

St. James Day School

First Grade Curriculum



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

English/Reading

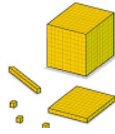
- Explicit teaching of sounds
- Blending of sounds into words
- Phonemic awareness and oral blending
- Dictation and spelling
- Using this knowledge for reading & writing
 - Writing workshop
 - Research
 - Sentence lifting
- Learning strategies for accessing information and exploring concepts
- Written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



*Review or accelerated reading activities as indicated

Math

- Numbers 0 100 and greater
- Addition and subtraction problems with single and 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 and constructing two dimensional shapes: circle, square, triangle, rectangle, oval, & diamond
- Picture patterns using color, size, shape, or rotation
- Exchanging money using pennies, nickels, dimes & quarters
- Graphing more, less, equal
- Seasons & related topics



Science

Our science program uses hands on science kits. First grade units include science stories and 13 scientific investigations including four with live organisms.

•Human Body

- Skeletal system
- major organs & functions



•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
- Chart data of plant growth

•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
- Study of the planets, moons, gravity



Spanish

First grade students meet with the Spanish teacher twice weekly for a 25 minute Spanish class.

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

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
- becoming familiar with the story of the United States
- American leaders in history
- Great events in our country
- American holidays



Music

Students travel to the Morriss Building twice weekly for a 25 minute music class 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 Spring 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

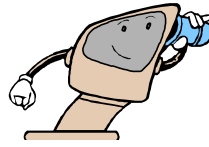
Physical Education

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

- 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

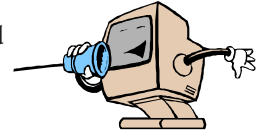
Computer

First grade students meet with the Lower School computer teacher for 25 minutes twice weekly in the Lower School Lab.



Technology concepts to be covered during the first grade year include:

- Keyboarding
- Introduction to Word Processing
- Introduction to Programming with Logo stressing mathematical concepts
- Basic computer literacy and Internet practice
- Introduction to computer graphics
- Introduction to multimedia & digital imaging



Art

Students travel to the Morriss Building twice weekly for hand on art with the art teacher.

Art concepts and activities consist of:

- Elements of art
- Impressionism Monet, Seurat, French Impressionists
- Study of lines & shapes; trees
- Art in celebration of cultures
- Color: Primary, Secondary, Color Wheel, Cool & Warm, Neutral paintings by Van Gogh
- Painting & Brushwork
- Movement & rhythm in art Starry Night Van Gogh
- Perspective, repetition, symbols, collage
- Symmetry in snowflakes
- Using scraps, cutting, pasting, pencil, markers, paints
- Textures
- Understanding of transparency
- Radial design
- Self Portraits, Da Vinci
- Maskmaking; Tempera; Bookmarks; Printmaking
- Sculpture
- Fantasy Art
- Abstract Art Mondrian
- Mixed media Klee



Religion

Christianity and its moral precepts are incorporated into the daily life of both students and teachers throughout the day. Chapel is held daily in each classroom, and once a week in an all school chapel service.

