



Elementary School Profile

K-5th Grades

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HISTORY

HOPE Academy, a University-Model School, opened August 2011, offering Kindergarten through 5th grades. Grades are being added each year through 12th grade. HOPE Academy is located on the campus of West Cabarrus Church in Concord, NC.

STUDENT BODY: 124

MISSION

- To provide a Christ-centered, college preparatory, academic program that fosters lifelong learning.
- To create a learning community where teachers' and students' individual gifts, talents, and ideas are cultivated.
- To maintain family as the central spiritual and instructional influence in our children's lives.
- To raise servant leaders who will impact the world for the cause of Christ.

CERTIFICATION/ ACCREDITATION

NAUMS Certification 2015
Pursuing AdvancED
Accreditation

HOPE ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The elementary school program partners with parents in the academic and spiritual development of students, while honoring parents' role as the primary influence in their child's lives. Through HOPE's unique University-Model schedule, parents have more time with their children to talk about matters of the heart, are more hands-on in their learning, and develop a more in-depth understanding of who God has created their child to be. Students learn how to work with excellence for the Lord, progressively gaining more independence and ownership of their learning as they transition into middle school.

Elementary students are in a classroom with one to two professional educators three days a week. The other two days, students are at home with a parent completing teacher designed lessons. Field trips and service opportunities are occasionally scheduled on home study days.

PARENT'S ROLE

Parents serve as co-teachers during the elementary years as they come alongside their students reinforcing concepts and thinking strategies that have been taught in the classroom. Parents preview the assignment sheets, gather any necessary materials, and are prepared to guide their children on homestudy days. Classroom teachers are available by way of email to assist parents and students with any questions they may have. Students develop more independence, responsibility, and organizational skills as they move into upper elementary school.

UNIT STUDY

Elementary students develop a passion and enthusiasm for learning through hands-on, multi-disciplinary, integrated unit studies. Each nine-week unit of study is designed around an essential question and a Biblical virtue. Students make meaning with what they learn as they develop a network of connected ideas through integrated studies in reading, writing, science, and history. Units are developed using the "Backward Design" approach in which student understanding of "big ideas" and learning goals are the focal point. Learning goals are guided by both National and State standards. For example, as 2nd grade students learn about the virtues of determination, perseverance, or faith, they read biographies on well-known inventors as they study the Industrial Revolution. They create water wheels, circuits, and learn finger knitting ultimately applying what they have learned, along with determination, to develop their own inventions.

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

Students apply, extend, and transfer their content understanding through unit projects. Students choose an area of interest as it relates to their grade level unit study. Students present their projects at school-wide culminating events as parents and guests tour classrooms and common areas. Projects are completed at home and are incorporated into weekly homestudy plans.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Students begin their day participating in classroom devotions or in large group praise and worship time. They enjoy learning through collaboration with their peers whether it is through playing a math game exploring a word study, or engaging in guided reading groups. Small class sizes allow attention to the individual gifts and needs of each student. Movement is an important part of learning at HOPE. Students work in various locations in the classroom throughout the day and engage in daily, active recess.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective courses are unique opportunities for students to be exposed to a variety of learning experiences from those who are experts in their field of study. Students participate weekly in two to three semester or year-long electives. Elective offerings have included Art, Physical Education, Number Drummer, Music Ensemble, Culinary Arts, Drama, and Speech.

AFTER SCHOOL STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Students participate in optional extracurricular clubs after school. Clubs are eight weeks long during the Fall and Spring semesters. Families pay an additional fee for students to participate. Club offerings have included Sewing, Wacky Science, Chinese, Soccer, Tennis, Flag Football, Cheerleader at Heart, and Number Drummer.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday/ Tuesday/ Thursday
Wednesday /Friday

8:15a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Campus
At Home Study

CURRICULUM

Math Trail Blazers 4th Edition

Math Trailblazers is based on the idea that mathematics is best learned in real-world situations that are meaningful to children. Students are actively involved in the work of real-world mathematicians, working both independently and collaboratively as they model mathematics, reason abstractly and quantitatively, and persevere to solve complex problems. As students grapple with, represent, and justify their own thinking and reasoning, they become better problem-solvers and develop a deeper understanding of the concepts.

All About Spelling

AAS employs a multisensory approach with a built-in review system to help learning stick. Families are given a teacher manual and toolkit which includes letter tiles and flashcards to utilize at home.

Handwriting Without Tears

Handwriting Without Tears printing and cursive programs draw from years of innovation and research to provide developmentally appropriate, multisensory tools and strategies for students. Research shows that children learn more effectively by actively working with materials that address all styles of learning.

K-2nd grades – Learn Print
3rd-5th grades- Learn Cursive

Easy Grammar (2nd and 3rd Grades)

This program uses the prepositional approach combined with effective strategies to develop mastery of grammatical concepts.

Fix It Grammar (4th and 5th Grades)

Fix It! encourages students to immediately apply new grammar knowledge in context, aiding in the transfer of grammar skills into their own writing.

Reading

Students are assessed and placed in guided reading groups to develop specific reading and thinking strategies at their instructional level. Students read a variety of literature that relates to the interdisciplinary study of each unit.

Writing

Students develop writing skills through the use of mentor texts and application of the writing process. Students' writing relates to their unit of study. Professional educators and authors such as Lucy Calkins and Katie Wood Ray have influenced our writing workshop approach.

History

Students read a variety of fictional and non-fictional texts as well as study maps and primary source documents to inform their understanding of history.

Science

Students read a variety of texts, watch videos, learn from guest speakers, and apply scientific concepts and methods through hands-on experiments. FOSS kits and other resources are used in the classroom. At home, students use easily accessible items to complete science experiments.

ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION

Elementary students are administered individual reading assessments and placed into guided reading groups. Informal assessments occur regularly to inform teachers of students' understanding and mastery of content. Students are not administered weekly tests or quizzes in elementary school. One-on-one and group instruction and assessment allow teachers to meaningfully assess students' thinking and understanding. Students are administered MAP (Measures of Academic Progress), an end-of-year, computerized, standardized assessment in Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics.

GRADING SYSTEM

Elementary students receive a standards-based report card in which each grade level skill is noted. Students are evaluated accordingly: Emergent, Developing and Proficient. Parents and teachers discuss students' progress through conferences and regular communication. Students receive letter grades on assignments per the same developmental scale as the report card: E (Emergent), D (Developing), and P(Proficient).

HOPE Academy is partnering with families to launch a generation that is mature and equipped to engage the world on its terms and to transform it by the Holy Spirit.