

Elementary Curriculum: Grade One

Religion

First graders will learn through stories, prayer, Scripture, activities, discussion, reflection, and weekly mass about their Catholic faith. Catholic values are discussed and integrated in all subject areas throughout the day. The focus is on traditional common prayers, creation, The Holy Trinity, celebrating liturgy, liturgical seasons, and the sacraments of Baptism and the Holy Eucharist.

English Language Arts

The English Language Arts program is all encompassing and includes reading, phonics, writing, speaking, listening and the study of literature. The components of the program emphasize the development of those skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, apply correct spelling, grammar, and phonemic awareness, communicate well, and listen and speak effectively. The skills acquired and understood are applied and reinforced in all content areas.

Reading

Students experience different genres such as poetry, folktales, informational texts, literacy, fantasies, and plays. Balanced literacy will be integrated into phonemic awareness, comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency to improve the following skills throughout the year:

- Ask and answer questions about key details
- Retell stories and identify main topic
- Describe story elements including connections between characters, events, and ideas
- Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses
- Identify who is telling the story at various points in the text
- Use illustrations and details in the story to describe its story elements
- Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories
- Know and use various text features (headings, glossaries, table of contents, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text
- Compare and contrast multiple texts on the same topic
- Linking spoken and written languages
- Using word identification strategies
- Sequencing events of a story
- Making predictions
- Using context clues
- Developing vocabulary

Writing

First grade students use writing to convey thoughts and meaning. Our students will write effectively using words and pictures to convey thoughts, write simple sentences, apply

spelling knowledge and phonetic patterns, and apply grammar and mechanics (capitalization, proper spacing, basic punctuation, and complete sentences). This will be done through a variety of writing, publishing, and producing activities such as:

- Opinion pieces
- Informative/explanatory texts
- Narratives
- Guided editing from adults and peers
- Use of digital tools to produce and publish

Speaking and Listening

First grade students will listen for understanding, follow directions, and respond appropriately to the speaker. They will use acquired language and vocabulary to express opinions. Students will also present material orally, as well as develop questions to ask their classmates or adults. Students will describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly using words, drawings, or other visual displays.

Mathematics

First Grade students acquire a knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply math skills and to solve math problems. Our first grade students will:

- Identify, write and order numbers from 0-120
- Skip count by 2's, 5's, and 10's
- Add and subtract numbers within 20 using strategies such as counting on, making ten, decomposing a number leading to ten, and using the relationship between addition and subtraction
- Use addition and subtraction within 20 to solve word problems
- Understand the meaning of the equals sign and determine if equations involving addition and subtraction are true or false
- Determine the unknown whole number in addition or subtraction equations using manipulatives
- Understand that the two digits of a two-digit number represent tens and ones
- Use place value
- Use grouping and regrouping
- Measure/compare length, weight, and width
- Tell and write time in hours and half hours using analog and digital clocks
- Chart, compare and graph data
- Estimate how many and check results
- Use a calendar to determine days of the week and months of the year
- Identify monetary values of coins
- Identify patterns and shapes
- Recognize objects that have lines of symmetry
- Complete a hundred chart
- Identify and describe characteristics of shapes

Science

First Grade students will use concrete, hands-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world around them. They learn through observing, predicting, questioning, and explaining.

Our students will study:

- Plant, animal, and human growth
- Investigate habitats
- Property of matter
- Gravity
- Force of motion
- Weather
- Patterns of change of sun/moon/earth

Social Studies

First Grade students will develop an awareness of people around them. The focus will be on families, homes, neighborhoods, working together, meeting needs through goods and services, celebrations.

Physical Education

In first grade, our students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Students will maintain personal fitness, acquire an awareness of personal health needs, demonstrate and build gross motor skills, and participate in cooperative group games.

Art

In first grade, the students will have the opportunity to express themselves in various art forms.

Technology

Our first grade students will visit the technology lab and use software and web resources for reinforcement of classroom lessons. They will recognize basic computer components and be comfortable using them. Our first graders will produce simple projects using various programs on the computer such as Paint and Word.

Library

First Grade students will use the school library and locate books of interest to be checked out each week.