



	Pre-Kindergarten	Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
<b>Language Arts</b> To instill an appreciation for and love of literature; to evolve from learning to read to reading to learn; to develop reading, writing and speaking fluency; to apply language arts skills in all core academic areas as a method of research and a mode of communication.	<b>Letter Sense</b> The pre-kindergarten program is designed to awaken the students' minds and begin developing the skills necessary for reading and writing. These skills are taught through a combination of phonics, phonemic awareness and whole language, all of which are embedded in hands on activities and games.	<b>Sound Systems</b> The kindergarten program lays the foundations for reading and writing. Through the use of phonics, phonemic awareness and whole language kindergarten students set out to enter the first grade as independent readers and writers. These skills are taught through hands-on activities, games and one-on-one instruction.	<b>Young Readers and Writers</b> The first grade program focuses on teaching students to read and write with confidence. The foundations of reading and writing continue to be built through phonics, phonemic awareness and whole language while students begin to explore writing in different genres and focusing on structure and grammar.	<b>Grammar 101</b> The second grade program begins to look with more depth, at the English language. Students strive for fluency and to further their comprehension skills by analyzing the basic elements of literature. The writing program stresses strong spelling and grammar skills. Students begin preparing oral and written reports.	<b>Under the Hood: Working with Language</b> The third grade program puts the finishing touches on the foundations of reading while continuing to develop strong writing skills. Students develop the decoding skills that build fluency and analyze age appropriate novels.	<b>Reading to Learn and Writing to Share</b> The fourth grade program develops students' ability to read for content and to analyze literature more critically. Students continue to focus on writing to communicate effectively through multi-paragraph composition and using technology to revise and enhance work.	<b>Communication: The Art of Writing and Speaking</b> The fifth grade program develops critical thinking skills and abstract reasoning skills to analyze literature and further develops a strong command of standard English language. Students regularly employ technology to create, edit, and present compositions.
<b>Social Studies</b> To have students recognize their connections to the larger world; to develop skills incorporating research, technology and field experience; to empower students through service learning experiences; to recognize responsibility as a citizen of the community, nation and world.	<b>Who in the World Am I?</b> Students explore their particular roles in the family, the immediate environment and the expanded world. Students will work on developing independence, self-confidence, and an awareness of their emotions, actions, and responsibilities in their ever expanding world.	<b>Communities</b> Students spend the year exploring the concept of community through the study of civic responsibility, community history, geography, and the specific elements that make each community unique. Fieldtrips, guest speakers, and cross-curricular coordination facilitate student exploration of our community.	<b>Mysteries of the Ancient World</b> Students undertake a rich and exciting exploration of ancient civilizations and cultures including Sumer, Egypt, Greece, China, and the Americas; focusing on how these cultures contributed to the modern world. Field trips, guest speakers, research and cross-curricular coordination facilitate these explorations.	<b>Regions of the United States</b> Students explore the regions of the United States through a systematic study of unique elements of culture, history, and geography. Particular emphasis includes a look at ethnic, nationalist, and economic patterns of settlement by European, Asian and African immigrants.	<b>Wonders of the World</b> Through the investigation of the wonders of the modern world, the wonders of the ancient world and some select historically influential individuals, students explore the contributions of historical societies and personalities to the contemporary world.	<b>Searching for Oregon</b> Students explore the evolution of the western United States beginning with the idea of manifest destiny, the resulting Homestead Acts and subsequent establishment of territories and states up to and including the state of Oregon. Students then pursue a close regional study of the northwest and Oregon.	<b>U.S. History &amp; Geography I</b> Students explore the unique issues arising throughout the development of our nation and evolving up to the Civil War. Issues of colonial government as it relates to both Judeo-Christian and Enlightenment ideals are thoroughly addressed; as are the causes, course, and consequences of the War of Independence.
