

First Grade Curriculum

Religion

Children will grow in discipleship as they study God's Word and apply the Bible truths to their lives.

Students will:

- Know the one true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and the forgiveness and salvation offered through Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Come to faith and grow into Christian maturity
- Identify themselves as members of the Body of Christ, the church
- Express their faith in the worship of God and in the service of God and others.
- Value all of God's creation and care for it wisely.
- Learn that God made boys and girls differently
- Witness their faith in Jesus, their personal Savior and the Savior of all people
- Live in the Christian hope of a new and eternal life in Christ Jesus.

Language Arts

Phonics:

Our school uses the Scott Foresman *Reading Street* curriculum and read alouds.

Students will:

- Know letter-sound relationships
- Blend sounds of letters to decode consonants
- Blend sounds of letters to decode consonant blends and digraphs
- Blend sounds of letters to decode short and long vowels
- Blend sounds of letters to decode r-controlled vowels and vowel digraphs
- Blend sounds of letters to decode diphthongs and other vowel patterns
- Blend sounds of letters to decode phonograms and word families
- Decode words with common word parts, such as contractions and compounds
- Decode words with common word parts such as base words and inflected endings
- Decode words with common word parts such as suffixes and prefixes

Fluency:

Throughout the year, students will work toward appropriate fluency goals.

Students will:

- Read aloud with accuracy, comprehension, and at an appropriate rate
- Read aloud with expression
- Attend to punctuation and use appropriate phrasing

- Practice fluency in a variety of ways, including choral reading, paired reading, and repeated oral reading

Vocabulary:

Children will extend their vocabulary with new words daily. These new vocabulary words will be posted on the classroom wall.

Students will:

- Read regular and irregular high-frequency words automatically
- Develop vocabulary through direct instruction, concrete experiences, reading and listening to text read aloud
- Use word structure to figure out word meaning Use context clues to determine word meaning of unfamiliar words, multiple-meaning words, homonyms, and homographs
- Use grade-appropriate reference sources to learn word meaning
- Use new words in a variety of contexts
- Use graphic organizers to group, study, and retain vocabulary
- Classify and categorize words

Phonemic Awareness:

Students will segment, blend, and count syllables in words.

Students will:

- Recognize and produce rhyming words
- Count words in sentences
- Segment, blend, or count syllables
- Segment and blend onset and rhyme
- Identify sounds that are the same or different
- Identify and isolate initial, final, and medial sounds in spoken words
- Blend sounds orally to make words or syllable
- Segment a word or syllable into sounds
- Add, delete, or substitute phonemes

Text Comprehension:

First Graders will be able to preview and scan a text to learn more about what they are going to read.

Students will:

- Be able to set and monitor the purpose for reading
- Activate and use prior knowledge
- Make and confirm predictions
- Use graphic organizers to focus on text structure, to represent relationships to text, or to summarize text
- Recognize story structure
- Summarize text by retelling stories or identifying main ideas
- Use mental imagery

- Make connections: text to self, text to text, and text to world
- Understand author's purpose
- Understand cause and effect
- Use compare and contrast
- Draw conclusions
- Use main idea and supporting details
- Understand realism and fantasy
- Understand sequence of events
- Understand literary elements of character, plot, setting, theme, and plot structure

Mathematics

First Grade students will practice Math concepts and problem solving strategies to further develop number sense and problem solving.

Students will develop and practice addition and subtraction facts by:

- Creating a number line
- Writing a number sentence
- Using their fingers
- Using manipulatives
- Drawing a picture
- Using a number grid
- Using mental math
- Counting out loud
- Drawing tallies
- Counting on

Students will strengthen their ability to problem solve through an understanding of:

- Grouping
- Graphs and charts
- Measurement
- Estimating
- Calendars
- Fractions
- Geometric shapes

Science

First Grade will use concrete, hands on experiences to understand Science in the physical and natural world around them. Students learn through observation, prediction, questioning, and explaining.

Students will:

- Learn about germs
- Study forest habitats
- Discuss and learn about teeth and healthy nutrition
- Explore animals in winter
- Learn all about States of Matter
- Study weather
- Look closely at the invention process and how inventions have changed our lives

Social Studies

Students will develop an awareness of people and communities around them. They will be introduced to global terms, maps, and world events.

