

First Grade Curriculum

Catholic Formation

Students will:

- Focus on God as the source of life and grace, as a loving person who listens to our prayers and sends us his Son to be our Savior
- Identify the Bible as the Word of God, Baptism as the sacrament that not only removes Original Sin but also makes us members of God's family
- Identify the Church, liturgy and prayer as means of worshiping together
- Develop an awareness that others deserve love and respect because they are members of God's family
- Study God as Creator, attributes of God, components of the human person as an image of God (intelligence, will, body and soul), God as our source of life, prayers as talking with God, Mary as the Mother of the Church, grace as Divine Life, Jesus as the Son of God, second person of the Trinity and our Savior, Jesus' passion and death, the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Jesus in the Eucharist, nature and mission of the Church, leaders of the Church
- Learn and relate Old Testament stories and Jesus' parables in the New Testament that teach about God's love for us.
- Learn various forms of prayer (liturgical, spontaneous, formal and guided meditation), how to participate in Mass, identify liturgical seasons and their themes, read and retell lives of the saints, Mary and the angels.

Reading

Students will:

- Have a strong sense of phonemic and phonological awareness
- Know all sounds and letters of the alphabet and be able to blend sounds into words and words into sentences with accuracy and fluency
- Understand that words convey messages
- Have a strong sight word vocabulary including all color and number words
- Correctly spell frequently used and common words
- Read sentences with understanding of punctuation
- Comprehend what is read aloud and silently on grade level
- Practice reading comprehension strategies, such as predicting, summarizing, clarifying, making connections, visualizing, and asking questions
- Build understanding of literature, including cause/effect, finding main ideas and details, making inferences, drawing conclusions, author's point of view, compare and contrast, sequence, and fact vs. opinion
- Recognize different genres of literature including fiction, non-fiction, classic folktales and poetry
- Orally present work, including unit projects and book reports
- Participate in the Jr. Great Books Program to develop critical thinking, writing and interpretive reading

Phonics

Students will:

- Learn phonics as a decoding strategy
- Recognize and read common sound-symbol correspondences and word blends
- Use a solid phonics and structural analysis approach to encoding

Spelling

Students will:

- Recognize words in context in a variety of expository selections and genres, including poetry, riddles, and stories
- Correctly spell high-utility words as well as specific words each week that correlate to our Spelling program

Writing

Students will:

- Write legibly and efficiently on lined and unlined paper
- Write a simple paragraph using correct punctuation and grammar
- Understand the basics of the writing process
- Identify simple sentences and be introduced to compound sentences
- Identify different types of sentences including statements, questions, commands and exclamations
- Develop a working knowledge of the parts of speech and use this knowledge to write well-formed sentences, including proper verb tenses
- Use the writing process to compose various types of writing pieces including creative writing, report writing, narrative writing, instructional writing and letter writing

Handwriting

Students will:

- Use correct pencil grip, paper position and sitting posture
- Write in manuscript using correct letter formation

Listening, Viewing and Speaking

Students will:

- Maintain sustained attention for 30 minutes
- Develop listening comprehension skills
- Appropriately ask and answer questions
- State a clear main point when speaking to others
- Recite poems and short passages from memory
- Give short, oral reports on a book or topic
- Use proper etiquette when speaking
- Perform at a Public Speaking event with developing confidence: First Grade Readers Restaurant

Math

Students will:

- Identify the number value of a number
- Be able to correctly use “plus,” “minus,” or “take away”
- Order and compare numbers
- Add and subtract without regrouping; regrouping introduced by beginning of 3rd quarter
- Understand introductory level basic fractions
- Understand basic linear and volume measurement
- Use a clock and calendar to measure time
- Count, compute, estimate and problem solve based on developmental level
- Read, write, compare and order numbers up to three digits
- Identify place value up to 1000
- Practice fact families up to 20
- Measure with nonstandard and standard units
- Apply problem solving strategies
- Complete one and two step word problems
- Understand time using a clock
- Understand coin values
- Identify and create patterns
- Understand the beginning concept of multiplication
- Practice mental math and problem solving strategies
- Practice math timed tests of basic facts

