



First Grade Curriculum

*The Academy is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*We are committed to excellence
in spiritual formation and academics.*

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First Grade Curriculum

Academic Program



Religion /Scripture

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. The primary text series is Faith and Life, published by Ignatius Press. It is a comprehensive Catholic program that combines beautiful classical and original art work with a solid doctrinal and scriptural presentation. These texts, according to Bishop Thomas Muldoon, are unsurpassed in lucidity of doctrine, in fidelity to God's revelations, and in stimulation of real interest and love for the Faith.

Our Heavenly Father, published by Ignatius Press.

Supplements include the Image of God Series, Who Has God's Life? and the New Catholic Picture Bible.

Aim

To give the first grade student a basic instruction of God, the life of our Savior, and of prayers, with a special emphasis on growing to know, love, and trust God.

Theme

Introduction to the Trinity, with emphasis of the life of Jesus, the plan of salvation, and the child's part in that plan. Acquaints the child with Mary, angels, and saints. Child learns basic prayers.

Sequence

Ch. 1-8: The Old Testament. God our creator, our home in Heaven lost through original sin, the world prepares for the Savior.

Ch. 9-21: The Incarnation, Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

Ch. 22-28: The Holy Spirit, the Church, and Mary, our Mother.

Phonics

Saxon's phonics series is an explicit, systematic program that complements our Open Court Reading series. The goal is to teach students how to read and spell so that they will be able to read and write independently and with confidence. This program gives students the tools and necessary practice for success in reading and writing.

First grade students will:

- † Understand how reading, spelling, and handwriting function as a whole.
- † Build a firm foundation in phonics awareness.
- † Be able to blend sounds to read and unblend sounds to spell.
- † Be able to code their words.

Reading/Language Arts

This research based program gives students the means to become independent readers by:

- † Developing phonetic awareness
- † Developing comprehension
- † Practicing skills in writing

Open Court Collections for Young Scholars transcends traditional reading programs.

Features of this series:

- † Award winning fiction and non-fiction selections from renowned writers and illustrators.

Reading/Language Arts *continued...*

- † Science and social studies themes.
- † A moral or virtue value in every story.
- † Systematic instruction organized in unit themes around engaging concepts.
- † Phonics, comprehension, and writing built into every lesson.

Selections include:

Poetry
Fiction
Folktales
Nonfiction

Riddles
Character Tales
Plays
Art

This series stresses all the traditional reading skills that develop fluent readers. It then goes beyond the mechanics of reading, and stretches the mind and imagination of the reader. The goal of the series is to develop critical, independent readers.

Supplemental Readers

- † American Cardinal Readers
- † Bennets Book of Virtues for Young Children
- † Lives of the Saints for Children
- † We Both Read
- † National Geographic Publications

Writing

First graders learn to use writing as a means of expression. Focus is on the mechanics of writing and the ability to express ideas. Students will learn to:

- † Choose a topic
- † Determine a purpose
- † Gather information
- † Organize information (sequence ideas)

Writing continued...

- † Visualize the setting
- † Use vivid language and sensory images
- † Create the scene
- † Fictional stories
- † Personal narrative stories
- † Poetry
- † Book reports
- † Friendly letters
- † Thank you letters
- † Letters of invitation

English

A firm grasp of the structure and use of language is critical to successfully harnessing the power of the written word. Mastery of proper grammar, usage, and mechanics is the goal of the comprehensive grammar program. The exercises provide the added reinforcement students need. First graders will be able to:

- † Identify proper and common nouns
- † Distinguish between a phrase and a sentence
- † Capitalize when necessary
- † Identify the verb or action word
- † Use periods, question and exclamation marks
- † Recognize a telling and asking sentence
- † Use singular and plural
- † Use pronouns
- † Use verb contractions
- † Understand past, present, and future tense
- † Understand, recognize, and use adjectives
- † Understand subject verb agreement
- † Correctly use I/me
- † Use commas and apostrophes

Listening/Speaking

Shurley English incorporates listening, speaking, and writing as an integrated whole. Students will:

- † Listen for understanding
- † Follow directions
- † Recall information
- † Enunciate
- † Express feelings
- † Share ideas
- † Tell and retell stories
- † Give oral reports
- † Make introductions
- † Participate in discussions

Handwriting

Legible handwriting will be developed through daily practice using the Universal Publishing Handwriting Program.

Spelling

Spelling skills are integrated into the phonics and reading programs and are also taught using spelling rules and high frequency words in a structured spelling program called Spelling Workout, published by Modern Curriculum Press.

