



Saint Francis of Assisi School

Experience the Good, the True, and the Beautiful

RELIGION IN FIRST GRADE

The St. Francis School First Grade Religion program uses *Spirit of Truth* by Sophia Press to develop an awareness of God as our Father in Heaven, the creator of Heaven and Earth, who is all good, who created them in His image and likeness, and who loves them unconditionally. Basic parts of the Mass are introduced. Students continue to learn from the lives of saints as they explore the basics of prayer as a conversation with God.

First Grade students will

- Develop an awareness of God our Father, creator of Heaven and Earth
- Understand the basic parts of the Mass
- Learn more about sin in connection with the Sacrament of Confession
- Explore the lives of the saints
- Develop a relationship with Mary as the Mother of God
- Learn and practice basics of prayer as a conversation with God
- Integrate Disciples of Christ virtue program in the classroom

LANGUAGE ARTS IN FIRST GRADE

Building on what they have learned in Kindergarten, first graders learn more complex letter-sound relationships. Students apply these new skills to longer decodable stories, informational texts, and in their own writing. Reading comprehension and fluency are emphasized. All skills are carefully integrated and taught in multiple modes—visual, auditory, and kinesthetic—to reinforce language learning. Daily word work helps children develop the foundational skills they need to become successful readers and writers. New phonics, spelling, structural analysis, and vocabulary skills are taught and practiced using the *Superkids Reading Program* and the *Word Work Books*. Every unit provides a balance of engaging fiction and informational texts for daily reading instruction and practice. The texts children read are all phonetically controlled to match the sequence of phonics and structural skills taught in the *Word Work Books*. Daily writing lessons teach critical writing skills and the writing process. The writing genres focused on include: narrative, informative/explanatory, opinion, descriptive, poetry, and correspondence. These genres are revisited multiple times throughout the school year.

First grade students will learn

- Consonant digraphs, long and short vowels, r-controlled vowels, and vowel digraphs
- Endings, suffixes, prefixes, contractions and compound words
- Phonetic and structural patterns to help with decoding and encoding
- Mastery of all 220 high-frequency Dolch (sight) words
- Parts of speech, synonyms, antonyms and homonyms
- Comprehension and fluency skills for reading literary and informational texts
- Writing mechanics, writing process, and types of writing (narrative, opinion, informative/explanatory)

Mathematics Curriculum

Saxon Math produces confident students who are not only able to correctly compute, but also apply learned concepts to new situations. Saxon Math students practice mathematical ideas over a considerable period of time through the pedagogical process known as incremental development and continual review.

Material is introduced in easily understandable pieces, or, increments, allowing students to grasp one facet of a concept before the next one is introduced. Both facets are then practiced together until another one is introduced. This feature is combined with continual review in every lesson throughout the year. Topics are never dropped but are increased in complexity and practiced every day, providing the time required for concepts to become totally familiar.

Students will participate in a wide variety of mathematics activities using the Saxon Math program. Students will learn through hands-on experiences, discussions, explorations, and oral practice. While each day's activities will be different, each lesson will have a familiar four-part format.

- **The Meeting:** a time when students practice everyday skills. Students will learn about the calendar, the daily number pattern, weather, attendance graph, time, and money. They will also use mental computation to solve practical problems.
- **Fact Practice:** this helps students master number facts by practicing fact strategies using fact cards, games and activities, Learning Wrap-Ups, and fact sheets. Students also practice their number facts at home using a variety of methods.
- **New Concepts:** these are presented in each lesson through discussion and hands-on experiences that allow students to be actively involved in learning. This also aids in their ability to recall.
- **Written Practice:** this reinforces new concepts from the lesson as well as from previous lessons. Students are guided in class as they complete and correct Side A of the practice sheet. Students complete Side B as homework.

Complete Saxon Math Scope and Sequence

- *Kindergarten – Fourth Grade:*
<https://www.hmhco.com/~media/sites/home/education/global/pdf/scope-and-sequence/mathematics/elementary/saxon-math/scope-and-sequence-6-14-13.pdf?la=en>

MATH IN FIRST GRADE

First Grade students will master the following concepts: *

Numbers and Operations

- Count by 2's, 25's and 100's
- Read and write numbers to 1000
- Identify how many more or less
- Master basic addition and subtraction facts

Geometry and Measurement

- Construct and name line segments
- Identify angles

Statistics, Data Analysis and Probability

- Create and read a bar graph
- Write observations from a graph

Problem Solving and Communication

- Identify the missing number in a sequence
- Solve problems using an organized list

**For a comprehensive list of skills and benchmarks, please see the Complete Saxon Math Scope and Sequence above.*

SOCIAL STUDIES IN FIRST GRADE

First grade uses literature to study national and religious holidays. First grade focuses on citizenship and helping within a community. First grade students are introduced to town history, focusing on their town, school, and church.

First Grade students will

- Identify National and New Hampshire monuments and symbols
- Demonstrate an understanding of human migration and cultural expansion
- Identify the characteristics and purposes of globes and maps
- Demonstrate an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of being a good citizen

SCIENCE IN FIRST GRADE

First Grade science focuses on hands on experiences. Students will develop the scientific skills of observing, predicting, and inferring.

First Grade students will

- Build and manipulate simple machines using our LEGO program
- Continue with studying the life cycle of different animals and plants
- Discuss and observe matter
- Track the weather especially in New Hampshire
- Discover different habitats and how animals survive in the wild