in third grade.

Reading: Superkids Reading Program

Writing: Superkids Reading Program

Word Work: Superkids Reading Program

Mathematics

Students in second grade use various materials and manipulatives to learn place value up to the thousands place. They use place value knowledge to support addition with carrying, and subtraction with borrowing. Students will learn to tell exact time using an analog clock, beginning fraction and measurement concepts, and the value of money. Multiplication and Division are also introduced.

Textbook: *Math 2*, BJU Press

Science

Students will learn about and explore God's creation through a variety of learning experiences. Some of the topics covered during the second-grade year are the life cycle of butterflies, natural resources, layers of the Earth, habitats, the needs of living things, fossils, matter, and human body systems.

Textbook: *Science 2*, BJU Press

Einstein Unit (Butterflies)

Social Studies

Students in second grade will work chronologically through early American history, focusing on Native Americans, European explorers, the colonies, and ending with the Revolutionary War. Geography is also taught using a separate textbook throughout the year.

Textbook: *Heritage Studies 2*, BJU Press

Geography: Learn and Explore, DK Workbooks

Art

The class will be introduced to the basics related to color, line, and shape. They will also be able to identify and create both portraiture and landscapes. Students will complete short projects as they learn how these concepts relate to the artwork they create. The students will be able to visually identify the beginning elements of art. Clean-up procedures will be regimented and defined so students begin to understand their role during the clean-up portion of class.

Music

Music 2 is designed to provide students in the second grade with experiences to prepare them for music reading. Through singing, playing simple instruments, moving, writing, and a variety of activities presented within the course, the students demonstrate their growth in music literacy. The classroom materials provide the student with songs and activities to build singing and coordination skills, as well as to introduce new concepts in music reading. As the students learn to express their musical knowledge, they are reminded to use their skills and talents to glorify God. Students have music two times a week for 30 minutes each.

Neenah

Music 2 is designed to provide students in the second grade with experiences to prepare them for music reading. Through singing, playing simple instruments, moving, writing, and a variety of activities presented within the course, the students demonstrate their growth in music literacy. The classroom materials provide the student with songs and activities to build singing and coordination skills, as well as to introduce new concepts in music reading. Students use the Kodály Method to learn both pitch and rhythm and play glockenspiel to demonstrate their learning. As the students learn to express their musical knowledge, they are reminded to use their skills and talents to glorify God. Students have music two times a week for 30 minutes each.

Physical Education

The student will identify and engage in physical activities that promote physical fitness and health, identify likes and dislikes related to participation in physical activity, recognize positive and negative interactions of small group activity, recognize and use basic movement skills and concepts, know the function of practice, know and describe scientific principles that affect movement, recognize and describe game strategies using appropriate vocabulary.

Third Grade

Language Arts

Students will be skilled in using correct spelling, appropriate grammar, suitable mechanics, and legible handwriting to effectively communicate through the written word. Students will also be able to utilize the gift of language to both properly and effectively relay verbal information. Students will understand that language is a gift from God and must be used appropriately to create, communicate, inform, and edify.

Reading: *Adventures in Reading 3*, BJU Press

English: *English 3 Writing & Grammar*, BJU Press

Spelling: *Spelling 3*, BJU Press

Handwriting: *Handwriting 3*, Zaner-Bloser

Mathematics

Third-grade students solidify their understanding of telling time, counting money, addition and subtraction facts, as well as place value. They also learn the concepts of multiplication and division, with an emphasis on the importance of memorizing these facts. Students are also introduced to fractions and basic units of measurement.

Textbook: *Math 3*, BJU Press

Science

Through a variety of hands-on activities, students strengthen their observational skills and understand the complexity of God's Creation through a study of living things, namely plants and animals. They strengthen their understanding of physical science by learning about His order through a study of matter, sound, forces, motion, and the solar system.

Textbook: *Science 3*, BJU Press

Einstein Kit (Plant Growth and Development)

Social Studies

Third grade begins social studies by learning about America as a new nation. The initial topics covered include early government, religious revival, and westward expansion. Throughout the remainder of the year, students move through new material chronologically from the War of 1812 to the Industrial Revolution. Students end the year with a special geography unit to learn the 50 states.

Textbook: *Heritage Studies 3*, BJU Press

Geography: Learn and Explore, DK Workbooks

Art

Students will be introduced to new art materials and how they relate to the materials used in the previous grades. They will continue to apply these lessons to the elements of art while slowly beginning to understand the principles of design. Their art vocabulary will be expanded through in-class discussions analyzing their own artwork and artwork created by others. Students will learn their role in the maintenance of art supplies and the art room. Clean-up procedures will be regimented and defined so students understand their role in the class.

Music

Music 3 is devoted to exploring and composing, listening and analyzing, singing and performing, reading and interpreting a musical score as it pertains to the treble clef. Specific components of third-grade music include aural recognition and performance of meter in 2 and 3, expressive interpretation (soft, loud, crescendo/decrescendo), and learning to sing basic harmonic structures (i.e., 2 pt rounds and 2 partner songs and rhythmic/melodic ostinatos), and vocal/instrumental timbre from a wide variety of musical styles and genres. The study of recorder is an integral part of the third-grade general music curriculum, which includes learning the names of the treble clef lines/spaces, basic rhythm, reading a musical score, correct fingering/finger placement, caring for a musical instrument, and playing together in an ensemble. As the students learn to express their musical knowledge, they are reminded to use their skills and talents to glorify God. Students have music two times a week for 30 minutes each.

