



SPARROWS HI CURRICULUM

Communication & Creative Arts

PURPOSE

The purpose of this framework is to help students communicate faithfully, creatively and with growing confidence.

Communication is one of the most fundamental human gifts. We are made in the image of a God who speaks, creates, sings and expresses Himself.

Students should leave Sparrows HI with increasing confidence to express themselves clearly, listen thoughtfully and use creative gifts for the glory of God and the blessing of others.

PHILOSOPHY

In the beginning was the Word.

God created. God spoke. God sang. Creative expression is not a luxury added to the Christian life. It reflects the image of our Creator.

Students are encouraged to see communication and creativity not as performance but as faithful stewardship of gifts entrusted by God.

GRADUATE OUTCOME

By graduation, students should be able to:

- communicate clearly in speech and writing;
- listen carefully and empathetically;
- express ideas persuasively with integrity;
- use creative gifts for God and others;
- evaluate media and creative work critically;
- contribute meaningfully to worship and community life.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

Students explore:

- creation as an act of divine expression;
- the Word becoming flesh;
- the Psalms as creative expression of faith;
- storytelling as a biblical teaching tool;
- the tongue and its power for good or harm;
- the use of gifts for the building up of others.

COMMUNICATION

Speaking

Students develop:

- clarity;
- confidence;
- appropriate vocabulary;
- listening skills;
- the ability to explain ideas;

- the ability to encourage others.

Writing

Students practise:

- journaling;
- poetry;
- narrative writing;
- letter writing;
- persuasive essays;
- devotional writing.

Public Speaking

Students gradually develop confidence in:

- speaking to small groups;
- reading Scripture publicly;
- sharing testimony;
- leading prayer;
- contributing to discussions;
- presenting to the community.

Listening

Students are taught to:

- listen attentively;
- ask clarifying questions;
- respond thoughtfully;
- resist the urge to interrupt;
- value the perspectives of others.

CREATIVE ARTS

Music

Students explore:

- singing;
- instrumental skills;
- songwriting;
- music in worship;
- music in culture.

Visual Arts

Students engage with:

- drawing;
- painting;
- photography;
- graphic design;
- visual storytelling;
- art in service of ministry.

Drama and Storytelling

Students explore:

- dramatic reading;
- improvisation;
- short film;
- storytelling;
- using drama for ministry.

Writing and Poetry

Students practise:

- poetry;
- short stories;
- creative non-fiction;
- writing as a spiritual practice.

Design and Media

Students develop skills in:

- basic graphic design;
- digital media;
- photography;
- video production;
- using media responsibly and ethically.

EVALUATING MEDIA AND CULTURE

Students learn to engage with contemporary media, art and culture by asking:

- What is true here?
- What is beautiful?
- What is distorted or misleading?
- What values does this promote?
- How should I respond as a Christian?

The goal is discernment, not withdrawal from culture.

EXCELLENCE AND HUMILITY

Students are encouraged to pursue excellence because it honours God.

However, excellence should always be accompanied by humility. Performance for its own sake or for personal recognition is inconsistent with Christian character.

Students should ask: Am I using this gift to serve others, or to draw attention to myself?

LEARNING PROGRESSION

The program is structured across three stages of secondary education.

Years 7–8

- Basic communication skills;
- journaling;
- drama and storytelling;
- drawing and creative expression;
- reading aloud.
- Emphasis: exploring gifts with freedom and encouragement.

Years 9–10

- Public speaking;
- persuasive writing;
- music in worship;
- media literacy;
- short creative projects.
- Students begin developing specific gifts more intentionally.

Years 11–12

- Leading creative projects;
- presenting to the community;
- evaluating culture;
- using gifts in service;
- developing a creative portfolio where appropriate.
- Students use their gifts to serve and lead.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Students should regularly participate in:

- public reading and speaking;
- creative workshops;
- writing across different genres;
- community performances;
- contributing to worship through their gifts;
- evaluating and discussing contemporary media.

Creative experiences should be joyful and encouraging rather than pressured or competitive.

ASSESSMENT

Growth is demonstrated through:

- increasing communication confidence;
- creative output;
- peer encouragement;
- reflective journalling;
- quality of contribution to community life;
- evidence of using gifts in service.

Assessment should celebrate growth and courage rather than comparing students.

INTEGRATION

Communication and Creative Arts connects with every other area of the Sparrows HI curriculum.

Students use communication and creative skills in:

- worship;
- leadership;

- service;
- biblical study;
- witness;
- community life.

Creativity and communication are not separate subjects but expressions of life lived in the image of God.

OUR PRAYER

We pray that students will discover and develop the gifts God has given them and use those gifts joyfully in service to God, the Church and the wider world.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

Colossians 3:23