



First Grade Curriculum

Religion

Our religion curriculum is taught using *Spirit of Truth God Is Love* by the Sophia Institute. Students begin to develop an awareness of God as our Father in Heaven, the creator of Heaven and earth, who is all good, who created them in His image and likeness, and who loves them unconditionally.

Examples of the standards topics taught include:

- Basic parts of the Mass.
- The reality of sin in connection with the Sacrament of Confession.
- The lives of saints and the basics of prayer as a conversation with God.
- Introduction to Bible stories
- Children attend Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Adoration
- Mass Buddies
- Prayer Buddies

One of the first grade students' favorite activities is dressing up as a saint on November 1st, The Solemnity of All Saints. They get to process into the church at the beginning of Mass dressed as their chosen saint and then after Mass, give an oral presentation about that saint.

Math

In First Grade, we use *Guided Math* by Reagan Tunstall as well as *i-Ready*. This First Grade curriculum contains detailed and differentiated lesson plans, activities, games, and cards for your Guided Math whole group and small group lessons! Each unit includes whole group lessons, small group lessons with activities, as well as an end-of-unit assessment. Examples of the standard topics taught include Number Sense, Addition & Subtraction, Place Value, Geometry &

Fractions, Time & Measurement, Money, Financial Literacy & Graphing, Addition & Subtraction Review, and Place Value Review. With Guided Math, students develop a deep conceptual understanding of math, acquire computational fluency, and become skilled in thinking and acting mathematically.

The i-Ready Math Grade 1 curriculum focuses on three critical areas: developing an understanding of addition and subtraction within 20, building place value concepts with tens and ones, and understanding linear measurement and geometry. The program uses a student-centered approach with hands-on activities and digital tools to help students become strong mathematical thinkers.

Language Arts

The language arts curriculum follows the Diocesan curriculum as well as the use of several programs including *Wilson Learning Foundations Phonics*, *Developmental Spelling*, *i-Ready*, and *Daily Five*.

Examples of the standards topics taught include:

- Phonics and decoding skills
- Dolch sight vocabulary words
- Sentences and punctuation
- Grammar usage
- Alphabetical order
- Fluency readers
- Letter tiles and other hands-on manipulatives
- Word studies
- Developmental Reading and Developmental Spelling Assessments

Wilson Learning Foundations Phonics

Level 1 of Foundations reinforces the essential components of structured literacy that were learned in Kindergarten and progresses further into the study of word structure. Teachers combine Foundations with a wide variety of text experiences, and expose students to poetry, narrative and informational text.

Developmental Spelling Assessment

The main purpose of the DSA – Developmental Spelling Assessment is to determine a child's stage of development. The screening device consists of 25 words that become progressively more difficult. The words are grouped into sets of five, with each set focusing on a different stage of word knowledge, beginning with letter name. The Screening Inventory has been found to accurately identify a child's stage of development over 90% of the time (Ganske, 1999).

Daily Five

Daily Five is a reading supplemental program that helps students to develop independence, stamina, and accountability. It provides students with an abundant amount of time to practice reading, writing, and listening and allows teachers to differentiate instruction.

- Read to Self
- Read to Someone
- Work on Writing
- Listen to Reading
- Word Work
- One-on-one and small group time with teacher

i-Ready

i-Ready for 1st grade reading includes online personalized instruction and offline activities that focus on foundational reading skills like short vowels, blends, digraphs, and comprehension. The program uses an adaptive diagnostic to assess a student's individual skill level and then provides targeted lessons and practice. It also includes comprehension activities that use passages to build vocabulary and teach skills like describing setting and finding word meanings.

Social Studies

Our Social Studies curriculum is taught using the *Gallopade* Social Studies curriculum. This curriculum was designed specifically with Tennessee state standards in mind.

Science

Our science curriculum is taught using a variety of resources. Examples of the standards topics covered include:

- Living and non-living things
- Habitats
- Plants and animals
- Life cycles and food chains
- Land, water and air
- Weather and seasons
- Matter, movement, sound
- Energy
- Outer space

Science and Social Studies units are alternated throughout the year.

Handwriting

Our handwriting curriculum is taught using Universal publishing's *Writing Our Catholic Faith*. Catholic words, sentences, and pictures reinforce students' faith while they practice manuscript handwriting in this workbook. Examples of the standards topics taught include:

Technology

St. Matthew is an Apple Distinguished School. Technology is used in whole group and small group center instruction. Students use programs such as *Book Creator* and *Mark Up*. The Technology Integrationist supports special projects and contributes to the enhancement of the curriculum as suitable for this age group. Additionally, a cart containing 25 iPads is available for use in K-2 classrooms. Technology is used in a developmentally appropriate way in our Kindergarten program.

Field Trips

First Graders experience opportunities to engage with real-world learning when they take a trip to the Nashville Zoo. Additional "in house" field trips such as authors, scientists, and community professionals are scheduled throughout the year as well.