

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

2022-23 School Year / June 2022 Edition

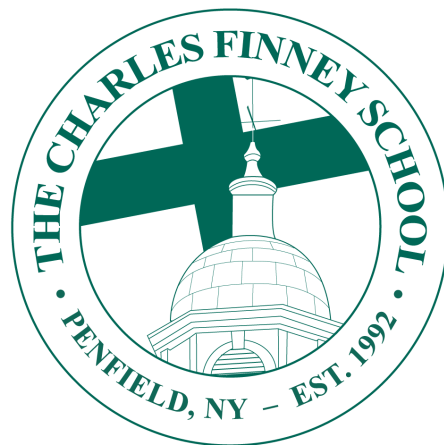


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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grade-Level Descriptions

Pre-Kindergarten

Our Pre-Kindergarten program for 4 and 5 year old students at the Charles Finney School offers a caring and supportive environment that fosters the spiritual, social, emotional and cognitive growth of each child. In Pre-Kindergarten we provide opportunities for exploration and mastery in school readiness skills. Some key components of the curriculum include developing the following skills essential for lifelong learning such as

- Speaking and Listening Skills
- Fine and Gross Motor Skills
- Creative and Critical Thinking Skills

Our curriculum is fun and engaging and comprises the following academic components.

- Bible: bible stories, scripture verses, daily prayer
- Literacy Concepts: letter recognition/formation and letter sound association
- Pre-reading Skills: phonemic awareness, rhyming, syllable counting and sound blending
- Math Concepts: number recognition and formation, ordering numbers, simple patterns, graphing, number sense, shape recognition and properties, simple addition and subtraction
- Science Concepts: introduction to physical science, life science and earth science

Students will also enjoy participating in daily specials such as music, gym, art, and library.

Kindergarten

The Charles Finney School kindergarten program combines learning and fun in a multisensory, Christ-centered program. Academically, the students will learn to read beginner books, add and subtract numbers to ten, write sentences, use their imaginations, and expand their knowledge of science and social studies concepts. Spiritually, the students will grow in their knowledge of Christ and the Bible, and

learn to make Biblical choices in their lives. Socially, the students will learn how to work and play together in the body of Christ

1st Grade

First grade supports young learners through a balanced literacy approach: phonics and grammar practice, small guided reading groups, whole class interactive read alouds, writing projects, and reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction. Math and science concepts are taught through multi-sensory hands-on activities, and social studies activities are taught through thematic units.

Spiritually, the foundation is laid for a Biblical worldview through an understanding of how to build our lives on God and His truth. In Biblical studies the focus is on the following topics. These strands run through each grade level and taught at a level of understanding appropriate for the age group; Old Testament, Life of Christ, Signs and Wonders, The Trinity, Personal Commitment, Ministry & Missions, and Biblical Examples.

2nd Grade

Students continue to develop core academic skills. They begin to read more advanced “chapter books” as well as work on spelling, phonics, and composition skills, including creative and report writing. Our math skill development includes work with concepts such as place value, money, and time. Students also continue to strengthen their computational skills in addition, subtraction and - for those who are ready - multiplication and division. Our science and social studies units are theme-based and include numerous exciting activities.

Spiritually, the foundation is laid for Biblical worldview through an understanding of how to build our lives on God and His truth. In Biblical studies the focus is on the following topics: Old Testament, Life of Christ, Signs and Wonders, The Trinity, Personal Commitment, Ministry & Missions, and Biblical Examples. These strands run through each grade level and taught at a level of understanding appropriate for the age group.

3rd Grade

Students in third grade will develop skills that allow them to become more independent and confident. They will participate in class projects and learn skills like writing in cursive and the multiplication facts 0-12. Third grade math will cover addition, subtraction, dividing and multiplying, geometry, fractions, telling time, area, perimeter, and word problems. In science, students will learn about life, earth and physical science topics including animals, weather and the solar system. Third grade social studies emphasizes American culture and history and how specific

communities and cultures interact. Third grade English emphasizes grammar usage and writing. For Reading, students will use *Wonders Reading* (McGraw Hill) along with novels and guided reading materials. Students will also learn about the life of Jesus in Bible. The textbooks for Science, Math, Social Studies, and English are by Houghton Mifflin.

