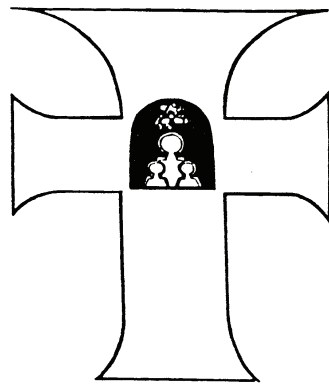


Noonan Elementary Academy



First Grade Curriculum

*The Academy is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*We are committed to excellence
in spiritual formation and academics.*

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First Grade Curriculum

Academic Program



Religion /Scripture

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. The primary text series is Faith and Life, published by Ignatius Press. It is a comprehensive Catholic program that combines beautiful classical and original art work with a solid doctrinal and scriptural presentation. These texts according to Bishop Thomas Muldoon are unsurpassed in lucidity of doctrine, in fidelity to God's revelations, and in stimulation of real interest and love for the Faith.

Our Heavenly Father, published by Ignatius Press

Aim

To give the first grade student a basic instruction to God, the life of our Savior, and to prayers, with a special emphasis on growing to know, love, and trust God.

Theme

Introduction to the Trinity, with emphasis of the life of Jesus, the plan of salvation, and the child's part in that plan. Acquaints the child with Mary, angels, and saints. Child learns basic prayers.

Sequence

Ch. 1-8: The Old Testament. God our creator, our home in Heaven lost through original sin, the world prepares for the Savior.

Ch. 9-21: The Incarnation, Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

Ch. 22-28: The Holy Spirit, the Church, and Mary, our Mother.

Phonics

Saxon's phonics series is an explicit, systematic program that complements our Open Court Reading series. The goal is to teach students how to read and spell so that they will be able to read and write independently and with confidence. This program gives students the tools and necessary practice for success in reading and writing.

First grade students will:

- † Understand how reading, spelling, and handwriting function as a whole.
- † Build a firm foundation in phonics awareness.
- † Be able to blend sounds to read and unblend sounds to spell.
- † Be able to code their words.

Reading/Language Arts

This research based program gives students the means to become independent readers by:

- † Developing phonetic awareness
- † Developing comprehension
- † Practicing skills in writing

Open Court Collections for Young Scholars transcends traditional reading programs.

Reading/Language Arts continued...

Features of this series:

- † Award winning fiction and non-fiction selections from renowned writers and illustrators.
- † Science and social studies themes.
- † A moral or virtue value in every story.
- † Systematic instruction organized in unit themes around engaging concepts.
- † Phonics, comprehension, and writing built into every lesson.

Selections include:

Poetry

Fiction

Folktales

Nonfiction

Riddles

Character Tales

Plays

Art

This series stresses all the traditional reading skills that develop fluent readers. It then goes beyond the mechanics of reading, and stretches the mind and imagination of the reader. The goal of the series is to develop critical, independent readers.

Supplemental Readers

- † American Cardinal Readers
- † Bennets Book of Virtues for Young Children
- † Lives of the Saints for Children

Writing

First graders learn to use writing as a means of expression. Focus is on the mechanics of writing and the ability to express ideas. Students will learn to:

- † Choose a topic
- † Determine a purpose

Writing continued...

- † Gather information
- † Organize information (sequence ideas)
- † Visualize the setting
- † Use vivid language and sensory images
- † Create the scene
- † Fictional stories
- † Personal narrative stories
- † Poetry
- † Book reports
- † Friendly letters
- † Thank you letters
- † Letters of invitation

English

A firm grasp of the structure and use of language is critical to successfully harnessing the power of the written word. Mastery of proper grammar, usage, and mechanics is the goal of the comprehensive grammar program in Heath English, published by Heath and Company. The exercises in the English workbook provide the added reinforcement students need. First graders will be able to:

- † Identify proper and common nouns
- † Distinguish between a phrase and a sentence
- † Capitalize when necessary
- † Identify the verb or action word
- † Use periods, question and exclamation marks
- † Recognize a telling and asking sentence
- † Use singular and plural
- † Use pronouns
- † Use verb contractions
- † Understand past, present, and future tense

English continued...

- † Understand, recognize, and use adjectives
- † Understand subject verb agreement
- † Correctly use I/me
- † Use commas and apostrophes

Listening/Speaking

The Loyola Press series Voyages in English incorporates listening, speaking, and writing as an integrated whole. Students will:

- † Listen for understanding
- † Follow directions
- † Recall information
- † Enunciate
- † Express feelings
- † Share ideas
- † Tell and retell stories
- † Give oral reports
- † Make introductions
- † Participate in discussions

Handwriting

Legible handwriting will be developed through daily practice using the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Program.