Science

Students will:

- Complete hands-on experiments and investigations of the immediate environment
- Practice scientific thinking skills such as analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating, applying, questioning and problem solving
- Practice the scientific process including observing, describing, comparing, measuring, classifying, predicting, inferring, developing a hypothesis, and experimenting
- Analyze life cycles of animals and plants, states of matter and how properties change, light and motion, how simple machines work, sound, heat, magnetism, soil, rock layers and fossils, erosion, geographical features, volcanoes, geysers, earthquakes, sun, earth, moon, planets, atmosphere, hydrosphere, cells, heredity, the skeletal, muscular, digestive, and circulatory human body systems, germs, diseases, nutrition, hygiene

Social Studies

Students will:

- Develop an understanding of chronological thinking
- Understand change over time
- Compare and contrast historical stories, people, places and situations
- Understand points of view based on perspective, basic research skills, an understanding of Earth’s physical systems and human culture
- Understand concepts of community and neighborhood

- Study geography and history of the United States geography of North, South and Central America, American History—in particular Columbus, Pilgrims, Mayflower, Puritans, the First Thanksgiving Day, the Thirteen Colonies, Massachusetts Bay, Native American customs and interactions between the Native Americans and early settlers, The Declaration of Independence, Making of the Constitution, Bill of Rights, War of 1812, Westward Expansion, Civil War, Civil Rights Movement and Immigration

Art

As early exposure to music has proven to have life lasting effects for an individual, the aim with our youngest students is to allow them to have a variety of hands on experiences with music. Students listen to and learn about classical music stories such as The Nutcracker. Drums, sand blocks, shaker eggs, rhythm sticks are among some of the instruments that students have access to. Songs incorporating foundational Kodaly singing syllables are taught and sung. Lastly, students learn church and bible songs which are sung as prayers at the start of class.

Library

With the advent of advanced, computer technology, the enjoyment and promotion of reading and the acquisition of research and reading skills have experienced a significant degree of change. Some of it has been very fast-paced. That said, here is the core of our developing program in the St. John Bosco Library of The Highlands School.

Your child will enjoy reading in our Library program that is integrated with the well-known and praised Accelerated Reader (AR) Program. Elementary students visit the Library weekly with the goal of selecting a quality book at or above their present reading level, and to check it out. In First Grade, they will learn to select a book at the appropriate reading level, and in second grade, they will work on identifying the main idea and supporting details.

Physical Education

The Physical Education program that's designed for lower school students will be a program of individual and team activities that will focus on fitness, coordination, and character building. Through class activities and instructions students will be given the opportunity to learn how to stretch & warm-up, throw & catch, balance and coordination, and a variety of sports. This program is designed to develop an awareness and appreciation for activity and physical fitness through cardio, aerobics, and mini-games of fitness. We focus on character building by creating an environment that can showcase sportsmanship and team work.

Music

Building upon and continuing the foundation setting of musical concepts introduced in Pre Kinder and Kindergarten is the work of First Grade music classes. We expose students to hands-on musical experiences such as using percussion instruments and singing Kodaly solfege syllables. Students will now start identifying lines and spaces on a staff. Basic rhythm notation is taught and the knowledge is transferred to the percussion instruments. Classical music stories and pieces of music are listened to and evaluated in the student "listening cocoon".

After School Care

The Highlands School Aftercare Program provides each child with the opportunity to develop a strong work ethic through allotted homework times, trying to instill independence in problem-solving and time management while still aiding the students as necessary to the best of the staff's abilities. In addition to this work ethic, the students are encouraged to socialize not only with their classmates but with children in other grades, extending their bonds and friendships to others with similar interests and enabling them to interact with various age groups in a comfortable, friendly environment. The students are able to interact both in centers—the games and other crafts the students may play each day—and in outdoor activities from tag to soccer to football, weather permitting. The Aftercare Program has daily prayers that often allow the students to voice their own prayer intentions and thus practice praying for those in need within the community. As a whole, the Aftercare Program is dedicated to the development of the students in its care: academically, socially, physically, and spiritually.