



Chinmaya Mission Harleysville – Bala Vihar

Curriculum Overview

Inspiring Children To Reach Their Maximum Potential

GRADE PRE K

*This precious age is one where children are innocent and full of life. While they start out anxious of the new surroundings, they quickly latch on to our caring teachers who instill in them the love of God. **Even at this tender age, the teachers help to inculcate reverence for our culture through coloring, simple prayers, and fun songs and dances.** Through creative means, the children readily identify our Gods and the qualities they represent. At the end of the year, both teachers and students have tears borne out of the bond that was created between them.*

GRADE KINDERGARTEN

*We all know that 'A is for Apple' and 'B is for Boy,' but in Balavihar, the children learn that "**A is for Aspiration, B is for Brotherhood, C is for Cleanliness,**" and so on. Simple, but fundamental, values are taught and emphasized through stories and coloring. The children are introduced to the wonder of Vedanta in an age-- appropriate manner through hands--on activities and demonstrations. They learn that just because something is not seen does not mean that it is not there. Therefore, our minds need to be focused to see the beauty within all of us.*

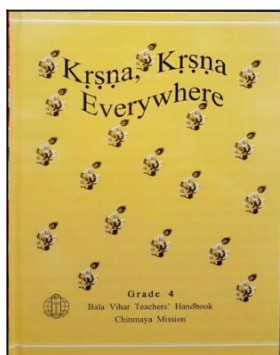
GRADE 1

*Through the Ramayana, the world's oldest epic, **Lord Rama teaches us the values of the perfect person.** The children track the path of Lord Rama from childhood to marriage to exile to the war with Ravana, culminating in his crowning as King.*

Embedded in the story is so much symbolism. How are the 3 pairs of brothers in the Ramayana different? What attracts Vibhishana, Ravana's brother, to Lord Rama? Why is Hanumanji the greatest devotee, and how can we be like him? The children will amaze you with their deep appreciation of the glories of Lord Rama.

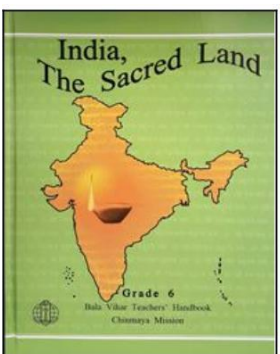
GRADE 2

*"Have a backbone like a ruler and rule the world." **This metaphor describes the foundation of this class as students learn from the Lord's great devotee, Hanumanji.** The values of courage, strength, fearlessness, alertness, and eloquence are highlighted as those that make our backbone strong. Through these qualities, children are shown how they can develop a majestic personality and how, through discipline, they can earn merits in the world. Students study Hanuman Chalisa and its beautiful meaning, and they, in turn, will teach their parents.*



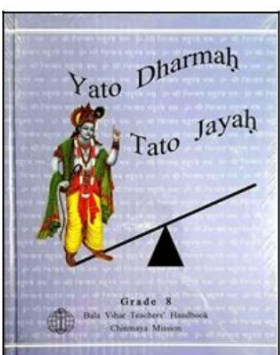
GRADE 3 AND 4

Where can we find our Guru? Lord Krishna is the source of so much inspiration and teaching. Cantos 10 and 11 of Bhagavatam are covered during this class. Canto 10 focuses on Krishna lila stories through which children learn about sharing, self-discipline, and introspection. As they embark upon **the second text book "My 24 Teachers,"** the students learn that Mother Earth teaches us patience, the mountains teach us patience, the arrow-maker teaches us concentration. **In this wonderful class, students begin to realize that our Gurus are always present, if only we are ready to see them.**



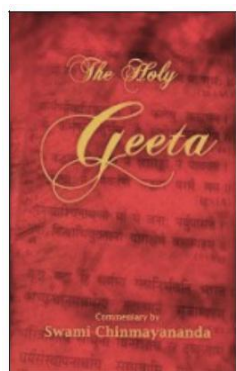
GRADE 5 AND 6

Why is Bharat (India) sacred? India provides us with a rich history and culture with so much to be proud of. The heritage of Bharat with its saints and sages are a treasure from which we can learn the glory of this ancient culture. Mark Twain called it as "Cradle of Civilization". In this class, as children begin to get exposed to the history of the United States in their schools, they can also begin to appreciate the rich history of Bharat & its contributions over 1000s of years. **This helps children to feel proud of what Bharat has offered and continues to do so even today. Alternate text book is "Symbolism in Hinduism"**- Symbolism is everywhere even in today's world (Eagles, USA flag, Om etc) which can be inspiring, indicate values of life; ancient rishis used these for healthy way of living, a healthy civilization.



GRADE 7 - 10

Wherever there is Dharma, there is victory, and to gain victory in life, one must follow Dharma. Using the Mahabharata as a foundation, students delve into the deep teachings into what exactly Dharma means and how one can live by Dharma. The characters of the Mahabharata illustrate so many aspects of Dharma. **In this class, students learn the goal of life and how we are the architects of our own future through the Law of Karma.** Students begin to more seriously introspect and analyze their own behavior and choices. Second Text book is "Hindu Culture", which gives an overview of Hindu scriptures- Vedas, 18 Puaranas, Itihasa (history), Upanishads, and also topics such as Bhagavad Geeta, Yoga, Vegetarianism etc that form Hindu philosophies for living.



GRADE 11 AND 12

Prince Arjuna was the greatest of warriors, but when it came time to do his duty, he wavered. His strength, though, was his willingness to adapt. So, Lord Krishna teaches him through the Gita. **We are Prince Arjuna, and in allowing the Gita to flow through us, we can transform ourselves.** In this class, the young adults begin a lifelong quest in understanding who they are, who God is, and the relationship between the two. Swami Chinmayanandaji's commentary on all 18 chapters of Bhagavad Geeta is illustrative, thought provoking, challenging and entertaining to the young minds and adults equally. This knowledge will be the foundation for their professional and spiritual goals.

Children are not vessels to be filled, but lamps to be LIT. The seed of spiritual value should be sown in young hearts...It must be cared for with the warmth of love and affection, and such a tree shall blossom forth flowers of brotherhood, love, peace, bliss, and Perfection.

- Swami Chinmayananda -