

Course Descriptions

Language Arts First Grade

Course Philosophy: In Colossians 4:6, God's word says to "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." In accordance with God's word, we believe that our students will be prepared to communicate effectively through speech, reading, and writing at or above grade level.

Course Goals: According to the HSP California Excursions Philosophy, this program "is built on the fundamental belief that every child must learn to read, write, and communicate effectively in order to achieve academic, personal, social, and economic success. Furthermore, the program is designed to ensure that every child can learn these critical literacy skills." (Program Overview and Pacing Guide, pg.5)

Our goal is to create fluent readers with a knowledge of phonics rules that enable them to decode unknown words and then apply thinking skills to comprehend varying genres.

Textbook: Harcourt School Publishers: California Excursions

Time allotment: ___120___ minutes per day, ___4___ days a week

Course content: Themes focus on phonemic awareness, phonics and spelling, high frequency words, comprehension strategies (listening and reading), fluency, vocabulary development (listening and speaking), and grammar and writing skills.

- Theme 1 → Follow Me
- Theme 2 → One For All
- Theme 3 → Turning Corners
- Theme 4 → Wild and Wonderful
- Theme 5 → Where We Live
- Theme 6 → New Places, New Faces

Areas to be evaluated: Students will be assessed on decoding, fluency, comprehension of varying genres, speaking, and spelling. They will be assessed through Biweekly Assessments, Theme Tests, Benchmarks, Speeches, and monthly writings.

Additional Activities: Students will have opportunities to participate in monthly speeches, small learning groups, and independent reading opportunities with level appropriate books (Reader's Workshop).

Bible First Grade

Course Philosophy: We believe that “all scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness...” 2 Timothy 3:16

- Teaching/Training – We filter & infuse all subjects with the word of God.
- Rebuking – The word of God is the standard for student expectations.
- Correcting – The word of God is the foundation from which we guide students toward righteousness.

We do all of this so that each student may come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and be equipped to know, love, and obey his word.

Course Goals: Students will memorize God's word, listen to Bible stories and lessons, participate in discussions and answer questions about those stories. They will sing praises to God. They will participate in prayer daily, including morning and afternoon prayers and grace. Children will display Christian character. They will use Biblical principles in problem solving and interpersonal relations.

Textbook: NIV Adventurers Bible
1st Grade Enjoying God's Gifts Positive Action Bible Curriculum

Time allotment: 30 minutes per day, 4 days a week
45 minute Chapel on Fridays

Course content:

- Unit 1 God's Gift: The World
- Unit 2 God's Gift: Special Promises
- Unit 3 God's Gift: Worship
- Unit 4 God's Gift: A Savior
- Unit 5 God's Gift: Children
- Unit 6 God's Gift: Friends
- Unit 7 God's Gift: Special Blessings

Areas to be evaluated: Students will be graded on Bible memorization, class participation, workbooks and worksheets.

Additional Activities: Students will be encouraged to read from the Bible. Students will act and react in ways which display their understanding of Scripture. Students will be encouraged to display godly character.

Math First Grade

Course Philosophy: Math promotes structure and order, promotes absolute truth, strengthens the mind, causes learning and trains the intellect. Children should be equipped to problem solve, so they can work out everyday problems, “precept upon precept, line upon line...” (Is. 28:10 KJV) Students will build concept upon concept in mathematics.

Course Goals: Students will count and write numerals to 100 and beyond. They will be able to read cardinal and ordinal number words to twenty. Students will understand place value: ones, tens and hundreds. Students will memorize math facts for families 1-20. Students will add and subtract two and three digit numbers with regrouping. Students will solve addition and subtraction word problems. Students will count coins in mixed order. Students will be able to recognize and draw plane geometric shapes. Children will produce and read tally charts, bar graphs, and pictographs. Children will be able to draw and measure lines using inches and centimeters. Children will tell time to the hour and half hour. Children will read thermometers and determine suitable clothing at given temperatures.

Textbook: Houghton Mifflin

Time allotment: 45 minutes/5 days a week

- **Course content:**
 - Numbers to 100**
 - Addition Strategies**
 - Subtraction Strategies**
 - Data, graphs and patterns**
 - Place Value**

Areas to be evaluated: Students will be graded on chapter tests and weekly math facts assessments.

