



## ICSV Elementary School Course Descriptions

### LANGUAGE ARTS

#### Primary

In Primary, we focus on rhyming, recognizing letters and their corresponding sounds in order to segment and blend those sounds as they learn to read and write. In reading, the focus is on comprehension, fluency, accuracy, and vocabulary acquisition. Students will learn to make connections between illustrations and written words, recognizing high-frequency words. They will recall and retell main events and be able to compare and contrast actions and character attributes in familiar stories. They will recognize the main components of a story such as setting, plot, and main idea. Students begin to learn about the writing process that includes traits of good writing, forms of writing, and themes. They also focus on writing words and sentences, using the correct punctuation, and learning to recognize nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Eventually, students are encouraged to take these skills and practice them independently in their own writing.

#### Grade I

Phonics, literature, vocabulary, grammar, handwriting, and writing composition is all integrated within the First Grade Language Arts program. Students participate in intensive differentiated phonics instruction, equipping them to become fluent readers, build comprehension skills, and learn the phonics rules to apply to their reading and writing. Students are introduced to high quality literature during classroom read aloud times building on listening comprehension skills and encouraging students to develop a passion and love for reading. Additional literature (weekly anchor text) is used to introduce a variety of fiction and informational text (nonfiction.) Each anchor text presented aims to help students develop in their knowledge of the features of literature, develop their comprehension and connection to text, introduce reading skills and strategies, and increase their fluency of reading accurately and at an appropriate pace. Students collaboratively participate in discussions where comprehension, summarizing, and retelling of the text build language skills and oral speaking skills. Students then apply their oral language skills as they begin learning and applying the steps of a writing composition. Students explore mentor texts and participate in classroom writing assignments as they are learning about excellent writing. Basic conventions of writing (like capitalization, handwriting, punctuation, and proper English grammar) are applied as students learn how to construct correct and strong sentences in their writing books and integrated writing assignments. Throughout the year, students will be writing paragraphs about their own life, to share their opinion, and to demonstrate their researched information. Additionally, students learn to write how-to books,



letters, and make-believe stories. We thank God for the gift of language and opportunity to learn how to communicate in coherent and convincing ways.

## **Grade 2**

Reading continues to be of primary importance in grade two. Students learn to ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. They recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral. They describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges. They acknowledge different points of view. Students also learn and use a variety of strategies to improve their comprehension, accuracy, fluency, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills. Students learn about the writing process, and in the course of the year, they will write narrative, persuasive, and expository pieces, including a research project. Students will also learn the proper conventions of the English language during the course of writing units.

## **Grade 3**

In third grade, the students learn and use a variety of strategies to improve their comprehension, accuracy, fluency, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills. Students learn about the writing process, and in the course of the year, they will write narrative, persuasive, and expository pieces, including a research project. Students will also learn the proper conventions of the English language during the course of writing units.

## **Grade 4**

In fourth grade, the students will use a variety of novels, short stories, informational text, and poems to learn and expand their ability to make predictions, inferences, summarize, and draw conclusions. During the year they will plan, write, edit, and publish writing in expository, persuasive, research and narrative formats.

## **Grade 5**

In fifth grade, the students will read fiction novels and informational texts. Students will work in groups and independently to develop extended responses to text through book reports, discussion groups, and culminating projects. Students will plan, write, edit, and publish a personal narrative, persuasive essay, compare and contrast essay, poetry analysis notebook, and a five-page research paper.



## **MATH**

### **Primary**

Primary Math focuses on numbers and operations, geometry, measurement and data. Students will learn to model, read, write, order, and compare the numbers 0 to 30, while counting to 100. They will solve simple, single-digit addition and subtraction problems. Students will sort, describe, and compare using color, shape, and size. They will also practice measuring and comparing length, height, and weight.

