

FIRST & SECOND GRADE CLASS OVERVIEW

Our class size maximum is 18 students. The class is a combination class with both first and second grade students. Language Arts and Math are each taught at the appropriate grade levels, whereas all students in the class are taught from the same grade level of Bible, Science and Social Studies, rotating between 1st and 2nd grade curriculum every other year. Basic grammar and writing are added for second-grade students. We have invested in what we consider to be the best, most effective curriculum available that is consistent with our philosophy of education that is also either biblically-based or does not conflict with our biblical values. All curriculum is proven, highly effective, provides a multi-sensory learning approach, and is engaging.

Bible:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) theme in the first-grade is familiar Bible characters and events that illustrate God's gifts, such as family, leaders, helpers, His Word, His Son, and His Church. The theme for second-grade is Bible heroes with a focus on developing godly character traits. There are cross-curricular connections with other academic subjects and music and memory verses are integrated into lessons. Each student has a workbook that includes daily real-life applications and engaging activities.



Language Arts:

Fundations, by Wilson Language, is a recognized leader in multisensory, structured language programs. It brings more than a decade of research-based materials and strategies essential for a comprehensive reading, spelling, and handwriting program. It develops foundational skills in phonemic awareness, phonics and word studies, high frequency word study, reading fluency, comprehension strategies as well as handwriting and spelling. Both first and second graders use Fundations, and students are placed in one or the other based on their reading level. Wilson Fundations makes learning to read fun and ensures no student "falls through the cracks".



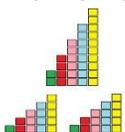
Grammar & Writing:

Bob Jones University Press' English curriculum is an extension for second grade language arts. Students cover one part of speech at a time with systematic review and ample practice, helping them develop writing skills and guiding them through the writing process as they write reports, stories, descriptions, poems, letters, and essays. The emphasis is on traditional grammar, such as parts of speech, sentence structure, and mechanics, and provides practice with essential reference skills. It also explains the step-by-step use of the Writing Process for eight different types of writing assignments, such as a friendly letter, a make-believe story, instructions, a book report, and more.



Math:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) curriculum incorporates rigorous standards and benchmarks for math literacy and learning, including those of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. It uses a variety of manipulatives, investigation, and modeling to produce students who understand the concepts and can think mathematically. There is an emphasis on a STEM interdisciplinary approach, which integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics in hands-on and relevant learning opportunities. It also integrates an



authentic biblical Christian worldview perspective of mathematics. First and second-grades both build on the previous grade levels and review previous concepts utilizing lessons with hands-on activities, conceptual understanding, problem solving, application, modeling, reasoning, and strands of algebra and geometry. First-grade focuses on patterns and place value, addition and subtraction, basic geometry, measurement, time and money, fractions, multi-digit numbers, graphs and maps. Second grade builds and expands on these and adds in multiplication and division.

Science:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) science program reflects the requirements set forth by the National Science Education Standards, as well as portions of the Next Generation Science Standards where they best fit. It allows students to experience science from a biblical worldview through engaging, inquiry-based instruction that develops critical thinking skills. Lessons offer many hands-on activities engaging students in discovery, exploration, and investigation of God's purposefully designed world. Science equipment kits are also purchased along with full-color and engaging student books to provide a well-rounded and rich experience. Both first and second-grade materials focus on the basics of life, physical, and earth science, as well as the human body. The first-grade materials also cover an introduction to space science.



Social Studies:

Bob Jones University Press' Heritage Studies textbooks use a chronological narrative approach to acquaint elementary-level students with historical people, places, and events. Activities, discussion questions, timelines, maps, and online searches are also employed to aid students' comprehension and retention of the materials. First-grade introduces students to social studies skills with a grade-appropriate yet academically rigorous program. Each of the six units introduces a different field of social studies, giving students a broad foundation for future grades. The materials include hands-on activities, colorful visuals, and age-appropriate text. As students look at their roles as family and community members, they are encouraged to see themselves from God's perspective. Second-grade explores American culture in colonial times from Jamestown to the War for Independence. The text features colorful illustrations and discussions of colonial farming, shop keeping, clothing, and also interesting information about kings and queens in Europe ruling at the time, all presented in understandable language for the 2nd-grade level.