<b>Mathematics</b> To develop computational competence, reasoning and problem solving skills; to apply math skills in all core academic areas; to integrate traditional texts, hands on trial and manipulation to provide variety and continuity; to identify and practice real-world application of classroom math skills.	<b>Number Sense</b> The pre-kindergarten program focuses on building an early foundation for math experiences to come. Students are exposed to numbers, value, patterns, sorting, elementary geometry, and measurement through child-centered, hands-on activities in and outside the classroom.	<b>Number Systems</b> The kindergarten math program focuses on building a sound foundation of math skills. Students explore number sense, pattern, geometry, measurement, and collecting and sorting data. These skills are taught through hands-on activities and games allowing for visual, tactile, and large motor instruction.	<b>Mathematics I</b> The first grade program continues to build on the skill base developed in Kindergarten; number sense, pattern, geometry, measurement, and collecting & sorting data while adding new elements such as place value, abstract patterning, regrouping skills, and the use of standard units of measurement.	<b>Mathematics II</b> Second grade math students, while continuing to master and extend previously developed skills, are exposed to a host of new concepts including multiplication, operating with fractions and computation involving word problems.	<b>Mathematics III</b> Third grade math students are introduced to division and multi-digit multiplication problems, computation with decimals, and using elements of area and volume such as angle, length and width. Students continue to master and extend foundational math skills in addition to new introductory concepts.	<b>Mathematics IV</b> By the fourth grade students begin to work with basic formulas, using probability to make predictions, and understanding geometry by quantifying spatial relationships, dimensions, and angles. By the end of the fourth grade students will be able to confidently use basic math operations involving whole numbers.	<b>Mathematics V</b> The fifth grade program introduces a host of new concepts including application of the four basic operations to solve equations involving negative numbers and percentages, employing the distributive property and creating and interpreting graphs. Students assimilate concrete and abstract mathematical concepts.
<b>Science</b> To inspire fascination with the world of science while at the same time developing an understanding of the scientific process; to encourage experimentation through hands on activities; to provide a wide range of topic instruction to maximize student exposure to many fields of science.	<b>Junior Scientist</b> Pre-Kindergarten students will enjoy educational units that feature a wide variety of subjects - all designed to invigorate the interest and fascination of these young students. Hands-on activities will be the primary emphasis of this dynamic class.	<b>Science 101</b> Kindergarten students are introduced to a wide range of simple concepts in the physical sciences, life sciences, and earth sciences. Instruction will focus on elements of the scientific process with an eye toward asking quality and meaningful questions.	<b>Around and Around</b> First grade students will explore natural cycles through the study of insects, water, weather and plants. The hands on nature of the investigations and experiments will introduce the students to the scientific process, specifically the development and testing of their own hypothesis.	<b>What on Earth!</b> The second grade students begin to explore the earth sciences through continued hands-on inquiry. Students specifically explore plate tectonics, weather, and earth-sun-moon rotations. Students continue to refine the scientific process through development and investigation of their own questions and data collection.	<b>What's Inside?</b> Third grade students will conduct investigations in life science, focusing on the human body. Students explore human structures and systems including function and interaction. The human response to external factors will be explored as well.	<b>Inventors and Inventions</b> Fourth grade students explore the rich history of scientific discovery through not only the study of influential inventors but through hands-on design and the common goal of "making something better".	<b>Enormous Energy—Bend Science Station</b> Students explore the realms of chemistry, biology and physics as they investigate various forms of energy. Laboratory experiments combined with computer interface technology provide students with the hands-on experience to understand solar, chemical, electrical, mechanical, thermal, and wave energy.
