

Curriculum Overview – First Grade

BIBLE COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The aim of first grade Bible class is to present the Bible as the divinely inspired and infallible Word of God. The Bible reveals the story of God's acts and words; written so that His people might know Him, accept His gift of salvation, and live lives in joyful service and obedience. In first grade the students will learn about God's purpose for His people with the major focus on **Old Testament** times, although stories from the Gospels and Acts are taught as well. Bible is a non-graded subject at the first grade level and the content is introduced through Bible stories.

LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

ENGLISH / SPELLING:

At each grade level the development of oral and written language skills is primary and is advanced with age-appropriate activities. Language is the vehicle through which a communication system is developed. The first grade student begins a journey in applying the tools of language, grammar, correct usage, mechanics and spelling, to enhance oral and written skills. The students are formally introduced to the writing process and begin their study of the parts of speech and correct grammar usage through sentences.

PENMANSHIP:

First grade penmanship is a continuation of the cursive writing skills introduced in kindergarten. Writing skills and habits developed in the first grade will impact the student's writing skills throughout life. The main focus of the instructional program in the first grade is to develop accuracy and speed in the formation of cursive letters. Penmanship then becomes an additional tool to further advance language development.

READING AND PHONICS:

The main focus of first grade reading is to teach our students how to read. We do this through a thorough, practical immersion in and to phonics. The reading program in first grade introduces a variety of books that present good literature, develop character-building themes, and are true to Biblical principles, while allowing beginning readers an opportunity to apply phonetic rules to practice and develop oral and silent reading skills. The textbooks are colorfully illustrated and have great appeal to a young reader who is beginning a life-long journey with the printed word.

HISTORY / GEOGRAPHY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

Through the study of the history of the world and the features of the earth, we can see illustrations of God's wisdom, omnipotence, sovereignty, and benevolence. Christian philosophy, character, and attitudes as well as history concepts and geography skills are emphasized promoting a balanced approach to social studies. In the first grade the students begin their study of America. The students are introduced to simple facts about history, geography, children of the world, and great and Godly leaders of the United States. The goal is to train students to develop a love of country, to notice and appreciate ways God has blessed our great country and to learn how people work together. Oral reading skills are practiced. History at the first grade level is non-graded.

SCIENCE / HEALTH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

The focus of first grade science and health is to develop in the students an awareness of God's creations. The students have a simple introduction to Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science and Health. Oral reading is emphasized in this non-graded science class.

MATH COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The math curriculum employs a traditional approach to teaching math. Traditional math

- promotes structure and order,
- expects students to learn and remember facts laying the foundations for understanding mathematical concepts,
- strengthens the mind, and
- lays the foundation for higher mathematics and higher level of abstraction.

The study of math in first grade includes the basic principles of mathematics in their simplest form establishing the foundation upon which further math instruction will be built. Students will learn through experiences the rudimentary concepts of numbers including reading, writing, counting, adding, subtracting, and the relationships of numbers. The curriculum is designed to lay a foundational understanding of the exactness of numbers and that God's principles are built upon order and absolutes that reflect a consistent methodology of interpretation.

Art, Music and Physical Education

These are enrichment classes that are part of the elementary curriculum. These classes are graded with a +, S, -. The instructors are specialists in their areas.

The physical education classes lay the foundation for life-long health and recreation. The music classes are designed to foster a love for music and the worship of God. Elementary art exposes students to the basic elements of art and art mediums. The goal is for students to learn to appreciate great art and develop the artistic talents given by their creator.