### **Grade 1**

First grade Math will build on God's truth and order found in our physical world. Students will begin the year by developing their number sense of numbers 0-120, making connections between numbers and objects. Next, the students will work with addition and subtraction and will learn strategies for solving problems, discover ways to visualize word problems, and articulate solutions. We will move into algebraic concepts where we will discover connections between addition and subtraction, compare numbers, and solve two-digit problems. Last, we will learn about measurement in terms of length and time, identify features and manipulate 2D and 3D shapes, and interpret graphs. Throughout the year, students will learn and build onto their fact fluency and mental math skills.

### **Grade 2**

We will cover 11 chapters in math this year, with daily lessons, projects, and a test at the completion of each chapter. Here is an overview of the topics we will cover this school year: number concepts, numbers to 1,000, basic facts and relationships, 2-digit addition, addition and subtraction, 3-digit addition and subtraction, money and time, length in customary units, length in metric units, data, geometry and fraction concepts.

### **Grade 3**

In third grade, students study place value, addition and subtraction, representing and interpreting data, multiplication/division facts and strategies, understanding and comparing fractions, time, measurement, two-dimensional shapes, perimeter and area.

### **Grade 4**

In fourth grade, students study place value and operations with whole numbers, fractions and decimals, and geometry, measurement and data.



## **Grade 5**

In fifth grade, students study whole number operations, using graphs and data, fractions, decimals, percentages, probability, algebra, measurement and geometry.

## **SCIENCE**

### **Primary**

Students learn what science is and study animal, plants, habitats, and the concepts of day and night. They identify and describe their five senses and utilize them to observe and learn about the world around them. They begin to describe and pose questions through observing, comparing, measuring, and sorting. Students study the life cycles and life stages of frogs, butterflies, birds, fish, and mammals.

### **Grade 1**

In Science, students explore and learn how to appreciate the beautiful world that God has created and how each can help take care of the world. Students develop an understanding of basic scientific vocabulary, the scientific method, and enjoy many hands-on experiments. First graders explore through four units interspersed during the year: Light and Sound, Space, Earth Science, and Survival of Living Things.

### **Grade 2**

In second grade Science, students demonstrate inquiry and problem solving skills as they explore each topic. They follow the scientific method, identify, and describe a variety of science tools and their usage. They develop their understanding of the design process and how to apply it on a basic level. Students understand what technology is and how it is helpful in the field of science. Students learn to describe and compare different kinds of animals and talk about their basic needs. They are able to explain the basic characteristics of all life cycles, and to describe the sequence of life stages for frogs, butterflies, birds, fish, and mammals. They are able to explain and define what a fossil is and how it was formed and to identify a plant's needs, parts, and life cycles. Second grade students understand that living organisms are interdependent with their living and nonliving surroundings. They describe how adaptations help living things survive in their environments and how environments change due to time, natural events, and living things.

### **Grade 3**

In third grade, students learn to read and engage with non-fiction text that covers topics such as changes to the Earth's surface, Earth's resources, changes in weather, the Solar System,



properties of matter, energy, and magnets. They participate in STEM activities where they learn to think like a scientist and solve problems using the Engineering Design Process.

#### **Grade 4**

In fourth grade Science, students develop scientific inquiry skills and utilize the steps of the Scientific Method to conduct experiments designed to find the answer to questions. The students conduct a variety of scientific inquiries related to the study of physical science, focusing particularly on the engineering process, plants and animals, energy and ecosystems, weather, and earth and space.

They plan, record, analyze, and share data gleaned from experiments. Units include the engineering process, plants and animals, energy and ecosystems, weather, earth, and space.

#### **Grade 5**

In fifth grade Science, students develop scientific inquiry skills and utilize the steps of the Scientific Method to conduct experiments designed to find the answer to questions. The students conduct a variety of scientific inquiries related to the study of physical science, focusing particularly on the study of matter, energy, electricity, and motion.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Primary**

Students begin the year by identifying the purpose of rules and why there are consequence of breaking those rules. They learn to cooperate, take turns and share, and they appreciate the need for safety signs. They learn about the community around them, family and homes, people who help us, and forms of transport. Students will learn about weather and seasons, including the days of the week and months of the year, animals and their habitats, plants and food, and space as it relates to what they see at night and in the day.

