

First Grade Course Overview

Language Arts

During the first grade year, students are introduced to many elements of phonemic awareness, both phonetic and conventional spelling patterns, reading strategies, writing skills, grammatical conventions, as well as being able to communicate through speaking and listening.

Phonics: The major focus is on phonemic awareness of both the consonant and vowel sounds and how they work together. Consonant digraphs and spelling patterns are also introduced.

Reading: Decoding strategies will be focused on while reading both fictional and informational texts. Emphasis is also placed on comprehension of what is being read, making predictions, and being able to retell a passage accurately.

English (Grammar): Students will begin to learn about various parts of speech such as nouns, verbs, pronouns, and adjectives. Each will be explored independently as well as combined. Students will be writing complete sentences and putting them together in a logical sequence to make a paragraph (story, essay, etc.). Different types of punctuation will be understood including how to properly use them in writing and while reading.

Writing: Various writing styles will be explored. Proofreading and editing will be introduced as a method to improve our writing. Grammatical skill usage will be reinforced in our writing.

Handwriting: Students will continue to learn the proper formation of D'Nealian letters and numbers. This will prepare them for learning how to write in cursive next year.

Speaking and Listening: Students will participate in discussions (whole group, small group, and one-on-one), ask and answer questions, describe, and explain in a variety of situation and for different purposes.

Math

In first grade there are several main focuses that are developed at length. Student will have a developing understanding of addition and subtraction of number up to 20. They will understand whole number relationships and place values (ones, tens, hundreds). We will begin to understand linear measurement with various measurement tools. Students will reason the attributes of geometric shapes (two-dimensional and three-dimensional).

Religion

Students will be introduced to the Holy Trinity, as well as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit on their own. The students will be part of a faith community and will attend Mass once a week during our school day. Students will learn about both formal prayer (Our Father, Glory Be, Hail Mary) and informal prayer (talking with God). Students will be invited to join in community Christian Service Projects.

Social Studies

First graders will learn about the communities they live in and what makes up their community. They will learn about government leaders, the American Flag, national landmarks, and famous Americans from different cultures. They will learn to read, use, and draw maps.

Science

Students will learn about the world around them through the use of their five senses. They will learn about plants and animals, their parts, and life cycles. We will explore the Earth's air and water, its weather and seasons. Students will learn about the states of matter and their characteristics. Energy, force, and magnets will be introduced. They will use their skills of inferencing, planning, measuring, and prediction as we explore these areas.

Spanish

Students are introduced to and practice basic concepts in this foreign language with the shared-time services of Clarkston Community Schools.

Technology

Students are exposed to and identify primary functions of the computer. Students have the opportunity to practice basic skills with the computer with the shared-time services of Clarkston Community Schools.