Vocabulary

First grade students have a developmental sensitivity for new and interesting words. The Academy's vocabulary program provides an engaging, systematic approach to new words. Students will:

- † Understand new word meanings
- † Use new words in everyday language
- † Incorporate new words in writing assignments

Analogies

Primary Analogies and Shurley English teach children to think analytically with simple pictures and word analogies. Students will:

- † Find similarities
- † Categorize
- † Make comparisons
- † Find causal relationships

Math

McGraw Hill's My Math series is a hands on, activity centered, success orientated program that incorporates manipulatives and mental math. The program is based upon mastery development and review. The students develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of mathematics. Students will:

- † Skip count by 1's, 2's, 5's, 10's, 25's, and 100's
- † Compare and order numbers
- † Identify ordinal position to twentieth
- † Identify a sorting rule
- † Identify and extend patterns
- † Solve routine and non-routine problems
- † Master basic addition and subtraction facts and algorithms
- † Picture and name fractions
- † Measure using inches, feet, and centimeters
- † Compare volume, mass, and area
- † Tell time to five minutes
- † Count money
- † Identify polygons, geometric solids
- † Create, read, and write observations from graphs
- † Employ a variety of strategies to solve problems
- † Identify lines of symmetry and angles

Science

The Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Series, *A Closer Look*, provides a blend of concepts, inquiry, and hands-on content. Children are exposed to the process skills needed to form and test hypothesis. The units taught are:

- † Plants
- † Animals
- † Fossils
- † Matter
- † Sound, heat, and light
- † Force, magnets, and electricity
- † The earth
- † Weather
- † Solar system
- † How your body works-brain, heart, and lungs
- † Nutrition
- † Keeping healthy

Social Studies

Macmillan/McGraw-Hill prepares students for informed participation in tomorrow's America. This comprehensive social studies program presents a mixture of history, geography, economics, citizenship, and culture. The first grade text, Time Links, explores themes that focus on:

- † Building communities
- † Meeting community needs
- † Rules and laws
- † Exploring community changes

A comprehensive map skills program from Modern Curriculum Press Maps, Charts, and Graphs covers map skills.

Health

Students will develop an understanding of personal health and safety issues such as:

- † Good eating habits
- † Proper rest and exercise
- † Good hygiene
- † Personal cleanliness
- † Seat belt use
- † Safe use of medication

STEM

Students integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in a variety of problem solving situations. Students apply the Scientific Method and Engineering Process during experiential learning.

Computers

These skills are introduced in the classroom through the computer and SMART Board for integration into the curriculum to help children learn how to research and process information.

Library

Students come to the library weekly to check out books at their reading level. When research projects are assigned, students are directed to the appropriate subject matter.

Physical Education

First grade students learn to move their body through space in a coordinated purposeful way. They will master basic motor skills and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Students will:

- † Demonstrate ball handling skills
- † Master locomotor skills such as skipping, hopping, and running
- † Maintain personal fitness
- † Listen and follow directions
- † Master laterality, directionality, and balance

Art

The art program exposes children to a variety of art forms and artists. Students will:

- † Enjoy creating their own art
- † Express their individuality through art
- † Learn to interpret artistic works

Music

First graders will enjoy:

- † Expressing themselves in song
- † Following a tune
- † Identifying musical notes and rhythm patterns
- † Distinguishing elements of music
- † Interpreting musical compositions
- † Performing in a musical program twice a year

Spanish

Elementary Spanish is an award-winning program from Northern Arizona University. The curriculum is organized by thematic units. The program uses songs, games, natural conversation, and role-playing to create a fun, non-threatening environment for young learners of Spanish.

General Information

Report Cards/Progress Reports

Students will receive a report card at the end of each ten-week marking period. Students in need of academic assistance will receive a progress report at the end of the five-week point or half way through the marking period.

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences are scheduled for late October. However, parents may schedule a separate conference at anytime.

Homework

For children to achieve mastery, reinforcement is absolutely necessary. Homework is assigned, as needed, for practice and special projects. Expect to give some assistance to first graders. Use lots of praise and positive reinforcement. Help your child succeed by:

- † Providing a quiet area for study
- † Discourage or prohibit TV on school nights
- † Read to your child
- † Listen to your child read
- † Provide nutritious meals and plenty of exercise
- † Schedule sufficient rest (9 hours for 1st graders)
- † Show an interest in school activities
- † Keep communication lines open with the school

SchoolSpeak

Kindergarten - 8th Grade

SchoolSpeak is an online communication tool which allows parents and students to view homework, newsletters, grades, and report cards. Parents and teachers can easily message each other when the need arises.

