

Education Brochure

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord, for the display of His splendor. Isaiah 61:3



NEW HOPE
ACADEMY

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What is our Purpose and Mission?

Purpose.....to glorify God....and to teach our students to do the same.

Mission.....to empower the poor. New Hope Academy is a Christ-centered community school with an economically, racially, and culturally diverse student body. It exists to serve low-income families by establishing a solid biblical worldview, instilling vision, confirming hope and preparing each young person for a life of service.

Why do we do what we do?

Because of our philosophy about children and education.....

Children are persons carefully and wonderfully made by God, born in His image, fallen in nature, but with the possibility of being reconciled through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Children are valued for who they are not for who they will become. Children are born with an innate curiosity to learn about the world in which they live. They are born with gifts and abilities that must be uncovered and strengthened. Education is a vehicle that allows children to explore and experience God's amazing world.

New Hope Academy (NHA) embraces classical education and the idea that true education begins by teaching and discipling the whole child. At NHA, an atmosphere of learning is created by the teacher who seeks to cultivate wisdom by nourishing the child's mind and soul around beauty, goodness, and truth. The teacher brings learning to life through a thematic, multidisciplinary educational model carried out through small class discipleship.

The history of classical education begins with the Bible. The Hebrews were the first to teach in a classical manner using the steps found in Scripture: knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. This Biblical framework of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, corresponds with Dorothy Sayer's Classical application of the Trivium: grammar, logic, and rhetoric. NHA students begin in the **grammar stage** of the Trivium. In the grammar stage of development, children are like sponges--- gathering facts and skills, developing vocabulary for each subject, and feeding on ideas. Story telling, games, recitations, singing, field trips, drama, exploring, creating, and experiencing are the modes of learning. The **logic stage** which has been developing slowly, emerges in the middle school years. In this period, students enjoy researching, analyzing, comparing and contrasting, and debating. The **rhetoric stage** is fully developed in high school and college where students have all the tools for independent learning and are able to express their ideas in a logical manner.

How do we do it?

Pre-Kindergarten - Creation through units on the Four Seasons

NHA follows a broad sequential study of History beginning with Creation and ending with the Modern Age. Pre-K begins the journey with a study of the Creator and His Creation as found in Genesis 1. Discovery Units provide the platform to study the four seasons in the light of the seven days of Creation. Students are exposed to "living books" rich in literature and ideas and interlinked with the study of each season. Integration continues as students begin the process of appreciating great works of master artists like Van Gogh, Homer, Seurat, Bazille, and Renoir. Great composers, Beethoven, Vivaldi, Mozart, and Chopin are also introduced. Learning is brought to fruition through exciting activities such as hibernation day where students come to school in their pajamas, crawl through a tunnel to get to their classroom, and find a myriad of hibernation experiences awaiting them.

Kindergarten - Creation

Kindergarten continues the exploration of Creation through units that include: Oceans, The Five Senses, The Human Body, Magnets, and Insects. In the Human Body unit, the study begins with a biblical view of how God made man and set forth his purpose. Students take a field trip through the human body learning about the intricacies of the body and the vital organs. The children delight in tracing their own bodies and placing the vital organs in the proper locations. Students also learn that God's creation suffers from the fall of man, and one of the results of the fall is that we all have bodies that are not whole (not perfect).

Also, students learn that although people may look differently on the outside, everyone is the same on the inside. Activities are included that give the kindergarteners a glimpse of what it would be like to be blind, deaf, or unable to walk. One activity involves each child spending a school day in a wheel chair. Students have the opportunity of meeting in person and through books people who have overcome great odds to do extraordinary things. Appreciation of art and music continues to be developed and integrated into the units. Many field trips, adventures, and hands-on experiences round out the Kindergarten year.

First Grade - Old Testament Survey

First Grade begins a survey of the Old Testament with concentration on Jewish Festivals and Celebrations. The students experience what it was like to walk with Adam, Noah, Abraham, and Moses and to live in the land of Ancient Israel. Cultural activities are planned that involve cooking, making clothing, experiencing Hebrew music and dance, and making models of Noah's Ark, Moses' Tabernacle, and Solomon's Temple. Language is integrated through books, poetry, writing, plays, and puppets. Science flows with the units by learning the fundamentals of botany and examining the plants that live in the Israeli region. Students are thrilled to be studying about the animals of the Middle East and their classifications. Art is incorporated by studying and celebrating the works of Rembrandt, Bertram, Botticelli, Bosch, and Duer.

Second Grade - Ancient Cultures (4000-3000 B.C.)

