

# ***CURRICULUM***

## **Religion**

First graders will learn about their Catholic Faith through stories, activities, Scripture, prayer, discussion, and reflection. Catholic values are integrated into **all** subject areas.

The textbook used in first grade is Blest are We (**Silver Burdett Ginn**)

Information on our textbook series can be found at [www.blestarewe.com](http://www.blestarewe.com)

The Religion curriculum focuses on:

- ◆ Bible stories
  - Creation
  - Old Testament - God's Family
  - New Testament stories
    - Advent/Christmas season
    - The Life of Christ
    - Parables and miracles
    - Lent/Easter season
- ◆ The Mass
- ◆ Special celebrations with student involvement
  - St. Nicholas Day
  - All Saints Day
  - Mary and the Rosary
- ◆ Baptism
- ◆ Prayers
  - Hail Mary, Our Father, Prayer before meals, Angel of God, and the Glory Be
- ◆ Buddy Activities

## **Language Arts: Reading, Phonics and Handwriting**

The Language Arts program emphasizes the development of skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, and to communicate effectively.

Our **Reading** textbook series is "Storytown" by **Harcourt**,  
**Phonics** series is **Modern Curriculum Press**,  
and our **Handwriting** series is **Zaner-Bloser**.

Other materials are added throughout the year for enrichment.

Topics covered in the Language Arts curriculum include:

- ◆ Word attack skills
- ◆ Correct grammar
- ◆ Correct use of punctuation
- ◆ Comprehension skills
  - Developing vocabulary
  - Identifying the main idea
  - Use of context clues
  - Sequencing events
  - Distinguishing between fact and fantasy
  - Making predictions
- ◆ Oral reading
- ◆ Creative writing
- ◆ Author Studies
  - Dr. Seuss
  - Norman Bridwell
  - Helen Lester
- ◆ Spelling
  - Rules for correct spelling
  - Applying phonetic skills
- ◆ Develop Listening and speaking skills
  - Students present materials orally
  - Participate in class discussions
  - Read and retell stories
- ◆ Handwriting
  - Apply correct letter formation
  - Zaner-Bloser Handwriting method

## Mathematics:

First graders use the **Harcourt Math** series, which provides a wide variety of strategies and activities to differentiate instruction so that all students can experience success in mathematics.

A helpful website for this series can be found at:  
[www.harcourtschool.com](http://www.harcourtschool.com)

Topics covered in the Mathematics curriculum include:

- ◆ Addition and subtraction concepts
  - Addition and subtraction facts to 12
  - Addition and subtraction of two digit numbers
- ◆ Graphing
- ◆ Place value to 100
- ◆ Comparing and ordering numbers
- ◆ Describing characteristics of shapes
- ◆ Fractions ( $1/2$ ,  $1/4$ ,  $1/3$ )
- ◆ Identifying and counting monetary values
- ◆ Telling time to the hour and half-hour
- ◆ Calendar skills
- ◆ Measuring length, width, weight, and liquid volume

## Social Studies

First graders will develop an awareness of people around them.

The **Social Studies** Curriculum is enhanced by the **Houghton Mifflin** "We the People" Series.

Topics covered in the Social Studies curriculum include:

- ◆ Families
- ◆ Diverse Cultures
  - Native Americans
  - International Unit
  - Chinese New Year

- ◆ Living in a community (Junior Achievement)
- ◆ Our country and its heroes
- ◆ Map studies

## Science

First graders will use concrete, hands-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world around them.

The textbook for the **Science** Curriculum is **MacMillan McGraw-Hill**.

Topics explored in the Science curriculum include:

- ◆ Plants
- ◆ Magnets
- ◆ Matter
- ◆ Animals
  - Dinosaurs, penguins, bear
- ◆ Weather
- ◆ Seasons
- ◆ 4-H Incubation Project (chicks)