

1ST GRADE
PROGRAM



Education with Christ at the Heart

7211 OAKLAND DRIVE
PORTAGE, MICHIGAN 49024

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First Grade Program

LANGUAGE ARTS

The first grade language arts program is a balanced blend of phonics, reading, spelling, writing, listening and speaking. Phonics work is directly supported with coordinated reading materials. The spelling curriculum effectively integrates components of the phonics and reading programs. Trade books are used to introduce a wide range of literary genres. Projects are created in response to literature.

First graders participate in a comprehensive writing program which is based on the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing and Developing an Effective Writing Program for the Elementary Grades. This program builds a foundation for writing throughout the grades with a Primary Cumulative Writing Folder which is kept for each student as they progress through the grades.

HANDWRITING

Handwriting for our first grade students is incorporated in the language arts curriculum. Clear concise penmanship skills are emphasized. This program helps students achieve success in handwriting development without stress!



MATHEMATICS



The first grade math program explores a wide variety of fundamental math skills. An overview of the program includes:

- *Counting
- *Number Writing
- *Reading Numbers
- *Place Value
- *Addition and Subtraction
- *Problem Solving
- *Money
- *Geometry
- *Logical Thinking
- *Graphs
- *Calendar Skills
- *Weights and Measures
- *Telling Time
- *Temperature
- *Fractions

SCIENCE

The first grade science program focuses on four main units of study:

- *Living Things
 - plants
 - animals
- *Earth's Land and Water
 - soil
 - rocks
 - water
- *Magnets
 - attraction and repulsion
 - application of magnets in daily life
 - magnetic field
- *Weather and Seasons

The first grade science program incorporates weekly hands-on experiments which reinforce the written material covered in class. These experiments are conducted by the students.

Field trips further enhance the science curriculum.



SOCIAL STUDIES

Understanding God's world, both now and the past, is the goal of the first grade social studies program. The five strands of social studies, History, Geography, Civics and Government, Economics and Public Discourse, Decision Making and Citizen Involvement are presented in a grade appropriate manner. Understanding needs and wants, community resources, human systems of trade and public issues are enhanced with field trips, participation in Junior Achievement and cultural celebrations.

This curriculum is enriched with correlated field trips, movies, special speakers and hands-on projects.

RELIGION

Our faith experience is woven throughout the entire curriculum here at St. Michael Luther School. Students are exposed to a variety of Bible lessons which discuss daily applications of biblical principles in everyday life. Dramatic interpretation, songs, prayers and crafts are used to reinforce Bible lessons. First graders will also work on scripture memorization and memorization of the Ten Commandments and prayers.

A monthly mission project encourages giving to others.



SPECIALS

Art · First grade art focuses on developing the student's awareness of many different artistic mediums. First graders will draw, paint, use clay, weave paper and discuss visual perspectives.

Physical Education · First grade students have gym class twice a week. They practice basic skills and working as a team as well as an individual. Exercise is encouraged as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Spanish · First graders attend Spanish class once a week. Our Spanish program at this level focuses on basic conversational words and knowledge appropriate to this age group. Units include: greetings, polite words, colors and numbers, food, family, etc.

Music · First grade students have music class twice a week. They are introduced to a diverse array of musical genres, including classic children's songs, hymns and contemporary Christian music. Once a year, students are invited to sing during worship services at St. Michael Lutheran Church, Immanuel Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran Church.

Library · Once a week we visit the library and select a book to compliment the reading we are doing in the classroom.

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