### **Grade I**

In Social Studies, students explore the community and the people around them. Students begin by taking a look how they contribute to and interact with those in our classroom community. Next, we begin looking more closely at families long ago and today, comparing cultural features, customs, traditions, and celebrations of those in our classroom community. We continue learning about communities as we look into jobs and economics and discuss buying, selling, and processing goods. As we finish the year, we will look closely at the geography of Austria, Europe, and the World; improving our map skills and ability to describe land features.



## **Grade 2**

In second grade Social Studies, students learn to explain the rights and responsibilities of a citizen at home, in school, and in the community. They recognize the need for rules and laws and identify consequences for breaking them. Students identify and describe functions of government and understand how government work is paid for by taxes. They are able to describe why we need leaders and how leaders are chosen through the process of voting. Students identify and explain the roles of producers and consumers and describe how goods and services are related to a business. Students recognize the difference between needs and wants. Students will learn map skills like using a compass rose and a map key. Students identify and describe a variety of landform. Students also study cultures from around the world, identifying differences in dress, art, language, food, music, and beliefs.

## **Grade 3**

Third grade Social Studies class begins with a review of geography and map skills. The students then focus on the communities around them, looking at their geography and changes that have taken place over time. They study citizenship, government, economy, and technological innovations that have improved our societies.

## **Grade 4**

Fourth graders use map and globe skills to determine the absolute location of places and interpret information available through the use of legends, scales, and symbolic representations. They explain how the present is connected to the past, identifying both similarities and differences between the two. They summarize the key events of the era they are studying and explain the historical contexts of those events. They also identify and interpret the multiple causes and effects of historical events. Ultimately, they apply biblical truths to their understanding of historical events. They learn these skills through the study of the geography, regions, history, and customs of Europe, Canada, and the Caribbean.

## **Grade 5**

Fifth grade students develop the academic vocabulary and regional knowledge of the climate and topography of several world regions in order to discuss the effects that the physical landscape and climate have on a region's population, growths, opportunities, and challenges. They develop an understanding of how belief systems, political divides, various people groups, and other geopolitical factors have on the development and history of a region. The students create topographical maps of world regions in order to express the physical differences in the landscapes using academic terminology. They analyze key events, people, and political developments in order to discuss the impact that these have on the international community.



## **BIBLE**

### **Primary**

Emphasis in the Primary Bible class is character development. Beginning with Christ's example and continuing with the study of key biblical and historical figures, students begin to recognize different Christian character traits. They are then encouraged to apply them to their daily lives. In addition, God's plan of redemption is explained by studying how this plan is interwoven throughout both the Old and New Testament Scriptures.

### **Grade 1**

In first grade, students learn that the Bible is God's Word and true! Throughout our days together, students see how every subject and topic reveals the character of God and His creation and His plan and purpose for each person. In our Bible lessons, students will experience the story of the Bible from Genesis and the Patriarchs to the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ. Students develop an understanding of some important events and people in Scripture, look deeply into the character of God, and reflect on Jesus' salvation plan for each person.

### **Grade 2**

In second grade, students explore the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), focusing on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and what that means for our lives. We will also talk about how all of the shorter Bible stories we hear work together to tell ONE, very important story -- the story of Jesus Christ.

### **Grade 3**

The third grade Bible curriculum focuses heavily on the Old Testament. Through our study of these stories, we examine what the stories tell us about God, what they mean, and how they should change our lives. The students participate in discussions, asking and answering questions that cause them to dig deep and evaluate what they believe and why. Each unit also has a section on apologetics where students learn how to defend their faith through topics such as studying historical artifacts that prove the reliability of Scripture.

### **Grade 4**

In fourth grade, students will learn to apply Biblical truth through the in-depth study into the life of Paul and the Early Church. Students will use Bible reading, inductive study, scripture memorization, character trait study, and Socratic questioning to apply their knowledge in a real and practical way.



## **Grade 5**

In fifth grade, students learn to read and apply Scripture to their daily life through Bible study methods focusing on reading, observing, applying, and praying over Scripture. They will also study in class an overview of the Old Testament focusing on the overarching themes and storyline of Scripture with an aim to understand and interact with the character and promises of God and message of the Bible as a whole. To aide in personal knowledge of Scripture students will also memorize weekly passages from Psalms.