4th Grade

Fourth grade is a year of transition. Your child is no longer in a primary grade. Children at this grade level need to learn to be organized and develop study skills. We focus on both these skills all year long. In fourth grade your child will be working on projects individually as well as in groups. They will learn not to procrastinate and be a team player. They will be expected to always do their best.

Fourth grade English Language Arts emphasizes grammar usage and writing, both in response to text and creative writing. For Reading, students will use *Wonders Reading* (McGraw Hill) along with novels and guided reading materials. Math in 4th grade covers multi-digit multiplication, long division, fractions, decimals, and geometry. The social studies curriculum is about regions of the United States, with a focus on New York State. Science curriculum covers living things and how they respond to their environments, along with magnetism and electricity. 4th grade Bible teaches the characteristics of the three persons of the Trinity, and how our life can reflect Jesus.

5th Grade

Fifth grade is the capstone to the first phase of schooling. In preparation for middle school, there is a strong emphasis on organization, personal responsibility, and trustworthiness. Students will continue to develop their reading comprehension and writing skills as well as pursue the study of United States history. Life, physical and earth sciences as well as mathematical concepts such as fractions, decimals, graphing and geometry will be explored.

Spiritually, the foundation is laid for Biblical world-view through an understanding of how to build our lives on God and His truth. God's Word is woven throughout academic content as well. In Biblical studies, the focus is on the Old Testament pillars of faith, such as Abraham, David, and Nehemiah, which are taught at a level of understanding appropriate for the age group.

Additional Classes

Library Skills

During the elementary years, students will become familiar with the media center, and types of materials that are available for their use. Also, an emphasis is placed on developing research skills.

Physical Education

Physical Education begins in kindergarten and focuses on helping students to develop motor skills, coordination, knowledge and skill in a variety of sports and games. Demonstrating teamwork, displaying personal effort, and building self-confidence are principles, which are also underscored in this course. Students learn basic principles for health and fitness and are encouraged to lead active, healthy lives.

General Music (Pre-Kindergarten through 3rd grade)

Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, first, second, and third grade students discover music through joyful and developmentally appropriate activities involving singing, listening, movement, and instruments. In addition to ensemble work and rhythm skills, students are introduced to the families and instruments of the orchestra, beginning music notation, music history, and various musical styles, all presented from a Biblical perspective.

General Music (Grades 4-5)

The General Music course offers creative methods of learning music regardless of how one may learn. This course introduces students to and actively develops an awareness of a variety of music styles and simple instrumentation, depending upon the grade level. This course places great emphasis on music theory in order to solidify a musical foundation, utilizing innovative activities to aid in retaining the information and contains a listening component for all styles of music, as well as the development of ear training.

Elementary Band

Students in 4th and 5th grades will have the opportunity to take band lessons through the school. Elementary Band will perform in Finney's Christmas and spring concerts.

Fine Art (Pre-Kindergarten – 2nd Grade)

Students begin their study of the visual arts by exploring the elements of art line, shape, texture, and color and its use as the primary building blocks of great works of art. They also learn how to identify these elements in their work, as well as in the work of others. Children at this age also work on their fine motor skills and experiment with movement and art vocabulary. A wide range of art production will be explored at this level. Introduction to author illustrators and major artists of study include: Eric Carle, Kandinsky, Ted Harrison, Mondrian, Matisse, Miro, and others.

Fine Art (3rd – 5th Grades)

Students within this age group continue the study of the elements of art, shape, value and form. They also are introduced to the principles of art such as contrast, repetition and pattern. Students begin to understand what makes up a “good” composition, and how to apply these principles within their own work. We continue to use critical thinking skills to critique works of art, as well as the artwork that is produced. Students will start to participate in a class critique to discuss how their work, and that of their classmates was successful and give some feedback on areas that may still need improvement.

At this age level, students will continue to broaden their exposure to diverse art media and materials. Students will learn about value and form, how to develop their fine motor skills, and how to add depth and realism to their drawings and works of art. Movements in art, such as Impressionism, and art cultures are introduced. They will travel to countries around the world as they discover Faberge eggs from Russia, the Caves of Lascaux from France, and Egyptian portraits.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

6th Grade

Bible Truths

Bible Truths presents students with the truth of a biblical worldview, helping them distinguish it from the false worldviews of the day. It challenges students to examine how they think about the world and then leads them to see the world as it truly is.

Armor Of God by Pricilla Shirer presents the use and reason for the armor of God. It is a seven-week study of each piece of the armor.

