

Religion Curriculum

Balvihar HTS

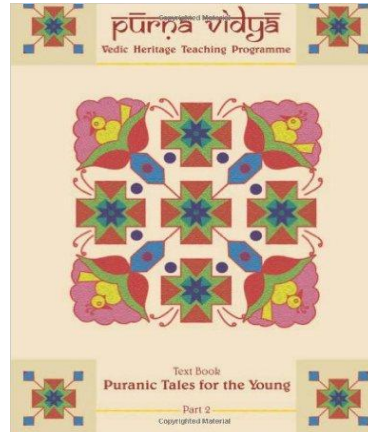
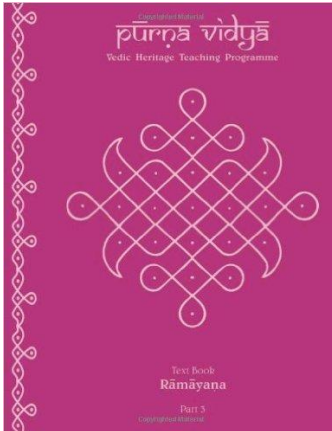
Purna Vidya Syllabus

Namaste,

In an Ideal scenario of a student joining Balvihar at age 6, The Balvihar Religion Syllabus facilitates the progression of learning the following books as presented in this slide doc. at Hindu Temple Society, Allentown.

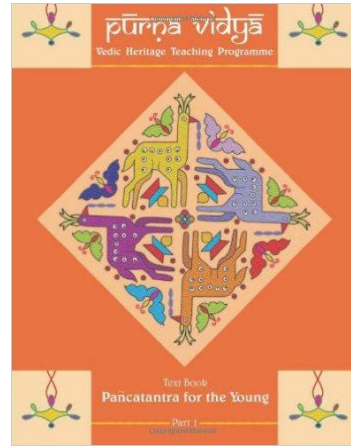
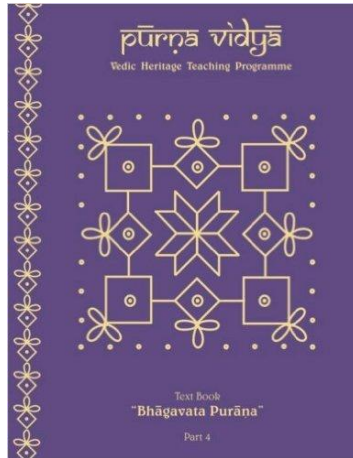
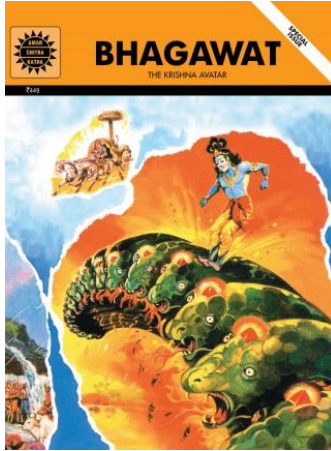
They spend 2 years with one teacher at every level, learning a variety of books, stories, epics and values. In the course of 10 years they graduate with a wealth of knowledge that builds a character, grow a personality and connect the children to their vedic roots. All while having fun with children who have similar background and interests as themselves. We follow the Purna Vidya curriculum and are fortunate to be able to use it.

Religion 1 : 2015 Ramayana & Puranic Tales for the Young.



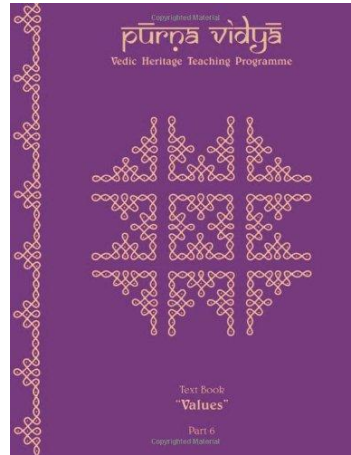
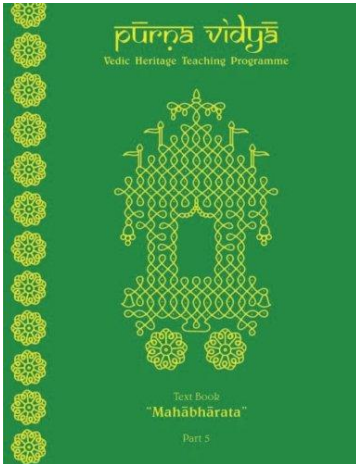
For the first year, R1 will teach Ramayana. We can cover upto 3 chapters in one class for the first half an hour and for the next half hour we can focus on the Puranic tales for the young. Before the start, we should introduce the Trinity Gods and Goddess. This can also be the book that parents read to their kids at home as Bedtime stories / Homework.

