



First Grade Class Overview

Teacher: Mrs. Bonnie Dahlen

Bible

Curriculum: *StarLight 1* by Praise Hymn, Inc.

We teach Bible stories from creation to the life of Jesus. Students are taught that God gave us these Narratives to use as examples of how we should live our lives.

English

Curriculum: Harcourt Series

We introduce writing readiness through listening, speaking and thinking. Students begin with letters and words and advance to sentences and paragraph structure.

Reading

Curriculum: Harcourt Reading Series

Reading skills are built through research-based instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and text comprehension. We strive to instill a life-long love of reading. Daily reading with parents is encouraged.

Writing

Students are encouraged to write regularly. Students are asked to express their ideas through words and pictures using their knowledge of word structure and phonics to spell new words.

Spelling

Curriculum: Harcourt Series

Our goal is to increase vocabulary and transfer spelling skills to writing assignments. Weekly tests are given with spelling words dictated in sentence form.

Phonics

Curriculum: Harcourt Series

We teach letter/sound relationships, word blending, word building and reading decodable texts. Learning to decode words helps make reading easy and fun.

Science

Curriculum: Science 1 for Christian Schools

Units introducing students to science concepts include plants and animals; weather and seasons; heat and air; and sun, moon and stars. Students learn about God's wonderful creation as Science is taught from a Christian perspective.

Social Studies

Curriculum: Heritage Studies 1 for Christian Schools

Social Studies focuses on a study of history, geography, economics, culture and government skills as well as a knowledge of God and Christian character.

Mathematics

Curriculum: Houghton Mifflin Mathematics

Students learn the basic concepts of addition and subtraction. They develop problem solving skills as well as skills in geometry, fractions graphing, money, time, measurement, and finally two digit addition and subtraction. We use Rocket Math to memorize our addition facts.

Music

Music instruction with a specialist teacher occurs twice weekly. The curriculum covers elemental theory, vocal technique and rhythm instruments. We study music history including composers from each time period and their works. We also celebrate the Biblical feasts. All of this is done in the context of using this unique gift to bless and edify others as we honor and glorify the Lord. Students perform in both Christmas and spring concerts each year.

Physical Education

Students have Physical Education twice per week. They participate in a variety of activities that are structured to work on cardio-vascular and various muscles as well as to develop skills needed to participate in individual and team activities. Rules and strategy concepts are introduced as age appropriate. Sportsmanship and Christ-like behaviors are emphasized. Students are graded on A.C.E. = Attitude, Cooperation and Effort.

Art

Students have art instruction each week. The art program teaches students line, shape, form, color, texture, composition, and perspective. The students learn an appreciation for art as well as creative expression.

Library

The library program fosters the love of reading and books. Students encounter a wide variety of literature in weekly library classes that promote library skills and stewardship.