

# First Grade



## Bible

First graders 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 to teach grammar concepts. Through a well-rounded, cross-curricular language arts program, students in first grade are given tools to help them reach their God-given potential and, to thrive.

## History/Social Studies

Everyday life is contrasted and compared in different times and places around the world as we emphasize geographical connections on historical events using maps and relationships to the timeline. In first grade, we study Ancient

Greece and Rome in order to recognize that while some aspects of people, places and things change over time, 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

To build a solid mathematical foundation, first grade math implements direct, systematic instruction, hands-on manipulatives and independent practice. We help students develop conceptual understanding, math competence, and confidence in numerical operations. Multiple strategies are used to develop number sense and problem solving. Students become budding mathematicians, as they investigate data, graphs, money, time, geometry, measurement, fractions and probability. Over the course of the year, addition and subtraction facts are memorized to 12, and 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*. As they work together, students have the opportunity to explore and observe the world that God has created. Fascinating lessons both excite and train young, scientific minds to uncover God's designs and students record these findings with illustrations. For students, highlights of the year include their discovering how things are made, at our annual "Take Apart Shop" and presenting their own inventions at the "First Grade Invention Convention."