

THE FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

RELIGION - The religion curriculum uses stories from the old and new testaments to emphasize God's love and care for each child. The children also learn about God's greatest gift to His people: sending Jesus to die on the cross and take away our sins. Memorization of Bible verses and the Ten Commandments rounds out the religion curriculum. Students participate in daily devotions, share prayer requests, and practice showing God's love to each other and members of their community.

LANGUAGE ARTS – The Language Arts program in first grade integrates reading, phonics, spelling, grammar and writing. Each day, time is devoted to sounds and letters, reading and responding, grammar and writing. Through the Accelerated Reader Program students choose books at their individual reading level and based on their interest to practice the reading skills discussed in class.

HANDWRITING – First grade students continue to practice the proper formation of letters and numerals. In addition, they practice the four keys to legibility: shape, size, slant, and spacing. They learn to legibly write words and sentences.

MATH – First grade students develop skills in the following areas of mathematics:

- Addition and Subtraction to 18 (strategies for addition and subtraction, fact families)
- Geometry and Fractions (solid figures, plane shapes, and fractions)
- Time (telling time, using time)
- Counting to 100 (counting with groups of 10, number patterns)
- Place Value, Data, and Graphs (tens and ones, comparing and ordering, data and graphs)
- Money (counting money, using money)
- Measurement and Probability (length, capacity, weight, and temperature, probability)

SOCIAL STUDIES – Social Studies lessons begin with the child, their family and school, and then extend to their community and the world. Map skills are emphasized. The Weekly Reader magazine rounds out the Social Sciences curriculum.

NATURAL SCIENCES - The science curriculum uses a hands-on approach to cover topics in life science, physical science, earth science, use of the scientific method, and the human body

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM -

- Weekly journal writing to encourage a joy of writing, as well as to use language and writing skills taught in language arts.
- Word wall activities to provide practice of basic sight words.
- Group activities in math class, using manipulatives to teach and practice new concepts.
- A 100th day of school celebration
- Participation in Junior Choir

- Field trips (in the past trips have been taken to The Irvine Nature Center, Sharp's at Waterford Farms, The Fire Museum of Maryland, The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and The Science Center)