Earth Science

Students will study topics including exploring the planet Earth, inside the Earth, the Earth's changing surface, Earth's waters, weather and climate, and astronomy. There are hands-on, interactive lab activities, as well as an integration of technology into the classroom. Regular writing activities are also required.

Text: *Science Explorer: Earth Science* (Prentice Hall)

English Language Arts

Students work toward mastery of grammar and vocabulary. They read classic literature for their age group. Short stories from the text are studied. There is a strong emphasis on understanding the writing process and becoming a critical writer.

Text: *Prentice Hall Literature* and novels

Mathematics

Students will master mathematical concepts including whole numbers, decimals, multiplying and dividing whole numbers, and decimals, data and statistics, number theory, fractions, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions, measurement, ratio, proportion and probability, understanding and using percentages, geometry, perimeter, area and volume, and integers and equations.

Text: *Envision Mathematics 2021*

Social Studies

Students will learn about the beginning of the United States from the first Americans through the period immediately preceding the Civil War. Concepts include early civilizations, exploration, the conquest of the Americas, the English colonies, the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, the creation of the Constitution, the creation of political parties, the War of 1812, the Industrial Revolution, the Westward Movement, and differences between life in the North and life in the South. There is also an infusion of local and New York State history as it pertains to the events during these periods of American history. Regular writing is required.

Text: *My World interactive 2019*

7th Grade

Bible Truths: Learning From the Life of Christ

This course will help students glorify God by being conformed to the image of Christ presented in the Gospels and to teach students to apply Scripture to their daily lives.

English Language Arts

Students work toward mastery of grammar and vocabulary. They read classic literature for their age group. Short stories from the text are studied. There is a strong emphasis on understanding the writing process and becoming a critical writer.

Text: *Prentice Hall Literature* and novels

Life Science

Students study many topics including cells and heredity, from bacteria to plants, animals, human biology and health, and ecology. There are hands-on, interactive lab activities, as well as an integration of technology into the classroom. Regular writing activities are required.

Text: *Science Explorer: Life Science* (Prentice Hall)

Mathematics

7th grade students will master mathematical concepts including graphs and data, algebraic formulas, expressions and equations, decimal and fraction concepts in solving equations, operations with fractions, geometry and measurement, ratios, rates and proportions, proportion, scale and similarity, percentages, integers, and

counting and probability. In addition, the students integrate technology and problem solving skills when working with the actual mathematical procedures and principles, making the content relevant to their everyday lives.

Text: *Envision Mathematics* (Scott Foresman)

Social Studies

Students learn about the United States from the beginning of the Civil War through the present. Concepts include the Civil War and Reconstruction, the changing West, the rise of industry and big business, the growth of cities, an era of reform, progressive presidents, expansion overseas, the Spanish-American War, World War I, the Great Depression, the New Deal, World War II, the Cold War Era, the Vietnam War, and our new role in a changing world. There is also an infusion of local and New York State history as it pertains to the events during these periods of American history. Regular writing is required.

Text: *Why We Remember: United States History* (Addison-Wesley)

8th grade

Bible: Wise Up - Wisdom in Proverbs

Middle school youth need to get biblical wisdom for relationships, character, family, friends, leadership, and decision-making. This study in Proverbs helps your students get wisdom.

English Language Arts

Students work towards mastery of grammar and vocabulary. They read classic literature for their age group. Short stories from the text are studied. There is a strong emphasis placed on understanding the writing process and becoming a critical writer.

Text: *Prentice Hall Literature* and novels

Mathematics

8th grade students will master mathematical concepts including data analysis, integers and absolute values, variables, expressions and equations, linear equations

and inequalities, ratios and proportion, percentages, number sense, rational and irrational numbers, geometry and measurement, area and volume, algebraic functions and relationships, similarity, congruence and transformations, and counting and probability. In addition, students integrate technology and problem solving skills when working with the actual mathematical procedures and principles, making the content relevant to their everyday lives.

Text: *Envision Mathematics* (Scott Foresman)

Physical Science

Students study topics including chemical building blocks, chemistry in action, motion, forces and energy, sound and light, electricity, and magnetism. There are hands-on, interactive lab activities, as well as an integration of technology into the classroom. Regular writing activities are required.

