

# 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.

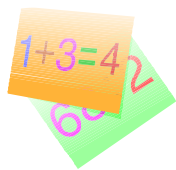
\*\*Students are challenged to read 100+ books by the end of the year.

**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

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

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

# 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 once a week for a semester.

- 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

**Drama**—Students attend drama class once a week for a semester. The focus of elementary theater is creative drama, a form of theater in which teachers guide learners through processes of imagination, enactment, and reflection. First graders:

- use spontaneous movement and sound in response to stories, poems, and songs in limited-action dramatic play
- incorporate rhythmic movements into dramatic play.

**Spanish**-Students meet twice weekly for a 40 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

**Spanish continued:**

- 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 or assistant rector of Christ Episcopal Church.
- Weekly, students receive Christian Education by an instructor.
- Students learn and recite the Lord's Prayer, study a Bible story, and the five parts of a prayer.
- Each weekly session closes with a prayer that incorporates the student's praises, thanksgivings, and prayer requests.

**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

