



# FIRST GRADE HIGHLIGHTS

## OVERALL

*The first grade year is one of significant growth in so many ways. First graders soak up new information and show a great excitement for learning. We get the opportunity to watch them take off as readers, develop friendships with each other, and mature in their relationship with the Lord. The amount of growth that occurs in a first grader from the beginning of the year to the end of the year is one of the best things about being a first grade teacher!*

## BIBLE

The first grade curriculum presents students with a study of individual Old Testament Bible characters to see how God's people and their leaders were interlinked in the plan for the salvation of His people. Students learn of the covenants God made with His people and how He kept them despite their unfaithfulness. The curriculum starts with the study of a New Testament epistle, 1 John, that challenges students to find ways they can apply their faith in Jesus Christ.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Topics covered in social studies include communities, continents, the Pilgrims, and Christmas Around the World. We incorporate these topics into our daily reading and writing as we teach them throughout the year.

## MATH

In first grade, our curriculum focuses on procedures, concepts, and applications in four critical areas:

- Understanding addition, subtraction, and strategies within 20.
- Understanding whole number relationships and place value, including grouping by tens and ones.
- Understanding linear measurement as iterating length units.
- Composing and decomposing geometric shapes and reasoning about the attributes of shapes

## CO-CURRICULAR

First graders participate in library, technology, art, physical education, music, and Spanish classes.



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## WRITING

Mini-lessons on specific areas of writing occur almost daily. These lessons are taught whole class and focus on the different genres of writing and how to become effective writers. First graders learn about the 6 Traits of Writing and how they can incorporate these into their own writing. Examples of writing that first graders complete throughout the year include a biography, a nonfiction report, a “how-to” story, poetry, and a personal narrative. First graders also learn about the writing process – drafting, editing and revising, and publishing.

## SCIENCE

In first grade we study patterns and cycles of space systems and use patterns in data to predict some movements of objects in the sky. We also study plants and animal traits where students explore different ways plants and animals meet their needs to survive and grow. Students also explore the relationship between vibrations and sound and design instruments or sound makers. Students explore light in terms of light traveling in a straight path from one place to another and test this by placing different objects in the path of light.

## READING

Reading is an important part of first grade. Within the large group, we do many read alouds which we use to talk about the structure of a book, the elements of a story, and to develop comprehension skills. Daily 5 is a framework that we use to support first graders in their reading. This framework involves 5 main activities: Read to Self, Work on Writing, Read to Someone, Word Work, and Listen to Reading. During the Daily 5 time while students are working independently, the first grade teacher is working with small groups who are all reading similar texts. We also use poetry to introduce and learn new words, develop phonetic skills, and practice fluency and expression. In addition, we add new sight words to our word wall on a regular basis in order to make sure the first graders have a strong foundation for recognizing common words in their reading.

## ENRICHMENT

Field trips provide opportunities for students to enjoy God's Creation and see firsthand some of what is studied in the classroom.