

## **Math**

The *MacMillan/McGraw-Hill* math series is the basis of the math activities in first grade supplemented by *Math Their Way*, which is a hands on manipulative approach to teaching math. Mathematical skills are worked on throughout the day through organizational activities, counting, calendar time, ordering, and sequencing. The students have a formal lesson each day. In first grade we concentrate on adding and subtracting one digit numbers throughout the year. We focus on numbers and patterns, place value, measuring, geometry (plane shapes and space shapes), fractions, money, telling time, and probability. At the end of the year students are introduced to two-digit adding and subtracting.

## **Music**

The Music Play curriculum is the mainstay of the music program. First grade students learn about beat, rhythm, melody, harmony, expression, instruments, listening, creating, form and cultural music. Through the use of music, students also learn to praise and worship their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ as they sing hymns and songs of praise. Students sing for chapel, church services and special concerts throughout the year. A K-2 musical is presented once every three years.

## **Art**

Students learn that one of the gifts that God gives them is their creativity. The first grade art program helps students develop this creativity through the use of various medias. The students also continue to develop their skills of cutting, gluing, coloring, tearing and designing. Students learn about the art master Matisse and copy some of his techniques as they make their own masterpiece. Every year the students participate in the Art Adventure program that is

sponsored by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Once every three years students prepare art pieces at home for an Art Fair.

## **Physical Education**

Daily physical education classes for first grade focus on helping students acquire fundamental skills, fitness awareness, understanding of movement and self-understanding. Students rehearse non-locomotor and locomotor skills, and develop manipulative skills. Fitness awareness develops as students are exposed to activities that emphasize what makes a person healthy. Self-understanding is also important for learning fundamental skills and fitness awareness. First grade students learn the basics of group games, bowling, and hockey. They also go to their first track and field day with other Lutheran school first and second grade students.

## **Computers**

Students in first grade have their first opportunity to use the computer lab. Students work in the lab every other week. They are introduced to emergent keyboarding and word processing skills. They also learn about computer basics as how to enter and exit a program. They learn how to insert pictures and graphics. They work on draw programs and play Internet educational games to enhance their classroom experiences. A classroom computer is also available to supplement the concepts they learn about in the lab and the classroom.

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## **CURRICULUM REVIEW**

### ***FIRST GRADE***

***Teacher: Mrs. Debbie Volberding***

**Principal**  
**Gary L. Volberding**

## **Religion**

The students learn about God's grace and forgiveness through the use of the Concordia Publishing House religion series for Lutheran day schools. Bible stories are taught in chronological order beginning with the story of creation in the Old Testament and ending with Paul's missionary trips in the New Testament. Students begin to read simple Bible stories throughout the year and develop a religious vocabulary.

## **Memory Work**

The students have memory work to practice at home three times a week. These memory work verses support the concept of the Bible stories that are being taught in class. Memory work is mainly Bible verses, but also includes parts of the Matins liturgy, the catechism, songs, prayers, and hymns.

## **Reading**

The *SRA Open Court* reading and language arts curriculum has been adopted to teach first grade students the joy of reading. The students learn to read through a strong phonics based program that also includes learning to read high frequency words. Students practice skills daily at home and at school by reading decodable books and practicing reading high frequency word lists. One to three new decodable books are introduced daily. The books include the new phonic skills that are being taught in the class and also include new high frequency words. Hand signals are taught to help students sound out new words. Comprehension skills are developed throughout the year by the use of big book stories in the classroom, recalling details from the decodable books, and the use of a reading book during the second half of the year. Students are also encouraged to broaden their skills by reading trade books and taking

Accelerated Reading tests on the computer. The weekly use of the school library fosters good reading habits.

## **Language Arts**

The Language Arts program coincides with the reading program and is also part of the *SRA Open Court* reading and language arts curriculum. It includes using correct grammar, parts of speech, speaking to groups, and writing skills. Students learn about capitalization and punctuation. They learn how to write sentences that make sense and by the end of the year are able to write in complete paragraphs. Students make oral presentations in front of the class to build confidence and skills in the area of oral communication.

## **Spelling**

Spelling coincides with our *SRA Open Court* reading and language arts curriculum. Students learn to spell high frequency and phonic words as we learn them in reading. Students also learn to spell some simple religious words.

## **Handwriting**

Students continue to develop their handwriting skills by using the D'Nealian form of print. They practice proper shape, space, slant, and size of their letters. The D'Nealian form of print is required in formal lessons and daily work.

## **Science**

Science is taught through the use of the MacMillan/McGraw-Hill science curriculum. Students learn to observe, compare and contrast, journal, and experiment with various science properties. We concentrate on living things (plants and animals), the weather, God's creation of land and water. We also learn how to live healthy lives. Students learn the steps of the scientific method and follow a plan to obtain

results. Students participate in a Science Fair once every three years while they attend St. John's beginning in first grade. A Christian-based sex education curriculum, published by Concordia Publishing House, is taught every other year.

## **Social Studies**

Students learn about themselves in relation to the various groups God has placed them in as we work through the *Harcourt Brace A Child's Place* social studies curriculum. They learn about school, their family, and their community. They learn that God has given them resources to live in His world and that they need to be good stewards of those gifts. Students learn about the United States of America through the use of maps, globes, pictures, time lines, charts, and stories. Students also learn about their world near and far away by learning about different cultures around the world, with tie-ins to missionaries and offerings that enable God's Word to be spread throughout the world. Students participate in the Social Studies Fair once every three years.

## **Current Events**

The "Weekly Reader" is a first grade level newspaper. Students learn about national news that centers around science and social studies concepts.