



CHES Christian School Course Descriptions 2024-2025

LOWER SCHOOL CORE

Self-Contained Classes

Curriculum for self-contained classes is designed primarily with resources from BJU Press, Summit Ministries, and teacher-created materials. **Other resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated or substituted as appropriate.**

Kindergarten

CHES Kindergarten students will experience a year of sensory learning opportunities and literature immersion as they are introduced to early reading, math, nature, and Bible concepts and skills. Learning will take place in an engaging, captivating environment with a teacher who is committed to the academic, social, emotional, and spiritual growth of each student.

Outside Commitment: Parent partnership at home is key as we collaborate together to help students engage with concepts daily. Families will work with the student to complete assignments given by the classroom teacher. Time spent with at-home work will vary for each student.

First Grade

CHES first graders will be encouraged to fall in love with learning as they grow in reading, writing, understanding math concepts, and exploring science through hands-on experiences, as well as learning about their communities and growing in their knowledge of the Bible. Students will enjoy literature circles collaborative learning as they continue to grow in their understanding of the world through a Biblical worldview.

Outside Commitment: Parent partnership at home is key as we collaborate together to help students engage with concepts daily. Families will work with the student to complete assignments given by the classroom teacher. Time spent with at-home work will vary for each student.

Second Grade

Second grade is a safe, supportive, and loving learning environment in which Jesus is honored and where students will continue to grow in Biblical knowledge and academic skills in the areas of reading, writing, math, science, and heritage studies.. Students will experience collaboration and exploration, begin to engage in independent work and routines, be immersed in literature, and continue to learn through hands-on learning experiences..

Outside Commitment: Parent partnership at home is key as we collaborate together to help students engage with concepts daily. Families will work with the student to complete assignments given by the classroom teacher. Time spent with at-home work will vary for each student.

Third Grade

In third grade, students will grow in skill, knowledge, and independence through a Biblical worldview in a vibrant, collaborative space. They will continue to engage in classroom discussion and engagement as they explore literature, early American history, and Bible, will develop reading and writing skills, build math skills of multiplication, division, decimals, fractions, and geometry, and will begin to utilize digital resources. Class presentations and special projects will be featured during the year.

Outside Commitment: Parent partnership at home is key as we collaborate together to help students engage with concepts daily. Families will work with the student to complete assignments given by the classroom teacher. Time spent with at-home work will vary for each student.

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade students will assume increased responsibility for learning and will practice managing their time well in a supportive, energetic classroom environment. They will continue to develop cursive handwriting skills, learn about later American history, explore literature themes and concepts, strengthen writing skills, build on math skills, and grow in Biblical knowledge. Class presentations and special projects will be featured during the year.

Outside Commitment: Parent partnership at home is key as we collaborate together to help students engage with concepts daily. Families will work with the student to complete assignments given by the classroom teacher. Time spent with at-home work will vary for each student.

LOWER SCHOOL ELECTIVES

Kindergarten Electives

Art

Sensory Art will engage all the senses in introducing students to the principles of art and expression. Students will explore art themes and artists while developing fine motor skills and basic understanding of supplies, textures, and mediums for artistic expression. A new project will be featured each week, and examples of student work will be displayed at the Christmas Expo and Royal Expo. *This class qualifies as a CHESSE fine arts class.*

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Fun with Spanish

Students will learn basic vocabulary (numbers, colors, greetings, manners, nature, food), and will learn vocabulary related to family members and zoo animals. Students will also learn about Spain and Spanish culture (their music, history, and traditions), and will be encouraged to become teachers at home by sharing and practicing the vocabulary learned in class.

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Music

Kindergarten music will introduce the fundamentals of music, identifying rhythm and structure, while developing perception and listening skills. Students will be encouraged in musical expression using song and instruments and will be introduced to the principles of worship through music. Performances will be featured at the Christmas and Royal Expos. *This class qualifies as a CHESSE fine arts class.*

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Nature Explorers

Nature Explorers will cultivate a love of God as Creator, encourage and direct natural curiosity, and lay a foundation for formal science studies. Students will explore the outdoors with nature walks whenever possible and will engage in hands-on projects and nature journaling when indoors. Students may be asked to choose and complete an at-home activity each week from a list of related activities.

