A Letter from the Principal

Thank you for exploring Southside Christian Elementary School. The elementary years are a critical time in the lives of children as foundations are established and worldviews are formed. Our objective is to help your children develop their God-given critical skills and abilities in a challenging, supportive, and fun learning environment. The focus of the Elementary School is on the education of the whole child, including academic, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual development.

The Elementary School has five key initiatives that help drive our success: biblical worldview, relationships, excellence in learning, whole child development, and co-curricular emphasis. Each piece is an integral part of providing a well-rounded educational experience. Our goal is to help each child identify and develop his or her gifts and abilities in preparing for the future. We are committed to preparing each child for the wonderful plans God has for his or her life.

Because we believe that transformative education happens only in the context of relationship, a key component in facilitating the development of our students is the cultivation of a family atmosphere within our school community. To achieve this, we have formed four families within the Elementary School that throughout the year will worship together, celebrate together, serve together, and hold one another accountable. Each family name represents one of the core values that flow from our foundational verse of Ephesians 4:32. We want to be people of friendship, compassion, honor, and courage as we live in community and help one another. To accomplish this vision, each student and teacher become a part of one of these families while they are in Elementary School. These families work together to help one another live according to our E432 Core Values. These values define what we believe to be a life that honors God and others. We partner with parents to uphold these core values and instill them in the lives of our students. Working together, students are equipped to grow in the unique ways God has created them.

I am excited that you have chosen Southside Christian School to assist you in this educational journey. As you explore this school further, I trust that you will come to know the heart of our school. We desire to come alongside you to invest in the heart and mind of your child as God develops him or her for the future.

For God's Kingdom,

Rob Brown, Ph.D.
Elementary School Principal & Assistant Superintendent
We honor our parents and other adults. Ephesians 6:2

We show respect to others with our actions. Romans 12:10

Be an encourager and have a positive attitude in all situations. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

God calls us to be humble and to put others first. Philippians 2:3

We want to have a spirit of gratefulness at all times. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

You should do your best at all times because this is how we work for the Lord. Colossians 3:23

We take care of all that God gives us, including our school building. Revelation 4:11

We always set a good example for others to follow. 1 Timothy 4:12

Deal respectfully with others, handling issues without arguing or complaining. Proverbs 15:1

We always stand for what is true and right. Ephesians 6:13

Accept that you are going to make mistakes. Romans 3:23

Always be honest. Proverbs 12:22
First Grade

Core Curriculum

Bible – Summit Ministries
*Building on the Rock* lays the groundwork for Christian worldview education. Students learn to view the world through four distinct relationships: with the Creator, with each other, with ourselves, and with His creation. The curriculum is constructed in a spiral sequence, built around 20 biblical truths found throughout Scripture. Through this framework, students begin seeing all of reality from a biblical worldview.

Math – Guiding Firsties Math Workshop
This research-based hands-on math curriculum is designed specifically for first grade students and builds upon the Guiding Firsties Workshop. These engaging lessons teach the following concepts throughout the school year: number sense, addition and subtraction fluency, problem solving, data collection and organization, place value, time, money and management, fractions, and geometry. First graders also begin using the *Reflex Math* app as a technology tool to build fact fluency.

English Language Arts – McGraw-Hill
First graders learn to read using a strong phonics-based curriculum. Similar letter patterns are integrated across phonics and spelling lessons to help students learn to read fluently and write the sounds of the English language. We use an explicit, systematic approach to reading that includes both whole group and small group instruction. Students grow in their ability to use correct hand position, posture, and letter formation in handwriting.

Science and Social Studies – Thematic Units
First graders alternate learning themes in the curricular areas of science and social studies. The purpose of different weekly themes is to engage students in hands-on learning opportunities that delve deeper into that week’s particular science or social studies unit of study. In addition, students attend STEM Lab once a week in order to experience enrichment activities which complement science instruction in the classroom. In social studies, children practice map skills each week as well.

