



First Grade Overview

Covenant Christian School

First grade is an exciting year to watch children as they grow by leaps and bounds. They begin to think more critically, write with more imagination and take on more personal responsibility.

In this overview subjects are listed separately, but during the school day the curriculum is provided integrally, helping students see how God's world works together, not in distinct categories.

Bible

In first grade, students are introduced to God's incredible redemptive story, emphasizing the importance of prayer, hymns, Bible study and Scripture memorization. Christian Schools International's *God's Plan* curriculum is used to focus on particular people and events from the Bible.

The study of God's creation and attributes are woven through all subject areas in order to demonstrate to students that our relationship with our Creator is not limited to one subject or time of day, but is in all that we are and do.

Language Arts

Language Arts is an important focus of first grade. It is comprised of phonics, literature, writing, grammar, and handwriting.

Foundations, produced by Wilson Language Training, is used to study and emphasize phonics. Students daily review the sounds of letters, blends, digraphs, vowel teams and words. This curriculum solidifies the foundation of the English language, as well as providing students the opportunity to gain a strong vocabulary, accurate spelling and excellent writing skills.

First grade is an important year as students grow in confidence and fluency in their reading. Students learn the basics of reading through the phonics curriculum and apply what they have learned through instructional literature. The literature choices expose students to quality literature as they practice their reading and comprehension skills. Read aloud time each day exposes students to various genres of quality literature.

To support our students as they become excellent writers, Covenant uses the *6+1 Traits of Writing*. Writing happens in a variety of settings in first grade. Daily journal writing, formal writing with editing and rewriting, weekly spelling sentences, reflective writing in various subjects are at the core of the student writing. The *6+1 Traits* help students understand how to write in a manner that emphasizes ideas, organization, sentence fluency, word choice, voice, conventions, and presentation.

Students learn the conventions of writing through the *Voyages* grammar curriculum. In first grade students are taught the basic elements of speech and how these elements (nouns, verbs, adjective and adverbs) do their jobs. Students are also exposed to antonyms, synonyms and homonyms. The grammar curriculum has a writing component that lines up with the 6+1 Traits

and teaches different types of writing, including personal narratives, descriptive writing, letter writing, persuasive writing, how-to's and poetry.

Zaner-Bloser is used for handwriting. Daily practice supports students with correct letter formation, legibility, spacing and overall presentation of written work.

Math

In grades Kindergarten through sixth Covenant uses *Saxon Math*. First grade students use Saxon 2 as Covenant has moved the curriculum down so that our first grade students are tackling second grade math. This has been effective for the school in meeting the academic needs of our students.

Each day students participate in “calendar time,” during which students learn and review concepts such as months, seasons, dates, time, money, counting, place value, tally marks, patterns and weather.

New mathematical concepts are introduced through a spiral progression that builds on concepts already taught and mastered. Structured activities help to consolidate the mathematical concepts taught. Spiral progression also allows for a review of important math concepts while expanding on that foundation.

Science

In Science first graders study plants, insects, butterflies and water throughout the year using Foss and Delta science curriculum. We spend much of our Science time in the school's outdoor classroom and science building. Science is meant to be informative and experiential, while sparking a natural curiosity in students. Several of the class's off-campus trips center around our science studies.

Nature journals are used to document each student's exploration and observation of the school's outdoor classroom. In these journals, students draw, watercolor, record collected data and produce writing samples. Students learn how to “think like scientists,” with a focus on analyzing and recording data and creating and testing hypotheses.

Most importantly, students become more aware of the beauty of God's creation and its mysterious and created order. Students reflect on what it means to be good stewards of this world that God has entrusted to us.

Social Studies

Students focus on the beginnings, people, landmarks, symbols and maps of the United States. Studies also include a look at the cultures and traditions found in other countries around the world.

Enrichment

In striving to educate the whole child, each student's gifts and interests are explored. Therefore, every effort is made to provide students with opportunities to recognize and explore their gifts. Each week students participate in Music, Art, Drawing, Physical Education and library.