Second grade stays on the path of studying the Old Testament with an emphasis on Ancient China, India, and Egypt. Students participate in making a King Tut mask, mummifying a chicken, and building Pyramids. Historical novels are introduced and teachers read-a-loud to give students a window into the lives of Ancient Egyptians. Students experiment with hieroglyphics, the language of the day. Integration continues in science where students learn to use simple machines in the same way Egyptians built the Pyramids. The arts are incorporated through architecture, sculpture, and painting. Egyptian music and dance are also included.

Third Grade - Ancient Greece (2900-30 BC) & Ancient Rome (750 BC – 476 AD)

Third grade travels to Ancient Greece and Rome, and they learn what happens when man creates his own gods. History is not dead when students build the Trojan Horse and actually get to ride in it. The *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* are enjoyed with all the splendor of the mythological gods through creative drama. The Ancient Grecians were known for their astronomical skill and knowledge. Likewise, NHA students explore the wonders of Space through books, videos, the planetarium, determining how far apart planets are by taking a planet walk and viewing the stars through a telescope. Hands-on History continues when third graders put on the Olympics for the entire school. Students also take pleasure in dressing in the clothes of the day and having a Greek feast with grape leaves, figs, humus, and baklava. Also included is the architecture of the day including an in-depth study of the Parthenon and then a visit to Nashville's Parthenon.

Fourth Grade - Medieval and Renaissance/Reformation (400 – 1600 AD)

Fourth grade charges into the middle ages, from the barbarian invasions of the Roman Empire to the ages of the Italian Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation. Through a careful selection of great writings, maps, music and visual art, students are introduced to characters such as Alaric the Visigoth, Mohammed, Joan of Arc, St. Benedict and Michelangelo. They also discover medieval ideas of feudalism, devotion, chivalry, schism, and conquest through read aloud, independent study, and while visiting among other locations a monastery and Japanese garden. In math students are broadening and shoring their foundational math skills as they learn more complex concepts and procedures, preparing them for a life of critical thinking and problem solving. Fourth grade science climbs the tree of living things through a study of biology. We see the enormous diversity of God's creation in creepy crawly worms and insects, trees and flowers, reptiles and birds, fungi and fish. Hikes through the woods, experiments, dissections, and discovery-based reading are some of the tools we use to explore God's living world. Our Language Arts studies teach the power and function of the word. Besides the more practical studies of grammar, spelling, and Latin derivatives, students also read a variety of novels including *Tuck*

Everlasting, The Tale of Despereaux, and I, Juan de Pareja. We practice the power of the pen in writing memoirs, odes, haiku, limericks and reports.

Fifth Grade - Explorers, Meso-Americans, Native Americans, Early America (1400 – 1812 AD) and Tennessee History

Fifth Grade voyages all over the world through the lives of the Explorers during the Exploration years. A foundation in World Views gives the framework to study the Explorers, the lives of the Aztec, Incas, and Mayans, Native Americans, the Slave Trade, and Early America. Students experience what it would be like to be a colony member in Early America by putting on a Colonial Fair for younger students. Younger students travel through time to discover what items shops would sell in the 1700's and enjoy sipping on Wassail, visiting the wig shop to receive their own wigs, and dropping by the wool shop to look at new fashions. As the unit continues, fifth graders learn about the 13 colonies by becoming travel agents and designing travel brochures and selling trips. Students research a colony and present to the class their finding by writing a story or dressing up and becoming a character in the colony. Students research and explore the mystery of the Roanoke Colony and replicate the watercolor work and poetry by Sir Walter Raleigh. Students end the year by studying the Revolutionary War and Tennessee History. Students spend time at art museums as they observe the works of O'Keefe, Gainsborough, Sargent, and Remington, and enjoy listening to the different genres of music during this period.

Sixth Grade - Western Expansion to Present (1850 to present)

Sixth grade takes a ride to the West with Lewis and Clark and then ventures on to the Civil War, Reconstruction, Industrialism, World War I, the Depression, World War II, Civil Rights, Vietnam, and Postmodernism. Also included is a mini-unit on Civics that culminates with a trip to Washington D.C. in May. Great Literature sets the stage to research, discuss, and write on world changing ideas presented throughout this stage of history. Ideas of freedom, diversity, slavery, Marxism, communism, and postmodernism take central stage. In the Lewis and Clark unit, students participate in a simulation where they learn orienteering skills including using a compass, mapping, and charting graphs. They take careful records of the ammunition supply they need, food, and medical provisions. Canoes are made sturdy and ready for the long trip. Students timeline and map the adventures of the Lewis and Clark team journaling about their experiences. They take careful notes and drawings concerning the foliage in the region. The students explore the ways of the Native Americans through learning how to shoot a bow and arrow, bartering by playing the game of hands, gathering native foods and herbs, and trading horses. With the help of the Indians, students learn how to navigate along the Bitter Road and through the Rocky Mountains, and ultimately to the Pacific Ocean. This unit takes students to the logic stage of classical education.

