



St. James Day School

First Grade Curriculum

2004-2005



*The major emphasis in our first grade program is developing outstanding readers!
Specific concepts and activities to be taught include:*

Language Arts (Open Court)*

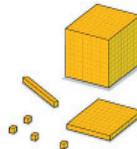
- Explicit teaching of sounds
- Blending of sounds into words
- Phonemic awareness and oral blending
- Dictation and spelling
- Using this knowledge for reading & writing
 - Writing workshop
 - Research
 - Sentence lifting
- Learning strategies for accessing information and exploring concepts
- Written communication skills
- Oral communication skills
- Thinking and problem-solving skills
- Acquaintance with outstanding literary selections



**Individual remedial or accelerated reading activities as needed*

Math - (SRA Math)

- Numbers 0-100
- Identifying & completing patterns
- Forming finger sets
- Use of number cubes
- Written names of numbers
- Number graphs, pictures graphs, Tally marks
- Addition and subtraction problems with single and double digits
- Introductory work with multiplication
- Introduction to fractions and time
- Recording data, maps, and inequalities
- Place values (ones and tens)
- Comparing numbers: largest & smallest; quantities using $<$, $>$, and $=$
- Measurement using inches, centimeters, kilograms, & ounces
- Mental arithmetic - addition and subtraction of one-digit numbers
- Drawing and constructing 2-dimensional shapes: circle, square, triangle, rectangle, oval, & diamond
- Picture patterns using color, size, shape, or rotation
- Exchanging money using pennies, nickels, & dimes
- Graphing (more, less, equal)
- Introduction to solid geometric figures



Science

A new science program begins this year using FOSS hands-on science curriculum. First grade units include FOSS science stories and 13 scientific investigations, including four with live organisms.



•Trees (3 Investigations)

- Observing & describing properties of trees and parts of trees
- tree parts: branch, leaf, root, trunk

•Insects (6 Investigations)

- Observe and compare insect structures and behaviors in different stages of the life cycle (darkling beetles, milkweed bugs, wax moths, silkworm moths, painted lady butterflies, crickets)
- Discuss and record findings
- Pose questions to be resolved



•New Plants (4 Investigations)

- Experience the diversity of life in the plant kingdom
- Observe structures of flowering plants
- Discover ways to propagate new plants from mature plants (from seeds, bulbs, roots, cuttings)
- Observe and describe changes that occur as plants grow and develop
- Organize observations on a calendar and in a journal

•Other science concepts introduced in first grade include

- Review of the senses
- Concepts of animate and inanimate objects
- Animal movement, tracks, food needs, body coverings, and habitats
- Kinds of weather; Effects of weather; Weather changes
- Air: existence of, volume of, pollution, and dependence on
- Water purity

Social Studies

- Concept of neighborhood
- Word concepts of top/bottom, above/below, next to/between, left/right
- Cardinal directions
- Locating places on the earth's surface
- Continents and major land features of the earth
- Affects of the environment on our lives
- How people grow & change over time:-reading and reenactment of the way families lived long ago
 - The story of the United States
 - American leaders in history
 - Great events in our country
- American holidays

Spanish

The Spanish teacher comes to the classroom twice weekly for a 25 minute Spanish class. Students learn:

- Colors & numbers through 30
- Vocabulary for the five senses
- Seasons & related topics
- Holiday poems in Spanish
- Reading in Spanish
- Christmas songs
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Meaning and celebration of Cinco de Mayo

Music -

Students travel to the Morriss Building twice weekly for 25 minutes with the music teacher.

Music concepts and activities consist of:

- Exploration of pitch and matching tones
- Recognize and sing intervals
- Ability to repeat a musical phrase after hearing it
- Ability to sing simple songs expressively and with melodic accuracy
- Recognize staccato and legato phrases by listening
- Performance experience at Candlelight and the Musical
- Name music from the Classical Period
- Recognize, name, and draw musical symbols
- Recognize solo instruments heard in a recording
- Listening to a variety of musical genres

Physical Education -

All students travel to the gym for P.E. activities 5 days per week.

- Daily fitness activities
- Push-ups, sit-ups, and shuttle-run drills
- Rules and positions of soccer
- Correctly perform dribbling, passing, and trapping a soccer ball
- Correctly perform a toe kick and inside kick
- Experience goal keeper position and rules
- Overhand and underhand catching
- Good sportsmanship rules
- Basic square dance steps
- Introduction to weight transfer and balancing skills
- Know and practice the 5 components of the President's Physical Fitness Skills

Computer

First grade students go to the Lower School computer lab twice a week for 25 minutes.

Religion

Christianity and its moral precepts are incorporated into the daily life of both students and teachers in a non-denominational context. Chapel is held daily in each classroom or the Commons. On Thursdays, first grade joins all of Lower and Middle Schools for *Big Chapel* in the cafeteria, where Fr. Anderson conducts Morning Prayer.

