



## TRINITY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

### First Grade Program

Instruction in the first grade supports the student development goals and objectives of the Trinity program by providing opportunities for students to grow through successful intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual experiences and activities, guided by skillful teachers.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** - The ACSI Elementary Bible Series is used as the basis for the Christian Education curriculum. This program combines stories from the Bible with hands-on activities for the students. Daily prayers are also a part of the Christian Education program. Students assemble on Wednesday mornings for Chapel services and once a month Eucharist is celebrated.

**SPEAKING** instruction includes furthering the development of effective communication skills with peers and adults, extending their ability to formulate and express specific ideas, and experience varied activities to develop verbal skills. This will include dramatization, choral reading, show and tell, and write and share.

**READING**, as a subject, provides the individual student with the ability to decode, comprehend, and apply reading skills. A heavy emphasis is placed on the phonetic approach to reading using the McGraw-Hill Reading program as the key to unlock the door to the independent mastery and the ultimate goal: a love for reading. On a daily basis, the students silently pre-read a specified assignment, participate in group comprehension discussions, read orally, and do follow-up exercises in a workbook. The SRA Reading Laboratory and the Accelerated Reader program are added as enrichment on an individual basis. The Junior Great Books program is also used to develop higher-level thinking skills.

**HANDWRITING** instruction includes the production of legible D'Nealian letters. Emphasis is placed on letter formation, correct grip of pencil, and posture.

**LANGUAGE ARTS** – Grammar, writing, and composition are taught using the Shurley Method. The Shurley Method teaches the solid foundation of grammar in a new and exciting way. Students use rhythm and a set of specific questions to classify sentences orally, identifying each sentence part as well as the overall sentence structure. They learn how all sentence parts fit together to make sense and express an idea. They learn how to expand, improve, and edit their writing. The students then learn how to express their own ideas through formal and creative writing.

**SPELLING** is taught using both the McGraw-Hill program which is closely correlated to the reading vocabulary and Scientific Spelling which stresses spelling patterns and rules.

**MATHEMATICS** emphasis develops an understanding of concepts through the use of manipulative materials using the Everyday Mathematics curriculum. Students develop as problem solvers and explorers. The program includes skill development and creative problem solving, content includes addition and subtraction facts through 18, two-digit addition and subtraction (trading only with manipulative), measurement (customary and metric, time, and money), and geometry. The skills areas include: Numeration and Counting, Operations and Relations, Problem Solving and Number Models, Measures and Reference Frames (includes time and money), Exploring Data, Geometry, Rules and Patterns, Calculator Mathematics, and

Algebra and Uses of Variables. The Accelerated Math computer-assisted program is also a part of our math curriculum. It allows students to work independently on skills as they are ready for them.

**SCIENCE** emphasizes the hands-on approach to learning. Experiments are conducted in the Science Lab to encourage students to think, collect, understand, interpret, apply, and evaluate information and ideas. Field trips and videos add other dimensions to the program. Topics of study include life science, physical science, earth science, and the human body. Students are encouraged to bring items from home that complement the science program and share them with classmates.

**SOCIAL STUDIES** as taught using the Scott Foresman series helps every child become an active, involved, and informed citizen. It allows children to explore their world and see how they can contribute as individuals. Content includes citizenship, culture, economics, geography, government, history, science, and technology.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** instruction is on each individual student's development of concepts and skills in four areas of ability: physical fitness, group games, rhythms, listening skills, and individual activities. For example, physical fitness activities are focused toward conditioning, endurance, strengthening, flexibility, coordination, and body management.

**SPANISH** reviews previously learned vocabulary and family, farm animals, clothing, foods, shapes, expressions, days of the week, months of the year, zoo animals, parts of the body, the school, people in the school, the seasons, colors, numbers, and house items are introduced. Concepts are learned through drills, songs, and various activities. Conversations with the teacher and a variety of puppet characters increase oral proficiency skills.

**MUSIC** curriculum is based on the Kodaly concept, which believes the voice is the best instrument for learning. Children explore how voices sing high and low, soft and loud. They sing simple songs and begin to learn how music is written. Simple melodies and rhythms are read. The beat of music is felt through songs and games, and the difference between beat and rhythm is learned. Simple percussion instruments are used to accompany songs and to learn about different sounds instruments make.

**ART** - The aim of the art program at this level is to create images and objects, which are bold. Children become aware of ways to fill two-dimensional spaces, large or small, horizontal or vertical. Mediums include oil pastels, markers, tempera, and watercolor. Two-dimensional works include drawing/design, painting, and printmaking. Three-dimensional includes paper-mache and clay. Students are recognized randomly through the Artist of the Week program.

**TECHNOLOGY** - Students learn the computer as a tool with classes twice a week throughout the year. They learn keyboarding techniques and acceptable user policies. Students acquire information about computer hardware from a variety of formats and use appropriate software programs with audio, video, and graphics to enhance learning experiences. These programs include the use of word processing and multimedia so students can express ideas and solve problems.

**LIBRARY** - In library, students learn to appreciate good books, types of books and how they are shelved, and responsible care of books. This is achieved by reading Accelerated Reader and Caldecott books, discussing books that are read, and learning skills taught during library science.