



Eastside Christian School

ECS CURRICULUM GUIDE

FIRST GRADE OVERVIEW

Classroom Structure: Self-contained for core subjects. Specialists: computer, art, Spanish, music, physical education.

Student/Teacher Ratio: *18:1

School Day 8:40 am – 3:05 pm
Lunch/recess 20 minutes plus 20 minutes
Afternoon recess 15 minutes

BIBLE and CHAPEL

First Grade

First Grade BIBLE THEME: God's Gifts to Me

Lessons focus on the foundational teachings from the Bible about the nature and character of God, the qualities of His people, and His church. Students are given an overview of the Bible, with an emphasis on God's attributes, biblical characters, the early church, and what it means to know Jesus Christ and live for Him.

LANGUAGE ARTS

First Grade

First Grade teachers use the A Beka Phonics/Reading program. Structured literacy activities enhance oral language, phonological awareness, book and print awareness, letter-sound knowledge, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing skills. Using shared group experiences, modeling, and practice, students progress through letter recognition, blend recognition, word recognition, and sentence recognition. The reading program includes:

- *Shared Reading:* Teachers model daily speech, vocabulary, familiar phrases, expression and timing, word patterns, and the enjoyment of literature.
- *Small Guided Group Reading:* Students are divided into small groups according to their level of reading fluency and/or comprehension to develop literacy skills such as predicting, summarizing, and inferring.
- *Sight Word Reading:* Exposing students to a variety of sight words to build a quick visual memory. Sight words are words that do not follow phonics rules, cannot be sounded out easily, and occur frequently in primary texts. A large sight vocabulary improves reading speed and fluency.
- *Phonics:* Students learn consonants, short and long vowels, and blends, as well as how to decode words. Phonics skills are learned in the context of reading, using word charts, worksheets, and literature.
- *Accelerated Reader:* Computer-based Accelerated Reader quizzes are used to enhance reading comprehension and provide incentives for independent free reading.

- *Independent Reading:* Students are involved in reading developmentally appropriate material (selected by teacher and student).

The ABeka printing program is implemented to continue correct formation of letters (upper/lower case), blends, words, sentences, numbers, and Child's name. Students learn to express themselves in group settings through songs, show and tell, answering a question, making a comment, and poetry.

Children learn to write by writing. Teachers provide frequent opportunities to write through patterned writing, guided writing, lists, letters, and charts. Students develop understanding of the basic writing process (*6+1 Traits of Writing*).

MATH

First Grade

We are excited to use Saxon Math, an accelerated math program. Some of the key characteristics of the Saxon math curriculum are the following:

- In Saxon math, new learning is presented in increments, with time provided between Increments for practice.
- Math concepts are integrated and re-enforced throughout the year rather than being taught in isolated units.

Saxon Math purposely progresses at a pace that allows children to develop competence and confidence. Concept understanding takes time and will develop through daily work in The Meeting, New Concept, and Guided Class Practice. Four lessons plus an assessment will be completed each week. Each day, children participate in an activity called The Meeting where they practice skills related to the calendar, counting, patterning, temperature, graphing, time, money, place value, fact families, problem solving, and mental computation. Strategies are presented to help children learn number facts. Children practice facts orally and by using manipulatives, fact cards, and fact sheets. Automatic fact recall is expected by the end of second grade.

New objectives, or increments, are introduced through group activities using materials, engaging discussions, and work in cooperative groups to help each other learn. Each lesson includes in-class guided practice (Side A) and independent homework (side B). Each lesson also includes a short practice of the new concept and a review of previously introduced concepts. Children complete Side A together in class with the teacher's assistance. The class reviews each problem reviewed and discusses it as it is completed. Side B mirrors the problems done in class with similar problems done at home. As parents, you are encouraged to read the problems, check your children's work, and provide help when needed. Completing homework each day is important. The purpose of assessment is to monitor the progress of each child and share this information with you. It also helps re-enforce learning and gives the child confidence that they have mastered the concepts.

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| • Early Number Activities | • Fractions, Circle Graphs, and Clocks |
| • Operations and Simple Equations | • Money and 2-Digit Addition |
| • Story Problem Strategies | • Analyzing Story Problems |
| • Basic Ten-Structured Concepts | • Measurement |
| • Comparison and Data Formats | |

SOCIAL STUDIES/SCIENCE

First Grade

First grade teachers use the ABeka Social Studies/Science: *This Is My World*. Formal investigations are complemented by a variety of field trip opportunities. Students learn and investigate the following subjects:

- World Geography
- Energy
- Seasons and Traditions
- Mammals
- Safety and Manners
- Plants
- Freedoms and Travel
- Trees and Environment
- Maps and Symbols
- Insects

VISUAL ART

First Grade

In addition to art in the classroom, students have 40-minute art lessons with the art specialist every other week

Emphasis is on participating in various art mediums and developing an appreciation for God's beauty and design. Students practice art appreciation, communication and critical thinking skills through Visual Thinking Strategies. Students discover the following concepts and skills:

- Line
- Shape/Form
- Color (primary colors)
- Texture
- Value/Tone
- Variety
- Repetition/Pattern
- Balance

SPECIALISTS

First Grade

First grade students participate in a varied schedule and see specialists in the following areas:

Computer: (30 minutes/week for half of each trimester)

Students develop technology skills through online tutorials and projects using KidPix and other child-friendly software

- Computer hardware and software basics
- Introduction to mousing, touch screen controls, and the computer keyboard
- Using computer skills to create graphics for a variety of purposes

- Navigating Windows software and web pages
- Saving and opening files
- Introduction to basic coding skills

Spanish: (30 minutes/week for half of each trimester)

The exploratory Spanish class introduces students to basic Spanish vocabulary and culture. Students talk, sing and play learning games to learn vocabulary around themes such as:

- Greetings
- Letters and numbers
- The calendar and weather
- Colors and classroom objects

Music: (30 minutes – twice a week)

- Students will respond to music with movement and creativity through dances, games, and song
- Rhythm and Form: comprehend and demonstrate different steady beats, read, write and perform simple rhythm patterns, recognize ostinato (a repeated musical phrase or rhythm), and the organization of musical phrases
- Melody: accurately match pitch (Hi and Low), and identify melody patterns using the solfege alphabet
- Timbre: Understand the use of the body and voice as an instrument through breathing and projection and listening, creating, and expression
- Theory and Instruments: vocabulary, solfege alphabet, sound, dynamics, notes, beat and rhythm, rounds, composers, musical history/style/genre, orchestra and instrument study
- Style: worship/seasonal/patriotic/short action and singing games/warm up and performance songs/thematic songs, and drama
- Group/Performance and Culture: Weekly chapel worship, patriotic program, Spring musical, special projects, Christmas program, plus literary and story curriculum integration

PE: (30 minutes – twice a week)

- Movement and motor skill competency
- Health-related physical fitness and wellness
- Human movement principles
- Social skills and self-concept
- Promotion of lifetime participation in activity