

Overview of First Grade Curriculum

Language Arts, including Phonics, English, Spelling and Reading: Bob Jones University Press; Handwriting: Abeka Publications: 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 and Geography: Bob Jones University Press: Students continue their study of America and the world which was begun at the kindergarten level. Some topics they discuss and from which they learn more about the United States include America's flag, America's freedoms, symbols of America, and great people of America. Then students study things about countries around the world. Here is a list of countries students learn about in first grade: Mexico, Peru, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Bahamas, England, the Netherlands, Norway, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Israel, Egypt, India, China, Australia, Guam and American Samoa.

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 Publications: 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: Bible Truths, Bob Jones University Press: Although all of our curricula is taught from a Christian perspective, the systematic study of God's word is an essential element of the Christian school. Children learn how to study God's word and practically apply it to their daily lives.

Also:

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.

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. Age appropriate bible studies are utilized in guiding elementary chapel services.

Computer Introduction and Instruction: Curriculum skillfully integrates classroom studies with computer skills. Students at all grade levels learn about keyboarding, desktop publishing, data base management, spreadsheets, multimedia presentations and all other components of the Virginia Standards of Learning in the area of technology.

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.

Music: In weekly music classes, students learn the fundamentals of rhythm and music theory.

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