Additional Activities: Students will have opportunities to work with many manipulatives, and participate and use ‘mental math’ during oral learning times.

Science First Grade

Course Philosophy: Genesis 1:1 states the “God created the heavens and the earth.” We believe that there is a divine order in the design of everything. Using this as a foundation, the scientific method should bring our students to a fuller understanding of the truth of God’s word. Therefore we will provide a solid foundation in science that is based on Biblical principles.

Course Goals: Students will read about God’s world. They will learn about their bodies and begin to appreciate their unique God given qualities and traits. Students will recognize that God made different kinds of animals and their distinct features. Students will discover the varieties of plants and the habitats in which they grow. Students will study the difference between solids, liquids, and gases. They will learn the life cycles of insects and their usefulness in God’s creation. Students will learn about temperature, weather and seasons.

Textbook: Weekly Reader and Pearson’s Interactive Science

Time allotment: 20-30 minutes per day, 1-2 days a week

Areas to be evaluated: Students will be graded on class participation and projects

Additional Activities: Students will have opportunities to conduct experiments.

Social Studies First Grade

Course Philosophy: We believe we are to view History as the record of God’s creation in the development of man, civilizations, governments, economics, cultures, beliefs, and social and political systems. History should shed light on the hidden hand of God at work on our behalf, teach us lesson and warn us of mistakes not to be repeated. We want to inspire students to be literate citizens with the knowledge, skill, and civic values needed to become active and reflective participants with Christian values in the 21st century. Proverbs 4:1 “Listen my sons, to a Father’s instructions; pay attention and gain understanding.”

Course Goals: Students will be introduced to the basic functions of America’s government system: legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Students will learn the importance of rules and laws and how to be productive citizens. Students will learn how to read and use a map. Students will know the city, state and country in which they live. They will recognize directions. They will learn the seven continents. Students will recognize and identify islands. Students will learn about important American figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln. Students will learn important American symbols and traditions.

Textbook: Weekly Readers, Reflections (Harcourt)

Time allotment: 20-30 minutes per day, 2 days a week

Areas to be evaluated: Students will be graded on class participation and projects.

Writing Units

This is a general map of our writing unit. Each writing unit is student driven and can move faster or slower than the assigned month.

September	Getting Started
October	Small Moments
November	Author as a Mentor
December	Author as a Mentor/Friendly Letter Introduction
January	Friendly Letters
February	Poetry
March	All About
April	How To
May	Opinion Paper

Speeches

We will start speeches in November. Students will be sent home a packet that will guide them (with your help) in brainstorming, writing, and memorizing a speech. Students will have approximately 3-4 weeks to prepare for their speeches. Sample topics include:

- *A family tradition
- *I have a dream...
- *Facts about....
- *Animal presentation

Students will be graded on accuracy, pacing, and voice.

Course Description Music Grades K-2

Course Philosophy: In Psalms 100 it says, “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.” In accordance with God’s Word, our students will learn to praise God through music. We also believe that music instruction benefits our students both academically, socially, and spiritually.

Music Course Goals:

- Students will enjoy and engage in the elements of music (dynamics, tempo, timbre, duration, pitch) as listeners, performers, readers, and composers.
- Students will discover and develop healthy singing voices to participate in choral singing and optional solos.
- Students will relate music to the world around them in relation to environmental sounds, moods and feelings, interests, and beliefs.
- Students will confidently sing and play instruments.
- Students will personally worship God through singing.

Time allotment: Music: 30 minutes per day, 1 day a week, additional rehearsals

Course content:

- Unit 1: Sing and Move - Respond to tempo, dynamics, style, and message of the music.
- Unit 2: Play Classroom Instruments - Respect, enjoy, and classify sounds.
- Unit 3: Graphic Notation - Participate in music as a whole language. Read, write, perform, and hear graphic notation. Second grade includes traditional notation.
- Unit 4: Musical Styles: Listen and respond to various styles of music from different time periods and cultures.
- Unit 5: Compose a sound story with narration to be edited and performed. Second grade includes glockenspiels.

Areas to be evaluated: Students will be graded on effort to participate in activities, ensemble singing, and understanding and performing graphic or traditional notation.

Additional Activities: Students will have opportunities to sing for events around the Bethany campus and possibly in our community.