



PERIMETER SCHOOL
A Covenant Christian Community

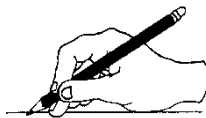
Rising First Grade Information



Our Curriculum:

Language Arts -

- The science of reading shows that teaching phonics systematically and explicitly creates a strong foundation for reading. We use the *Wilson Foundations* curriculum, based on the Orton-Gillingham approach, to teach children the basics of decoding written words.
- Handwriting is an important element of first grade. We use *Handwriting Without Tears*, a very engaging approach that uses music, motion, and manipulatives to train young ears, eyes, and fingers to print beautifully. Teaching your child to hold a pencil with a “tripod” grip will be advantageous.



- The study of language includes grammar, which is the system that makes meaning out of words. We learn that each word in a sentence does a special job. We learn to use capital letters and punctuation correctly. We learn how to write about ideas. We use *Language Lessons for the Well-Trained Mind* and *Shurley English* as teacher resources for planning instruction.
- Literature, of course, is the most delightful aspect of the language arts! Learning to read is very exciting. First graders practice with specially designed phonics readers that use recognizable sight words and familiar decodable vocabulary words to tell on-going stories. These readers are often sent home for practice to build fluency. In class, we share many wonderful books and poems together, including *The Tales of Beatrix Potter*, *Heidi*, *Little Pilgrim’s Progress*, *A Child’s Garden of Verses*, *My Father’s Dragon*, and Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*. Each week, we visit the school

library to borrow books that can be enjoyed at home. We expect that families are committed to daily reading time at home - both independent reading for 20 minutes and parents reading aloud to the children every day.

Bible -

- Children are introduced to the Bible as “God’s own story in His own words.” Daily readings begin with Genesis 1:1, the creation of everything, and progress to the Promised Land. In the spring, we celebrate the Exodus. We also examine the life and teachings of Jesus.
- Each month is organized around an informing idea and includes a Charlotte Mason habit, a classical hymn, and Bible memory work. We use the ESV *Following Jesus Bible*.
- Students learn verses that support our school’s PEARL rules. They memorize the school’s annual Scripture passage, as well as several more Scriptures in songs.

Math -

- Building a child’s number sense is foundational to the exploration of math. We provide experiences with numbers and problem solving so that children develop skills in a natural trajectory that begins with counting, ordinality, cardinality, subitizing, and strategizing. These experiences include number talks, working with objects, visualizing, playing games, and simulations such as playing store or cooking.
- Our math instruction encourages students to develop math fluency through a multi-sensory approach. The goal is training children to use their number sense and become adept at problem solving. Our day begins with the calendar meeting, which trains children in a variety of practical skills like telling time and noticing the weather. First grade math concepts are presented in short lessons with plenty of teacher-guided practice. We use *Into Math* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
- At home, children practice independently with a workbook and activities. Teachers assess student progress in a variety of ways including observation, verbal checkups, and written tests.

Science and Social Studies -

- Nature Study and Friday Enrichment Day topics provide the basis for much of our science and social studies exploration in first grade.

Fine Arts/Charlotte Mason Emphasis -

- Artist Study - The lives and works of Georges Seurat and Edgar Degas are enjoyed.
- Composer Study - The life and works of Beethoven are enjoyed.
- Nature Study - Familiar plants, animals, and insects are studied and painted in a special journal using dry brush watercolor technique.
- Narration - Classic folktales, fairytales, and fables are read aloud at home. After one hearing, children are recorded telling back the stories in their own words.

Our PEARL of Wisdom
Politeness·Example·Attitude·Respect·Listen