

# First Grade

In the First Grade, academic emphasis is on reading and writing. Teachers keep in close contact with parents regarding student progress, either via Fast Direct, notes home, or behavior/homework logs. Lower-grade teachers send home a weekly newsletter to let parents know what topics will be taught in class, as well as any test dates, special events, important assignments due, etc.

## Curriculum

### Religion

Learning about Jesus is the most important work in our classroom. Through our Concordia Publishing House curriculum, students study units such as The Beginning, The Exodus, Leaders of the Bible, Learning to wait, listen, and go through changes for God, Salvation, and Jesus Alive! Praises.

### Language Arts

First-graders use the Scott Foresman curriculum, teaching through stories, songs, fables, tall tales, fairy tales, poetry, etc. Students work on sight words, comprehension, structural and phonetic analysis, predictions, cause and effect, rhyme, vowel patterns, map skills, fact vs. fantasy, public speaking, communicating thoughts and feelings, themes, main idea, and plot. The **Accelerated Reader program** continues at this level with computer-generated reading levels and comprehension tests.

### Spelling

Our curriculum from Zaner-Bloser helps students work on words with different vowel sounds and patterns, diagraphs and clusters, consonant sounds, homophones, contractions, plurals, suffix, and compound words.

### Math

Math 1 teaches basic concepts with fun, effective methods. Math 1 is an introduction to reading numbers, telling time, counting money, understanding the calendar, and other basic math concepts.

### Science

Curriculum from SRA/McGraw Hill teaches science units such as Animal and Plants, Living Things and Habitats, Weather, Climate, Land, Water & Resources, Forms of Matter, Motion, Sound and Waves, and Your Body.

### History & Geography

We use the Core Knowledge curriculum to teach units such as Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Three World Religions, Mexico Today, Early Civilizations of America, Early explorers and Settlers, From Colonies to Independence, and Exploring the West.

### Fine Arts

Visual arts lessons come from the Core Knowledge curriculum, linking lessons to topics in other disciplines whenever appropriate. First-graders study units such as Art from Long Ago, Elements of Art (color, lines, shapes, and texture), and Portrait and Still Life pictures.

**Music:** First graders are part of the K-2 grade choir, which sings

at First Lutheran Church services, the Christmas program, and the school musical.

### Physical Education

Physical education class will work on developing motor skills such as running, skipping, throwing and catching while using games to using games and activities to teach and extend these skills.

### Computers

The class will learn the basic skills of operating a computer such as turning the computer on and off, use of a mouse, getting on and off the internet, and the ability to draw pictures.

### Spanish

Students are taught basic vocabulary and common Spanish expressions. They respond to simple commands and learn customs in Spanish-speaking countries.

### April 2007 Stanford Achievement Test Results

Area	Percentile	Nat'l
Reading	81.7	68.9
Mathematics	87.7	73.5
Language	85.7	71.7
Spelling	66.6	58.8
Environment	90.8	76.8
Listening	90.8	77.4
Basic Battery	81.7	68.6
Complete Battery	82.7	69.5

*FLS does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, disability, gender, or national origin.*