Foreign Language - Rosetta Stone
*Rosetta Stone* offers an innovative online learning solution that enables students to study a foreign language of their choice. The program provides up to 24 languages in a personalized and differentiated learning environment and features reading, writing, listening, and speaking exercises that immerse students in language learning. This program is built on a series of easily recognizable images found in everyday situations enabling the students to progress quickly.

Field Trips
*Callaham’s Orchard, Drama Production at Furman University, Roper Mountain Science Center, Nursing Home Visits*

Special Projects, Days, and Activities
*Spirit Week, Field Day, Grandparents’ Day, STEM Night, ACSI Spelling Bee, 101st Day of School, After-School Clubs, Talent Show, Celebration Day, Sports, Recognition Day, Christmas and Easter Programs*
We are proud to be a Southside Christian School family. Our children receive an excellent education from extraordinary teachers and staff who make their students’ academic, spiritual, emotional, and physical growth a priority because God has called them to do so. Southside Christian School cares about each child as a whole, a child made by God. And we know, that when our children graduate from Southside Christian School, they will be strong students, confident young adults, and faithful stewards to the life Christ has laid out for them.”  

Mary and Tim Gale

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**Additional Curriculum**

**Chapel**
Elementary School students attend chapel once a week for worship, teaching by various speakers, and grade level interaction that allow students to dig deeper into life lessons with their peers and teachers. Scripture is the centerpiece of chapel.

**Recess**
First graders have recess twice daily for 15-20 minutes to give students the opportunity to move and to practice socialization skills with their peers.

**Homework**
Students spend up to 30 minutes completing homework in first grade. Special projects may require additional homework time. Homework is an extension of skills taught in class and should be considered part of the educational process.

Homework is always due the day after it is assigned unless otherwise noted. A grade point reduction of 5 points per day up to five days is standard. After five days, work may be turned in for up to 40 percent credit. Graded papers and daily work are sent home in the student’s take-home folder. Bible verses and spelling words will be posted in mySCS. Practice pages are sent home throughout the week, some of which are not graded. All work receiving a check minus should be reviewed at home. Papers with a numeric grade are recorded into the grade book on mySCS. These papers are sent home during the week as they are graded.

**Assessment**
Fall, winter and spring MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing for grades 1-5.
Second Grade

Core Curriculum

**Bible – Summit Ministries**
*Building on the Rock* lays the groundwork for Christian worldview education. Students learn to view the world through four distinct relationships: with the Creator, with each other, with ourselves, and with His creation. The curriculum is constructed in a spiral sequence, built around 20 biblical truths found throughout Scripture. Through this framework, students begin seeing all of reality from a biblical worldview.

**Math – McGraw-Hill**
*McGraw-Hill MyMath* challenges and engages students as they build their skills to communicate mathematically. It provides an intuitive lesson format with digital tools to customize content. This curriculum provides interactive text, personalized vocabulary, built-in homework, engaging digital games, and rigorous real-world applications.

**English Language Arts – McGraw-Hill**
Second graders continue to master foundational skills such as phonics and word analysis. In addition, they work on developing vocabulary, reading fluency, comprehension, and inquiry skills. Through both whole group and small group instruction, students learn how to craft a piece of writing, to spell words correctly, and to use appropriate grammar mechanics. Second graders also begin cursive writing second semester.

**Science – Bob Jones Press**
Science topics include plants, animals, habitats, matter, forces, forms of energy, and weather. Scientific inquiry is incorporated throughout all units of study. Students attend STEM Lab once a week where they participate in demonstrations and hands-on activities related to the science curriculum.

**Social Studies – Supplementary Curriculum**
Students learn about our local community, the structure and function of government, basic economics, and cultural contributions from various parts of the United States. Geography skills are developed using *Daily Geography Practice*.

**Foreign Language - Rosetta Stone**
*Rosetta Stone* offers an innovative online learning solution that enables students to study a foreign language of their choice. The program provides up to 24 languages in a personalized and differentiated learning environment and features reading, writing, listening, and speaking exercises that immerse students in language learning. This program is built on a series of easily recognizable images found in everyday situations enabling the students to progress quickly.

