

FIRST GRADE CLASS OVERVIEW

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 is familiar Bible characters and events that illustrate God's gifts, such as family, leaders, helpers, His Word, His Son, and His Church. Strong emphasis is placed on the application of biblical truths to the daily lives of first grade students. 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.



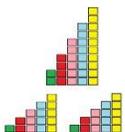
Language Arts:

Foundations, 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 phonics, 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. Students participate in both guided and silent reading daily, and are placed in reading groups based on their reading level. Wilson Foundations makes learning to read fun and ensures no student "falls through the cracks". The Institute for Excellence in Writing curriculum is also used to begin teaching students the basics of good writing.



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-grade focuses on patterns and place value, addition and subtraction, basic geometry, measurement, time and money, fractions, multi-digit numbers, graphs and maps.



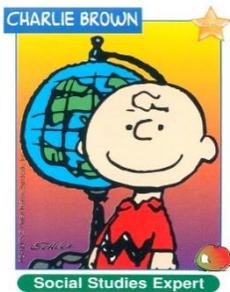
Science:

Mystery Science and ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) curriculum are both utilized throughout the year. Mystery Science will be utilized as the primary curriculum, and is an online, video-based, hands-on curriculum covering Life, Earth, Space, and Physical Science. All lessons are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Each lesson is aligned to a topic, performance expectation, science and engineering practice, disciplinary core idea, and crosscutting concept. Every lesson begins with a mystery to solve and incorporates interesting and informative video clips and hands-on activities that lead students in the doing of science and engineering. A complete kit containing most of the hands-on materials needed for each lesson has also been purchased. ACSI's science program will serve as a supplementary curriculum and provides students with a biblical worldview of science and will supplement or replace some of the Mystery Science content. It provides 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.



Social Studies:

Bob Jones University Press' Heritage Studies is used as 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 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 direct instruction and projects led by the teacher. As students look at their roles as family and community members, they are encouraged to see themselves from God's perspective. They also learn about geography, weather, American History, government, economics, culture, as well as a variety of other Social Studies skills.



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