Course Descriptions

Language Arts:
Students will grow in their knowledge and understanding of the English language through the study of grammar, vocabulary, and spelling. Daily practice will ensure the student's progress in learning spelling tips and tricks, including the spelling of regular and irregular plurals and knowing the differences between homophones. Vocabulary is introduced through the daily reading and then practiced and reviewed. Word roots along with prefixes and suffixes are used to help students discover the meaning of new words. Students are tested weekly on spelling and vocabulary acquisition. Grammar is focused on learning the parts of speech and how to write proper sentences with varying structures. Students learn to identify subjects and predicates and will apply that knowledge to writing well-structured sentences with correct word choice. Mechanics such as capitalization and punctuation including semicolons, quotation marks, and apostrophes are taught and practiced. Students will practice poetic writing after learning techniques such as alliteration, onomatopoeia, assonance, and consonance. All of their work culminates in student-produced writing several times a week. Weekly editing exercises put their knowledge to use, and the students create a final draft of one of their written pieces each week. Students will produce both fiction and non-fiction works and will have the opportunity to read their work aloud in front of an audience.

Greek:
Students will learn John 1:1-5 in Greek. They will learn to say the verses and to read and write John 1:1. They will be learning most of the letters of the Greek alphabet this year.

Science:
Students will discover new things as they explore the sciences of biology, physics, chemistry and earth science. In biology the students will study body systems including the integumentary, reproductive, and nervous systems. They will go deep into cells and the brain and under the skin and into the blood stream and discover the workings of the epidermis, mitochondria, synapses, and platelets. They will learn about germination and the process of photosynthesis. They will learn about birds, wolves, and pangolins. In chemistry they will learn about atoms, compounds, and chemical and physical changes. They will draw diagrams of atoms with their electron shells and of atoms bonded as molecules. They will also experiment to discover the pH of different liquids. In physics students will study pressure, forces, lever classes, states of matter, buoyancy, and how refrigerators and flutes work. In earth science students will study space and weather and rocks and mountains. Students will appreciate the greatness of a God who created all these marvelous things.

Social Studies:

Students will be inspired as they learn about great leaders and eloquent speakers. Students will learn of the struggle for independence in India and of the victories of Marie Curie and her daughter. They will hear impassioned speeches and poetry that speak to history and culture. They will learn about markets, economies, business, and the law of supply and demand. They will learn the history of the Roman Empire, Jesus' genealogy, and important events in the American Revolution. They will follow the spread of Communism and the reaction of America during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. They will learn of the sacrifice of martyrs and of the infamy of notorious criminals. They will learn of important contributions by Native Americans and by those who stood up for what they knew was right. They will learn about Amendments, the Magna Carta, and of the development of the idea of being self-governed and of those threatening those ideas. They will sail the seven seas and visit major cities; they will visit Chili and major festivals around the world. Students will be challenged to think, examine, and form opinions. Primary sources used in the lessons include maps, speeches, documents, paintings, letters, and first-hand accounts.