Field Trips
Roper Mountain Science Center, Happy Cow Creamery, The Children’s Museum of the Upstate

Special Projects, Days, and Activities
Spirit Week, Field Day, Grandparents’ Day, County Fair Day, STEM Night, ACSI Spelling Bee, Bible Quiz Team, After-School Clubs, Talent Show, Celebration Day, Sports, Recognition Day, Christmas and Easter Programs
**Additional Curriculum**

**Chapel**
Elementary School students attend chapel once a week for worship, teaching by various speakers, and grade level interaction that allow students to dig deeper into life lessons with their peers and teachers. Scripture is the centerpiece of chapel.

**Recess**
Second graders have recess once daily for 30 minutes to give students the opportunity to move and to practice socialization skills with their peers.

**Homework**
Students spend approximately 30 minutes completing homework in second grade. Special projects require additional homework time. Homework is an extension of skills taught in class and is considered part of the educational process. Homework is always due the day after it is assigned unless otherwise noted. A grade point reduction of no more than 10 percent per day for five days is standard. After five days, work may be turned in for up to 40 percent credit. Homework is also posted on mySCS.

Graded papers and daily work are sent home in the student’s homework folder. Bible verses, a weekly homework sheet, and weekly spelling and vocabulary words are also kept in the folder. Students work on and learn a concept for one to two weeks, then an assessment is given to check mastery of the concept. All work receiving a check minus should be reviewed at home. Papers with a numeric grade are recorded in the grade book on mySCS.

**Assessment**
Fall, winter and spring MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing for grades 1-5.

“Our family partnered with SCS to begin educating our children when our now rising junior was 3 years old. Our desire was to provide a gospel centered academic, athletic, and social experience where the development of their character in each of these areas would always point back to Christ’s example and salvation for all who accept Him as Lord and Savior. SCS has always supported our vision for our children, and it has most recently been reflected in the teachers’ and leaderships’ support of our fourth child through his learning disabilities. Current culture presents parenting challenges in a new venue through social media, and SCS provides a committed extension of our efforts as Christian parents.”  **Lisa and Andy Williams**
Third Grade

Core Curriculum

**Bible – Summit Ministries**
*Building on the Rock* lays the groundwork for Christian worldview education. Students learn to view the world through four distinct relationships: with the Creator, with each other, with ourselves, and with His creation. The curriculum is constructed in a spiral sequence, built around 20 biblical truths found throughout Scripture. Through this framework, students begin seeing all of reality from a biblical worldview.

**Math – McGraw-Hill**
*McGraw-Hill MyMath* challenges and engages students as they build their skills to communicate mathematically. It provides an intuitive lesson format with digital tools to customize content. This curriculum provides interactive text, personalized vocabulary, built-in homework, engaging digital games, and rigorous real-world applications.

**English Language Arts – Pearson**
Third graders receive an integrated and well-balanced approach to reading and writing instruction. Teacher-directed activities and authentic texts with modeling drive learning and motivate readers. Instruction focuses on reading, writing, speaking, and listening in response to literary and informational texts. Grammar and spelling are embedded in the ELA curriculum.

**Science – Bob Jones Press**
Topics covered include ecosystems, plants, habitats, matter, motion and force, electricity, magnets, the Earth’s surface, and the human body. Scientific inquiry is incorporated throughout all units of study. Students attend STEM Lab once a week where they participate in demonstrations and hands-on activities related to the science curriculum.

**Social Studies – Daily Geography Practice, Supplementary Curriculum**
The year is spent learning about geography and how it has affected the movement of people throughout history. The units focus on maps, Earth’s features, natural hazards, culture, and explorers of the United States of America. Students have opportunities to display their knowledge through individual and group projects.

