

FIRST GRADE ACADEMICS



OUR CLASSROOM RULES

LOVE GOD AND OTHERS:

- S** SAFETY
- O** OBEDIENCE
- A** ATTITUDE
- P** PARTICIPATION

FIRST GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

First grade is an incredible time of growth in language arts. It is a wonderful journey in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Though a great deal of progress is made in first grade, it is introduced slowly in very small chunks. It is very important that instruction matches the developmental level of each child. Because of this, first graders will spend time in large group instruction, small group instruction, and individual time with the teacher. In our weekly first grade newsletter, the focus of instruction in language arts will be detailed for parents to see (spelling words, word wall words, etc.).

There are many parts to learning how to read and write. The process of learning to read includes instruction in the individual skills through phonics, grammar, etc., but it most importantly just takes practice. We will read together, read in small groups, read with a partner, and read individually at school and at home. We will practice writing daily for enjoyment and to share with others.

WORD WORK

Phonics: The year includes a review of consonants and instruction in short vowels, long vowels, digraphs and blends, vowel teams, special vowel sounds, endings and more. A thorough list by marking period can be found at the end of the language arts overview.

Word Wall Words: Each week we will learn a few new sight words to help us in our reading.

Vocabulary: Students will expand their oral and reading vocabulary as we explore some “amazing words” in our reading.

Parts of Speech: Students will learn to identify nouns, verbs, and pronouns. They will also be introduced to describing words (adjectives and adverbs).

READING STRATEGIES, TOPICS, AND SKILLS

In first grade, we will explore a wide variety of literature and will learn reading strategies to help us become stronger readers. The ultimate goal is a life-long love of reading for enjoyment and learning.

Genres: realistic fiction, fantasy, traditional literature (fables, fairy tales, and folktales), expository text, historical fiction, informational fiction, and biographies

Comprehension Strategies: making predictions, questioning, fact and opinion, cause and effect, sequencing, inferring, rereading for clarity, main ideas and details, summarizing, comparing and contrasting, and visualizing

Decoding Strategies: sound it out (stretch the sounds), use the first sound, use the last sound, chunk it, use context and picture clues, look for smaller words you know, try the other vowel sound (short or long), skip the word and come back to it, tap the sounds

Content: story elements and structure, retelling a story

Fluency: the importance of rate, expression, accuracy, and phrasing

WRITING

We will begin with learning to write a good sentence. As we grow as writers, we will work on expanding our sentences, developing stamina in our writing, increasing our content, and progressing to writing good paragraphs. The end of first grade goal is six good sentences.

Skills: identifying sentences, writing types of sentences, adding detail to sentences, eventually writing a paragraph with a topic sentence, details, and a conclusion

Forms of Writing: journal writing, retells, responding to a prompt, expository writing, narrative stories, letter writing, and an introduction to persuasive writing

Traits in writing: Conventions, Ideas, Organization, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Voice

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Speaking and listening skills will be incorporated in our learning. We will take turns learning to share and to listen in our daily morning meeting, in large group instruction, small group instruction, and partner work. We will practice using our “big” voice, enunciating clearly, and using expression when reciting our Bible memory verses and during our sharing times.

STAR STUDENT

Every 3-4 weeks, we will highlight one particular student with a Star Student celebration. Each student will have a chance to be the Start Student and to share with the class. Parents will be notified when it is their child’s turn to be a Star Student.

MARKING PERIOD OVERVIEW OF PHONICS

First Marking Period

Review of all consonants

Short vowels

-ing

Plurals with an -s

Second Marking Period

Consonant blends, initial and final

Digraphs: sh, th, ph, wh, ch

Long vowel sounds with magic e (VCe)

Soft c and g (cent, germ)

Contractions

Vowel teams: ee

Y as a vowel

Third Marking Period

-ng, -nk

Compound words

Plurals with -s and -es

Endings: ed, ing, er, est

R controlled vowels (or, ir, er, ar, ur)

Vowel teams: ai, ay, ea

Fourth Marking Period

Vowel teams and special sounds: oa, ow, ie, igh, ue, ew ui, oo, ou, oi, oy, au, aw

-le

3 letter blends

Prefixes: un, re

FIRST GRADE MATH

In first grade math, we will explore numbers, number bonds and fact families, addition and subtraction, introductory geometry, time, money, graphing, fractions, and measurement. The concepts of multiplication and division are also introduced (putting things together in groups and dividing them into groups).

