

## **San Marcos Academy Lower School Curriculum**

Since 1907, SMA has sought to educate students in a nurturing environment based upon Christian values. San Marcos Academy has a long history of excellent academics with a curriculum that builds Christian character and leadership skills.

In the San Marcos Academy Lower School, we are committed to giving our students every opportunity to learn while offering a challenging and rigorous curriculum. This is accomplished in order to establish a firm foundation upon which their future education may be built in Middle and Upper Schools. Additionally, character is addressed through Christian values and instruction through the Bible.

**Bible:** Bible instruction happens through weekly chapels. Students are able to hear their teachers and other guests teach on the precepts of scripture. Daily, the students will participate in a class devotional and prayer time.

**Reading:** Reading is taught through a phonics based program. As letter sounds and their combinations are put together, reading is learned beginning in the Kindergarten classes. In the fourth grade, the student no longer focus on learning to read, but make the transition to reading to learn.

**Writing:** In the writing curriculum students are taught spelling, grammar, handwriting, and composition. During the kindergarten through the third grades, the fundamentals of the English language are taught. In the fourth and fifth grades, students are challenged to compose their thoughts in clear and expressive paragraphs.

**Math:** The Saxon math program is used to develop higher order math skills. Facts, formulas, and number sequences derive the foundation for higher math skills that will be learned in upper grades. Saxon's practice of "spiral learning" offers students the opportunity to review, learn, and retain.

**History:** Students will have many opportunities to see history come to life. This is accomplished through field trips, group projects, and thorough historical investigations. Students will gain a healthy perspective of their place in the historical timeline based upon the studies of early American History, Texas History, and American History into the modern age.

**Science:** Students will learn the fundamentals of scientific investigation through their Studies in Nature, Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science. The subject of science will incorporate technology and engineering while integrating seamlessly with math. There are multiple opportunities for students to display their scientific understanding through projects, inventions, and creative robotics.

**Fine Arts:** In Lower School the students are exposed to the arts through weekly music and art classes. Through these classes, students not only build an appreciation, but learn art and music history.

**Languages:** Lower School students learn Greek and Latin roots as a part of their reading and writing curriculum. Focused time is spent each day learning the Spanish language. The purpose of the Spanish class is to build an understanding and love for the language and culture.

**Physical Education:** Growing and understanding physical health is an important part of the curriculum at SMA. Students will experience Physical Education through dedicated class time, each day. SMA has an array of facilities and equipment which allows students the opportunity to experience and learn the fundamentals of various sports and exercises.