

## Fine Arts

### Music:

The curriculum for music seeks to develop and encourage students to use their musical talents to worship God, as well as reinforce and nurture development in language skills, listening and self-expression. Students experience basic musical concepts (rhythmic, durations, melody, forms, etc.) through singing, playing, instrument, moving and listening.

### Art:

Students will use a wide variety of media with emphasis upon non-verbal expression of individuality. The Art curriculum seeks to encourage creativity, problem solving and self-expression.

## Library

### The student will

- Build on skills learned in Kindergarten.
- Recognize fiction, non-fiction, easy reader.
- Be introduced to well known authors and illustrators, as well as Caldecott Award books.
- Be introduced to Christian authors such as Danae Dobson, Barbara Davoll & Jeannette Oke.
- Develop a love of reading and understand the benefits of reading as a life-long skill

## Field Trips and Special Events

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Individual classes go on specific field trips and participate in special events that coordinate with their curriculum units. Examples of typical field trips and special events include:

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • Pumpkin Farm & Orchard                       | • Apple & Spider Weeks      |
| • Louisville Zoo                               | • Native American Craft Day |
| • Stage One- play relating to literature units | • 100th Day Celebration     |
| • Visit to a local business or factory         | • Bookworm Bash             |

## Physical Education

The goal of the PE staff at Christian Academy is to help students develop physical awareness, locomotor and non-locomotor skills, through the use of games, sports, and special activities. Following directions and participation are encouraged as well as good fitness habits, sportsmanship, leadership, and teamwork skills.

## Resources & Textbooks

Spelling - ABEKA  
 Reading - *Foundations and Frameworks & ABEKA, Learning Resources*  
 Handwriting - *Handwriting Without Tears*  
 Grammar and Writing - ABEKA  
 Math - *Go Math! by Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt*  
 Science - *BJU Press*  
 Social Studies - *Heritage Studies by BJU Press; Nystrom*  
 Bible - *ACSI/ Purposeful Design*  
 Bible - *New International Version*  
 Spanish - *EMC - SymiTalk*  
 Music - *Game Plan*

In addition, teacher created materials are

# First Grade

This curriculum overview has been prepared to assist you in gaining an understanding of what students at this grade level are taught. Teachers and other school staff are prepared to present a balanced instructional program and establish an environment conducive to learning. The purpose is to answer several common questions...

*“What will my child be taught in this grade?”  
 “What makes this grade unique?”*

We hope you find the information helpful in answering your questions. For more detail, we encourage you to talk to the teacher of a particular grade or the school's principal.



*What is curriculum and why is it important for you to know anything about it? Is it really all that helpful for me as a parent to know what is being taught?*

Curriculum is described as “what we teach” while instruction is described as “how we teach it.” The distinction of the Christian School, however, is found in the one element that is central to both these concepts - the Bible. What is taught and how it is taught revolves around God's revelation as seen in His Holy Scriptures. With that in mind, this pamphlet contains the “basic” curriculum taught in a particular grade, that is the minimum expectations for what students are expected to learn. Of course, the minimum is not all that is taught.

Each teacher expands upon the minimum with his/her own spiritual, professional and personal experience, expertise, interests, or hobbies to develop an outstanding learning opportunity for students in the classroom. This instructional component is further expanded by the use of text materials, technology, field trips, guest speakers, and parental input along with additional resource material to provide each student with the best possible opportunity to learn the required content.



**Christian Academy**  
 OF LOUISVILLE  
 ENGLISH STATION CAMPUS

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Revised September 2016

## Bible

Although biblical principles are integrated into all content areas, specific biblical content is taught as a separate subject. First grade Bible curriculum emphasizes God's relationship with people. Students study many accounts in the Old Testament that reveal God's character who cares for people even though they are sinful. Accounts in the New Testament are studied to show how to have a relationship with Jesus and live a God honoring life.

Students are expected to memorize a scripture verse each week and explain what the verse means. Additionally, students will be quizzed on the lessons and principles learned in the daily lessons.

### Chapels

The student will

- Join either a K-2 or K-5 group in a weekly chapel time for worship, drama, and sharing of a biblical application.
- Be challenged by guest speakers to live out their faith in their own personal expression.

### Service Projects

The student will participate in class-specific and school-wide service projects designed to help students follow biblical principles to serve others and benefit the community as an expression of God's love and concern.

## Computer

The computer/technology curriculum incorporates 21st century skills. Students are presented with instruction, lessons and projects designed to foster thinking in different technology applications.

## Language Arts

The reading curriculum consists of a program utilizing sight words, vocabulary development, a strong emphasis on phonics, comprehension and critical thinking. Silent and oral reading with expression are introduced. Weekly spelling lists use words that parallel the phonics program.

Reading comprehension is developed through small group instruction, vocabulary development and learning to organize thinking through the use of visual tools. First graders focus on sequence of events and retelling through fairy tales, fables and folk tales. Other units include poetry, character, story structure and cause and effect.

The writing process encompasses punctuation, capitalization, parts of speech, creative writing, book reports and publishing student's original works such as journaling, personal narratives, informative pieces and exploratory pieces. Spoken, written and auditory communication skills are taught. Students are given instruction on the formation of the manuscript alphabet with emphasis on correct formation and neatness.

- Sight words - Phonics
- Spelling
- Silent and oral reading
- Context clues
- Comprehension, classification and-categorizing skills
- Writing complete sentences, parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization
- Manuscript Printing
- The writing process
- Friendly letter writing
- Book reports

## Mathematics

Students develop mathematical thinking in three areas, conceptual understanding, procedural knowledge and problem solving. The math program incorporates hands-on activities, technology applications, expression of math using pictures, explanation and symbols, as well as vocabulary development.

### Units include:

- Place value to 100
- Money; Parts of a whole
- Estimation and problem solving-strategies
- One and two-digit addition
- One digit subtraction
- Patterns, fractions, graphs, calendar, tallies, measurement

## Social Studies

First graders begin learning about the people and events around them, such as family and community. The social studies lessons then expand to significant historic events of their country, the United States of America. Native American lifestyles, as well as life in Plymouth and Jamestown colonies are addressed. Geography and maps skills are also intentionally taught and practiced. Students will also develop an awareness of costs of goods and services through the "Mini Mall" economics unit.

### Study Topicsc Include:

- God's Word
- Family / Community
- Christopher Columbus
- Native Americans
- Jamestown, Plymouth
- Your State and Country
- Our Capital

## Science

First grade science curriculum introduces the study of science in the following areas: Biological Science, Physical Science, Earth Science and Scientific Thinking.

- In Biological Science, students study the characteristics of animals in the Animal Kingdom, how they are alike and different; how they grow and what they need to live. Life cycles of the butterfly and frog are studied.
- In Physical Science, common weather conditions and climate are observed. They also learn to classify and identify solids, liquids and gases, and the water cycle.
- The Earth/Space Science curriculum introduces types of soil, seasons, and the sun, moon, and stars.
- The use of scientific thinking is taught by way of classroom activities.

## Spanish

The Spanish curriculum for first grade combines cultural studies with expansion of vocabulary and conversation skills. In addition, students engage in study of parts of speech and written language. The method of instruction combines the use of visual vocabulary cards, listening activities, and grammar practice. The intent is to build basic conversation skills with Spanish. (Available only at English Station and Rock Creek.)