We will practice our addition and math facts daily at school.

QUARTER 1

Unit 1 Numbers 0-10 (6 days)

Unit 2 Number Bonds (10 days)

Unit 3 Addition within 10 (10 days)

Unit 4 Subtraction with 10 (11 days)

Unit 5 Ordinal Numbers (4 days)

QUARTER 2

Unit 6 Numbers to 20 (14 days)

Unit 7 Shapes (6 days)

Unit 8 Length (5 days)

Unit 9 Comparing Numbers (6 days)

Unit 10 Graphs (5 days)

Unit 11 Numbers to 40 (10 days)

QUARTER 3

Unit 11 Numbers to 40 (cont.) (10 days)

Unit 12 Intro to Multiplication (8 days)

Unit 13 Intro to Division (8 days)

Unit 14 Fractions (5 days)

Unit 15 Time (15 days)

QUARTER 4

Unit 16 Numbers to 120 (22 days)

Unit 17 Money (15 days)

Review (8 days)

FIRST GRADE BIBLE

What a blessing for our first grade family to spend time together in God's Word!

We have two components to our study: developing a biblical worldview and providing an overview of the narrative story of the Bible.

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

It is important to lay the foundation of a biblical worldview while our students are young. Our first grade Bible curriculum from Summit Ministries exposes the students to 20 biblical worldview truths and provides in-depth instruction on four of those truths.

- God is truth and always tells us what is right and true.
- God is the only true and almighty God.
- God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- God is the Creator.

OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE

Through the course of first through 6th grade, our students have the opportunity to study all of the Bible narrative. In first grade, we start the story by learning from the book of Genesis.

- Creation
- Noah and the Flood
- The Tower of Babel
- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob and Esau
- Joseph

BIBLE MEMORY

The students will have Bible memory verses that support our studies. Though we will look at many verses in the course of each month, we will focus on memorizing one verse or passage. We will spend time in school learning these verses together, though the students will also be asked to review these at home at times.

FIRST GRADE QUIET TIME

During most weeks, first graders will spend time writing in their Bible journal responding to our time in God's word. This is a great life-long habit, and it is a wonderful opportunity to practice our writing skills.

SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES IN FIRST GRADE

In first grade, we will spend two quarters in science and two in social studies. This will enable us to focus on one topic at a time and dive deeper into learning. These content areas are a wonderful opportunity to discover and explore God's world. In both content areas, we can see God's purposes, creativity, order, and plan. We will access information through our textbooks, trade books, read alouds, videos and hands on experiments and activities, while viewing all through the lens of God's Word. Spending time learning in science and social studies is fun and a great way to practice our reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

SCIENCE

FIRST QUARTER

- Living and Non-living things
- Fish
- Insects
- Mammals
- Seasons
- Space

THIRD QUARTER

- Teeth
- Heart
- Bones and Muscles
- Lungs and Air
- Stomach and Food
- Birds
- Movement and Machines

SOCIAL STUDIES

SECOND QUARTER

- Rules and Laws (The Role of Government)
- Meeting People (Native Americans, Immigrants, World Cultures)
- Where People Live (Map Skills, Land and Water Forms, Natural Resources)

FOURTH QUARTER

- The Marketplace (Understanding Goods, Services, Jobs, and the Use of Money)
- Our Changing World (Understanding Changes- in our world in communities, schools, and transportation)
- We Love our Country (The Birth of Our Nation, American Symbols and Landmarks)