Fine Arts

Music, Art, and Drama are integral parts of the academic program at NHA. The Arts enable the students to express and communicate their thoughts, ideas, imagination, and understanding of themselves and the world. Studying the Arts through History enables students to understand the ideas and culture of each time period.

Music - God gave the gift of music from the beginning of time, and it has been an influential part of all cultures. Beginning with Pre-K, students listen and grow familiar with great composers and their compositions. Students are immersed into different genres of music as they travel through history. Formal musical training also begins in Pre-K where students learn the grammar of music. When sixth graders leave NHA they are composing, playing and singing their own music. In addition, performances play a key role in the music department. Students participate in percussion and choral groups along with a Christmas program and musicals. NHA students give back to the community by singing and playing at various events throughout the year. **Art** - By studying the work of renowned artists and having hands on experiences in different mediums, children's lives are enriched. At NHA students study three artists a year and become familiar with their works. The students practice the skill of observation and express their ideas of the paintings through the form of picture studies. Formal training begins in First Grade where students study the grammar of art. Integration of Humanities is included in Art class where students experiment with different mediums and styles of the artist of the time period each grade is studying. Students' art work is displayed through out the school building and in different publications. **Drama** - Drama allows students to express themselves and gives students opportunity to perform in front of an audience. From dress up and puppet play to the more formal recitations, musicals and Shakespeare, NHA students explore their creative side. Furthermore, all students see plays and musicals at area theatres and national productions performed at local venues.

Additional Information on Education at New Hope Academy

Foreign Language

NHA celebrates diversity and desires for students to be exposed to cultures around the world, including languages. In formal classes, NHA offers Spanish to students in Pre-K through second grade. Latin is offered to students in 3rd through 6th grade with Spanish and German intermingled throughout the years. Latin is NHA's primary foreign language because it is the foundation in understanding Western Culture. It gives students a pathway to study any language and also improves vocabulary, grammar, spelling skills and mathematical reasoning. It also is the foundation for many modern languages. When students graduate from NHA, they are able to read and speak Latin fluently.

Physical Education

In teaching to the whole person, it is NHA's desire to see all children physically active and healthy, so that they can live a life of service to God. Formal physical education classes are taught twice a week with emphasis on healthy eating, exercising for a life time, and proper hygiene. Throughout the week, students are encouraged to be physically active through Brain Gym, recess, and movement songs. Special care is taken at lunch to provide healthy foods and limited sweets.

Saturday School

Saturday School is a special day at NHA. Parents are expected to spend the day at school with their child. This gives parents an opportunity to see classical education with an integrated curriculum at work. Parents experience a normal day with their child starting with worship and then moving to the classroom, possibly working with their child on math problems or participating in phonemic awareness and phonics lessons. They also are included in integrated learning activities. Parents may be involved in making a real catapult, shooting off homemade rockets, having tea in Narnia, watching a Greek tragedy, making sun dials, building an Aztec temple, taking a nature walk, sketching in a nature journal, or dissecting a frog. The day ends with lunch and lots of chatter about the day. Saturday school is enjoyed once in the fall and then again in the spring. The following Monday is a day off from school.

Extended Learning Department

At NHA, we believe that all children can learn. Along with each student's unique learning strengths, we recognize a variety of learning differences. All children at NHA are served in the regular classroom whenever possible. Some students benefit from additional support and instruction through our Extended Learning Lab. Currently, NHA is limited in Extended Learning staff and resources. Because of this, we have limited capacity to serve students with severe learning disabilities and students who are not on grade level.

When our students leave.....

When students graduate from New Hope Academy, it is our desire that students love God, love themselves, and love others. NHA longs for students to be awed by the Creator's handiwork and be inspired to be life-long learners. Students have been given the tools to excel in any academic setting, and our prayer is that students would shine wherever their academic pursuits lead them. Our students have been encouraged to think for themselves, ask questions and do independent research. We hope students leave NHA with a biblical world view that can be applied to every area of their lives. NHA celebrates diversity and yearns for racial reconciliation and justice for the poor. We hope that our students will use their education to continue this mission that will transform the culture of today and tomorrow for God's glory. Many of our students go on to schools such as Brentwood Academy (BA), Battle Ground Academy (BGA), Franklin Christian Academy (FCA), Franklin Classical School (FCS), Christ Presbyterian Academy (CPA), Montgomery Bell Academy (MBA), and Ensworth.



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