Neenah

Music 3 is designed to provide students in the third grade with experiences to prepare them for music reading. Through singing, playing instruments, moving, writing, and a variety of activities presented within the course, the students demonstrate their growth in music literacy. The classroom materials provide the student with songs and activities to build singing and coordination

skills, as well as to introduce new concepts in music reading. Students use the Kodály Method to learn both pitch and rhythm and play glockenspiel to demonstrate their learning. As the students learn to express their musical knowledge, they are reminded to use their skills and talents to glorify God. Students have music two times a week for 30 minutes each.

Physical Education

The student will be able to identify and engage in physical activity that promotes physical fitness, identify reasons why regular participation in physical activity improves motor skills, recognize positive and negative interactions of small group activities, recognize and use basic movement skills and concepts, recognize and describe the concepts of motor skill development using appropriate vocabulary, identify and use principles of exercise to improve movement and fitness and recognize game strategies. They also learn the basics of the following sports: football, softball, volleyball, basketball, gym hockey, and soccer. The student will participate in the President's Challenge Test.

Fourth Grade

Science

Students will strengthen their observational skills as they learn about the complexity of God's creation through physical and earth science - forces and motion, electricity, rocks and minerals, the moon, water and oceans, etc. Students will learn about God's order through a physical science study of the eyes and digestive system. Students will be exposed to the theory of evolution. They will learn how to discern if something is written from a creationist or an evolutionist point of view.

Textbook: *Science 4*, BJU Press
Einstein Kit (Rocks & Minerals)

Language Arts

Students will read a variety of genres and novels. Through these readings, they will develop reading strategies and perfect reading skills. Students will learn and apply vocabulary terms, grammar rules, and parts of speech. They will master legible cursive handwriting and learn phonetic-based spelling words, with a focus on spelling patterns. Students will expand their creative writing and research skills as they learn about and practice the writing process. Through this method, they will practice writing, revising, and editing various fiction and nonfiction pieces. Students will use resources (dictionary, encyclopedia, thesaurus, and the internet) to enhance their writing pieces.

English: *English 4*, BJU Press
Spelling: *Spelling 4*, BJU Press
Reading: *Reading 4*, BJU Press

Mathematics

Students will build an understanding of number sense, multiplication, division, decimals, fractions, data and graphs, geometry, such as plain and 3-Dimensional figures, problem-solving skills, and customary time and measurement. Special attention is given to mastering math facts in all four operations.

Textbook: *Math 4*, BJU Press

Social Studies

In fourth-grade social studies, students will focus on Wisconsin history. They will learn how to think like historians while pondering the questions "What matters?" "Why does it matter?" and "How do we know?" Sources such as maps, drawings, paintings, and photographs will be incorporated. These visuals will be used as historical evidence to help students fully grasp Wisconsin's historical facts and people, and how historians study and write history. Students will participate in a special Wax Museum Project and go on a field trip to the Wisconsin State Capitol. An additional study will take place in map skills as students explore the geography of states and regions.

Textbooks: *Geography: Learn and Explore*, DK Workbooks, fourth-grade
Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story, Wisconsin Historical Society Press

Art

Students will be introduced to new art materials and how they relate to the materials used in the previous grades. They will continue to apply these lessons to the elements of art while slowly beginning to understand the principles of design. Their art vocabulary will be expanded through in-class discussions analyzing their own artwork and artwork created by others. Students will learn their role in the maintenance of art supplies and the art room. Clean-up procedures will be regimented and defined so students understand their role in the class.

Music

Music 4 is devoted to exploring and composing, listening and analyzing, singing and performing, reading and interpreting a musical score as it pertains to the treble clef. Specific components of fourth--grade music include aural recognition and performance of meter in 2 and 3, expressive interpretation (soft, loud, crescendo/decrescendo), and learning to sing basic harmonic structures (i.e., 2 pt rounds and 2 partner songs and rhythmic/melodic ostinatos), and vocal/instrumental timbre from a wide variety of musical styles and genres. The study of recorder is an integral part of the fourth-grade general music curriculum, which includes learning the names of the treble clef lines/spaces, basic rhythm, reading a musical score, correct fingering/finger placement, caring for a musical instrument, and playing together in an ensemble. As the students learn to express their musical knowledge, they are reminded to use their skills and talents to glorify God. Students have music two times a week for 30 minutes each.

Neenah

Music 4 is designed to provide students in the fourth grade with experiences to prepare them for music reading. Through singing, playing instruments, moving, writing, and a variety of activities presented within the course, the students demonstrate their growth in music literacy. The classroom materials provide the student with songs and activities to build singing and coordination skills, as well as to introduce new concepts in music reading. Students use the Kodály Method to learn both pitch and rhythm and play glockenspiel to demonstrate their learning. As the students learn to express their musical knowledge, they are reminded to use their skills and talents to glorify God. Students have music two times a week for 30 minutes each.