R1 2016 Dashavatara and Panchatantra for the Young



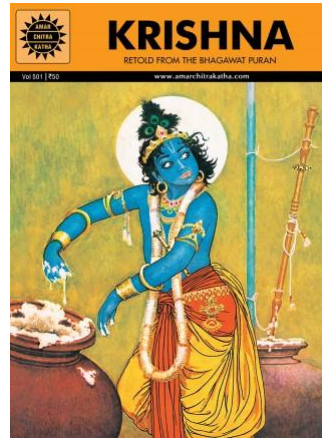
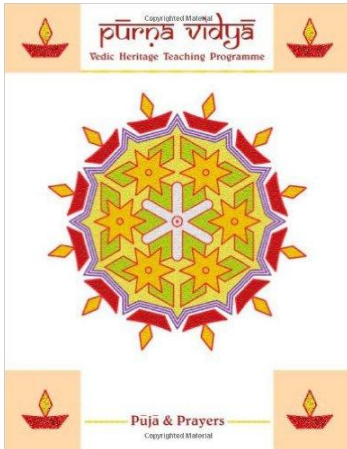
Dashavatara will cover all the ten Avataaras of Lord Vishnu and get a good dose of morals and ethics through the Panchatantra stories. The kids now have replicated the early childhood experience of a typical Indian Child. The Bhagavata Purana is the Purna Vidya book to teach Dashavatara. Providing Amar Chitra Katha book for the same information, keeps the kids interested and curious. We can provide both or just one to the students, however it is beneficial to give Amar Chitra Katha books to kids of age 6,7 to get them involved in comics style reading.

Religion 2 Mahabharata & Values (2015)



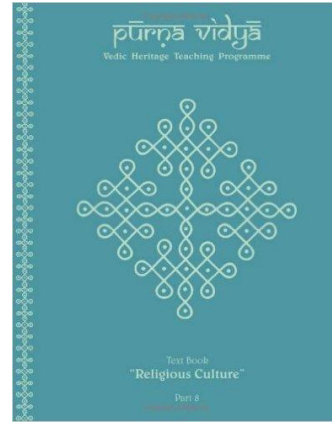
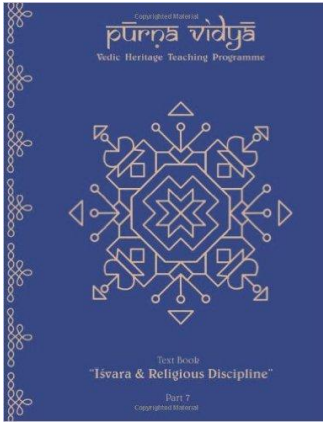
The student having completed Ramayana and Dashavatara in the initial 2 years of R1, is now ready to learn about Mahabharata. A similar approach of half class with Mahabharata and Half with Values book should help enrich the hour. The students will understand the complexities of human nature, the range of emotions, Will Power and the colossal saga of a story as diverse as Mahabharata. Values book is a perfect accompaniment at this juncture. An Eight or nine year old child is at a perfect age to understand the effects of karma and consequences.

