

First Assembly Christian School First Grade Curriculum

Language Arts

Our approach to teaching language arts is to instruct in both formal skills and applied situations. We study such topics as sentence types and structure, basic parts of speech, synonyms and antonyms, compound words, contractions, beginning dictionary skills, simple prefixes and suffixes, rhymes and poems, basic punctuation, and capitalization. Students are given the opportunity to apply these skills directly in the Daily Oral Language program. Regular creative and responsive writing is another way for students to apply language skills. Students are encouraged to write in a variety of genres – from short poems, letters, descriptions, experiential stories, and factual accounts to journal and creative stories. While the writing process of brainstorming, writing, editing, revising, and completing is modeled and taught, students are allowed to use inventive spelling and punctuation in their rough drafts before the final editing occurs. **Text: English – Houghton Mifflin, Daily Oral Lang.-McDougal, Littell & Co**

Literature/Reading/Phonics

We begin with a review of all vowels, consonants, and basic consonant blend sounds. This review is integrated with the A Beka phonetic approach to reading, as well as a stable literature-based experience. During the early part of the first grade, students are introduced to basic sight words and the rules for one-vowel and two-vowel words (ex. the, cat, Kate). The students learn phonetic rules to help them approach reading more successfully. By reading a variety of books in the classroom, students will integrate reading skills into their content areas of the curriculum such as language arts and science. As the school year progresses, students will learn to read with expression and for a purpose and meaning. We use many different literature enrichment activities to help develop each student's abilities. Throughout the year, the students read aloud individually and in small and large groups as well as silently. Regular reading to teachers and parents strengthens decoding and expressive skills to give students a strong first grade foundation in reading.

Mathematics

The first grade math program emphasizes the importance of applying mathematical skills to real-life problem solving. Students learn concepts and skills by using materials and manipulatives, such as Unifix cubes, geoboards, pattern blocks, dominoes, base-ten blocks, dice, money, measuring equipment, beans, and straws, etc. Concepts covered include number sense, estimation, graphing, simple geometry, fractions, patterns, measurement, telling time review, counting mixed change, problem solving, and calendar reading. Basic place value, addition, and subtraction facts are reinforced as well. Students explore numbers using a grid and are introduced to mental arithmetic strategies and basic calculator use. **Text: Math 1- A Beka, Strategies for Instruction in Mathematics. NC Dept. of Inst.**

Science

First grade science is centered around the theme of "Discovering God's World." Throughout the year students will be engaged in learning about the physical world and its living inhabitants through classroom literature, experimentation, observations, sensory experiences, discussions, and field trips. Students will explore the topics of the ocean, earth, space, ecology, geography, snow, air, and seasons in the realm of physical science. They will also learn more about other living things through studying the human body, plants, trees, dinosaurs, insects, animals, and life cycles. Art activities and responsive writing assignments allow students to demonstrate what they are learning throughout the year. Additionally, science themes are correlated with math, literature, and social studies whenever possible.

Text: Discovering God's World – A Beka and other resources.

Health

In first grade, students receive health instruction as an extension of the science and social studies curriculum. Topics covered include basic nutrition, grooming, exercise, dental care, body growth, self-awareness, safety, and relationships. Students are encouraged to apply what is taught through assuming responsibility for their own health. **Text: Health, Safety, and Manners – A Beka, Healthy Living – Teacher's Ed. – CSI**

Social Studies

The first grade social studies program deals with self-concept and the relationship of individuals to those with whom they come in contact in their environment. The children are encouraged to recognize and investigate their own feelings, ideas, identities and value. Our social studies program begins with self-concept and branches out toward our family (past and present), community (occupations, transportation, communication), country (famous people/places, government, historical celebrations), and our world (environment, maps and globes, multi-cultural experiences – specifically the cultures of Ireland, Germany and Australia). We want our students to know that God is the glue that holds it all together. The children are given a variety of opportunities for learning through field trips, discussions, simulations, art, etc.

Text: My America – A Beka and other resources

Penmanship

We begin with a review of basic writing preparation skills and progress to formal lessons of letter, word and sentence formation. First graders will master correct pencil grip, paper placement, correct posture, and line-spacing skills. These skills integrate a child's visual and fine motor skills. As students begin to mature, they will master basic block manuscript in vowel, consonant and numeral formation. This helps students prepare for word and sentence structure. Our goal in the first grade is not "perfection" but legibility. **Text: Learn at Home Series**

Spelling

In the first grade, spelling takes a transitional approach. All formal lists are based on phonics and the A Beka reading list, or patterns that are introduced through the reading process. Spelling lists contain approximately 12-15 words each week. Tests begin two weeks into the school year. We also use dictation to teach students to write sentences properly. At the beginning of the year these sentences are 4 to 5 words long and become progressively more challenging. Each week familiar sight words are reviewed and used so that students can reference those words during their writing. Inventive spelling is used for unfamiliar words. **Text: A Beka**

Bible/Devotions

The first grade devotion time begins the classroom day with a short Bible-based story or discussion, prayer requests and praise reports, class prayer, Scripture memory practice, and praise songs. Topics covered in devotions begin with the A Beka Salvation series and may include the Life of Christ, characteristics of God, Bible heroes from the Old and New Testament, Christian life, personal responsibility, friendship, and the Holy Spirit. Students learn one Scripture memory verse a week which they share as a class in chapel on a regular basis.

Text: ACSI Bible Curriculum

Music

First grade students practice good singing posture as they sing sacred songs (about and to God) and secular songs (about themselves, the world around them, and other countries). They learn to read simple rhythmic notation, and learn to use hand signals with signing which teaches melodic movement. They listen to vocal and instrumental music to reinforce musical concepts such as high/low or long/short tones. They begin to play simple patterns on pitched and un-pitched percussion instruments.

Physical Education

Students work with the Physical Education teacher twice a week throughout the year. Sportsmanship as well as developmentally appropriate skills are practiced.

Computer Lab

First Grade students have computer lab twice a week. They learn basic keyboarding and operational skills. Students use computer software and activities to reinforce educational skills taught in the classroom.