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

P.E.

Students will be introduced to an understanding of health and wellness through a variety of organized games. Physical Education skills will be introduced and reinforced each week. *This class qualifies as a CHESSE physical education class.*

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Pint-Size Food Prep

In this hands-on class, young students will delve into the basics of food preparation and healthy eating. They will explore activities like ingredient sorting, simple food assembly, understanding food groups, and basic kitchen safety. This course aims to foster a love for nutritious foods and to encourage creativity in food presentation, setting the stage for lifelong healthy eating habits and culinary curiosity. (Students will not be in a kitchen but will learn and explore in a classroom environment more suitable for our youngest chefs!)

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Rooted in the Word

This class will offer students age-appropriate opportunities to learn and explore the principles of worship, prayer, and evangelism through discipleship. Students will be encouraged to experience and demonstrate the transformative power of the gospel. Students will also move, sing, and express themselves creatively as they learn about God's Word, His truth, and their place in His Kingdom.

This class does not fulfill the core Bible requirement.

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Sensory Fundamentals

Sensory Fundamentals will support the academic skills Kindergarteners are learning by activating all the senses. Students will use touch, hearing, and movement to strengthen phonics and reading skills and basic math concepts.

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

STEM

Students will explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) concepts and topics in a sensory-friendly, high-engagement environment. Concepts will include the basic principles of design, structure, the natural world, and coding, among others. They will discover the

marvels of the world God created and will explore the ways in which they were created to be a part of its future in this dynamic year of learning and exploration.

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

1st-2nd Grade Electives

Art

Art for 1st-2nd grades will introduce the principles of art and expression. Students will explore art themes and artists while developing artistic skill and strengthening understanding of supplies, textures, and mediums for artistic expression. A new project will be featured each week, and examples of student work will be displayed at the Christmas Expo and Royal Expo at the end of the year. *This class qualifies as a CHESSE fine arts class.*

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Fun with Spanish

Students will learn basic vocabulary (numbers, colors, greetings, manners, nature, food), and will learn vocabulary related to family members and zoo animals. Students will also learn about Spain and their culture (their music, history, and traditions), and will be encouraged to become teachers at home by sharing and practicing the vocabulary learned in class.

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Growing in the Word

This class will offer students the opportunity to learn and explore the principles of worship, prayer, and evangelism through discipleship. Students will be encouraged to experience and demonstrate the transformative power of the gospel. *This class does not fulfill the core Bible requirement.*

Outside Commitment: moderate (1-2 hours a week)

Music

Music for 1st and 2nd grades will introduce the fundamentals of music, identifying rhythm and structure, while developing perception and listening skills. Students will be encouraged in musical expression using song and instruments and will be introduced to the principles of worship through music. Performances will be featured at the Christmas Expo and Royal Expo. *This class qualifies as a CHESSE fine arts class.*

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Nature Investigators

Nature Investigators will cultivate a love of God as Creator, encourage and direct natural curiosity, and will begin to lay the foundation for formal science studies. Students will explore the outdoors with nature walks whenever possible and will engage in crafting, nature journaling, and nature research when indoors. Students may be asked to choose and complete an at-home activity each week from a list of related learning opportunities.

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

P.E.

1st and 2nd grade students in PE will be introduced to fun, physical learning opportunities to promote health and wellness through a variety of organized games.

This class qualifies as a CHESS physical education class.

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Pint-Size Food Prep

In this hands-on class, young students will delve into the basics of food preparation and healthy eating. They will explore activities like ingredient sorting, simple food assembly, understanding food groups, and basic kitchen safety. This course aims to foster a love for nutritious foods and to encourage creativity in food presentation, setting the stage for lifelong healthy eating habits and culinary curiosity. (Students will not be in a kitchen but will learn and explore in a classroom environment more suitable for our youngest chefs!)