Physical Education

The student will identify ways to monitor the body's response to moderate to vigorous activity, describe factors that affect their physical activity preferences, identify factors of a relationship between regular participation in physical activity and the degree of motor skill development, identify positives and negatives to group interactions (teamwork), apply the concepts of motor skill development to basic sport and activity skills, describe the relationship between practice and skill development and the principles of exercise. They also learn the basics of the following sports: football, softball, volleyball, gym hockey, basketball, and soccer. The student will participate in the President's Challenge Test.

Computer

Students will become familiar with and complete assignments/projects using the different Google programs: Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Scratch, as well as learning about various components of modern technology. Each class will use a portable Chromebook Cart to accomplish the assignments and projects. Students will continue to practice keyboarding, strengthen proper finger placement on the home row, and develop typing proficiency.

Fifth Grade

Language Arts

Students will learn phonetic-based spelling words, learn to add prefixes and suffixes, learn that prefixes and suffixes change the meanings of the base words, learn to split words into their basic syllables, learn the rules for why we do this, learn and apply vocabulary terms, and practice grammar rules and the parts of speech. Students will write original narrative, informative, opinion, and descriptive works, along with a variety of poetry, and give a speech. Student reading covers a number of different genres, themes, and comprehension strategies appropriate for their individual reading level; students will also read and respond to books independently and in small groups throughout the year.

Handwriting: *Zaner-Bloser Handwriting 5*

Spelling: *Spelling 5*, BJU Press

Writing: *English 5, Writing & Grammar*, BJU Press

Reading: *Reading 5, Quests*, BJU Press

Mathematics

Students continue to build their understanding of number sense, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. Algebra is introduced at a basic level. Measurement of metric units and time is mastered. In addition, areas of geometry such as perimeter, area, triangles, and volume are studied. Math facts are mastered through practice and time tests every day.

Textbook: *Math 5*, BJU Press

Science

Students build upon their knowledge of life science by studying natural and life cycles, cells, and ecological succession. They will also explore physical science to learn about matter, force, and electricity. Earth and space science processes are studied, as well as the human body. Students will learn the processes involved in the scientific method, establish foundational science facts and skills for further science instruction.

Textbook: *Science 5*, BJU Press

Einstein Kit (How Can We Predict Change in Ecosystems?)

Social Studies

Students study the History of the United States, beginning with the Civil War through President Obama's administration. Students work to understand the important events that took place in each era, as well as understand why people chose to make the decisions that they did. Students study important elections and how the different presidents influenced America. Throughout the year, students improve their skills in understanding and using maps as well.

Textbook: *Heritage Studies 5*, BJU Press

Geography: Daily Geography Practice 5, Evan-Moor

Art

Students will create artwork that expresses their point of view as a young Christian artist. They will learn how to manipulate new and interesting art materials. The class will learn the role artists have in society and create projects that emulate this work. Elementary vocabulary will reach its highest point, and students will be expected to communicate with the teacher using the language they have learned. The class revolves around learning the basic use and application of the elements of design. Students will have individual and group clean-up assignments that will challenge them to become more responsible.

Music

Music Five is devoted to refining and strengthening musical components as a capstone for the elementary music curriculum and also as a foundation for Middle School music. Class time is devoted to advanced exploration, analysis, and performance of the various music families (strings, percussion, woodwinds, and brass), as well as developing correct singing techniques. Students learn to recognize, define, and interpret basic music elements, such as treble/bass clef, note names, note/rest durations, time signature, and expressive markings. Our fifth-grade students also have the opportunity to learn how to play the Ukulele during the school year. As the students learn to express their musical knowledge, they are reminded to use their skills and talents to glorify God. Students have music two times a week for 30 minutes each.

Neenah

Music Five is designed to provide students in the fifth grade with experiences to prepare them for music reading. Through singing, playing instruments, moving, writing, and a variety of activities presented within the course, the students demonstrate their growth in music literacy. The classroom materials provide the student with songs and activities to build singing and coordination skills, as well as to introduce new concepts in music reading. Students use the Kodály Method to learn both pitch and rhythm and play glockenspiel to demonstrate their learning. As the students learn to express their musical knowledge, they are reminded to use their skills and talents to glorify God. Students have music two times a week for 30 minutes each.

Physical Education

The student will identify ways to monitor the body's response to moderate to vigorous activity, describe factors that affect their physical activity preferences, identify factors of a relationship between regular participation in physical activity and the degree of motor skill development, identify positives and negatives to group interactions (teamwork), apply the concepts of motor skill development to basic sport and activity skills, describe the relationship between practice and skill development and the principles of exercise. They also learn the basics of the following sports: football, softball, volleyball, gym hockey, basketball, and soccer. The student will participate in the President's Challenge Test.

Computer

Students will become familiar with and complete assignments/projects using the different Google programs: Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Scratch, as well as learning about various components of modern technology. Each class will use a portable Chromebook Cart to accomplish the assignments and projects. Students will continue to practice keyboarding, strengthen proper finger placement on the home row, and develop typing proficiency.