



METROLINA

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

At Metrolina Christian Academy, we are committed to our mission to “**lovingly lead and equip students for Kingdom living.**” In keeping with that mission, we seek to lead our students to personally own their faith and to not only possess but live out a biblical worldview. It is our belief that we should seek to develop a detailed portrait of what a graduate of Metrolina Christian Academy should look like.

The administration and staff of Metrolina Christian Academy have prayed, sought God, and planned meticulously in the development of this portrait. We have used Luke 2:52 as a guidepost for developing this plan. This verse of scripture describes the maturation of Jesus as a young man in four areas. The Bible says in this verse that Jesus grew in **wisdom, stature, favor with God, and favor with man.** We seek to follow this model in developing our students.

From this approach, we prayerfully commit to leading our graduates to be true Warriors for Christ who will possess:

Worldview that is Christ-centered and biblically based

Academic foundation that prepares them for God’s open door at the next stage of life

Redemption that is biblically based and personal

Responsibility that is guided by Scripture and encompasses the individual, culture, and evangelism

Integrity that influences all of life’s decisions

Ownership of the Faith that is personal and transformational

Readiness to engage culture, proclaim the Gospel, and live life to the Glory of God

STANDARDS-DRIVEN CURRICULUM

Metrolina Christian Academy utilizes a standards-driven curriculum model that is meticulously crafted and designed to prioritize the alignment with specific educational standards rather than being reliant solely on textbooks or resources. Of paramount importance is the selection and integration of standards that assist in our students’ holistic development, which results in a comprehensive and dynamic educational experience. This approach allows us to draw from diverse resources, methodologies, and materials in order to ensure our curriculum is adaptive, engaging, and aligned with the most effective educational practices.

BIBLE COURSE PHILOSOPHY

The Bible curriculum at MCA aligns with and supports our mission, vision, and purpose to lovingly lead and equip students for Kingdom living. This is accomplished as MCA graduates are equipped with a biblical worldview based upon established spiritual disciplines, sound academic thinking, and appropriate skill development. Articulation of a biblical worldview solidifies the truth; therefore, an immersion of speech and communication arts will be woven into the curriculum. The biblical worldview at MCA will be based on the principles and resources of:

- An intellectual defense for the truth.
- Biblically-minded administrators, faculty, and staff.
- Applications and implications of truth.
- Biblical saturation in every discipline, classroom, extra-curricular, and school activity.
- The need for ethics and apologetics to address contemporary cultural issues.
- Chapel programs with experts in the field of evangelism, apologetics, biblical worldview, and discipleship.
- Spiritual retreats in grades 8, 9, and 12 which remove the students from daily responsibilities and distractions to provide intentional and intensive Bible study and corporate worship.
- Expository and persuasive speeches presented in Bible classes are developmentally appropriate and measured according to a clearly defined rubric.
- Service opportunities through the MCA Project Serve Program and mission trips where students apply the principles of truth through practical service and evangelism.

LOWER SCHOOL BIBLE

From kindergarten to fifth grade, students will complete a survey of the Bible using God's Word as our sole guide and Summit Ministries: Building on the Rock as a supplement. Integrated daily lessons constructed in a spiral sequence, thought-provoking questions, and guided assignments will embed an overview of biblical content in student's hearts and minds. In addition, students will be involved in the *Friendzy* program in which they will learn the tools and gain character needed to navigate the world and friendships with confidence through the lens of God's word.

Some of the Biblical Truths Covered:

- God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
- God created His image-bearers to love and serve one another
- God is truth and always tells us what is right and true
- Jesus died to bring His image-bearers into a new family and nation of harmony called God's church
- God created people in His image
- God holds His creation together by His power
- God created people to need Him for everything
- Jesus died to restore fellowship/harmony between people and God
- Jesus died to restore harmony between God's image-bearers and the earth

LOWER SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS

A strong foundation in reading, writing and communication is built through a comprehensive and balanced literacy program that includes phonics, reading, writing, handwriting, spelling, and grammar. Students practice and apply these skills through hands-on experiences guided by a combination of whole class, small group, and one-on-one instruction within a reading and writing workshop format. All students in kindergarten through fifth grade will focus on writing narrative, persuasive, and informational essays with progressive sophistication. The following are a list of resources we integrate into our standard-driven literacy curriculum.