Religion 2 (2016) Krishna Leela & Puja and Prayers



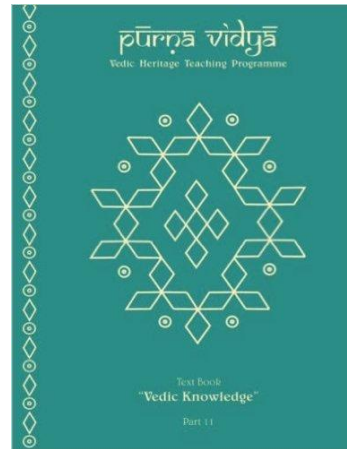
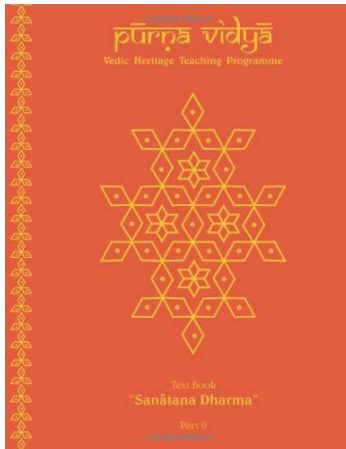
In the consecutive year for the students of Religion 2, they will be learning about Krishna Leela and also get introduced to the book of Puja and Prayers. We should give the kids Amar Chitra Katha book shown in the images, along with the Purna Vidya book of Puja-Prayers. For the Teacher : the belurmath.org has abridged stories to use as teaching reference. 3 chapter per class can make it possible to cover the Krishna Leela in 10, 12 hours. (Which is a typical Balvihhar Year). Encouraging parents to purchase more Amar Chitra Katha books on Lord Krishna will develop the student's knowledge. This completes the works of Lord Vishnu until they delve in it deeper with Bhagavata Gita in their graduating years.

Religion 3 : 2015 - 2016 : Isvara and Religious Discipline - Religious Culture.



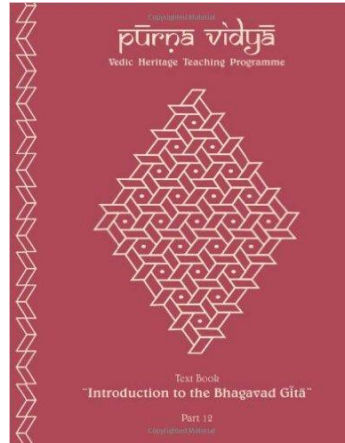
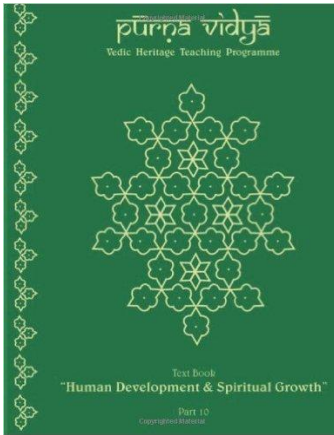
Having focused on the narrative of stories for the first 4 years at Balvihar, now the 5th or 6th grader child will learn about Isvara - the Intelligent and Material Cause of the entire creation as envisioned in Hindu scripture. The understanding and acceptance of Divinity as an ongoing presence in one's life, and the Unique and essential aspects of Vedic Culture which is reflected in the day to day lives of its people. Trinity, Navagrahas and various religious practices are explained under Vedic light. These 2 books will be a good supplement for the children along with some practical real life examples in class.

Religion 4 : (2015 2016) Sanatana Dharma & Vedic Knowledge.



R4 will cover the books of Sanatana Dharma and Vedic Knowledge . In these two years the faculty will provide a fluid, adaptable understanding to a budding adolescent mind into the complex theories of Vedic literature. The Religious doctrines and their application in to the real world. It outlines the eighteen fold branches of knowledge and provides the student with an overview of the subject matter and guide students with the literature associated with it. This will also ease them into the direction of Bhagavad Gita and there by preparing them for their final years at Balvihar HTS.

Religion 5 (2015-2016) Human Development Spiritual Growth & Introduction to the Bhagavad Gita



In the Graduating phase of Balvihar R5, the students will benefit from the study of these books which help them culminate their experience and have guidance for their adulthood. The veda saara of Bhagavad Gita will sustain principles that become their inner voice and foundation, whereas the Human Development - Spiritual Growth book will provide them with tools to keep their feet on ground as they explore the world ahead of them. Every symbolic moment pertaining to mankind in various stages of life has faced a perplexing question. Bhagavad Gita is the key to understanding all those crossroads and making decisions that work for you on an individual basis but still staying true to humanity.

In an unavoidable circumstance as it happens more often than not, a student who does not travel through these steps still manages to get the best of what our culture has to offer and hopefully creates an interest for more. Thank you.
Namaste. Pratibha Roochir Purani bharooch@gmail.com