Parent Guide to Your Child's First Grade Program

Christian Learner/Social Emotional Learner

Christian Learners/Social and Emotional Learners possess skills and attitudes that are the foundation of learning. Our thinking, approach and actions should show everyone we are Christians. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) assists students to gain and apply knowledge, attitudes and skills to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions. The tenets of Christian living and SEL competencies support the individual throughout life. Acting as Jesus would want us to act is the goal of everyone in our Catholic school community- teachers, parents, students, staff, principals and pastors. The skills learned through understanding, adopting and practicing social and emotional competencies and the values of our Christian faith will help ensure your children have a fulfilling life. So, welcome to our Catholic school. We are pleased to partner with you in the education of your children. We promise our prayer and support, and we ask for yours. We trust Jesus to bless the education we offer in His name.

Religion

In first grade, your child will continue learning about the 4 areas of the Catholic Catechism: Creed, Sacraments, Christian Living and Prayer. They will begin the remote preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 1st Grade

- God is our loving Father who is always with us
- The Catholic Church is our faith community
- The sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist
- Celebration of the life of Jesus throughout the liturgical year
- The Gospel call to love one's neighbor
- Prayer as talking and listening to God
- Learning basic prayers (Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

English Language Arts & Literacy

In first grade, your child will become a more independent reader and writer. Your child will continue to learn and practice rules for recognizing the sounds that make up words and will be able to sound out more complex words. Such foundational skills are necessary and important components of developing proficient readers with the capacity to comprehend a wide range of materials. Students will learn to think about what they read and talk about the main ideas of simple stories. As they write and speak, first graders will learn to use language appropriately; this includes using complete sentences and spelling words with increasing accuracy.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 1st Grade

- Using phonics (matching letters and sounds) and word analysis skills to figure out unfamiliar words when reading and writing
- Describing characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details
- Getting facts and information from different writings

- Writing about a topic, supplying some facts, and providing some sense of opening and closing
- Participating in shared research and writing projects (e.g., exploring a number of "how-to" books and using them to write a sequence of instructions)
- Taking part in conversations about topics and texts being studied by responding to the comments of others and asking questions to clear up any confusion
- Describing people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly and with complete sentences
- Producing and expanding complete simple and compound statements, questions, commands, and exclamations
- Identifying the correct meaning for a word with multiple meanings, based on the sentence or paragraph in which the word is used (e.g., deciding whether the word bat means a flying mammal, or a club used in baseball)
- Learning to think about finer distinctions in the meanings of near synonyms (e.g., marching, prancing, strutting, strolling, walking)

Mathematics

In first grade, your child will build on last year's work and gain important new skills. One of the most important outcomes for the year is to improve speed and accuracy adding with a sum of 20 or less and subtracting from a number 20 or less (e.g., 17 - 8). Another important goal in first grade is adding with a sum of 100 or less; this will rely on understanding what the digits mean in a number such as 63 (namely, 63 is six tens and three ones). Working with multi-digit addition this year will set the stage for second grade, when your child will be working with three-digit numbers and adding and subtracting with larger numbers.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 1st Grade

- Solving addition and subtraction word problems in situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing (e.g., a taking from situation would be: "Five apples were on the table. I ate some apples. Then there were three apples. How many apples did I eat?")
- Adding with a sum of 20 or less, and subtracting from a number 20 or less, for example by using strategies based around the number 10 (e.g., to solve 13 - 4, one can start with 13, subtract 3 to reach 10, and then subtract 1 more to reach 9)
- Quickly and accurately adding with a sum of 10 or less, and quickly and accurately subtracting from a number 10 or less (e.g., 2 + 5, 7 - 5)
- Understanding what the digits mean in two-digit numbers (place value)
- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract (e.g., 38 + 5, 29 + 20, 64 + 27, 80 - 50)
- Measuring lengths of objects by using a shorter object as a unit of length
- Making composite shapes by joining shapes together, and dividing circles and rectangles into halves or fourths

Science

In first grade your child becomes more aware of the world that surrounds them. They begin to make more detailed observations and ask more in-depth questions. Likewise, their ability to

articulate their observations and challenge possible answers begins to develop. They are challenged to the next stage of observation of the cycles of nature. They are beginning to be challenged to look at phenomenon that they take for granted such as light and sound and space.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 1st Grade

- Experience the way objects vibrate and produce sounds including high and low sounds
- Observe the path of light in a dark room and observe what happens when an object breaks the light
- Talk about natural light such as from the sun and its effects
- Observe plants and animals and how they meet their basic needs
- Identify inherited traits in living organisms including people
- Experience the movement of the moon and earth around the sun and its effect on the days and seasons

Social Studies

In first grade, your child will continue to explore their immediate world concretely but will be given more opportunities to discuss their world outside of their experience especially on the level of country but also the world. They will begin to be introduced to maps and globes. They will continue to explore the sub-disciplines such as economics, history, geography, culture from the focus of their own experiences as well as their family's experiences.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 1st Grade

- Understand that different forms of evidence give to us; information such as art, photographs, artifacts, oral history, maps and globes.
- Identify similarities and difference in families and neighborhoods
- Identify human activities and human made features versus natural features
- Distinguish between a producer and consumer and the role of money
- Demonstrate respect for the rights of others and the role of rules
- Apply the basic concepts of economics, history, geography, culture to their family, other families both now and long ago

Physical Education

The skill development in the first-grade physical education program is integral to your child's success in the areas of English/Language Arts, and math in particular. As the child develops his or her motor skills and coordination the pathways of the brain are imprinted and formed for pattering which is integral to ELA and math. He or she will be developing motor skills and movement and realize there is a connection between physical activity and good health.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 1st Grade

- Practicing hopping, galloping, and jogging using a mature pattern
- Balance and weight transfers
- Underhand throwing, catching, dribbling, kicking, volleying
- Movement in his or her personal space and general space demonstrating a variety of relationships (over, under, around, through)

- Identifies the heart as a muscle that grows stronger with exercise, play and physical activity
- Following the rules of the learning environment

Music

All children have the innate ability to make and enjoy music. Music education is based on four key skills: creation of music, presentation of music, response to music, and connection to personal experience. During first grade your child will use their imagination to generate musical ideas for a specific purpose, their skills and talents to broaden their musical knowledge and technical performance skills.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 1st Grade

- Creating musical ideas for a specific purpose
- Understanding music concepts, such as melodic contour, from a variety of cultures
- Reading and performing rhythmic patterns
- Demonstrating tempo and dynamics of music
- Learning to perform music with purpose and expression

Art

Art allows your child to appreciate, evaluate, understand and create visual arts, first grade art is focused on building fundamental skills and knowledge of art through critical thinking, creativity, imagination and appreciation of works of art.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 1st Grade

- Making or designing artwork using various materials and tools to explore personal interests and curiosity
- Collaboratively engage with peers in imaginative play with art materials
- Identify and classify everyday objects in drawings, diagrams, sculptures etc.
- Describing choices while creating art using art vocabulary