

St. Michael Catholic School Grade 1



First grade is an exciting time for learning. Students transition from kindergarten to the challenges of the first grade curriculum. Basic reading skills are taught using a multi-sensory, phonics-based approach. Students gain a solid basis in math and science through hands-on experiences. Students practice math facts and learn how to approach problem-solving exercises. Greater emphasis is placed on Catholic tradition, prayers and worship in order to continue building a secure faith foundation.

The teachers are committed to working with parents and students to help each child succeed.

Curriculum Overview

Religion First grade students grow in knowledge of the Catholic faith by learning about the following:

- The Mass
- Traditional Catholic Prayers
- The rosary
- Jesus, the Son of God
- The Holy Trinity
- God's creation
- God's Church
- Living God's love
- Salvation
- Holy Days

Our Catholic faith is integrated into all subject areas of our curriculum. Students learn to put our Catholic faith into action through the following practices:

- Attending Mass on Friday
- Planning and participating in Mass on Friday
- Daily and meal prayers
- School Service Projects
- Recitation of the Rosary
- Monthly Beatitudes

The textbook used is Harcourt *Walking by Faith*.

Language Arts Students build a solid foundation in language arts. Using a literature based program, teachers continue the multi-sensory, phonetic approach to spelling, reading and writing. Concepts are reinforced through frequent writing exercises involving creative short stories and paragraphs based on facts. Areas of concentration include:

- Phonics
- Reading/Decoding/Comprehension
- Vocabulary/Spelling
- Grammar
- Handwriting based on Scripture
- Dictation

Resources include:

McGraw Hill *Reading, Spelling and Language Arts*

Modern Curriculum Press *Phonics*

Library Weekly visits to the school library include:

- Instruction in library media
- Introduction to new authors and new literature
- Topical events, story time
- Weekly book check out

Mathematics Teachers balance the use of a “hands-on” approach with a more traditional approach to teaching math concepts.

Topics covered include:

- Addition, Subtraction, and fact families
- Money, calendar, and time
- Number sense, basic algebra, and simple geometry
- Graphs, tables, and charts
- Weight, capacity and temperature
- Applied problem-solving

Resources include:

Saxon *Mathematics*

Social Studies The emphasis in social studies is on the students’ role in the various aspects of God’s world and how they contribute to it. Concepts covered include:

- History of our nation
- Civics and government
- Geography and weather
- Economics and resources
- Individuals, society, and culture

The textbook used is Harcourt Horizons *Social Studies*

Science Students develop a basic understanding of scientific principles using “hands-on” approaches which cover the following areas:

- Weather
- The human body
- Senses
- Moving and working
- Plants and animals
- States of matter
- The universe

The textbook used is Scott Foresman *Science*

Music First graders enjoy singing, dancing and instruments as they learn more about:

- Christian and Multicultural music
- Comparing and contrasting music
- “Steady beat” development

Physical Education First grade students enjoy structured play in gym to help develop auditory processing and loco-motor skills.

Activities include:

- Exercise
- Physical fitness challenges
- Team work/Sports skills/Fun Day

Art Through weekly art class, students learn about drawing, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, mixed media and the use of fibers. In addition, these young artists learn about pattern and color using tempera paints.

Computer Weekly computer class includes instruction in:

- Following directions
- Basic keyboard knowledge
- Correct finger placement
- Use of educational software

Special Events Examples of events include:

- Field trips to the Children’s Museum and Fire station
- Riley Day parade

Accreditation St. Michael Catholic School is accredited by the State of Indiana. St. Michael Catholic School has been selected by the United States Department of Education as a 2005 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School.

Contact us:

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