## **GERMAN**

### **Primary**

Students learn to speak and understand German on a very basic level. They understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. They can introduce themselves and can speak and answer simple personal questions, such as what they like to do and things they have. The students can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help. Students also start to understand the Austrian culture. Particular vocabulary that students learn is as follows: food, family, school, animals, clothes, hobbies, numbers, colors, and introductions. The children also learn some German songs.

### **Grade 1**

First grade German is a continuation of Primary German. This year that learn the following: food, family, school, animals, clothes, hobbies, informal introductions, numbers, colors, initial sounds, rhyming words, and simple compound words. They also learn more German songs.

### **Grade 2/3 Beginner**

Students learn to speak and understand German on a very basic level. They understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. They can introduce themselves and can speak and answer simple personal questions, such as what they like to do and things they have. The students can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help. Students also start to understand the Austrian culture, customs, and traditions of the German speaking community. Geographic knowledge of Vienna is also provided in this course. Students learn the following vocabulary and constructions: food, family, school, animals, clothes, hobbies, numbers, colors, the alphabet, rhyming words, simple compound words, nouns, verbs, adjectives, and introductions. The children also learn some German songs.



### **Grade 2/3 Advanced**

This course is a continuation of what is taught in grades two and three. Geographic knowledge of Austria and Europe are provided in the course. Students learn the following: prepositions, comparative, numbers, regular and irregular verb conjugations, time, dates, informal introductions, food, family, school, work, clothes, hobbies, sports, health, feasts, apartment, furniture, vacation, reflexive verbs, comparative and superlative, pronouns, prepositions, nouns, verbs, adjectives, descriptions, compound words, and rhyming words. Those topics will be progress through at a more advanced pace and in more detail.

### **Grade 4/5 Beginner**

This course is a continuation of what is taught in grades two and three. Geographic knowledge of Austria and Europe are provided in the course. Students learn the following: prepositions, comparative, numbers, regular and irregular verb conjugations, time, dates, informal introductions, food, family, school, work, clothes, hobbies, sports, health, feasts, apartment, furniture, vacation, reflexive verbs, comparative and superlative, pronouns, prepositions, nouns, verbs, adjectives, descriptions, compound words, and rhyming words.

### **Grade 4/5 Intermediate**

This course is a continuation of the Beginner course. In it students learn the following: prepositions, comparative, numbers, regular and irregular verb conjugations, time, dates, informal introductions, food, family, school, work, clothes, hobbies, sports, health, feasts, apartment, furniture, vacation, reflexive verbs, comparative and superlative, pronouns, prepositions, nouns, verbs, adjectives, descriptions, compound words, and rhyming words. Furthermore, geographic and cultural knowledge of Austria and Europe are provided in the course.

### **Grade 4/5 Advanced**

This course is a continuation of the Beginner course. In it students learn the following: present and simple past tense, modal and reflexive verbs, question words, conjunctions, comparative and superlative, pronouns, local prepositions, nouns, verbs, adjectives, descriptions, food, family, school, animals, clothes, hobbies, informal introductions, compound words, and rhyming words. Furthermore, geographic and cultural knowledge of Austria and Europe are provided in the course.



## **ELL**

### **Primary to Grade 5**

In the Elementary English Language Learning (ELL) program, students strengthen skills in all areas of English: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students study language through grade appropriate topics, developing understanding and skills that will allow them to achieve full fluency in English and participate independently in the mainstream classroom.

## **ART**

### **Primary to Grade 5**

Elementary visual arts classes at ICSV are intended to encourage and teach Primary through 5th grade students to express themselves through visual art, as well as to promote a safe environment in which students may experiment and try new art media. Students learn about the history of art, its role in society, and God's place in art. Course work will be tailored to reinforce the goals of the class and to the curriculum.

