



# First Grade Highlights

## INTRODUCTION

First Grade is a key year to equip students for life in God's world! Our goal is to grow a child's innate curiosity to learn and provide the highest quality education possible. Our classroom provides a blend of child based learning, learning stations, small groupings, independent work, and whole group instruction. Students gain knowledge and achieve high test scores through an environment that is positive and safe. Our classroom has an atmosphere that fosters friendships, respect for others, and the fundamentals of teamwork.

### Religion

*Voyages* is a Christ-centered curriculum, emphasizing living the faith in everyday life. It is our hope that students will grow in their desire to know God and live His way. In First Grade, lessons follow a chronological survey of the Bible and include Bible verses, songs, prayer and memory work. Students learn key concepts of faith such as Law and Gospel, confession and repentance, forgiveness and grace.

### Reading / Literacy

Our reading/literacy curriculum is taught using *Houghten/Mifflin* as our basal reader together with the "Daily Five" literacy program. Students work cohesively in one group learning language skills and are grouped according to their reading developmental level challenging them to grow. Story time, reading centers, silent reading, and reading buddies provide a rich environment full of opportunities for children to interact with concepts and ideas in literature. Daily oral language, journal writing, writer's workshop, and Spalding spelling provide supplemental learning experiences in grammar and writing development. Reading blocks include: Read to Self, Work on Writing, Read to Someone, Listen to Reading, and Word Work. The combination of both programs sets the foundation for literacy development and a life long love of reading.

### Science

McGraw/Hill curriculum inspires students to gain an interest in science by exploring and observing the world around them. Each lesson offers an experiment/explore activity. The curriculum combines Life, Earth and Physical sciences exposing students to a wide variety of science concepts.

### Math

McGraw/Hill mathematics encourages proficiency in conceptual understanding, computational and procedural skills, and problem-solving ability. Box It and Bag It, Bridges, and Number Corner provide additional skill development using manipulatives. This well-rounded program gives students a firm foundation in concepts including numbers 1-100; addition and subtraction to 20; data and graphing; place value and patterns; money; time; measurement; geometry; fractions; and addition and subtraction of 2-digit numbers.

### Social Studies

Scott/Foresman provides a comprehensive content that captures the students' imaginations and makes them eager to learn. The curriculum provides built-in skill lessons that connect with content and develop critical thinking skills. Concept areas are history, economics, science and technology, geography, culture, citizenship and government.

### Experiences Include:

- Art Literacy
- Field Day
- Field Trips
- Fifth Grade Buddies
- Holiday Parties
- Library/Computers/PE
- Music/Choir (Programs)
- National Lutheran School's Week
- Readers' Theatre/Coffee House
- School Wide Assemblies
- Science/Art/Social Studies/Literature/Math Fair (*Rotation*)
- Spanish/Sign Language
- Story Telling/Drama
- Traditional Seder Meal
- Weekly Chapel

