

# FIRST GRADE

## PROGRESSION OF LEARNING

ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART



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## DEAR PRESCHOOL AND LOWER SCHOOL PARENTS,

Welcome to the new school year, we look forward to partnering with you! It is my hope that the First Grade Progression of Learning provides parents with an overview of the curriculum, concepts, and skills introduced at each grade level.

Each semester, faculty will consistently connect with you with the intent to share the curriculum and programs, provide information on your daughter's growth and progress, and to gather your feedback and questions.

- In August, we will host Preschool and Lower School Open Houses.
- Mid-year grade level teams will host parent events on either academic, social, or emotional topics designed specifically for each grade level.
- Mid-semester, faculty and parents will meet on campus for Parent Teacher Conferences to discuss the goals and progress of your daughter. Faculty will share student work samples, student self reflections, and grade level tools for reporting.
- At the end of each semester, progress reports can be accessed via the parent portal with optional conferences available.

I hope you find this resource informative as you begin the First Grade journey with your daughter and her teacher.

Sincerely,  
Shara Hammet  
Preschool and Lower School Division Head

## PRESCHOOL & LOWER SCHOOL INTEGRATED APPROACH TO LITERACY AND WRITTEN LANGUAGE

Our approach to literacy offers Preschool and Lower School students systematic, code focused instruction that is engaging, cohesive, and differentiated. Comprehension is taught purposefully and explicitly, teaching students the strategies necessary to understand and find joy in reading. Our approach utilizes culturally sustaining texts in the context of purposeful activities.

First Grade instruction includes the integration of Teachers College Reading and Writing Units of Study, Guided Reading, Foundations (K-Grade 3), Shared Reading and Read Alouds, and Patterns of Power. This integrated and intentional approach includes explicit phonics instructions, opportunities to develop reading skills through the practice of a strategy presented in a mini-lesson, guided practice with a small group, development of written literacy, opportunities to read and explore a text with the whole class, and the development of vocabulary and comprehension via read alouds.

Students benefit from instruction that builds the foundation for literacy with explicit, teacher directed instruction while providing the opportunity for increased independence as students independently extend literacy through engagement with texts that they can and want to read. Determining the needs of our students means asking the right questions about our students and positioning teachers as guides who consistently inquire about the optimal balance of instructional practices for their current students.

Students need developmentally appropriate, precise instruction about every strand of literacy including letters, patterns, vocabulary, usage, and comprehension. In addition, students receive instruction that includes clear modeling, plenty of practice and feedback.

Frequent informal and formal assessment and data collection (Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System, running records, Foundations assessments, high-frequency words assessments, and observations) are used to collect information on readers and writers. Teachers are able to use data to make frequent and subtle adjustments to each student's reading instruction. This flexible and responsive approach to literacy instruction allows teachers to best support each student's reading and writing development.



## THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, FIRST GRADE STUDENTS WILL BE ASSESSED ON HOW THEY:

- Form all upper and lowercase letters using top to bottom, left to right progression
- Demonstrate knowledge of letter-sound correspondence
- Distinguish short and long vowel sounds
- Orally produce single-syllable words by blending sounds
- Segment spoken single-syllable words into individual sounds
- Isolate and pronounce initial, medial vowel, and final sounds in spoken single-syllable words
- Know and apply phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words
- Read and spell common high-frequency words by sight
- Read and spell suffixes (-s, -ing, -ed)
- Identify key ideas and details in fiction and nonfiction texts
- Recognize and use text structures
- Use illustrations and details in a text to describe key information from the text
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension
- Monitor reading to confirm literal understanding of the text
- Demonstrate higher-order comprehension skills by inferring, analyzing, and/or making connections about the text
- Ask and answer questions about key details in text read aloud or information presented orally
- Determine the meaning of unknown words from an array of strategies
- Apply phonetic concepts in written work
- Apply spelling rules in written work
- Apply spelling of sight words in written work
- Use capitalization and punctuation correctly
- Produce a variety of text types
- Express ideas in a logical and sequential manner
- Write with detail

## OVERVIEW OF LITERACY CONCEPTS & SKILLS

Over the course of the year, First Grade students will be introduced to many literacy concepts and skills. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Words from left to right, top to bottom, and page by page
- Recognize that spoken words are represented in written language by specific sequences of letters and that words are separated by spaces in print
- Recognize and name all upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet
- Recognize and produce rhyming words
- Count, pronounce, blend, and segment syllables in spoken words
- Add or substitute individual sounds (phonemes) in simple, one-syllable words to make new words

- Demonstrate basic knowledge of letter-sound correspondence by producing the primary or most frequent sound for each consonant
- Associate the long and short sounds with the common spellings (graphemes) for the five major vowels
- Read common high-frequency words by sight
- Read and reread text and discuss it with a partner
- Make a mental picture before reading and revise mental images as the story is read
- Talk with a partner about books in a way that fosters comprehension and builds an understanding about the big ideas of a book
- Use strategies to understand and to figure out tricky words while reading
- Monitor reading to help understanding
- Retell the story using first, next, then, after that, and finally
- Use learned reading tools to read informational texts
- Predict what the book will be about by looking over its features
- Use text features to study informational books more closely to learn information
- Figure out new and important words that relate to specific informational topics
- Find ways to get through the hard parts of a book
- Notice when reading does not make sense or sound right
- Pick out interesting and important parts of books to reread to others to share interest

