

First Grade Curriculum

Bible – *Purposeful Design by ACSI*

Students are introduced to various stories and characters from the Old Testament, ranging from creation, Moses, Ruth, Elijah and several of the Kings. Students will also examine the life of Jesus focusing on His birth, early life, ministry and teachings on prayer, servanthood, grace and forgiveness. The general themes for 1st grade are God's gifts to me, salvation and how to apply Biblical principles to the way we live.

Student Goals:

- Understand the Bible as God's inspired Word and absolute truth
- Recognize God's nature, character, and plan as revealed in Scripture
- Apply Biblical principles in relationships and service to others, as well as application of Truth Strands
- weekly Memorize Scripture verses, pray daily & attend weekly chapel service

Math – *Math in Focus: Singapore Math*

The Singapore Math approach has a strong base of foundational research and is highly recognized for producing remarkable results both in the US and internationally. The program emphasizes problem solving, promotes positive attitudes toward math, and focuses on developing skills, concepts, processes, and metacognition through its concrete → pictorial → abstract learning progression. Learning is designed to encourage students to reflect on their thinking and provide real-world, hands-on experiences through the implementation of manipulatives, as well as engaging and differentiated instructional methods.

Student Goals:

- Develop and build number sense, numbers to 100
- Apply mathematical problem solving skills and mental math strategies
- Demonstrate understanding of number bonds, number position, length, weight, comparing numbers, shapes (plane and solid), patterns, graphs, time, money, calendar, and place value
- Solve addition and subtraction of two digit numbers (with and without regrouping)

Reading/Language Arts – *Flying Start, Open Court, Zaner Bloser, DRA2, Learning A-Z, Vocabulary Workshop*

Our language arts program is multifaceted and comprehensive, built on sound research-based pedagogies. All language arts components are integrated: reading, phonics, vocabulary, spelling, handwriting, grammar, and writing. Students are assessed to determine instructional reading level, and individual student progress is monitored. Skills and strategies are taught using a whole/small group blended instructional approach to support decoding, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Phonics is taught along with spelling and vocabulary to reinforce overall proficiency. Grammar and writing are taught in context, and editing skills, punctuation, and the writing process are all taught along with grammatical conventions of English language. Handwriting is also taught to support the foundational skills required for students to become proficient readers and writers.

Student Goals:

- Develop skills and strategies to become independent and proficient readers, spellers, and writers
- Participate in literacy "work stations," Book-it program, Willy the Worm Reading Incentive Program, and Accelerated Reader Program
- Create thinking maps to demonstrate development of reading comprehension and writing concepts
- Participate in collaborative conversations, present information with supporting evidence, and respond & ask questions to express understanding
- Read appropriate text with purpose & understanding while developing fluency skills, speed, and proper expression
- Form all letters of the alphabet using manuscript strokes
- Construct simple and compound sentences applying correct structure, capitalization & punctuation
- Identify and use various parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, conjunctions & prepositions) when writing or speaking
- Demonstrate reading proficiency by reaching or surpassing a reading level of 18 based on DRA2
- Produce various written pieces by the end of the year reflecting proper conventions, correct punctuation, and content (explanatory/informative paragraphs, opinion pieces, poems, friendly letter/email, and constructed responses)

Science – Science Fusion

The Science Fusion program is a state-of-the-art digital science curriculum built on inquiry, STEM, hands-on interactive labs and activities, and student centered textbooks which all promote the critical thinking skills necessary for developing scientific reasoning and understanding. This holistic science experience allows students to inquire, think, predict, analyze, and apply scientific thinking as they interact with content. Biblical worldview principles will be integrated within all content presented. The first grade content includes: How Scientist's work (senses/tools/inquiry), technology (engineers/solving problems/materials), Animals, Plants, Environments, Earth's Resources, Weather and Seasons, Objects in the Sky, Matter, Forces and Energy.

Student Goals:

- Participate in weekly Science lab
- Understand and apply the scientific process
- Describe Biblical Worldview principles as they relate to scientific content presented

Social Studies – Studies Weekly Magazine

Students are exposed to the common learning objectives and standards for first grade social studies as outlined by the state of Florida. The Studies Weekly Magazine presents age-appropriate content and activities designed to engage young children and introduce them to historical, civic and economic concepts. The first grade topics include: holidays, location/distance, rules and responsibilities, good citizenship, transportation, maps, communities/jobs, beginning economics, goods & services, American history and monuments.

Weekly Special Classes

Spanish - Students continue to develop their listening and speaking skills of the Spanish language through review, repetition, and practice. Students will be introduced to vocabulary and grammar through a story telling language approach, and an emphasis will also be placed on pronunciation and real-life conversational phrases. The topics for first grade include: family members, community helpers, descriptive adjectives, and weather and the seasons.

Music – The program is designed to teach music from a Scriptural basis, and students will use music as a tool for worship and outreach. The course is divided into four parts, each containing various elements of music with an emphasis on vocal techniques, performance practices, musical history, and exposure to American Folk music. First graders will participate in two performances during the year, memorize various songs and have the opportunity to interact with age-appropriate rhythm and Orff instruments in a creative setting.

Art – The first grade art program will build upon skill level and media. Students will learn design elements using a variety of media (paint, chalk, colored pencils, markers, etc.). First grade will learn about Mola art and produce a representation of a house demonstrating application of art elements, produce a paper formation, study Jasper Johns, and produce clay sculptures (including a Nativity character). Students will also compare their own God-given unique style to examples of famous artists' work.

Library Science - The Media Center will serve to expand and increase reading and comprehension as students are exposed to a variety of fiction/non-fiction collections. The first grade students will study various genres (fantasy, poetry, mystery, folk tales, and science fiction) and discuss proper ways to care for books. Students will also interact with technology to build their alphabetizing, counting and predicting skills.

Physical Education – The program is designed to emphasize lifetime health & fitness, as well as begin to develop individual and team sport skills. Students will be tested to determine fitness level throughout the year. First graders will be introduced to space awareness, movement skills, rhythm dance, and a variety of activities to promote balance, speed, strength, flexibility, coordination, agility, and cardiovascular fitness.

Technology Integration - Students will be introduced to keyboarding through *Paws Typing Town* and general computer functions through *Millie Math House* and *Thinkin Things*. Students will produce documents using basic word processing features. First graders will also discuss the importance of good digital citizenship and proper usage of technology.