



Eastside Christian School

ECS CURRICULUM GUIDE

FIRST GRADE OVERVIEW

Classroom Structure: Self-contained for core subjects and art. Specialists: computer, library, music, physical education.

Student/Teacher Ratio: *20:1

School Day	8:45 am – 3:05 pm
Lunch/recess	20 minutes plus 20 minutes
Afternoon recess	15 minutes

BIBLE and CHAPEL

First Grade

First Grade BIBLE THEME: God's Gifts to Me

"Familiar Bible stories are expanded into a theme of 'God's Gifts to Me' as students study how God gives gifts of the world, families, friends, leaders, salvation, the church, and a way to live. Students are provided with a variety of colorful, innovative materials from which they make booklets, mobiles, baskets, puzzles, flash cards and much more." Classroom emphasis is on prayer for each other.

Chapel program includes weekly worship, exposure to Christian beliefs, and a focus on monthly character traits. Monthly participation in our DEEP program provides additional understanding of the character traits and a wonderful multi-age team-building experience.

LANGUAGE ARTS

First Grade

First Grade teachers use the A Beka Phonics/Reading program. Structured literacy activities enhance oral language, phonological awareness, book and print awareness, letter-sound knowledge, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing skills. Using shared group experiences, modeling, and practice, students progress through letter recognition, blend recognition, word recognition, and sentence recognition. The reading program includes:

- *Shared Reading:* Teachers model daily speech, vocabulary, familiar phrases, expression and timing, word patterns, and the enjoyment of literature.
- *Small Guided Group Reading:* Students are divided into small groups according to their level of reading fluency and/or comprehension to develop literacy skills such as predicting, summarizing, and inferring.
- *Sight Word Reading:* Exposing students to a variety of sight words to build a quick visual memory. Sight words are words that do not follow phonics rules, cannot be sounded out easily, and occur frequently in primary texts. A large sight vocabulary improves reading speed and fluency.
- *Phonics:* Students learn consonants, short and long vowels, and blends, as well as how to decode words. Phonics skills are learned in the context of reading, using word charts, worksheets, and literature.

- *Accelerated Reader*: Computer-based Accelerated Reader quizzes are used to enhance reading comprehension and provide incentives for independent free reading.
- *Independent Reading*: Students are involved in reading developmentally appropriate material (selected by teacher and student).

The ABeka printing program is implemented to continue correct formation of letters (upper/lower case), blends, words, sentences, numbers, and Child's name. Students learn to express themselves in group settings through songs, show and tell, answering a question, making a comment, and poetry.

Children learn to write by writing. Teachers provide frequent opportunities to write through patterned writing, guided writing, lists, letters, and charts. Students develop understanding of the basic writing process (*6+1 Traits of Writing*).

MATH

First Grade

Math Expressions is the math program used for first grade. The program focuses on core concepts at each grade level to build in-depth understanding of major mathematical ideas. Math Expressions uses a systematic step-by-step approach to develop mathematics concepts and skills. The focus on problem solving and reasoning provides opportunities for students to develop critical thinking skills. The teachers create an inquiry environment with constructive discussion. Students invent, question, and explore, but also learn and practice important math strategies. Through daily Math Talk, students explain their methods and, in turn, become more fluent in them. Parents and students have access to web-based enrichment activities.

- Early Number Activities
- Operations and Simple Equations
- Story Problem Strategies
- Basic Ten-Structured Concepts
- Comparison and Data Formats
- Fractions, Circle Graphs, and Clocks
- Money and 2-Digit Addition
- Analyzing Story Problems
- Measurement

SOCIAL STUDIES/SCIENCE

First Grade

First grade teachers use the ABeka Social Studies/Science: *This Is My World*. Formal investigations are complemented by a variety of field trip opportunities.

Students learn and investigate the following subjects:

- World Geography
- Energy
- Seasons and Traditions
- Mammals
- Safety and Manners
- Plants Freedoms and Travel

- Trees and Environment
- Maps and Symbols
- Insects

VISUAL ART

First Grade

Emphasis is on participating in various art mediums and developing an appreciation for God's beauty and design. Students discover the following concepts and skills:

- Primary Colors
- Painting Nature
- Shape/Form Pottery
- Contrast
- Still Life Drawing
- Architecture
- Perception
- Portraits
- Cartooning

SPECIALISTS

First Grade

First grade students participate in a varied schedule and see specialists in the following areas:

Computer: 30 minutes – once a week

- Introductory mouse and keyboard skills
- Logging on to a network and website
- Navigating computer software
- Using software tools and menus
- Creating graphics
- Saving and opening files
- Introduction to computer coding

Music: 30 minutes – twice a week

- Students will respond to music with movement and creativity through dances, games and song
- Rhythm: comprehend and demonstrate a steady beat, read and perform simple rhythm patterns
- Melody: accurately match pitch (high/low/same), sing vocal patterns so-mi-la
- Form: understand and perform echo, call and response
- Timbre: demonstrate the use of classroom instruments, understand and identify the orchestra family
- Style: worship/seasonal/ patriotic/multicultural/short action songs and singing games
- Music Appreciation: "Peter and the Wolf"
- Group/performance: Weekly chapel, Christmas program

PE: 30 minutes – twice a week

- Movement and motor skill competency
- Health-related physical fitness and wellness
- Human movement principles
- Social skills and self-concept
- Promotion of lifetime participation in activity