

First Grade Curriculum

Welcome to one of the most exciting and progressive years of your child's life. There is more advancement and learning experience in First Grade than any other grade in school. We learn to read! What fun it is to be able to look and communicate through print.

READING: The first grade is using the Open Court Reading. This is a multi-curriculum series that encourages an explicit phonics and comprehension program. The children experience a wide variety of literary form that emphasize reading, writing, penmanship, and spelling. The goal this year is to develop a literary experience through themes in research and inquiry. Another reading program offered in the classroom is Accelerated Reading. The school also offers a remedial class with a pullout program.

LANGUAGE: Language follows our reading curriculum. Our main emphasis is learning to recognize and write a sentence. These sentences will then develop into short stories. We will be learning punctuation in sentence structuring. The curriculum includes quotation marks, abbreviations and contractions. Grammar is an important part of first grade learning and we learn correct grammar on a daily basis.

SPELLING: Our spelling curriculum is in conjunction with our reading. Spelling is listed on the homework on Mondays. The spelling test is on Friday.

MATH: Our Saxon math curriculum covers concepts to assist the student in learning techniques to help raise application concepts for the SAT scores. The curriculum reviews counting, adding to the sum of ten, subtraction to the difference from ten, place value, graphing, problem solving, time, money, measuring, and fractions. Math Their Way is also used with manipulatives for math concepts.

SOCIAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE: Our social studies curriculum covers our world and how we relate to our society. It covers areas of history and continues to current events. As part of our social studies curriculum we will be using the Scholastic News paper. Your student will be asked to pay \$4.00 for the annual subscription. In physical and biological studies we cover plants, animals, insects, and God's relationship to our scientific universe.

BIBLE: We use a Bible curriculum which touches on the studies of both the Old and New Testament. Our work is grade appropriate with Biblical concepts that apply to the first grade level. We introduce Character Traits monthly and cover the Presbyterian Catechism question and answers. Memory verses will be sent home with the homework on Monday and need to be recited on Friday. Verses are selected from the Bible curriculum. The children also perform a Chapel Program

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: The students participate in a physical education program three times a week. The state requires each student participate in 100 minutes of physical education for your child's fitness. Your child should wear rubber-soled shoes at our school everyday. Our P.E. teacher is Mr. Augur.

MUSIC: Singing, music appreciation and chapel participation are part of our music program. The first graders present a program in the early spring under the direction of our music teacher.

DRAMA: Children enjoy the time of sharing, acting, relating to our society in drama. Mrs. De la Guardia is a fabulous teacher who encourages the students to act out situations and actions in their world. We also perform in a play presentation in February.

VERY SPECIAL PERSON: In first grade, we do not celebrate birthday parties. In lieu of this occasion, once during the year, your child will have the opportunity to be "Very Special Person" for the week. We have a bulletin board to decorate for their special week. Parents are encouraged to come and be part of your first graders special occasion.

Homework: Homework assignments will be sent home every Monday and will be due on Friday for the first several months of school. There is one exception in our math curriculum. Math will be sent home on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights and must be returned the next day. At the beginning of the year, the homework is a "Dolch" sight word program that enriches the "Open Court" curriculum. The student is to complete an assignment portion every night. If the packet is completed properly, the homework will not be returned until Friday morning at 8:30. Homework turned in after 8:30 on Friday will be considered late. Please remember that late credit is better than no credit at all. Homework will be graded at random in both an academic and responsibility assessment. Later on in the year the homework is programmed to assist the student in adjusting to the second grade homework schedule. You will be notified of the change later on in the year. We ask that your students name be placed on each homework worksheet. The cover sheet is to be removed and

kept at home for reference of the Bible verse and spelling words. The children will also receive a small paperback book that needs to be read nightly and returned the next day. The book needs to be signed by all the people who listen to the student read that particular book. The book is returned to school and "stamped". After returning the signed book, you will receive the book back and should be placed in a box for future reference. These are readers with a controlled vocabulary. They are priceless and very helpful for review.

Do to our curriculum, which covers one concept over several days, we will not be giving make-up work unless we feel it is necessary.

Unfinished Work: may be sent home from time to time. If it has a stamp on it (Please sign and return) return it the next day. If work comes home that is unfinished and does not have the stamp on it, please have your child finish as practice and keep at home. If your child is missing any papers that they needed to get credit for, we will let you know.

We are looking forward to a great year in first grade. It is exciting to see the progress your student will make this special year of their lives.

Curriculum for First Grade

Reading

Open Court

- 75 Decodable books
- 2 Anthologies
- Core Lit. Materials and book reports
- Accelerated Reading

Math

- Saxon
- Hands on Math for reinforcement

Language

- Included in Open Court Reading
- Creative Writing

Phonics

- Included in Open Court Reading
- Phonics games and reading activities

Bible

- Church Catechism
- Old and New Testament
- Devotions every morning
- Character building lessons daily

Music

- Music Teacher once a week
- Program in February with Kindergarten

Drama

- Drama Teacher once a week
- Includes speaking parts in February program.

PE.

- PE Teacher 3 times a week

Library

- Attend once a week for Literature appreciation