



# Elementary Program Information (Gr. 1-6)

## Program Overview

At GHCA, we offer elementary students a solid academic foundation in a safe, structured but nurturing environment where Christ is at the center. The day begins with Bible and prayer, and our Christian philosophy of education is woven throughout the program the rest of the day. Students learn about the creation—and also about the Creator! They are trained at an early age to recognize God’s hand throughout the world he has made.

## Academic Overview

The elementary curriculum focuses on mastery of basic skills in math, reading (phonics and whole language approaches are used) and language arts (including writing, spelling, and penmanship) and a broad knowledge in science and history. Enhancing the curriculum are computer skills, physical education, and music. All subjects are taught from a biblical perspective by certified, caring Christian teachers using developmentally appropriate instruction. Grades 1–6 are considered elementary grades and feature a traditional self-contained classroom setting with one main teacher responsible for the core academic areas. Our dual accreditation with both the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and the Association of Christian Schools International verifies our program quality.

Grades 2–6 are now using a computer technology literacy curriculum which integrates technology into math, science, language arts and social studies. This improves student learning outcomes in core curriculum subjects while it provides students with the skills they need for success in the 21st Century.

Students enjoy other “specials” teachers for subjects such as gym and music. The Christmas Concert and Spring Concert are always well-attended and give elementary students opportunities to share with their families and community the music they have been learning. Elementary students visit the public library regularly which provides some useful resources.

## School Year Highlights

A number of special activities (which can vary from year to year) sprinkled throughout the school year help make GHCA an exciting place for children to learn. Upper elementary students (gr. 4–6) enjoy their annual fall retreat at the Zimmerman farm. Academic activities include the biennial ACSI Academy Day in Bangor and the annual spelling bee (gr. 5–6; winners compete at the county level and potentially the state). A favorite tradition for our elementary students each year is the “Pilgrim and Indians Parade” (gr. PreK–6) during Thanksgiving week. Students dress up in appropriate costumes and parade through the school before parading over to the Thanksgiving chapel service with the rest of the school.

Lower elementary students (gr. PreK–3) enjoy an annual Snow Fun Day with plenty of sliding and hot chocolate. Other activities include trips and activities such as the local Fall Nature Walk (gr. 1), Fall Nature Walk at a waterfall in Canada and “Colonial Days” (gr. 2), Kings Landing field trip (gr. 2–3), and the Pool and Picnic day in Woodstock, New Brunswick, at the end of the year (gr. 1–3). Upper elementary students (gr. 4–6) look forward to ice skating a few weeks each winter at the Millar Civic Center and archery in the spring. All classes enjoy occasional parties and celebrations.

Elementary classes come together for weekly chapel services (gr. 1–3 and 4–6) and sometimes for other special activities. There are occasional school-wide assemblies and chapels (for example, at Christmas and Easter). Elementary students enjoy monthly visits to local nursing homes where students visit the elderly and sing for them. Fifth and sixth graders serve as “Reading Buddies” for the Pre-K and kindergarteners they read to each week.