



Christ Episcopal School

First Grade Overview

Reading is taught through a phonics-based program. Individualized and accelerated reading activities are added for those students who are advanced readers when school begins.

Concepts and activities taught include but are not limited to:

Reading/English



- Explicit teaching of sounds
- Blending of sounds into words
- Phonemic awareness and oral blending
- Dictation and spelling
- Using this knowledge for reading & writing
 - Writing workshop
 - Research
 - Sentence lifting

- Learning strategies for accessing information and exploring concepts
- Written communication skills
- Oral communication skills
- Thinking and problem-solving skills
- Acquaintance with outstanding literary selections

*Review or accelerated reading activities included as indicated by a student's progress.

**Students are challenged to read 100+ books by the end of the year.

Library Skills—Students visit the school library once a week for 25 minutes.

- Story time
- Review library rules and book check-out procedures
- Discuss fiction and non-fiction
- Learn about various authors and illustrators
- Research skills: discuss concept that books and other library resources contain answers to questions they may formulate

Math

- Numbers 0-100 and greater
- Addition and subtraction problems with single & double digits
 - Standard & metric measurement
 - Introductory work with multiplication
 - Fractions
 - Recording data, maps, and inequalities
 - Place values (ones, tens, & hundreds)
 - Comparing numbers: largest & smallest; quantities using $<$, $>$, and $=$
- Mental arithmetic—addition and subtraction of one-digit numbers
- Drawing two-dimensional shapes and constructing three-dimensional shapes
- Picture patterns using color, size, shape, or rotation
- Exchanging money using pennies, nickels, dimes, & quarters
- Graphing (more, less, equal)
- Seasons & related topics
- Telling time to the half-hour



Science—The science program uses hands-on experiences as often as possible.

- Life Science
 - Study and observation of plants and animals and their needs
 - Living and non-living things
 - Observation of the life cycles of the butterfly and frog
 - Learn about bio-systems with an emphasis on the tropical rainforest and desert (The rainforest study involves the children in a month-long integrated investigation culminating in students giving guided tours of the classroom's rainforest and a final research project.)
- Physical and Earth Science
 - Stars and space
 - Seasons
 - Magnets
 - States of matter and their properties. Students are introduced to the idea of a fourth state.
 - Weather
 - Water cycle
- Review of the senses
- Pollution and recycling
- The human body
 - Skeletal system
 - Teeth

Social Studies

- Concepts of neighborhood and community helpers
- Concept of top/bottom, above/below, next to/between
- Map key and directions of N, S, E, and W
- Locating places on the earth's surface
- Continents and major land features of the Earth
- How people grow and change over time
 - Reading and reenactment of the way families lived long ago
 - Students build a Pilgrim and Native American village on the floor in the classroom
- Learn about American leaders in history
- Learn about great events in our country
- American holidays
- Christmas traditions around the world

First Grade Overview continued



Art—Students attend art class once a week. Concepts and skills presented in Kindergarten continue to be refined. Additionally, students will :

- understand the terms landscape, cityscape, still-life and portrait
- classify artworks as landscapes, cityscapes, still-lives, or portraits
- cut and glue basic geometric shapes from paper
- combine shapes to make more complex images
- draw and paint lines, shapes, or colors that repeat to make a pattern
- draw and paint visual textures
- incise lines in clay or other modeling media for actual texture
- print with gadgets.

Music—Students attend music class twice a week. Exploration of pitch and matching tones

- Ability to repeat a musical phrase after hearing it
- Continue singing simple songs by rote
- Recognize staccato and legato phrases by listening
- Recognize solo instruments heard in a recording
- Listen to a variety of musical genres



Spanish—Students meet twice weekly for a 30 minute class with the Spanish teacher. They are taught orally and aurally through songs, interactive speech, games, activities, and occasional videos.

- Respond to simple greetings
- Colors and numbers, 1-30
- Classroom words
- Expand on body parts
- Farm Animals
- Expand knowledge of holiday words
- Describe holiday traditions of Spanish-speaking countries
- Recognize and recite weather words
- Learn prayers in Spanish
- Sing songs in Spanish



Christian Education—Christianity and its moral precepts are incorporated into the daily life of students and teachers at Christ Episcopal School.

- Daily, teachers read a Bible story.
- Daily, teachers lead children in prayers before snacks and meals.
- Once a week, students participate in a Chapel service led by the rector of assistant rector of Christ Episcopal Church.
- Students learn and recite the Lord's Prayer and study a Bible story.
- Students learn to pray prayers of thanksgivings and to pray for others.

Physical Education—Students attend physical education class daily and receive instruction from a physical education teacher. Various skills are learned to:

- develop strength, endurance, and flexibility
- perform fundamental loco-motor and manipulative skills daily
- demonstrate social development and sportsmanship
- demonstrate effective communication, consideration, and respect of others during physical activities.



Computer Technology—First grade students meet with the computer teacher for 40 minutes twice weekly in the computer lab. First grade also has a computer center in their classroom for review and enrichment activities. Technology concepts to be covered during the first grade year include, but are not limited to:

- Basic Computer Literacy
- Introduction to Keyboarding: Ergonomics and Finger Practice
- Introduction to Word Processing using MaxWrite
- Introduction to Spreadsheets using MaxCount
- Introduction to Computer Graphics using MaxShow
- Internet: Navigation and Safety