Spelling

Spelling skills are integrated into the phonics and reading program. Spelling skills are also taught using spelling rules and high frequency words in a structured spelling program called Everyday Spelling One, published by Scott Foresman.

Vocabulary

First grade students have a developmental sensitivity for new and interesting words. The Academy's vocabulary program provides an engaging, systematic approach to new words. Students will:

- † Understand new word meanings
- † Use new words in everyday language
- † Incorporate new words in writing assignments

Analogies

Primary Analogies teaches children to think analytically with simple pictures and word analogies. Students will:

- † Find similarities
- † Categorize
- † Make comparisons
- † Find causal relationships

Math

Saxon's math series is a hands on, activity centered, success orientated program that incorporates manipulatives and mental math. The program is based upon incremental development and continual review. The students develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of mathematics. Students will:

- † Skip count by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's
- † Compare and order numbers
- † Identify ordinal position to tenth
- † Identify a sorting rule
- † Identify and extend patterns
- † Solve routine and non-routine problems
- † Master basic addition and subtraction facts
- † Picture and name fractions

Math continued...

- † Measure using inches, feet, and centimeters
- † Compare volume, mass, and area
- † Tell time to the half-hour
- † Count money
- † Identify polygons, geometric solids
- † Create, read, and write observations from graphs

Science

The Scott Foresman Series provides a blend of concepts, inquiry, and hands-on content. Children are exposed to the process skills needed to form and test hypothesis. The units taught are:

- † Plants
- † Animals
- † Fossils
- † Matter
- † Sound, heat, and light
- † Force, magnets, and electricity
- † The earth
- † Weather
- † Solar system
- † How your body works-brain, heart, and lungs
- † Nutrition
- † Keeping healthy

Social Studies

Houghton-Mifflin prepares students for informed participation in tomorrow's America. This comprehensive social studies program presents a mixture of history, geography, economics, citizenship, and

Social Studies continued...

culture. The first grade text, Work Together, explores themes that focus on:

- † Building communities
- † Meeting community needs
- † Rules and laws
- † Exploring community changes

A comprehensive map skills program from National Geographic called, Map Essentials, covers map skills.

Health

Students will develop an understanding of personal health and safety issues such as:

- † Good eating habits
- † Proper rest and exercise
- † Good hygiene
- † Personal cleanliness
- † Seat belt use
- † Safe use of medication

Library/Computers

These skills are introduced in the library/media center and computer lab for the integration into the curriculum to help children learn how to research and process information.

Special

Physical Education

First grade students learn to move their body through space in a coordinated purposeful way. They will master basic motor skills and

Physical Education continued...

explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Students will:

- † Demonstrate ball handling skills
- † Master locomotor skills such as skipping, hopping, and running
- † Maintain personal fitness
- † Listen and follow directions
- † Master laterality, directionality, and balance

Art

The art program exposes children to a variety of art forms and artists. Students will:

- † Enjoy creating their own art
- † Express their individuality through art
- † Learn to interpret artistic works

Music

First graders will enjoy:

- † Expressing themselves in song
- † Following a tune
- † Identifying musical notes and rhythm patterns
- † Distinguishing elements of music
- † Interpreting musical compositions

Spanish

Elementary Spanish is an award-winning program for grades 1-8 from Northern Arizona University. The curriculum is organized by thematic units. The program uses songs, games, natural conversation, and role-playing to create a fun, non-threatening environment for young learners of Spanish.

General Information

Report Cards/Progress Reports

Students will receive a report card at the end of each ten-week marking period. Students in need of academic assistance will receive a progress report at the end of the five-week point or half way through the marking period.

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences are scheduled for late October. However, parents may schedule a separate conference at anytime.

Homework

For children to achieve mastery, reinforcement is absolutely necessary. Homework is assigned, as needed, for practice and special projects. Expect to give some assistance to first graders. Use lots of praise and positive reinforcement. Help your child succeed by:

- † Providing a quiet area for study
- † Discourage, or prohibit, T.V. on school nights
- † Read to your child
- † Listen to your child read
- † Provide nutritious meals and plenty of exercise
- † Schedule sufficient rest (9 hours for 1st graders)
- † Show an interest in school activities
- † Keep communication lines open with the school