<b>Spanish</b> To build the foundations of listening, comprehension and verbal language skills; to build communication skills.	<b>Spanish</b> -A work in progress	<b>Spanish</b> -A work in progress	<b>Spanish</b> -A work in progress	<b>Spanish</b> -A work in progress	<b>Spanish</b> -A work in progress	<b>Spanish</b> -A work in progress	<b>Spanish</b> -A work in progress
<b>Technology</b> To introduce students to computer technology as a research and communication tool; to become proficient in basic skills.	<b>"Hey, What does this button do?" Integrated technology</b> Technology instruction is integrated throughout the Cascades Academy Lower School core academic areas. Students receive specific instruction in the basic concepts from identifying physical elements of the computer, to identifying applicable icons to explaining what a computer is and what its basic capabilities are. Beyond this students will learn and apply basic word processing skills such as creating and copying documents, saving and printing documents, resizing and cropping graphics, creating and managing databases and even sorting records in a database. Additionally students will learn and practice spreadsheet construction, information acquisition and manipulation of multimedia devices such as digital cameras and electronic mail. All skills will be regularly demonstrated by students in a variety of methods ranging from simple oral explanations to comprehensive project applications. Special attention will be paid to the ethical use of the computer and the basic citation protocols inherent to this technology.						
<b>The Arts and Music</b> To share the wonder of art and music by cultivating technique, appreciation, and a historical and cultural perspective.	<b>Art:</b> Our youngest students learn basic elements of art such as line, shape and color, as well as experimenting with concepts of balance and pattern through a variety of mediums. Students also learn to critique their own work and appreciate the work of others.		<b>Art:</b> Students explore additional elements of art such as texture, space and proportion while extending their application of line, shape and color through more complex technique and media. Additionally students get exposure to historical and cultural variety through social studies connections. Students continue to evaluate their own work and the work of others.			<b>Art:</b> Students take a deeper look at the historical and cultural origins of the visual arts, evaluating pieces using aesthetic elements learned in class. New techniques, including portraiture, one and two point perspective and still-life are also introduced.	
	<b>Music:</b> The music program allows the exploration of sound through singing, moving, and listening, as well as playing instruments and analyzing & describing elements of music.		<b>Music:</b> The music program provides students with the experience of singing and performing with live instruments; listening to, and analyzing and describing music; evaluating music and musicians and identifying cultural elements of this fine art.			<b>Music:</b> In addition to performing, creating and responding to music, students will explore new concepts such as reading and notating music & exploring elements of music in-depth.	
<b>P.E., Activities and Games</b> To develop positive self-concept; to develop body management skills; to embrace the concept of the game & sportsmanship.	<b>Run, Jump and Skip!</b> Kindergarten, first and second grade students begin their physical education experience by exploring the basic individual skills, movements, and techniques in a safe, nurturing and supportive environment that encourages not only participation but compassion and reflection. At each level, skills and techniques are revisited, reinforced and integrated in increasingly sophisticated patterns and structures. Over time students are asked to take increased responsibility with regard to game structure and strategy. Conflict resolution skills and the acceptance of a wide variety of skill levels and diversity is integrated throughout the program. The health and well being of our students is our primary goal at all levels of instruction.				<b>Can I Play?</b> Students in third, fourth and fifth grade build upon the foundational skills and techniques introduced throughout the lower grades and expand the application of these skill and techniques to a variety of activities, games, and traditional sports. The emphasis at this level is to maintain a positive experience and love of play while at the same time introducing the ideas of competition, strategy and sportsmanship. The health and well being of our students will remain our primary goal at all levels of instruction.		
<b>Portfolio of Achievement</b> To authenticate assessment across the lower school; to demonstrate the depth and breadth of the educational experience; to demonstrate growth over time.	<b>"Show and Tell"</b> This portfolio is designed to showcase student growth academically and artistically. The portfolio contains a prescriptive variety of student work samples from language arts, social studies, science, math and art that will measure student achievement against clear goals and standards, thus authenticating assessment throughout the Cascades Academy Lower School program. Pieces drawn for this portfolio are selected by both the teacher and the student over the course of each year. This portfolio enables all students at Cascades Academy to demonstrate the depth and breadth of their educational experience as well highlight areas of growth and improvement. The Portfolio of Achievement, or "Show and Tell" is a critical element of assessment and an important tool for teacher-parent-child communication. Additionally the students in grades three, four and five will have the opportunity to create and maintain their own electronic portfolio over the course of their final three years in the Lower School program. The capstone of this portfolio will be an overall collection of student achievement that reflects the creativity, diligence, and hard work done by the students at Cascades Academy.						