

# NorthCreek Academy

## First Grade

### **Bible**

First graders will focus on the many gifts provided for us by God. Highlights of our Bible lessons include creation, our families, friends, possessions, Jesus Christ and God's care for us. Devotions, prayer, and scripture memorization are hallmarks of our daily routine. Biblical truths directly from God's Word are interwoven throughout our curriculum. Christ-like values and character traits are emphasized in the classroom as well as on the playground. Weekly chapel lessons, journal responses, and discussions help us grow in our understanding of the Lord.

### **Language Arts**

Key elements of this program include rich literature, reading strategies, poetry appreciation, writing instruction and many opportunities to practice oral sharing in front of classmates. First graders will develop into fluent readers, phonetic and sight word spellers, and budding writers. Some of the books we explore together in class include *Frog and Toad*, *Keep the Lights Burning Abby*, *Lily and Miss Liberty* and *Coming to America*. Book reports are introduced to encourage reading and a love for books. Training in D'Nealian handwriting is given for penmanship development that results in a strong foundation for cursive. This exciting academic year introduces Shurley English which uses rhythm, repetition and jingles that teach grammar concepts. Through a well-rounded, cross-curricular language arts program, students in first grade are given an opportunity to reach beyond their expectations and thrive.

### **History/Social Studies**

Everyday life is contrasted and compared in different times and places around the world in History and Social Studies. We emphasize geographical connections to historical events using maps and relationships to the timeline. In first grade we study Ancient Greece and Rome in order to recognize that some aspects of people, places and things change over time, while God remains the same. We identify valuable contributions made by these ancient civilizations that we continue to use today. In "HIS"-story, students learn that God has perfect plans for each of us as seen throughout the generations.

### **Math**

First grade math implements direct, systematic instruction, hands on manipulatives and independent practice to build a solid mathematical foundation. We aim to develop conceptual understanding, math competence, and confidence in numerical operations. Multiple strategies are used to develop number sense and problem solving. We will become budding mathematicians as we investigate data, graphs, money, time, geometry, measurement, fractions and probability. Over the course of the year we will: memorize addition and subtraction facts to 12, including doubles facts to 18.

### **Science**

Science is a time of hands on investigation and discovery. Our Units include: Solids and Liquids, Air and Weather and Plants and Animals. Students will learn to work together to explore and observe the world that God has created. Lessons are engaging, exciting and train young scientific minds to uncover God's designs and record findings with illustrations. Highlights of our year also include students discovering how things are made at our Annual Take Apart Shop and presenting their own invention at the First Grade Invention Convention.