

ELEMENTARY ACADEMICS

Academic Awards and Recognition

Qualifying students may receive the following awards each semester unless otherwise stated:

For Grades 1 – 6:

Math Award: for students who have met the math award criteria set by the teacher for each semester. (1st Grade – 2nd semester only.)

For Grades 4 – 6:

High Honor Roll(Quarterly): for students who receive all A's in all subjects on their report card.

Honor Roll(Quarterly): for students who receive all A's and B's in all subjects on their report card.

B.U.G. (Bring Up Grades) Awards: for students who have raised grades in two separate subjects by at least one letter grade while maintaining all other grades.

Three-Year Accelerated Reader Award: for 6th grade students who have earned the maximum number of reading points every quarter in their 4th, 5th, and 6th grade years. Students not completing grades 4 through 6 at ECA are not eligible for this award.

Academic Standards

Pre-Kindergarten

Pre-Kindergarten is designed to prepare the student academically and socially for Kindergarten. A child must be four years old by September 15 to be eligible to enter Pre-Kindergarten. Developing appropriate language skills, investigating the environment, and coordinating different body movements are just a few examples of student activities. At the core of the curriculum is the awareness that God is involved in everything studied, experienced, or observed.

Kindergarten

To be eligible to enter Kindergarten, the child must be five years old by September 15. The academic program is designed to give the student strong foundational skills, particularly in the areas of language arts and math. A strong emphasis is placed on phonics. Students will learn letters, sounds, and put the sounds together to form simple words. Exposure to literature, handwriting, and grammar are also a part of the language arts program. Math concepts include recognizing, counting, and writing numbers to 100, practicing addition and subtraction skills, monetary value, graphing, patterning, etc. Art, music appreciation and theory, physical education, and library are a regular part of the school schedule, the latter three being taught by specialists. Basic science and history are learned and observed. Academic, social, and spiritual aspects are emphasized in such a way as to provide the students with a well-rounded education where Christ is recognized and glory is given to Him in all things.

Grades 1 – 6

The Elementary school academic curriculum is designed for the average to above-average student with emphasis placed on the classical approach to the various subject areas. A strong phonics program, including oral reading and comprehension, is taught throughout all the grades. Study skills are taught particularly in the upper elementary grades. Computation skills in math are drilled including the memorization of tables. Penmanship is important with neatness in all work emphasized. Communication skills emphasizing speaking and writing are stressed. Art, music appreciation and theory, physical education, and computer are a regular part of the curriculum for all students. Numerous field trips give firsthand experience to enhance concepts taught. Grades are based on homework, class work, participation, tests, quizzes, projects, and reports.

Band (Grades 5 & 6) **This class may be chosen instead of General Music and therefore is a curriculum elective for their music grade.**

Band meets four days per week. The band commitment is for a full school year. Instrument choice is based on student interest as well as our need for balanced instrumentation. Some instruments are available for a rental fee from the school; others can be rented or purchased from local music stores. There are several concerts per school year with attendance mandatory for these concerts. (Concert dates are published at the beginning of the school year.) Grades are based on amount of student practice time at home, class participation, and concert attendance.

The band members are preparing for music worship leadership through learning music fundamentals and improving technique on an instrument. Leadership opportunities include concerts, chapel presentations, and solo-ensemble festivals.

Academic Dismissal Policy

Any student who fails to demonstrate competence in two or more subject areas may be dismissed from Evangelical Christian Academy. Upon parental request, faculty members and the Principal will review the student's progress and attitude and may grant exception to the academic dismissal policy.

Grading Periods

The academic year is divided into four formal reporting periods or quarters for grades 1 through 6. Report cards are prepared at the end of each quarter. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten report cards are issued after the 2nd and 4th quarters. Elementary parents are required to meet with teachers at the end of the 1st quarter to receive and review their student's report card. At the end of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters, report cards are sent home with Elementary students. Progress reports for grades 1 – 6 may be sent home to parents halfway through each quarter. These informal reports are intended to keep parents informed about their student's growth between formal report cards.

Grade Retention

Any student who fails to demonstrate competence in two or more core subject areas throughout the course of the year may be dismissed or held back from advancement at Evangelical Christian Academy. Parents/Guardians will receive prior notification and explanation concerning the retentions. Upon parental request, faculty members and the Principal will review the student's progress and attitude and may grant exception to the academic dismissal policy. Retention may be considered when in the judgement of the professional staff; it is in the best educational interest of the student involved. However the final decision will rest with the school administration.

