

**St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School's First Grade curriculum is fully aligned to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Standards based on Wisconsin state standards. Our First grade curriculum fosters a love of learning while building foundational academic skills. With our approach to learning, teachers emphasize hands-on learning, creativity, and character development in a nurturing environment. First graders are active participants in our school liturgies twice a week.**

### *The Whole Child*

A complete First Grade experience revolves around developing the skills of the whole child. At St. Mary's Visitation, it is our goal to provide an opportunity for children to grow not only academically, but spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically. We instill in children the Catholic Values, social skills, manners, independence, and the routine and structure of school. St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School endeavors to provide an atmosphere of high expectations that challenge the individual and promote lifelong learning so each student can reach the fullness of his or her individual potential. Through partnering with parents, we are able to meet these expectations and goals.

### *Religion*

Religious education at St. Mary's Visitation encompasses not only formal religion classes, but also an education in Catholic beliefs and values that is integrated in every aspect of the academic curriculum. First graders learn about their Catholic faith through Scripture stories, prayer, discussion and reflection, music, and weekly liturgies. The Kindergarten Religion curriculum we use is called *Christ Our Life* and Catholic teachings are discussed and integrated across all subject areas. The following topics are the focus of the First grade Religion curriculum:

- Identifies the Trinity as God (the Creator), Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit
- Knows we are part of God's larger family, the Church
- Recognizes important liturgical seasons, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter
- Identifies the two great commandments Jesus gave: love God and love others and ourselves
- Understands and experiences prayer as both talking and listening to God
- References the Bible as God's Word
- Memorizes and prays the Our Father and Glory Be to the Father

### *English Language Arts*

#### **Reading**

First grade students experience different genres including fairy tales and fables, informational, fiction and nonfiction, and classic stories. In First grade, we utilize *Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts* to foster individual student's knowledge and skills. Reading fluency and focusing on background knowledge will develop and improve as students are presented with the following skills and knowledge through the year:

- Foundational reading skills
- Blending and segmenting words
- Compare and contrast characters in a story
- Ask and answer questions
- Retell stories
- Written and oral comprehension
- Partner and silent reading
- Core vocabulary words
- Fables and Fairy Tales
- Different lands and similar stories

#### **Writing**

First grade students will produce works that include the four step writing process: plan, draft, edit, publish. Students will convey their thoughts and communicate effectively through illustrations and using words. In addition, basic grammar, mechanics, and explicit spelling instructions will be used. First grade students will write opinion pieces, narratives, and informative texts.

#### **Speaking and listening**

First grade students will listen to others when speaking and participate in collaborative discussions. Students will use language and vocabulary to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly. First graders ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

## Mathematics

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First grade students use the mathematics curriculum through *Savvas enVision*. First grade students develop knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply numerical skills to solve math problems. In First grade, students will:

- Read, write, and represent numbers 0 through 120
- Understand place value of ones and tens
- Adding within 100
- Subtracts multiples of 10
- Applies properties of operations to add and subtract
- Adds and subtracts whole numbers within 20
- Measures the length of objects
- Tells and writes time in hours and half-hours
- Organizes, represents, and interprets data
- Distinguishes defining attributes of shapes

## Science

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First graders will work collaboratively with each other and use hands-on experiences to understand science and the world that God created around them. Students will take a look at the *HMH Science Dimensions* curriculum to assist with communicating, explaining, analyzing, and understanding. In First grade, students will study:

- Engineering and technology
- Sound
- Light
- Plant and animal structures
- Living things and their young
- Objects and patterns in the sky

## Music

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First grade students will attend to music class twice a week where they will explore rhythmic and melodic phrases, perform music and show audience etiquette, identify fast and slow tempos, demonstrate high and low pitches, how to connect with our faith and sing music at Mass.

## Library

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First grade students will visit the school library to listen to read alouds and choose a book based on interest to be checked out each week.

## Social Studies

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First graders use the social studies curriculum from *Savvas myWorld*. First grade students will develop awareness on community and the people around them along with the integration of our Catholic Social Teachings. The focus will be on:

- Rights and responsibilities of citizens
- Geography of the community
- Symbols and traditions of the United States
- Life today and long ago
- One nation, many people
- Work in the community

## Physical Education

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In First grade, students will explore and demonstrate factors that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Students will participate in physical education twice a week to show competency in motor skills and movement patterns. They will also exhibit responsible social behavior that shows respect to self and others. Students will also work collaboratively and cooperatively.

## The Arts

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In First grade, students will be introduced to various artists including Alma Woodsey Thomas, Wassily Kandinsky, and Hundertwasser. They will be using different art materials such as:

- tempera paint
- oil pastels
- watercolor pens
- colored pencils
- markers

## Recess

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In First grade students benefit from recess twice a day where they interact with others which offers cognitive, social, emotional, and physical benefits.

## ST. MARY'S VISITATION

Catholic School † Elm Grove, WI

**St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School exists to direct children toward God and toward Christian service to society through Catholic religious formation, academic challenge and continuous improvement.**