

Overview of First Grade Curriculum

Language Arts, including Phonics, English, Spelling, Handwriting and Reading: Bob Jones University Press: Building on the foundation introduced to students at the kindergarten level, students continue to learn the phonograms that make up the English language by listening to them, speaking them and writing them in manuscript print. Once students begin to master the initial phonograms, they are introduced to spelling and creative writing. This strong foundation builds student confidence in their language skills and encourages them to be life-long readers. To compliment the Language Arts program, students use beginning readers from Bob Jones University Press. Independent reading in classroom-library books and reading to students from classic children's literature are an essential part of the program.

History: Bob Jones University Press: Students learn to think and live by a biblical worldview through the development of five themes—family, church, government, citizenship, and work. The units introduce a different field of history while covering American history from the Native Americans to today. Students look at their roles as family and community members and see themselves from God's perspective.

Science: Bob Jones University Press: Topics that first grade students cover in science include:

Earth Science: Air: temperature; movement; evaporation; condensation; precipitation clouds. Weather; temperature; movement of air, forms of precipitation, weatherman; thermometer, recording weather observations; Space; Sun, moon, and stars: parts of the sun; path of the sun shape of the moon constellations

Life Science: Roots, stems and leaves; parts for growing grouping and eating: Flowers, fruits and seeds: making new plants; flower groups; fruits and seeds; parts for eating: Animals: tame animals; livestock; wild animals in woods and zoos

Human Body: Senses: seeing touching; tasting; smelling; hearing: Teeth: parts of teeth; two sets of teeth shapes, jobs and care of teeth

Physical Science, Motion: Pushes and pulls (forces); gravity; magnetic force; mechanical force; friction

Energy: Heat: melting and freezing; vaporizing and condensing; temperature changes; Sound: vibration; travels in all directions and through gas, liquid and solid; how sound is used

Matter: Takes up space; can be weighed; in solid form; in liquid and gas forms

Mathematics: Abeka: Based on God's principles of the order of creation, Mathematics 1 is a comprehensive math curriculum that balances conceptual understandings of mathematics with appropriate drill and practice and allows students to practice the conceptual skills they have learned with meaningful, real life problems. The use of manipulatives is viewed as critical and necessary to the study of Mathematics. As students involve themselves in hands-on activities, they grasp the mathematical concept being presented. At the first grade level, students are introduced to and encouraged to master addition and subtraction facts through 18; place value (2 and 3 digit numbers), data as understood through charts and graphs, money counting coins of the same and different denominations, time (telling time to the hour and half hour, understanding of elapsed time, order time and events, estimated time, understanding of calendars), fractions (equal parts,

halves, fourths), geometry (plane and solid figures, extended patterns, measurement (weight and capacity), and addition and subtraction with renaming. Each lesson reviews previously learned concepts. These activities provide opportunities for the students to model and explain their work.

Bible: Bob Jones University Press: *Bible 1* covers a non-denominational catechism with 43 question-and-answer statements for students to memorize. Each Bible truth will be introduced through illustrated and interactive Bible stories, songs, memory verses, and much more. Each Bible story will begin teaching students the foundational doctrines for the Christian faith.

Also:

Music: In weekly music classes, students are taught the fundamentals of rhythm and music theory. Students will also be involved in one school musical program each year.

Physical Education: Our physical education teacher helps the students develop large motor skills and knowledge of games with rules.

Art: Students have an art class in addition to the art that is integrated into the daily program. Students learn about different techniques and about working with different media, as well as receiving an introduction to Art History. They are introduced to famous artists, and see how Bible stories and concepts have been illustrated through the ages with art.

Library: All elementary students have the opportunity to visit the school library each week for a literacy lesson. They are also able to borrow books on a weekly basis.

Social Skills: Students meet with the school counselor to learn about self-awareness, self-control, and interpersonal skills.

Spanish: Students learn basic conversational Spanish and common vocabulary words.

Chapel: The entire elementary school joins together in the church chapel for a short service each Wednesday morning. This is a time of worship, prayer, and testimonies. Classes take turns presenting the weekly lessons. Christ Chapel Academy pastors are frequent visitors.