



## INTRODUCTION

At Ayhay Christian School, the Upper Elementary years (ages 9–12) are a time of exploration, critical thinking, and deepening responsibility. Anchored in a Christ-centered worldview and inspired by Montessori principles, our curriculum fosters independence, leadership, and purpose. Students are encouraged to engage in collaborative work, sustained projects, and spiritual reflection as they prepare for adolescence and the wider world.

Each child progresses through three developmental stages: Year 1 (ages 9–10), Year 2 (ages 10–11), and Year 3 (ages 11–12), moving fluidly based on readiness and mastery.

### YEARLY THEMES & LEARNING FOCUS

#### Upper Elementary Year 1 (Ages 9–10)

##### Theme: Foundations of Responsibility and Wonder

- Focus: Independent work habits, deeper inquiry, group collaboration
- Exploration of God as Creator and Sustainer
- Introduction to long-term projects and research

#### Upper Elementary Year 2 (Ages 10–11)

##### Theme: Growing in Wisdom and Understanding

- Focus: Building academic depth, ethical reasoning, community leadership
- Personal devotions, service projects, and reflection
- Peer mentorship and collaborative learning

#### Upper Elementary Year 3 (Ages 11–12)

##### Theme: Preparing for Purposeful Adulthood

- Focus: Integration of knowledge, identity, and faith
- Independent research, public presentation, spiritual maturity
- Transition to adolescence with confidence and compassion

## UPPER ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM TABLE

Elementary class at Ayhay Christian School is a multi-age learning community rooted in the Montessori philosophy of peer-based collaboration, guided independence, and individualized exploration. Internally, the curriculum is organized into three flexible developmental stages: Year 1 (ages 9–10), Year 2 (ages 10–11), and Year 3 (ages 11–12). These stages serve as a scaffold for progression, not a limitation. Students may accelerate or revisit learning based on interest, mastery, and maturity. This flexibility supports deeper engagement, cross-age mentorship, and self-directed learning. The curriculum grows with the student, fostering leadership, inquiry, and purpose.



**UPPER ELEMENTARY (9-12) CURRICULUM TABLE**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Year 1 (Ages 9–10)</b>	<b>Year 2 (Ages 10–11)</b>	<b>Year 3 (Ages 11–12)</b>	<b>Home Activity</b>
<b>SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	Deepening faith through scripture, prayer, service	God's attributes; journaling prayer; psalms	Jesus' parables; intercessory prayer; daily devotions	Spiritual gifts; faith in action; leading devotionals	Family Bible reading, prayer walks, serve together
<b>SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	Maturity in choices, empathy, group dynamics	Peer feedback, emotional regulation, community rules	Accountability, peer mediation, self-reflection	Social leadership, mentoring, worldview discussions	Share responsibilities, host family conversations
<b>PRACTICAL LIFE</b>	Independent living, responsibility, and contribution	Time management, budgeting, organizing projects	Leading routines, preparing group meals/events	Planning service trips, guiding peers	Budgeting, cooking, managing daily routines
<b>LANGUAGE &amp; LITERACY</b>	Advanced communication: reading, writing, grammar	Research writing, grammar analysis, speech	Essays, poetry, dialogue, presentations	Thesis projects, literary analysis, editing peers	Family reading club, write journals or reports
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	Critical thinking, abstraction, problem-solving	Long division, fractions, multi-step problems	Decimals, percentages, pre-algebra	Ratios, proportions, equations, geometry proofs	Shop budgeting, measurement in DIY tasks
<b>SCIENCE</b>	Inquiry and discovery in the physical and life sciences	Earth systems, classification, experiments	Chemistry, biology, lab reports	Physics, human systems, ecology projects	Nature journals, simple experiments at home
<b>GEOGRAPHY &amp; SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	Global awareness, history, economics, civic life	Mapping skills, cultures, Madagascar studies	History of civilizations, current events	Government, global issues, human rights	Explore history documentaries, local events

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<b>ARTS &amp; CRAFTS</b>	Artistic expression, sewing and creative design	Sketching, mosaic, watercolor	Sculpture, printing, design projects	Portfolio development, mixed media	Art nights, DIY crafts with family
<b>MUSIC &amp; MOVEMENT</b>	Rhythm, melody, cultural music, expression	Music theory, performance skills	Ensemble work, composing, recording	Musical leadership, thematic concerts	Music games, home performances, choir practice
<b>DRAMA &amp; PLAY</b>	Expression, creativity, and storytelling through performance	Skits and improvisation, voice and movement games	Scriptwriting, character development, short performances	Stagecraft, public plays, expressive storytelling	Family charades, script reading, video recordings
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	Fitness, teamwork, goal setting	Strength and flexibility routines	Team strategy, cooperative games	Outdoor leadership, endurance training	Hikes, sports, fitness goals at home
<b>CHESS</b>	Logical reasoning, strategy, and concentration	Learn rules, basic tactics, friendly matches	Strategic thinking, opening principles	Tournament play, analysis, endgame mastery	Play at home, solve chess puzzles
<b>FOREIGN LANGUAGE: FRENCH</b>	Communicative competence and cultural awareness	Greetings, simple phrases, classroom vocabulary	Conversations, grammar basics, cultural topics	Reading, writing short texts, cultural projects	Label objects, practice with songs or apps
<b>NATIONAL LANGUAGE: MALAGASY</b>	Appreciation and fluency in national heritage Culture and values	Everyday vocabulary, greetings, songs Culture and values	Storytelling, folk tales, conversational skills Culture and values	Reading, writing paragraphs, poetry and proverbs Culture and values	Speak Malagasy at home, read folk tales, Share <i>Riba</i> and Literature



## ASSESSMENT

At Ayhay Christian School, assessment is a way to understand how each child is growing—not just academically, but spiritually, socially, and practically. We don't use tests or grades. Instead, we observe, listen, and guide children as they learn at their own pace.

We use two types of assessment: **Formative** (ongoing) and **Summative** (end-of-term).

### Formative Assessment

*Used every day to guide learning and help the teacher support each child in the moment.*

#### Tools and Methods:

- **Teacher Observation:** Watching how children use materials, solve problems, and work with others
- **Work Cycle Logs:** Tracking the lessons and materials each child is practicing
- **Weekly Reports:** Sent to parents with notes on what their child did during the week
- **Portfolios:** Collecting work samples like drawings, early writing, or photos of hands-on activities
- **Grace & Courtesy Notes:** Noting progress in social behavior, independence, and classroom routines

#### Purpose:

To help teachers adjust lessons to each child's needs and support their individual growth.

### Summative Assessment

*Used at the end of each term to reflect on overall progress.*

#### Tools and Methods:

- **Progress Report Terms:** A written summary shared with families showing the child's development in each area (spiritual, academic, emotional, etc.)
- **Demonstration of Learning:** The child shows what they've learned through simple presentations or activities
- **End-of-Term Skill Checklist:** A record of the concepts the child has been introduced to, is practicing, or has mastered
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Formal meetings to discuss growth, goals, and next steps

#### Purpose:

To review the child's development, communicate with parents, and prepare for transitions (e.g., moving to the next year level or to elementary).

## CONCLUSION

The Upper Elementary program at Ayhay Christian School empowers students to grow in wisdom, faith, and skill. Through challenging academics, creative expression, and meaningful service, our students develop the character and competence needed for the adolescent years. Teachers and families work together to guide children on their path to purpose-driven lives.

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### Christian Education

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