

The mission of St. Norbert School
is to find God in all things through
learning, faith, and service.



ST. NORBERT SCHOOL
THINK AHEAD

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Rosanne Sikich, Principal

ST. NORBERT SCHOOL
THINK AHEAD

First Grade

Curriculum Guide



NOTES

NOTES



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Dear Parents,

We hope you find this Curriculum Guide helpful! The guide is meant to give you an overview of what your child will be learning at his/her grade level. This overview will assist you when having conversations about classroom work with your child's teacher and when reinforcing learning concepts at home with your child.

We invite you to contact your child's teacher with any questions throughout the year. We look forward to a successful partnership to enhance each student's knowledge.

God Bless,

St. Norbert School Staff

Curriculum guides for preschool through eighth grade are available on our website.

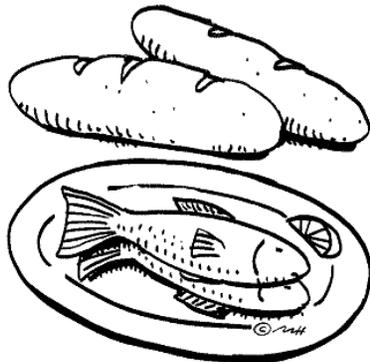
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RELIGION

Our mission is to nurture in every student a mature faith in Jesus Christ, a deeper knowledge of his message, and a commitment to follow in his path. We will discuss why we pray, who Jesus truly is, and how there are Catholics worshipping all over the world.

By the end of first grade students will be able to...

- recognize the Catholic Church as a community of people who follow Jesus.
- understand that the Holy Spirit helps us and guides us.
- understand that we receive the Holy Spirit in the sacraments.
- know that the Bible is the written Word of God.
- understand that Catholics love and serve people all over the world.
- show praise of God through prayer, hymns, and songs.
- recognize that Jesus teaches us to thank God, our Father, for all his gifts.
- understand that when we pray, we grow closer to Jesus.



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING (S.E.L.)

Many key sets of skills and behaviors provide a strong foundation for achieving success in school and in life. One skill is knowing emotions, how to manage them, and ways to express them constructively. Another skill is building and maintaining positive relationships with others and contributing to the well-being of a school. These skills help all students learn to recognize the feelings and perspectives of others.

By the end of first grade students will be able to...

Self-Awareness and Self-Management Skills

- recognize and accurately label emotions.
- demonstrate control of impulsive behavior.
- identify one's likes and dislikes, needs and wants, and strengths and challenges.
- identify family, peer, school, and community strengths.
- identify goals for academic success and classroom behavior.



Social Awareness and Interpersonal Skills

- recognize that others may experience situations differently .
- use listening skills to identify the feelings and perspectives of others.
- describe the ways that people are similar and different.
- describe positive qualities in others.
- identify ways to work and play well with others.
- demonstrate appropriate social and classroom behavior.
- identify problems and conflicts commonly experienced by peers.
- identify approaches to resolving conflicts constructively.

Decision-Making Skills and Responsible Behavior

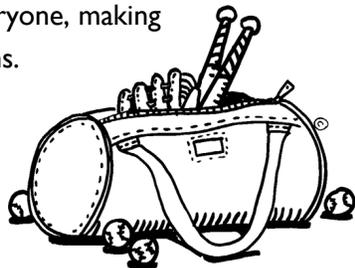
- identify a range of decisions that students make at school.
- make positive choices when interacting with classmates.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The curriculum for each grade level contains specific goals and objectives to enable students to learn and develop sport skills, and understand the benefits of exercise and good sportsmanship. The physical education units are based on the National Standards for each particular grade and ensure fun and diverse experiences.

By the end of first grade students will be able to...

- develop responsibility for safe movement practices.
- demonstrate spatial awareness (e.g. behind, ahead of, next to, on, through, beside).
- respond to cues that enhance the development of basic locomotor skills (eg. running, skipping, galloping), non-locomotor skills (eg. bending, stretching, twisting), and manipulative skills (eg. bouncing, catching, tossing, kicking).
- participate in health-related fitness activities.
- participate in dodging/fleeing activities without running into others or objects.
- recognize changes that take place in the body during physical activity such as sweating, increased heart rate, and increased breathing.
- demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively with a partner or small group during physical activity.
- demonstrate good sportsmanship such as showing respect for self and others, including everyone, making good choices, and taking turns.



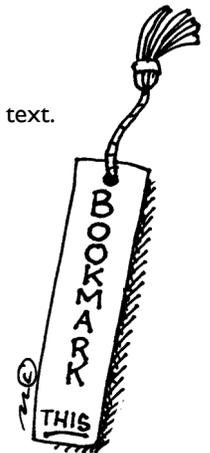
LANGUAGE ARTS

Our early literacy curriculum is the foundation for students to be successful learners in all content areas. Listening and speaking, reading, and writing help students become proficient in all communication skills. Included in K-5 are foundational skills that foster students' understanding and knowledge of concepts of print, the alphabetic principle, and basic conventions of the English writing system.

By the end of first grade students will be able to...

Reading Literature and Informational Text

- retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
- identify who is telling the story at various points in a text.
- use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.
- describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.
- ask and answer questions to help determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases in a text.
- identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text.



Writing

- write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.
- use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing individually and with peers.
- participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of "how-to" books on a given topic and use them to write a sequence of instructions).

