

Bible

In first grade, students learn that God is a God of impossibilities who expects our love and obedience above all else. The Bible instruction explores the themes of God's love for all His children and the Bible as the source of all truth. Weekly chapel, scripture memorization, and daily classroom devotions are important features of the Bible program. First grade students reach out to others through local and international mission activities throughout the year.

Language Arts

In first grade, the *ABeka* curriculum stresses the recognition and articulation of phonetic sounds. Although phonics is the basic decoding strategy, it is reinforced by visual memory for irregular words and analysis of word parts. Students learn rhyming words, antonyms, synonyms, homophones, contractions, compounds words, and alphabetical order. They also learn to blend sounds into words, combine words to create sentences, and apply phonics skills in writing. Literature is also an important part of the program. The emphasis is on independent reading with fluency and comprehension as students are exposed to various forms of literature. Students practice the creative writing process and the mechanics of writing with repeated opportunities.

Mathematics

The *Saxon* program stresses mastery of basic concepts that will lay the foundation required in the later grades. Hands-on activities, as well as paper and pencil methods are used to convey concepts such as graphing, patterning, and probability. Using a variety of manipulatives, children are encouraged to develop higher order thinking skills. Other key topics are numeration and order; measurement; operations; geometry and spatial sense; and patterns and sequence. Problem solving and reasoning are incorporated in activities throughout the day.

Science

The first grade curriculum capitalizes on children's natural curiosities while building a basic knowledge of scientific concepts and scientific investigations. Major topics include animals, weather, electricity, magnetic properties and the study of God's design of the human body. Field trips and guest speakers throughout the year enhance the various topics.

Social Studies

First grade students gain a new historical perspective on the United States of America. Emphasis is on national heroes, major historical holidays, and citizenship. Continued importance is placed on individual responsibility, self-control, and self-discipline.