Kindergarten

- *Simplify Writing Units of Study*
- *Flyleaf – Reading and Phonics*
- *Heggerty – Phonemic Awareness*
- *Wilson “Foundations” – Handwriting*

Second Grade

- *Simplify Writing Units of Study*
- *Flyleaf – Reading and Phonics*
- *Heggerty – Phonemic Awareness*
- *Wilson “Foundations” – Handwriting*
- *StoryWorks*

Fourth Grade

- *Simplify Writing Units of Study*
- *Interactive Grammar Notebooks*
- *Mentor Sentences*
- *Novel Studies*
- *Literacy Pro and Story Works*

First Grade

- *Simplify Writing Units of Study*
- *Flyleaf – Reading and Phonics*
- *Heggerty – Phonemic Awareness*
- *Wilson “Foundations” – Handwriting*

Third Grade

- *Simplify Writing Units of Study*
- *Wilson Cursive Handwriting*
- *Interactive Grammar Notebooks*
- *Mentor Sentences*
- *Novel Studies*
- *Literacy Pro and Story Works*

Fifth Grade

- *Simplify Writing Units of Study*
- *Interactive Grammar Notebooks*
- *Mentor Sentences*
- *Novel Studies*
- *Literacy Pro and Story Works*

LOWER SCHOOL SCIENCE

Students deepen their understanding and love for our Creator and His creation while engaging in active and meaningful learning experiences working within the areas of physical, earth, and life sciences at each grade level. Through hands-on activities and investigations, children develop increasing sophistication in their scientific thinking that builds from year to year. Students are taught to evaluate scientific learning through God’s word. Classroom lessons are enriched through a variety of STEAM activities that extend beyond the classroom.

Kindergarten

FOSS Science and BJU Science Units:

- Materials and Motion
- Trees and Weather
- Animals Two by Two

First Grade

FOSS Science and BJU Science Units:

- Sound and Light
- Air and Weather
- Planets and Animals

Second Grade

FOSS Science and BJU Science Units:

- Solids and Liquids
- Pebbles, Sand, and Silt
- Insects and Plants

Third Grade

FOSS Science and BJU Science Units:

- Motion and Matter
- Water and Climate
- Structures of Life

Fourth Grade

Purposeful Design and BJU Science Units:

- Physical Science – Energy and Matter
- Earth and Space Science
- Natural Disasters and Resources

Fifth Grade

Purposeful Design and BJU Science Units:

- Life Science – Cycles and Ecosystems
- Human Body – Balance and Wellness
- Earth Systems

LOWER SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

The social studies curriculum and instruction provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become educated and responsible citizens. The goal is to enable students to understand, participate in, and make informed

decisions about their world locally, nationally, and globally with a biblical worldview. The social studies program is created by using quality literature-based units integrated with biblical concepts.

Kindergarten

- Changes Over Time
- Me on the Map
- Economic Concepts
- Citizenship
- All About Me

First Grade

- Historical Thinking
- US Holidays
- Map Skills
- Citizenship
- Economics

Second Grade

- Citizenship
- Timeline of Historical Events and Figures
- Maps and Symbols
- Economics and Government
- Environmental Awareness

Third Grade

- Local and State History
- Government and Economics
- 13 Colonies
- American Revolution
- Traditions: Culture, Character, Language, and Food

Fourth Grade

- North Carolina History
- NC's Role in Major Roles
- State Symbols and Landmarks
- Geography and Map Skills

Fifth Grade

- From the Roaring 20s to Present Time: People, Events, Values, and Ideas
- Geography and Map Skills
- Economics
- Government Structure

LOWER SCHOOL MATH

The math curriculum allows students to gain a progression of knowledge each year to develop a strong mathematical foundation. Students will utilize a variety of materials, tools, and strategies to deepen their understanding of mathematical domains including operational and algebraic thinking, number and operations in base ten, number and operations-fractions, measurement and data, and geometry. Interactive learning encourages students to strengthen essential math concepts while enhancing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Kindergarten

- *BJU Math*
- *Interactive and manipulative-based lessons*
- *Hands-on math centers/tubs*

First Grade

- *BJU Math*
- *Interactive and manipulative-based lessons*
- *Rocket Math program*

Second Grade

- *BJU Math*
- *Interactive and manipulative-based lessons and tubs*
- *Rocket Math program*

Third Grade

- *BJU Math*
- *Interactive and manipulative-based lessons and tubs*
- *Math 4 Today*
- *Rocket Math program*

Fourth Grade

- *BJU Math*
- *Interactive lessons*
- *Math 4 Today*
- *Rocket Math program*

Fifth Grade

- *BJU Math*
- *Interactive lessons*
- *Math 4 Today*
- *Rocket Math program*

LOWER SCHOOL ENRICHMENTS

MCA is fortunate to provide a wide range of enriched learning opportunities for lower school students. Where many schools are forced to cut subjects like art, music, and physical education, we know that by having these classes in our school curricula, our students build skills they learn in these courses to improve their work in math, science, and literacy. In addition, these enrichment classes provide students with further physical and creative outlets throughout their school week.

- **Art**
- **Music**
- **Physical Education**
- **STEM**
- **Communication Arts**

NOTES
