

Social Studies

First grade students will develop an awareness of themselves and people around them. The focus is on:

- Families, homes and neighborhoods
- Important Americans and Presidents
- Working together
- Meeting needs through goods and services
- Celebrations

Physical Education

First grade students will learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. The focus is on:

- Maintaining personal fitness
- Acquiring an awareness of personal health needs
- Demonstrating gross motor skills
- Participating in cooperative group games

Music

First grade students will have the opportunity to participate in musical activities and to develop an appreciation for music. The focus is on:

- Singing in groups
- Identifying difference in elements and expressing qualities
- Distinguishing various types of musical instruments

Art

First grade students will have the opportunity to express themselves in various art forms. The focus is on:

- Communicating through art
- Taking pride in their work
- Learning to blend colors
- Using a variety of art mediums

Evaluation

A report of student progress will be distributed approximately half way through the first quarter for all students, and in subsequent quarters for those having difficulties.

Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled in November, but can be requested at anytime.

Students will receive a report card at each of the four marking periods.

Homework

First grade students will be assigned homework as needed for practice and reinforcement as well as for the completion of special projects.

Parents can help by:

- Modeling active participation in weekly liturgy, daily prayer, and service
- Showing an interest in homework and school activities
- Providing a quiet place and sufficient uninterrupted time to do school work
- Encouraging good nutrition, rest and exercise
- Staying in touch with the school
- Reading with your child and having your child read to you every day
- Practicing math facts regularly

ST. MATTHEW PARISH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM GUIDE

FIRST GRADE

A POSITIVE INVESTMENT IN YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

This curriculum guide provides a glimpse of goals and activities.

For more comprehensive information, please contact the school principal.

St. Matthew Parish School
1555 Glen Ellyn Road
Glendale Heights, IL 60139
(630)858-3112
www.stmatthewschool.org



Religion

First graders will learn through stories, activities, Scripture, prayer, discussion and reflection about their Catholic faith. Catholic values are discussed and integrated in all subject areas. The focus is on:

- Traditional common prayers
- Creation
- God, Jesus, Mary and the Holy Spirit
- Participating in the celebration of the liturgy
- Liturgical seasons
- Lives of the Saints
- Salvation message
- Intro to old testament/new testament stories

Language Arts/Reading

The Language Arts program includes reading, writing, speaking, listening and the study of literature. The components of the program emphasizes the development of those skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well and listen and speak effectively. The skills acquired and understood are applied and reinforced in all content areas.

Reading/Literature

Through the series, children experience literature in the form of poetry, folktales, nonfiction, fiction, fantasy and plays. Reading fluency will develop and improve. The focus is on:

- Linking spoken and written language
- Using word identification strategies
- Developing vocabulary (includes listening and sight)
- Using structural analysis
- Comprehending the main idea
- Sequencing events of a story
- Analyzing details
- Using context clues
- Distinguishing fact from fantasy
- Self-appraising and self-correct while reading
- Recognizing parts of speech that include nouns, verbs and adjectives
- Using a glossary and dictionary

Writing

Students use writing to convey meaning. The focus is on:

- Using words and pictures to convey thought
- Writing simple sentences
- Applying spelling knowledge
- Applying grammar and mechanics
- Composing a short narrative

Listening/Speaking

Students will listen for understanding, follow directions and respond appropriately to the speaker. Students will use acquired language and vocabulary to express opinions. The focus is on:

- Presenting material orally
- Participating in discussions
- Reading and retelling stories

Technology

St. Matthew follows the National Educational Technology Standards for Students. We believe that students must have regular opportunities to use technology to develop skills that encourage personal productivity, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration in the classroom and in daily life. The focus is on:

- Illustrate and communicate original ideas and stories using digital tools and resources.
- In a collaborative work group, use a variety of technologies to produce a digital presentation or product in a curriculum area.
- Find and evaluate information related to a current or historical person or event using digital resources.
- Use graphical organizers to explore and depict patterns of growth such as the life cycles of plants and animals
- Demonstrate the safe and cooperative use of technology
- Independently apply digital tools and resources to address a variety of tasks and problems

Mathematics

First grade students acquire a knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply math skills to solve problems through the use of the text Math 1 by McMillian/McGraw Hill, extended activities and hands on experience. The focus is on:

- Identify, write and order numbers from 0-100
- Add and subtract numbers to 18
- Solve simple word problems
- Chart, compare and graph data
- Measure length in inches and centimeters
- Using a calendar
- Telling time using both analog and digital clocks
- Identifying 3D geometric shapes
- Introducing money skills
- Continuing with addition that includes adding two digit numbers without regrouping

Science

First grade students will use concrete, hands-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world around them. They will learn through observing, predicting, questioning and explaining. The focus is on:

- Plant, animal and human growth
- Investigating habitats
- Life cycles
- Maintaining a healthy body
- Weather
- Learning about energy
- Movement and sound