



Eastside Christian School

ECS CURRICULUM GUIDE

FIRST GRADE OVERVIEW

Classroom Structure: Self-contained for core subjects. Specialists: music, PE, art

Student/Teacher Ratio: 18-20 (max): teacher + aide

School Day	8:40 am – 3:05 pm
Morning recess	20 minutes
Lunch/recess	30 minutes plus 20 minutes
Afternoon recess	15 minutes

BIBLE and CHAPEL

First Grade

First Grade BIBLE THEME: God's Gifts to Me

Lessons focus on the foundational teachings from the Bible about the nature and character of God, the qualities of His people, and His church. Students are given an overview of the Bible, with an emphasis on God's attributes, biblical characters, the early church, and what it means to know Jesus Christ and live for Him.

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, Lucy Calkins*).

MATH

First Grade

First grade uses Saxon Math, an accelerated math program that presents new learning in increments, with time provided in between for practice. Math concepts are integrated and reinforced throughout the year rather than being taught in isolated units.

New objectives, or increments, are introduced through group activities using materials, engaging discussions, and work in cooperative groups. Each lesson includes in-class guided practice and independent homework, plus a review of previously introduced concepts.

Children participate in a daily activity called The Meeting where they practice skills related to the calendar, counting, patterning, temperature, graphing, time, money, place value, fact families, problem solving, and mental computation. Strategies are presented to help children learn number facts. Children practice facts orally and by using manipulatives, fact cards and fact sheets. Automatic fact recall is expected by the end of second grade.

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

SOCIAL STUDIES/SCIENCE

First Grade

First grade teachers use the ABeka *Social Studies: My America and My World* and ACSI's *Purposeful Design Level One* for science. Formal investigations are complemented by a variety of field trip opportunities.

Students learn and investigate the following subjects:

Social Studies: *My America & My World*

- My America is Beautiful: USA map, National Parks, National Landmarks

- Symbols of America: Flag, Seal of USA, Bald Eagle, Liberty Bell, Statue of Liberty, Coins
- Great People of America: Pilgrims, Native Americans, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington Carver
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Science: *Purposeful Design*

- Life Science: Animals, Mammals, Fish & Birds, Plants
- Physical Science: Movement & Sound, Light
- Earth Science: Objects in the Sky, Weather & Seasons
- Human Body: Five Senses, Bones, Muscles, and Teeth, Heart & Lungs, Stomach & Food

SPECIALISTS

First Grade

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

Art: 40 minutes – once a week

PE: 30 minutes – twice a week

Music: 30 minutes – twice a week