Text: *Science Explorer: Physical Science* (Prentice Hall)

Social Studies

In addition to mastering geography skills and learning the concept of human and cultural geography, students study the physical geography, history and culture of the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, Russia, Africa, Asia and the Pacific Realm. These regions will also be explored in the context of today's world. Technology is infused into the class, and regular writing is required.

Text: *World Explorer: People, Places and Cultures* (Prentice Hall)

Common Subjects

Art

The primary focus of art education in middle school, is preparing students for high school level visual arts, while building on the foundation that was prepared through the elementary experience. Starting in grade 6, students will go into more depth with each art project. Students will fully develop skills such as drawing and sketching, realism and cartooning, figure drawing, one and two point perspective drawing, texture and form techniques, painting techniques, and understanding fully the principles of design (all principles, emphasis, contrast, balance, unity, repetition, rhythm and pattern), as well as the elements of art. Both principles and elements are the building blocks necessary for the mastery of art production, art appreciation and art criticism.

The continuation of art history is important at this stage of development. For each unit of study, students will be exposed to an artist from that time period. Artists of study include LeRoy Neimen, Degas, and Escher.

It is also important to include art awareness. Students at the middle school level will learn about art in our society today. They will learn the role and function of art in the world around us, and possible career choices available in the arts.

Computer

Instruction is offered to all students in developmentally appropriate amounts and levels. In middle school, students become familiar with hardware, developing their keyboard skills, and learning basic computer applications. Application takes place as they integrate computer lessons with classroom units of study.

General Music

General music course offers creative methods of learning music regardless of how one may learn. This course actively assists students to experience an awareness of and introduction to a variety of music styles and simple instrumentation, depending upon the grade level. General music course places great emphasis on music theory in order to solidify a musical foundation. However, this course is seasoned with innovative activities to aid in retention of information. The course will contain a listening component of all styles of music, as well as the development of ear training.

Middle School Band

Middle School Students will have the opportunity to take band lessons through the school. Middle School Band will perform in Finney's Christmas and Spring concerts.

Middle School Choir

Middle School Choir is composed of a chorus of mixed voices (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass) performing a rich variety of music including classical, traditional hymns, folk songs, patriotic, contemporary worship, gospel, jazz, pop, and more. Students demonstrating interest encouraged to join. Students will learn dedication, unity, and self discipline as they experience full ensemble rehearsals. In class, students will learn the core vocal technique of speaking on pitch, which will lead to developing further vocal and musical skills. This ensemble performs at the Christmas and spring concerts. It is highly recommended that a student desiring to participate in other musical activities (e.g. Chapel Worship Team, spring musical) become an active member of this ensemble.

Library Skills

Throughout middle school, the students become familiar with the media center, , and types of materials that are available for their use. Also, an emphasis is placed on developing research skills.

Physical Education

Physical Education focuses on helping students develop motor skills, coordination, knowledge, and skill in a variety of sports and games. Demonstrating teamwork, displaying personal effort, and building self-confidence are principles that are also underscored in this course. Students learn basic principles for health and fitness, and are encouraged to lead active, healthy lives.

Spanish 7th Grade

¡Bienvenidos! Exploratory Spanish is a 9-week course where you will learn the basics of the Spanish language. While learning to speak, read, and write Spanish, you will also learn about the rich Hispanic culture. By acquiring an understanding of the culture, you will gain a new perspective of the people from Latin America and Spain. In this class, you will obtain confidence in speaking Spanish, and you will overcome any fear you might have in learning a new language. The class is a preview of what you will expand upon in the 8th grade in the Introduction to Spanish class.

Spanish 8th Grade

¡Bienvenidos! Introduction to Spanish is a preparatory course for Spanish I. For those who have taken Spanish before, Intro to Spanish will be a review. This class introduces vocabulary, active conversation, and everyday aspects of the contemporary Spanish-speaking world. Four basic language skills are taught and practiced: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. While learning the basics, you will also learn about the rich Hispanic culture. By understanding the different cultures, you will gain a new perspective of the people from Latin America and Spain. In this class, you will obtain confidence in speaking Spanish. This is offered for 1 semester.

Health

This curriculum provides the Christian school with the opportunity to deal with basic life issues from a Christian perspective in a consistent way. More than ever students need current, accurate information and clear direction on healthful living.

Both 7th and 8th graders will explore health topics from a Biblical viewpoint. This is offered for one semester .

Text: *Horizons Health Grades 7 & 8* (Alpha and Omega Publications)