Speaking and Listening

- build on others' talk in conversations by responding to the comments of others through multiple exchanges.
- add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.

MATHEMATICS

To be successful in math, students need to understand four critical areas of mathematics. These will give them foundational math skills needed to understand concepts that will be taught in higher-grade levels.

By the end of first grade students will be able to...

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- extend the counting sequence.
- understand place value.
- use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract.

Numbers and Operations

- understand and apply properties of operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction.
- add and subtract within 20.
- work with addition and subtraction equations.

Measurement and Data

- measure lengths indirectly and with length units.
- tell and write time.
- represent and interpret data.

Geometry

- reason with shapes and their attributes.



MUSIC

First grade students will learn about the world around them and various cultures. In first grade music, students will continue to build basic musical skills using a variety of methodologies. Students will demonstrate these skills in classroom activities and school performances like the Christmas play.

By the end of first grade students will be able to...

- sing music from a variety of cultures.
- read and write basic music notation .
- sing simple melodies using solfege and and play classroom instruments using correct technique.
- recognize simple rhythms and pitches visually and orally.
- learn about the geography, music, and culture of various countries.



ART

In first grade students progress to more original art expression and increase confidence with various art tools. Students will demonstrate the use of elements of art in their composition.

By the end of Kindergarten students will be able to...

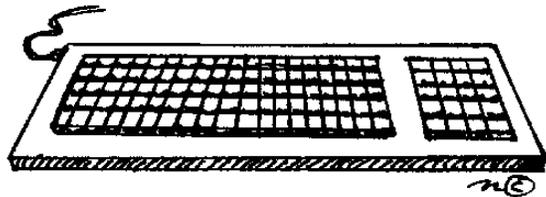
- integrate line, shapes, and colors with appropriate use of tools to create a variety of art expressions.
- understand the elements of line, shape, color, and texture and recognize processes and tools of art while integrating their own expressive qualities
- interact in the language of art while learning the past and present roles of art in society

TECHNOLOGY

First grade students will experience many learning opportunities throughout the year. Activities in computer class reinforce skills being taught in the classroom as well as current classroom topics or themes. Using a variety of programs, they have practice enhancing math concepts and language arts skills as well as science and social studies.

By the end of first grade students will be able to...

- develop familiarity with relative position of keys on a keyboard.
- learn the mechanics of writing a sentence using a computer by beginning sentences with a capital letter and ending with a mark of punctuation with proper spacing between words.
- use a graphic organizer program to group and classify information.
- use painting and drawing tools to create an illustration that demonstrates understanding of a particular topic.
- develop proficiency using a variety of age appropriate programs to reinforce classroom skills and topics.
- use specific websites to provide enrichment about current classroom topics as well as seasonal topics.



SCIENCE

Students will be provided with a variety of inquiry-based experiences that help foster conceptual understanding and meaning of the world around us.

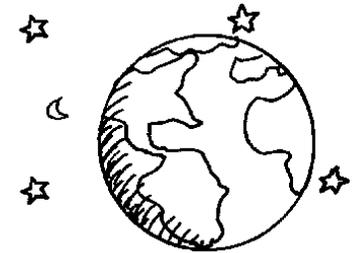
By the end of first grade students will be able to...

Life Science

- compare and classify living and nonliving things.
- explain what plants need to live and grow.
- identify plant parts such as leaves, stems, and roots.
- describe what different parts do for the plant.
- classify and compare different plants.

Physical Science

- comprehend that all things are made of matter.
- describe the properties of matter.
- identify and compare the properties of solids.
- describe the properties of liquids and gases.
- compare properties of different kinds of liquids and gases.



Earth Science

- identify different types of land on Earth.
- describe differences between bodies of water.
- identify rocks and sort them into groups based on physical properties.
- classify soil according to color, texture, and composition.
- describe how and why weathering occurs.
- explain the process of erosion and how it can be prevented.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Many aspects of the world around us are explored. We discover a variety of cultures, an understanding of community, and the importance of how our society functions.

By the end of first grade students will be able to...

History/Culture

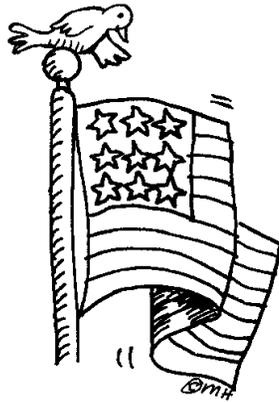
- distinguish between past and present.
- explain how people of the past influence history.
- identify jobs in the community.
- explain why people have jobs.
- identify a holiday celebrated in Chinese culture.
- give examples of traditions.

Geography

- describe ways geography impacts the way people live.
- identify ways people move from place to place.

Civics, Government, and Economics

- give examples of ways to demonstrate good citizenship.
- describe ways in which Independence Day is honored.
- name different leaders such as mayor and president.
- identify where laws are made.
- identify national symbols including the flag of the United States.



SPANISH

Learning a new language at a young age can be very beneficial to children. In this class, we speak almost exclusively in Spanish. This helps the students to develop an “ear” for the language and begin speaking it fluently.

By the end of first grade students will be able to...

- count to 20.
- introduce themselves and ask others their name.
- ask others how old they are and respond themselves.
- talk about the color of an object.
- talk about feelings such as hot, cold, or hungry.
- talk about what foods they like and dislike.
- talk about where family members are in the house.
- identify classroom objects.