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Sensory Fundamentals

This engaging class is designed to support academic skills through activating all the senses, empowering 1st and 2nd graders to enhance their phonics, reading, and basic math abilities through touch, hearing, and movement.

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

STEM

Students will explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) concepts and topics in a sensory-friendly, high-engagement environment. Concepts will include the basic principles of design, structure, the natural world, and coding, among others. They will discover the marvels of the world God created and will explore the ways in which they were created to be a part of its future in this dynamic year of learning and exploration.

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

3rd-5th Grade Electives

Art

Art for 3rd-5th grades will reinforce the principles of art and expression. Students will explore art themes and artists while developing artistic skill and strengthening understanding of supplies, textures, and mediums for artistic expression. A new project will be featured each week, and examples of student work will be displayed at the Christmas Expo and Royal Expo. *This class qualifies as a CHESS fine arts class.*

Outside commitment: minimal to moderate (1-2 hours a week)

Coding

Appropriate for beginners to more experienced technology users, this class will allow students to explore the language of computers at a self-directed pace. Students will learn basic keyboarding skills if needed but can also progress through more advanced programming and coding skills, including game and app development.

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Cooking

Cooking for 3rd-5th grades will reinforce basic kitchen skills and nutrition concepts. Students will learn to follow recipes, identify and select ingredients, and to share skills with family and friends.

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Drama

Drama for 3rd-5th grades will introduce students to creative expression and performance. Using games and movement, students will identify drama terms and basic rules of performance and audience behavior, while also developing skills of public speaking, emoting, creative thinking, and projection. Short performances or presentations will be featured at the Christmas Expo and Royal Expo. *This class qualifies as a CHESS fine arts class.*

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week) - moderate (1-2 hours a week)

Grounded in the Word

This class will offer students the opportunity to learn and explore the principles of worship, prayer, and evangelism through discipleship. Students will be encouraged to experience and demonstrate the transformative power of the gospel. Young students will be encouraged to move, sing, and express themselves creatively as they learn about God's Word, His truth, and their place in His Kingdom.

This class does not fulfill the core Bible requirement.

Outside Commitment: moderate (1-2 hours a week)

Life Skills

Students in Life Skills will engage with a variety of practical skills and topics at age-appropriate levels. Skills discussed will be chosen from a range of topics including cooking, sewing, etiquette, physical and digital safety, money management. Hands-on learning opportunities will be featured each week, and creative expression will be encouraged.

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

MakerLab

MakerLab will allow students to explore topics of science, nature, math, and technology through hands-on projects created each week. Students will be encouraged to develop their creativity and imagination while also learning how to create and design safely and intentionally. *This class does not qualify as a CHESSE fine arts class.*

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Music

Music for 3rd-5th grade will build on the fundamentals of music, adding concepts of tempo, dynamics, and notation, while continuing to develop perception and listening skills. Students will be encouraged in musical expression using song and instruments and will be introduced to the principles of worship through music. Performances will be featured at the Christmas Expo and Royal Expo. *This class qualifies as a CHESSE fine arts class.*

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

Nature Quest

Nature Quest for 3rd-5th grades will cultivate a love of God as Creator, encourage and direct natural curiosity, and continue to develop a foundation for formal science studies. Students will explore the outdoors with nature walks whenever possible and will engage in crafting, nature journaling, and nature research when indoors. Students may be asked to choose and complete an at-home activity each week from a list of related learning opportunities.

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)

P.E.

Physical Education for 3rd-5th grades will explore a range of organized games and athletic activities. Students will be encouraged to build energy, stamina, and strength while also strengthening skills of cooperation and team play. *This class qualifies as a CHESSE physical education class.*

Outside commitment: minimal (less than 1 hour a week)