

The primary focus of first grade is building a strong foundation in language arts and math for future learning. A variety of activities are used to encourage each child to progress socially, academically, and spiritually.

Religion

The goal of our first grade religion program is to help the children grow in their faith in Jesus and understand God's love for them. Children are taught one or two Bible stories each week, emphasizing what those stories teach about our relationship to God. Children memorize selected Bible verses, The Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the books of the Bible. First graders participate in daily classroom worship, which includes singing and prayer, and in the weekly school chapel service.

Language Arts

Reading - The first grade reading program, Harcourt Trophies, is a strong phonics program which helps children to become confident and independent readers. The program works to develop reading fluency and emphasizes reading comprehension. Levelized reading books allow each student to progress at a pace that is appropriate for them. The Accelerated Reading program is incorporated into the reading program.

Language – Children learn to express their ideas in writing by daily practice in writing sentences and short stories. Children are taught to write complete sentences using appropriate punctuation. They also learn to use nouns, verbs, and adjectives in their writing. Student writing is shared with classmates and displayed in the classroom.

Spelling - The spelling program follows the reading text, practicing one spelling pattern each week. Children learn spelling generalizations that help them to spell accurately in their written work.

Handwriting - Students practice proper handwriting techniques emphasizing neatness in their daily work.

Math

The Saxon Math Series is used in first grade. This series uses hands-on activities to develop basic math skills. Children become familiar with numbers up to 100 and work towards proficiency in addition and subtraction facts. Children also explore money, time, measurement, fractions, and geometry.

Science

The science program offers students a chance to better understand the world around them through experimentation, discussion, classroom projects, and technology. Topics explored in first grade include: plants and trees, weather, magnets, space, insects, healthy bodies, and safety.

Social Studies

The first-grade social studies program helps children understand their community as it relates to the world. First graders travel around the world learning about each continent. This study allows children to compare their own community to communities around the world. Children enjoy learning about the land, the people, the animals, and the history of each continent. As a part of our travels, children learn to use maps and globes. Children also learn about our nation's history, holidays, and current events through teacher-made materials, literature, and a weekly children's newspaper. Arkansas geography and state symbols are included in the social studies curriculum.

Spanish

First graders have the opportunity to learn Spanish through a weekly video presentation. The interactive video teaches students basic conversational Spanish.