

# First Grade Curriculum

*Ss. Peter & Paul School*

## RELIGION

Catholic values are integrated and discussed in all subject areas. Catholic faith, prayers, and scripture are learned.

Students will be introduced to:

- Traditional common prayers: Hail Mary, Our Father, Grace Before Meals, Act of Contrition, Glory Be
- Creation
- The Holy Trinity
- Celebrating the Liturgy
- Renewing Baptismal vows
- The Saints
- An introduction to Church vocabulary
- Weekly Mass
- Concept of Service – Students will donate money to “Feed My Starving Children”



## LANGUAGE ARTS

Students will be introduced to the writing process including:

- Daily Oral Language is presented weekly, checked and graded.
- Discussing
- Drawing and Illustrating
- Conferencing with the teacher and teacher aide
- Reusing
- Publishing: Writing assignments gathered into “Class Books”
- Writing complete sentences using correct punctuation
- Recognizing nouns, verbs and adjectives
- Sequencing thoughts to writing

### Reading

Through the reading program, children will experience literature in poetry, folk tales, non-fiction, fiction, fantasy and plays.

Students will be introduced to:

- Topic and details
- Settings
- Reality/Fantasy
- Word meanings
- Main ideas
- Sequences
- Cause and effect

Students will also strengthen their reading skills using “**TumbleBooks**” on classroom computers.

## Phonics

Students will develop skills that allow them to read with fluency, comprehend written language, communicate, and listen and speak effectively.

Students will be introduced to:

- Initial, middle and final sounds
- Rhyming words
- Long and short vowels
- Blending letter sounds
- Listening to, discussing and highlighting letter sounds
- Decoding words
- Strengthening fluency and comprehension skills
- Recognizing word patterns and phonemes
- Daily and weekly spelling tests

## Listening and Speaking

First grade students will grow in their ability to listen and speak with confidence through activities such as:

- Reading and singing at weekly Mass
- Student of the week presentations
- Asking appropriate questions
- Taking turns when speaking

## Handwriting

In first grade D'Nealian Handwriting is taught.

Students will study:

- Letter and number formation
- Letter and word spacing

## 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.
- Strengthen their ability to problem solve through understanding of math strategies. Some of these strategies include:
  - Grouping
  - Graphs and charts
  - Measurement
  - Estimating
  - Calendars
  - Fractions
  - Geometric shapes
  - Time and money
  - Solving simple word problems

## 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 and discuss the food pyramid, healthy heart, healthy body
- Develop an understanding of types of dinosaurs and their habitats
- Identify and discuss some animals that survive in a cold climate
- Learn and discuss the ocean habitat
- Be introduced to the concept of the Solar System

## SOCIAL STUDIES

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

Students will study:

- Families
- Homes
- Neighborhoods
- Working together
- Meeting needs and wants through goods and services
- Celebrations
- Map skills
- Our country, its states and the concept of citizenship

## FINE ARTS

### Art

All students will be taught the language of the arts through understanding the sensory elements and expressive qualities; understanding the similarities, distinctions and connections in and among the arts.

Through creating and performing all students will understand how works of art are produced. Students will learn about the processes, traditional tools and modern technologies used in the visual arts. Students will apply skills and knowledge necessary to create visual arts.

Students will understand the role of the arts in civilizations, past and present. Students will analyze how the arts function in history, society and everyday life. Students will understand how the arts shape and reflect history, society and everyday life.

### Music

The first grade students will learn Kodály hand signs. They will identify a variety of sounds and sound sources (e.g., instruments, voices and environmental sounds). The students will study three composers. They will read written music and sing more complex songs.

All students will be given the opportunity to perform on stage in the school musical.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will be encouraged to “be active” at recess through playing ball, jumping rope and

running. During physical education class students will demonstrate:

- Safe movement in physical activities
- Proficiency in basic gross motor skills
- Advance coordination activities such as fine and gross locomotor patterns

## TECHNOLOGY

Technology is incorporated with class curriculum and infused as a tool throughout. During first grade the students will be introduced to:

- Basic computer skills including the relative positions of the keys on the keyboard
- Painting and/or drawing a graphic to illustrate a story
- Launching and using a basic word processing program
- Creating single screen multimedia projects
- Understanding the basics of privacy and safety on the Internet



## HOMEWORK

First graders are encouraged to read every night for 15-20 minutes. First graders will be assigned homework as needed for practice and reinforcement as well as completion of special projects. On an average first grade students can expect 15 minutes of homework daily.

## PARENTS CAN HELP BY:

- Modeling active participation in weekly liturgy, daily prayer and service
- Showing an interest in homework and school activities
- Encouraging good nutrition, rest and exercise
- Reading with their children every day for 15-20 minutes
- Staying in touch with the school and monitoring the teachers' web pages
- E-mailing the teachers regarding questions, comments or concerns
- Being involved through the classroom parties, field trips, as library helpers and other activities