

FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

RELIGION:

The first grade religion curriculum consists of unit books that move us through the Bible from the beginning of the world to Jesus' death and resurrection. The students study how we can worship and praise God in our lives today, trusting in His everlasting promises. One Bible verse is memorized each week. The students are taught that the Bible is God's true and inspired Word. Videos, songs, and student-written prayers are all part of the spiritual journey. Each child is paired with an older student as a chapel partner; chapel partners work together throughout the year helping each other to grow in their love and understanding of the Lord. The children are encouraged to be little missionaries in the world around them and share the love of Jesus with their families and friends. One way this is done is through the children participating in leading chapel.

ENGLISH:

First graders will become acquainted with the parts of sentences and the usage of punctuation. Identifying parts of speech—nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adjectives—is introduced. Emphasis is placed on the proper usage of capitals and plurals. Students will learn to write short paragraph stories, order events, and create word webs. These new skills are reinforced through the completion of several special writing projects throughout the year. The Flat Stanley series is read to the class, and the children get to create their own Flat Stanley adventures.

MATH:

In first grade, a hands-on approach to mathematical learning is used to encourage deep understanding of addition and subtraction with numbers up to twenty, counting, modeling and comparing numbers, and understanding and using measurements. Students also practice mathematical skills daily during calendar time. Children are expected to memorize the addition and subtraction facts through ten.

READING & SPELLING/VOCABULARY:

The reading series in first grade is composed of three soft back and one hardcover reader. Each book has exciting, fun, and interesting stories. We work on many areas in reading such as comprehension, fluency, phonics, and sight words. A variety of resources is used to work with each student according to his/her abilities. Reading skills are augmented through the use of *Reading Eggs*, a computer program which takes each child at his/her own level and pace through the reading and comprehension process. In first grade, we use a journal as a creative way for each child to express their thoughts, art work, and knowledge. Parents are encouraged to read with their children each night. Children are encouraged to share their reading assignments and experiences with their parents. Simple projects both at home and school enhance the reading experience. Spelling: The children's spelling words complement their vocabulary words in reading. As the year progresses, additional words are added, including challenge words. Spelling words are also used in conjunction with their sentence building and grammar.

SCIENCE:

Science in first grade covers units in earth science, weather, seasons, space, plants, matter, and motion. We experience interesting hands-on experiments and fun outdoor activities. Also, we watch educational videos on the first grade level. The children are tested on the content of the chapters and perform experiments. Some lessons involve computer and art projects. STEM activities integrate science, technology, engineering, and math with real-world problem solving.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

First grade students utilize Studies Weekly, which is a combination of printed weekly units and web-based primary sourced media to create a high level of student engagement in learning. Students learn about a variety of topics such as map skills, America, Patriotism, communities, money and trade, jobs people do, our responsibilities as citizens, etc.

MUSIC

Students will sing, play musical games, dance, listen, and play musical instruments as they develop their musical skills and confidence. They will continue to develop the concepts of beat, pitch, form, expression, and rhythm using musical notation and terms. All students are given opportunities to praise God as they learn to express their musical gifts to His glory through worship, special presentations, and classroom activities.