

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.



Phonics, Reading, Spelling, & Handwriting:



Fundations, by Wilson Language, is used from K-2, and brings more than a decade of research-based materials and strategies essential for a comprehensive phonics, spelling, and handwriting program. It utilizes a structured literacy approach to make learning to read fun while laying the groundwork for lifelong literacy. The program's research-based approach and extensive materials allow teachers to confidently present a carefully structured reading, spelling, and handwriting curriculum using engaging, multisensory techniques. 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. Level 1 reinforces the essential components of structured literacy that were learned in kindergarten and progresses further into the study of word structure. Students participate in both guided and silent reading, and are placed in reading groups based on their reading level. Fundations makes learning to read fun and ensures no student "falls through the cracks".

Writing:

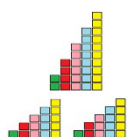
The Institute for Excellence in Writing curriculum is used to begin teaching students the basics of good writing. First grade begins with pre-writing, which includes oral and visual interaction between the teacher and student, building on what was taught in kindergarten, until they are ready to write. It is designed for the teacher to introduce literature by reading,

and encouraging students to learn and retell, nursery rhymes and basic stories. They also begin to develop comprehension skills, and are introduced to terminology students will need for later writing. Good writing is modeled for students by the teacher. The goal in first grade is to encourage expression and create a safe and effective writing environment, as well as learning to differentiate between different types of poems, identifying the elements of a story, and build patterns of rhythm and rhyme. They will also be introduced, and challenged to identify, basic awareness of sentence structure, parts of speech, capitalization and punctuation in the literature they are exposed to.



Math:

Big Ideas Math, Modeling Real Life is a rigorous program that provides a balance of three important building blocks. These are: (1) Conceptual Understanding-Discovering why; (2) Procedural Fluency-Learning how; and (3) Application-Knowing when to apply what has been learned and applying it to real life. Newton and Descartes are a dog and cat team of math assistants who encourage students to think deeply about math concepts and develop strong mathematical mindsets. Music, games, and hands-on manipulatives help ensure that math is both fun and understandable. In First Grade students build on and expand their understanding of addition and subtraction, adding and subtracting number within 20 and tens, counting and writing numbers to 120, comparing two-digit numbers, adding two-digit numbers, measuring and comparing length, representing and interpreting data using graphs, telling time, and working with two-and three-dimensional shapes and equal shares.



Science:

Mystery Science 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. Where it is lacking, we ask teachers to provide students with a biblical worldview of science and may supplement or replace some of the Mystery Science content where appropriate. It provides engaging, inquiry-based instruction that develops critical thinking skills.



Social Studies:

Bob Jones University Press' Heritage Studies Grade 1 *Family and Community* provides a grade-appropriate yet academically rigorous program. Each of the six units introduces a different field of social studies while also covering American history from the Native Americans and the colonies to today. The course gives students a broad foundation for future grades. While the materials encourage academic growth, each lesson relies on 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.