**Foreign Language - Rosetta Stone**
*Rosetta Stone* offers an innovative online learning solution that enables students to study a foreign language of their choice. The program provides up to 24 languages in a personalized and differentiated learning environment and features reading, writing, listening, and speaking exercises that immerse students in language learning. This program is built on a series of easily recognizable images found in everyday situations enabling the students to progress quickly.

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**Field Trips**
Roper Mountain Science Center, SC State House and SC State Museum, Diamond Del Gem Mining, Conestee Park, NASCAR Hall of Fame and Discovery Place

**Special Projects, Days, and Activities**
Additional Curriculum

Chapel
Elementary School students attend chapel once a week for worship, teaching by various speakers, and grade level interaction that allow students to dig deeper into life lessons with their peers and teachers. Students are also introduced to small group sessions in third grade. Scripture is the centerpiece of chapel.

Recess
Third graders have recess once daily for 30 minutes to give students the opportunity to move and to practice socialization skills with their peers.

Homework
Students spend approximately 45 minutes completing homework in third grade. Special projects require additional homework time. Homework is an extension of skills taught in class and is considered part of the educational process.

Homework is always due the day after it is assigned unless otherwise noted. A grade point reduction of no more than 10 percent per day for five days is standard. After five days, work may be turned in for up to 40 percent credit. Graded papers and daily work are sent home in the student’s binder. Bible verses are sent home weekly. Homework is posted on mySCS weekly.

Assessment
Fall, winter and spring MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing for grades 1-5.

“Southside Christian has been a wonderful experience for our family. The teachers do a fantastic job of setting academic goals while focusing on character development. Southside Christian strives for Christ-centered education and activities. We are so thankful that our girls are a part of such a special community.” Levi and Lindsay Hunt
Fourth Grade

Core Curriculum

Bible – Summit Ministries
*Building on the Rock* lays the groundwork for Christian worldview education. Students learn to view the world through four distinct relationships: with the Creator, with each other, with ourselves, and with His creation. The curriculum is constructed in a spiral sequence, built around 20 biblical truths found throughout Scripture. Through this framework, students begin seeing all of reality from a biblical worldview.

Math – McGraw-Hill
*McGraw-Hill MyMath* challenges and engages students as they build their skills to communicate mathematically. It provides an intuitive lesson format with digital tools to customize content. This curriculum provides interactive text, personalized vocabulary, built-in homework, engaging digital games, and rigorous real-world applications.

English Language Arts – Pearson
Fourth graders receive an integrated and well-balanced approach to reading and writing instruction. Teacher-directed activities and authentic texts with modeling drive learning and motivate readers. Instruction focuses on reading, writing, speaking, and listening in response to literary and informational texts. Grammar and spelling are embedded in the ELA curriculum. Fourth graders also study Greek and Latin roots.

Science – Bob Jones Press, Supplementary Studies
Science topics include organisms and their environments, forms of energy, light and sound, the solar system, layers of the atmosphere, weather, and climate. Scientific inquiry is incorporated throughout all units of study. Students attend STEM Lab once a week where they participate in demonstrations and hands-on activities related to the science curriculum.

Social Studies – Daily Geography Practice, Supplementary Studies
Fourth graders study the history of the United States and South Carolina beginning with colonization and continuing through reconstruction. Topics include independence from Great Britain, founding principles, expansion of boundaries and territories, and the Civil War. South Carolina’s role is integrated into each topic.

Foreign Language - Rosetta Stone
*Rosetta Stone* offers an innovative online learning solution that enables students to study a foreign language of their choice. The program provides up to 24 languages in a personalized and differentiated learning environment and features reading, writing, listening, and speaking exercises that immerse students in language learning. This program is built on a series of easily recognizable images found in everyday situations enabling the students to progress quickly.