## **MUSIC**

### **Primary to Grade 1**

Students are equipped with the skills they need to worship God through music. Students will learn to read and write rhythms using iconic or stick notation. They develop a feeling for a steady beat and play percussion instruments. The students learn to identify and demonstrate an understanding of the parameters in music and various expressive qualities in music. They develop their singing voice, sing in unison and learn solfege patterns.

### **Grade 2/3**

Students read and notate rhythms and solfege. They identify and demonstrate the absolute pitch names of the treble clef. Students learn to sing two and three -part rounds. They recognize the different types of instruments visually and aurally and understand how sounds are created. Students will play Boomwhackers or ORFF-instruments.

### **Grade 4/5**

In this course, students expand their knowledge of music theory and their ability to read music. They learn how to participate in singing two-part harmony. Fourth and Fifth grade students will learn to play recorder or ukulele. The students study various composers of the Baroque and Classical periods.



## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **Primary to Grade 2**

Students develop their motor skills by using games and age-appropriate movement drills. As they participate in structured “team oriented” and lead-up games for sports such as soccer, handball, volleyball, and basketball, students experience and discuss issues related to participation and personal fitness. In the process, they develop an appreciation of a healthy and active lifestyle. Students also learn basic gymnastics skills and play Frisbee football and dodgeball.

### **Grade 3 to 5**

Students develop their motor skills by using games and age-appropriate movement drills. As they participate in structured “team oriented” and or lead-up games for sports such as soccer, handball, volleyball and basketball, students experience and discuss issues related to participation and personal fitness. They develop an appreciation of a healthy and active lifestyle. The skills they work on at this stage are further developed and reinforced when they advance to the middle school levels. PE at grade 3--5 also aims to develop a biblical understanding of exercise and playing a team sport. Students play lead-up games in basketball, volleyball, handball, soccer, baseball, floor hockey, and American football. They learn basic gymnastics skills and participate in Frisbee football and dodgeball games.

## **LIBRARY INFORMATION SKILLS**

### **Primary to Grade 2**

Students in Primary to second grade become familiar with the library facilities, organization and services. They learn to find books, which are suitable for their age and how to treat borrowed items. They learn respect for others who are working in the same space. Students learn the basics of alphabet and number order, and library labeling. Primary and first grade learn to identify basic genres, how to distinguish between fiction and non-fiction as well as how stories are arranged. By first grade, they should be able to demonstrate basic understanding of parts of a book as well story elements (Character, setting, goal, problem and solution). They understand that information can be found in the library to answer questions they may have about any given subject. Second grade students are introduced to Destiny Quest – the ICSV Library catalog. They receive instruction on how to log in and perform simple searches. Additionally, they learn to differentiate call numbers and identify each relevant section of the library. They use spine labels and library signage to locate resources in order to address a topic of interest or need. In second grade, students are introduced to research and know how a book is organized and how to use a table of contents and index. They understand that information can be found in the library to answer questions they may have about any given subject.



### **Grade 3 to 5**

Third grade students are introduced to the ten main Dewey Decimal System categories and receive in-depth instruction on each category. This includes more exposure to nonfiction texts. Students learn more about Destiny, the ICSV Library catalog. They learn how to identify a call number in the system and use it to locate items on the shelves. They receive further instruction on how to identify relevant sections and use spine labels and signage to locate resources. Students should be able to identify numerous genres. They know how a book is organized and how to use a table of contents and index to locate information. Third grade students are introduced to Britannica School Online, learn how to create their own accounts, and save articles they find within Britannica. They understand the need to evaluate information that they find online are made aware of that it is necessary to cite their sources. Fourth and fifth grade students review the Dewey Decimal System and Destiny features – specifically Destiny’s One Search capability. Students in fourth and fifth grade receive more exposure to Britannica School Online and learn how to use EBSCOhost Explora Primary. They are taught how to identify relevant and accurate online resources. They receive instruction on how to cite various kinds of sources from print to digital using a modified MLA model and create a working bibliography. They understand and articulate the ethical use of information. Fourth and fifth grade students have lessons about ethical online behavior and digital citizenship. Fifth grade students will learn about Boolean Operators and simple advance search strategies.