## OVERVIEW OF WRITTEN LANGUAGE CONCEPTS & SKILLS

During First Grade, students will be introduced to many written language concepts and skills. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

### Opinion Writing, Information Writing and Narrative Writing

- Write a beginning to get the reader's attention
- Elaborate about opinion and use words such as "and" and "because"
- Find a way to end the story or piece
- Write a part to get the reader's attention and a part elaborating
- Write a reason for the opinion
- Teach readers about a topic
- Write different parts about a topic on different pages
- Put facts in a written piece to teach about a topic
- Write about something the writer did and create a beginning of a story
- Use transition words such as "and," "and then," "so," etc
- Write a story across three or more pages and put pages in order
- Put the picture from one's mind onto the page
- Use details in pictures and words
- End sentences with punctuation, using a capital letter for names and using commas in dates and lists

## PRESCHOOL & LOWER SCHOOL APPROACH TO MATHEMATICS

The Academy of the Sacred Heart faculty facilitate lessons that encourage mathematical engagement, apply the creative use of visual models, and encourage students to problem solve and persevere through complex problems. Teachers facilitate whole and small group instruction, work one-on-one with students, and foster collaboration by providing students with many opportunities to actively engage with their peers.

First grade uses Math in Focus Singapore Math as the core curriculum. This curriculum provides carefully constructed learning experiences that develop a deep understanding and critical thinking skills at increasingly rigorous levels.

### What is the Singapore Math™ Method?

The Singapore Math method is focused on mastery, which is achieved through the intentional sequencing of concepts. Students in prekindergarten through fourth grade learn to think mathematically, relying on their depth of knowledge gained in previous lessons and units. Because students think through concepts and apply them in new ways, students are pushed to greater engagement and broader thinking as they approach variations of problem types previously encountered.

The use of the concrete, pictorial, and abstract progression includes the use of concrete materials such as connecting cubes and visual representations such as number bonds to make connections and develop a deeper mathematical understanding.

Mathematical problem solving lies at the heart of the Singapore Math Approach along with the development of key aspects including concepts, skills, processes, metacognition, and attitudes.

The development of mathematical habits are integrated within the grade level activities, explorations, practice, and discussions each day. This includes the ability to:

- Persevere in solving problems
- Construct viable arguments
- Use tools strategically
- Make use of structure
- Use mathematical models
- Use precise mathematical language
- Look for patterns

This focuses on the importance of processes and proficiency in mathematics and builds the student's problem-solving and communication skills, as well as the ability to reason, make connections, and see relationships.

## THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, FIRST GRADE STUDENTS WILL BE ASSESSED ON HOW THEY:

- Extend the counting sequence verbally and in writing
- Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction
- Understand and apply properties of operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction
- Understand place value (ones and tens)
- Reason with shapes and their attributes
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract
- Measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units
- Tell and write time
- Represent and interpret data

## OVERVIEW OF FIRST GRADE MATH CONCEPTS & SKILLS

During First Grade, students will be introduced to:

- Count, compare, and order numbers to 10, 20, 40, 120
- Place Value
- Number Patterns
- Make number bonds
- Ways to add and subtract
- Make addition and subtraction stories, real world problems addition and subtraction
- Make fact families
- Ways to add and subtract fluently
- Addition and subtraction with and without regrouping
- Get ready for multiplication
- Explore solid shapes, use shapes to make pictures and models, seeing shapes around us
- Use flat shapes to make patterns, use solid shapes to make patterns
- Use a calendar
- Tell time to the hour, tell time to the half hour
- Compare length, compare more lengths
- Use a start line, measure length, measure length in units
- Compare weights, measure weight, measure weight in units
- Simple picture graphs, tally charts and picture graphs
- Penny, nickel, dime, quarter
- Count money, add and subtract money

## SOCIAL STUDIES

The Academy of the Sacred Heart Preschool and Lower School Social Studies Program is an integrative approach that incorporates civics, economics, geography, and history with designated social studies time allotted each week across all grade levels. Curriculum and programs are aligned with the mission goals and criteria of the school through which students form the foundational skills that prepare them to participate respectfully and intelligently in society. Hallmarks of the program include:

- Meaningful, tangible, and engaging learning opportunities
- Strong foundation for inquiry using research, debates, discussions, and projects of all varieties
- Access to multiple resources-including, but not limited to, books, images, speakers, and field trips
- Students as digital citizen and global citizens
- Informational, visual, cultural, and economic literacy
- Partnerships and collaboration among faculty, enrichment teachers, and community resources

## ENRICHMENT HUB

Please visit the Enrichment Hub on the parent portal resource page where you can learn more about Religion, Art, Music, Science, Technology, P.E., Library, and French classes. The Enrichment Hub details the skills and concepts introduced at each grade level and even gives you a tour of the enrichment classrooms!

# Highlights from First Grade\*

- Word Detectives • Poetry Cafe • Seesaw • Palette Art Show
- Mater Innovation Lab • Curricular Field Trips to Music Box  
Village & Louisiana Children's Museum • Playgroup
- Makerspace • Intramurals • French Play

*\*Subject to change*



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4521 St. Charles Ave. • New Orleans, LA 70115  
504.269.1230 • ashrosary.org