

ST. ANNE & ST. JUDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

First Grade Curriculum

Language Arts

English Grammar: The first grade uses the *Rowland Program's Adventures of the Superkids* as a foundation for Language Arts. This series provides a comprehensive program of English grammar and writing skills and gives the students opportunities to improve their writing and oral language skills. In addition to this program, *Voyages in English* is also used to augment the grammar and writing instruction.

Reading: The first grade reading program consists of three parts.

- The *SRA Reading Laboratory* is used to practice skills and provides individual progress for each student. Students advance through the reading levels at their own pace.
- The *Rowland Reading* program is a curriculum using multiple components: word attack, comprehension, and fluency. It teaches reading with spelling and writing, giving children true mastery of their language.
- The third part to the reading program is children's literature. Students read books for enjoyment as the teacher emphasizes fluent reading and vocabulary development. Throughout the year, students practice identifying prefixes and suffixes, drawing conclusions, finding the main idea, and understanding figurative language. Students also gain skill in identifying details, facts versus opinions, cause and effect, and character traits.

Spelling: The weekly spelling list words are taken from the *Rowland Program*. Students practice the spelling, usage, and meanings of the words throughout the week. Daily spelling and dictation practices are given, helping the children develop spelling mastery.

Writing: Along with *Adventures of the Superkids*, the students write in their class journals weekly. They occasionally read their work aloud to the entire class.

Handwriting: The students continue practicing the *Zaner-Bloser* style of manuscript lettering. Correct formation and spacing is emphasized.

Mathematics: The first grade uses the *Pearson Program's enVision Math*, a success oriented program that enables children to develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of mathematics. The program utilizes a multi-sensory approach to teaching and builds on prior learning. Each lesson is accompanied by in-class guided practice and independent homework practice which mirrors the problems completed in class. The subject matter consists of number sense and numeration, concepts of whole number operations, whole number computation, fractions and decimals, geometry and spatial relationships, measurement, data analysis and statistics, probability, algebra, and functions.

Religion: The school day begins with a group prayer during the Morning Assembly. The children recite the “Blessing before Meals” and the “Blessing after Meals” at lunch time. At the closing of the day, they recite a prayer together. The children are expected to memorize the “Our Father”, “Hail Mary”, “Glory Be”, and the “Guardian Angel Prayer”. The textbook, *Faith First*, is used for instruction. It is in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and is built upon three foundations: the Word of God clearly expressed in Scripture and the Church’s Tradition, worship and prayer, and the call to service for the Kingdom of God. The students have weekly Bible verses to memorize. The students attend Mass each Wednesday morning and Holy Days of Obligation. As the year progresses, they take active roles in the liturgy such as reading, singing in the choir, offertory procession and commentator.

Science: During the first semester, students study science using the *Scott Foresman* textbook. The children learn Life Science (classifying and comparing living and non-living things, animals, habitats, parts and functions of plants, and growth); Earth Science (conservation of resources, weather, minerals, rocks, and soil samples); *Physical Science* (physical properties of solids, liquids, gases, light, shadows, colors, rainbows, sounds, and heat); Human Body (five senses, growing and changing, and healthy eating). Hands-on experiments and projects are conducted throughout the course.

Social Studies: During the second semester, the *Harcourt Brace* textbook is used for social studies instruction. The children learn Geography (cardinal directions, maps, globes, states, countries, water, and land forms); Citizenship (rules, laws, voting, responsibilities, and the Pledge of Allegiance); History (national holidays and historical figures); Economics (community workers, and wants vs. needs); Culture (various dwellings, clothing, food language, and customs).

Spanish: Northern Arizona University's Elementary Spanish DVD series is viewed weekly.

Music, Art, Physical Education, Computer, Library: Classes in each area are attended weekly. Specialists in each field of study provide the instruction.