Topics of study will include:

- Families
- Homes
- Neighborhoods
- Working together and jobs
- Meeting needs and wants through goods and services
- Celebrations
- Map Skills
- Our Country
- Americans Long Ago

Fine Arts

Art:

First Graders will apply skills and knowledge necessary to create visual arts.

Students will:

- Develop fine motor skills through drawing, painting, and sculpture
- Become familiar with Art vocabulary including Elements of Art
- Introduction to proper use of techniques in various mediums
- Introduction to proper care of Art equipment
- Listening and following simple directions
- Create artwork theme based across curriculum

Music:

First Graders will learn songs and liturgical music to assist in leading the liturgy at BLCS.

Students will:

- Sing "Echo" songs line by line with the teacher

- Sing simple songs as a class
- Listen to the teacher sing “song tales”
- Conduct “finger plays” to rhymes and music
- Move or dance to classical music
- Engage in dialogue with the teacher using “arioso” (sing-speech)
- Keep the steady beat while singing or saying beat motion songs
- Sing hymns from the hymn of the month curriculum

Spanish

Students participate in Language Stars Spanish Program once a week. They will focus on vocabulary such as colors, animals, greetings, etc.

Second Step

Success in school is not just about Reading and Math. It is also about knowing how to learn and how to get along with others. Our school utilizes the Second Step program to introduce and develop social/emotional skills in students of all grades. These skills will help students to be successful in school and in life, as well.

Students will:

- Learn Skills for Learning: Students gain skills to help themselves learn, including how to focus their attention, listen carefully, use self-talk to stay on task, and be assertive when asking for help with school work.
- Empathy: Students learn to identify and understand their own and others’ feelings. Students also learn how to take another’s perspective and how to show compassion.
- Emotion Management: Students learn specific skills for calming down when experiencing strong feelings, such as anxiety or anger.
- Problem Solving: Students learn a process for solving problems with others in a positive way.

Technology

Technology is incorporated into classroom instruction through the use of interactive white boards, i-pads, document camera, and desktop computers.

Students will:

- Be instructed on i-pad use
- Use i-pads to research science topics on websites
- Take pictures and videos
- Understand the basics of Internet Safety
- Learn how to access and use the First Grade blog

Physical Education

Physical Education is provided twice each week. In addition students are involved in the 26.2 Marathon Program throughout the year. At the end of the year, students participate in Royal Run/Walk and Field Day activities. We begin the year with an introductory unit that establishes class environment, behavioral expectations and management/organizational protocols.

Students will:

- Learn body and spatial awareness
- Develop locomotor and non-locomotor skills, directionality, pathways, levels and tempos
- Develop hand-eye coordination
- Enhance their social and personal development
- Learn to share, cooperate, take turns and experience personal success through movement
- Experiment with different types of equipment and manipulatives

Extra-Curricular Activities

First Graders may participate in camps and clinics offered through the athletic program such as basketball and cheerleading. They may also participate in other organized clubs and activities such as bowling, STEM classes, and Scouts.

Field Trips and Service Projects

In First Grade, the students will participate in a variety of small trips and service projects.

- Students will visit a forest habitat.
- Students will attend a concert at Wheaton College.
- Our class will tour the local fire station and deliver a thank you project.
- Students will be involved in a service project for animals.
- Students will support School Chapel offerings.
- Children will support projects organized by the Student Council and Church.
- Students will participate in a live nativity at a Children's Farm.
- Students will visit the College of DuPage's meteorology lab.
- Students will correspond with Senior Bethany Church members.
- Students will learn about history and how inventions have changed the way we live by visiting a living history museum.

Homework

Homework in First Grade is primarily about developing responsibility. The students are responsible for bringing home an Assignment Sheet and materials daily, complete work with parents' guidance, and then return all work to school. Each First Graders should read five to

ten minutes, daily. Assignments are designed to practice skills that are currently being worked on in class. The assignments should take five to ten minutes to complete each night.

Parents Can Help By:

- Praying for your child's growth, development, and relationships
- Modeling active participation in weekly worship and daily devotions
- Checking homework for understanding upon completion
- Looking through classroom papers with your child to monitor progress
- Encouraging your child to grow in responsibility
- Encouraging good nutrition, exercise and rest
- Reading with your child and listening to him/her read regularly
- Practice memory work and basic facts at home
- Assist with classroom projects, groups and field trips