- Core subjects would include, but not be exclusive to: Reading, English, Math, Science, History and/or Spelling
- Competence is evaluated when a student at the Grammar level (K-3rd) has two N's in a core subject. At the Intermediate level (4th-6th) it would be 2 F's in a core subject.

Stewardship and Personal Development grades are the teacher's assessment of how well a student has used their God-given abilities in school and has demonstrated the discipline necessary for learning. This is also taken into account when assessing a student for retention.

Grading Scale

Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten 2nd & 4th Quarters		Grades 1 – 3		Grades 4 – 6	
E	Excellent	E	Excellent	A	90 – 100
G	Good	G	Good	B	80 – 89
S	Satisfactory	S	Satisfactory	C	70 – 79
N	Needs Improvement	N	Needs Improvement	D	60 – 69
				F	59 or below

Stewardship and Personal Development Grades

All students do not have the same talents for each subject and cannot be expected to attain high academic grades in every subject. However, in accordance with the Bible's admonition to do everything as unto the Lord, all students are expected to do their best work in each subject. Teachers are charged with challenging and motivating each student to do their best for the Lord.

Stewardship and Personal Development grades are the teacher's assessment of how well a student has used their God-given abilities in school and has demonstrated the discipline necessary for learning. This is also taken into account when assessing a student for retention. Since it is difficult to make fine distinctions on stewardship, only the following grades are given:

- 4 – Exceeds expectations; 3 – Meets expectations;
- 2 – Progressing towards expectations; 1 – Not meeting expectations

Homework

Responsibility, self-discipline, good study habits, and time management are important skills to be learned. These skills are acquired through training and practice. When used effectively, homework can help develop these skills. Parents should support the development of these skills by encouraging and requiring their student to take responsibility for his/her homework. Parents should help students establish a regular study time in a place without distractions.

Suggested time guidelines for average students per grade to complete their homework are as follows:

- Kindergarten Weekly review worksheet and reading book bags
- 1st Grade – 2nd Grade 10-minute drill with Math facts; Reading
- 3rd Grade – 6th Grade Completion of the day's work - no longer than:
 3rd and 4th Grade - 30 minutes (in addition to AR)
 5th Grade - 45 minutes (in addition to AR & Band)
 6th Grade - 60 minutes (in addition to AR & Band)

Exceptions may occur when special projects are assigned, during testing times, or due to excused absences. If a student consistently spends more than the recommended time on homework, parents should discuss it with the student and, if necessary, schedule a conference with the teacher.

Homework will not be given on Wednesday nights so that students may participate in church related activities. Students may be given tests on Thursdays (with assignment given before Wednesday) and are therefore encouraged to plan their study time accordingly. Every effort will be made to limit the number of tests a student may take in any given day to two.

Students in the lower Elementary grades usually complete their lessons at school under the supervision of the teacher; however, as students advance in grades they will have assignments to complete at home. Homework will tend to increase as student's progress to higher grades. Students in grades 3 – 6 will

have an assignment book to record class assignments. Parents should regularly review these books to ensure that their student has completed and turned in their work.

Homework Request Policy: Parents must call the office no later than **9:30 am** to ask for homework assignments. Homework can either be sent home with a sibling or picked up in the office at 3:00 pm.

Library

Students are strongly encouraged to make full use of the library for research, study, and reading. The Elementary Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday for classroom use by teachers and their students. Wednesday, the library has instructional classes that promote information and research skills as well as reading enrichment.

The following rules must be respected when using the library:

- Students are to work quietly and respect others while in the library.
- Media may not be taken from the library unless checked out; i.e., books, magazines, and audiotapes.
- Reference books are available for use in the library or under the supervision of a classroom teacher.
- Students may check out one (or two) items for one week. Renewals of materials may be made on a weekly basis unless another student has reserved the item. Students will be notified of overdue books in a timely manner.
- While there are no fines for overdue materials, students are responsible for any materials checked out in their name. Students will be charged replacement costs for damaged, stolen, or lost library materials.
- Students will not receive their report cards or records until overdue materials are returned or replacement costs paid.

Textbooks

To instill the importance of stewardship and to extend the life of school materials, textbooks must be maintained in proper condition.

- Textbooks in grades 4 - 6 (including paperbacks) are to be covered with paper grocery bags or stretch-cloth covers.
- If a textbook or manual is lost during the year, the student is charged the replacement cost of the book. Upon receipt of the replacement cost, the student is issued the replacement book, and the inventory is marked accordingly. If the textbook is found later, a refund is issued less a \$5 service fee.

World Book Encyclopedia

Online reference resources are available free at the public library website: www.ppld.org.