Field Trips
Roper Mountain Science Center, Logos Theatre, Atlanta (Aquarium, Coca-Cola Factory, and Stone Mountain)

Special Projects, Days, and Activities
Spirit Week, Field Day, Grandparents’ Day, STEM Night, ACSI Spelling Bee, ACSI Math Olympics, Bible Quiz Team, After-School Clubs, Talent Show, Celebration Day, Sports, Recognition Day, Christmas and Easter Programs, Creative Writing Festival
Additional Curriculum

**Chapel**
Elementary School students attend chapel once a week for worship, teaching by various speakers, and grade level interaction that allow students to dig deeper into life lessons with their peers and teachers. Small group participation continues in the fourth grade. Scripture is the centerpiece of chapel.

**Recess**
Fourth graders have recess once daily for 30 minutes to give students the opportunity to move and to practice socialization skills with their peers.

**Homework**
Students spend approximately 60 minutes completing homework in fourth grade. Homework is an extension of skills taught in class and is considered part of the educational process. Homework is always due the day after it is assigned unless otherwise noted. A grade point reduction of no more than 10 percent per day for five days is standard. After five days, work may be turned in for up to 40 percent credit. Graded papers will be sent home daily in the take home folder located in the student’s binder. Numeric grades placed at the top of the student’s work go into the grade book as a percentage grade. Grades are posted regularly on mySCS for parents to review.

**Assessment**
Fall, winter and spring MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing for grades 1-5.

“Over 15 years ago, we chose SCS because it was a biblically-based preschool. The Becks are still here. God continues to provide for all four of our children to continue to have a Christian education.” Jeremy and Krystal Becks
Fifth Grade

Core Curriculum

Bible – Summit Ministries
*Building on the Rock* lays the groundwork for Christian worldview education. Students learn to view the world through four distinct relationships: with the Creator, with each other, with ourselves, and with His creation. The curriculum is constructed in a spiral sequence, built around 20 biblical truths found throughout Scripture. Through this framework, students begin seeing all of reality from a biblical worldview.

Math – McGraw-Hill
*McGraw-Hill MyMath* challenges and engages students as they build their skills to communicate mathematically. It provides an intuitive lesson format with digital tools to customize content. This curriculum provides interactive text, personalized vocabulary, built-in homework, engaging digital games, and rigorous real-world applications.

English Language Arts – Pearson
Fifth graders receive an integrated and well-balanced approach to reading and writing instruction. Teacher-directed activities and authentic texts with modeling drive learning and motivate readers. Instruction focuses on reading, writing, speaking, and listening in response to literary and informational texts. Grammar and spelling are embedded in the ELA curriculum. Fifth graders also study Greek and Latin roots.

Science – Bob Jones Press
Science topics include life cycles, ecosystems, matter, force and work, earth's processes, and the sun, earth, and moon. Scientific inquiry is incorporated throughout all units of study. Students attend STEM Lab once a week where they participate in demonstrations and hands-on activities related to the science curriculum.

Social Studies – Daily Geography Practice, Supplementary Studies
Fifth graders study American history from 1865 to the present. Topics include westward expansion and both world wars. Students work together in teams to complete a stock market simulation project. Geography skills are developed using *Daily Geography Practice*.

Foreign Language - Rosetta Stone
*Rosetta Stone* offers an innovative online learning solution that enables students to study a foreign language of their choice. The program provides up to 24 languages in a personalized and differentiated learning environment and features reading, writing, listening, and speaking exercises that immerse students in language learning. This program is built on a series of easily recognizable images found in everyday situations enabling the students to progress quickly.

Field Trips
Roper Mountain Science Center, Peace Center, Miracle Hill Service Project, Chattanooga Overnight Trip, Upcountry History Museum

Special Projects, Days, and Activities
Spirit Week, Field Day, Grandparents’ Day, STEM Night, ACSI Math Olympics, Bible Quiz Team, After-School Clubs, Talent Show, Celebration Day, Fifth Grade Celebration, Sports, Recognition Day, Christmas and Easter Programs, Creative Writing Festival
We chose Southside Christian School to partner with us in creating a great Christian foundation for our children while providing an education to prepare them for their future. We knew when we walked in the door that this was where we were supposed to be. From the first interview with the Early Education principal, we were certain that this was right for our children.”  Chad and Stephanie Alverson

Additional Curriculum

Chapel
Elementary School students attend chapel once a week for worship, teaching by various speakers, and grade level interaction that allow students to dig deeper into life lessons with their peers and teachers. Small group participation continues in the fifth grade. Scripture is the centerpiece of chapel.

