

First Grade Curriculum Objectives

Guardian Lutheran School

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Mission Statement

As we share the love of Jesus with all who enter our door, Guardian Lutheran School strives to nurture families and, through quality Christ-centered education, to prepare students academically to integrate faith and life.

A Christian Environment

- Christ-centered teaching and learning
- Daily religious instruction
- Classroom devotions
- Weekly Chapel services
- Dedicated Christian teachers
- A loving, nurturing and forgiving environment.

Religion

Students understand that Jesus, their Savior, died to take away their sins. They learn how important the Bible is to them and that it contains the knowledge of what Jesus has done for them, how they should live, and how they can be in heaven. Bible stories are taught to the children in chronological order, so they will learn about Bible history as well as the plan of salvation. As the students begin to learn more about the Lord and what He expects of us, they recognize differences in other people who are non-Christians. Beginning to gain an appreciation for Martin Luther and his teachings as well as recognizing the liturgical seasons help in their understanding of the church body. Daily use of prayer in the classroom helps the children to realize that God is their friend, to whom they can talk at any time.

Art

At the first grade level, the students gain experience with many different art materials and techniques such as watercolor, tempera paint, crayon resist, chalk, modeling clay, etching, weaving, and collage. They are introduced to different components of art such as texture, shape, perspective, overlapping and color tones. Projects are often related to our reading stories or have a holiday theme. Several art lessons relate to famous paintings by artists such as Renoir or Grandma Moses.

Computer Science

Students will learn the parts of the computer and what they do. Many activities are planned to introduce the children to different keys and tool bars on the computer. Mouse practice is introduced with games dealing with phonic and math. We use educational software: Office 97 - Word, Kid Works Deluxe and Phonics 2 to reinforce word processing skills, writing and publishing stories.

Handwriting

First graders will continue to use proper formation in writing manuscript letters and numerals, using the D'Nealian style of writing, paying attention to correct placement of letters on the line and correct spacing of letters and words.

Language Arts

Incorporating reading, listening, writing, speaking and thinking skills provides a broad foundational base upon which students can build each year. Word attack skills strengthened by phonetic decoding enable the students to be successful. They continue to develop their oral language and communications skills and move to becoming independent readers and writers. Distinguishing features of stories, poems, and informational texts is introduced. They regularly read (both orally and silently) in texts of appropriate difficulty with fluency and understanding. The use of the writing process enables students to work independently and cooperatively in achieving success.

Math

Students learn basic facts as they begin to explore the concepts of simple addition and subtraction. Manipulatives that enhance the student's understanding of word problems, patterns and graphing. Basic concepts of telling time, counting money and measuring help the student in understanding the world around them.

Music

Students become involved in response to musical pieces and display their involvement in singing, clapping, and distinguishing beats and rhythms. They become more aware of the melody and pitch of musical pieces and can respond in a variety of ways. They learn to use their voices to praise God as they participate in worship services.

Physical Education

Learning to follow directions and rules of the game can be a challenge at this age. Work on this idea occurs as the children interact with others, learn to cooperate and accomplish the goals of the game. Activities incorporated in gym are jumping rope, rhythm with lummi sticks and parachute, bouncing and throwing balls and related games.

Science

Learning about our five senses, animals, matter, the earth, space, plants and our bodies are the focuses for this year. Many hands on activities and field trips help the children understand basic concepts.

Social Studies

God places special responsibilities on families and the members of each family. As the students progress through this grade, the emphasis is on helping them grow as members of their individual families, their school and church families, and the communities in which they live. Maps of communities, states, countries and the world lead to an understanding of their place in God's universe. Following and participating in examples of good citizenship help them understand the importance of individual and collective participation.

Spelling

Students will go through weekly and review lessons that focus attention on phonics, structure (adding "ed" and "ing") and sight words. The first focus of instruction is on simple sound patterns, moving to more difficult blends. Our goal is to help students use their spelling strategies and put them to work in their writing.