Recess
Fifth graders have recess once daily for 30 minutes to give students the opportunity to move and to practice socialization skills with their peers.

Homework
Students spend approximately 60 minutes completing homework in fifth grade. Homework is an extension of skills taught in class and is considered part of the educational process. Homework is always due the day after it is assigned unless otherwise noted. A grade point reduction of no more than 10 percent per day for five days is standard. After five days, work may be turned in for up to 40 percent credit.

Test and quiz dates are posted on mySCS, in the classroom, and in each student’s assignment book.

Assessment
Fall, winter and spring MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing for grades 1-5.
Foundations and Math Foundations

Foundations Classes
Students in grades 1-5 who are struggling in the traditional classroom benefit from individualized instruction in the areas of English language arts and math through Student Success Services (SSS). Students leave their grade level class for separate instruction in a small group setting while their class is receiving similar instruction. These courses are taught using a variety of materials including course adopted textbooks, supplementary books, tools, and resources. The SSS teacher meets with grade and/or departmental teams to ensure that core objectives, concepts, and expectations are taught.

Academic Support Class
Academic Support Class (ASC) is available for students in grades 4 and 5. The primary goal of ASC is to support and provide accommodations based on a student’s Accommodation Plan. In addition, during this class, the SSS instructor provides assistance needed in study skills, test preparation, homework assignments, reinforcement of classroom instruction, and meeting assignment deadlines. Academic Support Class students must comply with all guidelines set forth in the Southside Christian School Academic Assessment Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines. Close communication takes place between the academic support instructor, classroom teacher, and home to ensure guidelines are met. Additionally, the instructor monitors the implementation of any classroom accommodations based on formal testing.

Response to Intervention (RTI)
RTI is small group intervention targeted at building reading skills for students in grades 1-5. Sessions take place during related arts or at times which minimize the loss of instructional time. A qualified teacher from SSS provides RTI instruction. Emphasis is placed on phonemic awareness, reading fluency, and comprehension. Targeted lessons are planned for each session, and progress is closely monitored. The goal of RTI is to provide children with supplemental instruction to improve reading scores and confidence.

Educational Therapy
The focus of our one-on-one and small-group individualized interventions is to address the underlying causes of learning difficulties, rather than simply treating the symptoms as tutoring does. Educational therapy is a true therapy in that it aims the intervention just above the student’s current level of functioning and raises expectations for performance, which creates the framework to foster that growth. Therapy students become competent, confident learners. They gain mastery over their cognitive vulnerabilities and hone their cognitive strengths for success in the classroom and in life.
Related Arts

Music
Students participate in grade appropriate activities which develop skills in playing various instruments, visual and aural identification of instruments, score reading, music history, movement to music, and vocal and instrumental performance.

Literacy Lab
Students are encouraged to read a variety of books from the Media Center. Students learn how to use multiple sources for finding information, including book and online sources, and how to verify the validity of those sources. In addition, students learn various computer applications as well as the importance of internet safety for 21st century learners.

Physical Education
Students develop fundamental locomotor and non-locomotor movements, sports skills, and an understanding of the importance of overall fitness. They work on skills related to both individual and team sports while learning the qualities of good sportsmanship and how to be a team player.

Art
Students create projects using a variety of mediums through drawing, painting, sculpture, and origami. Plaster sculptures are a highlight for Elementary School students.

STEM Lab (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
Students attend STEM Lab on a weekly basis to develop inquiry-based skills, to participate in hands-on activities, and to utilize the Promethean Smart Wall for virtual exploration. Elementary School STEM Lab is an extension of the classroom science curriculum. Highlights include 3D printing, Sphero Ozobots, and Cubelets.