



1st Grade

VERITAS ACADEMY GRADE LEVEL PROFILE

First Grade students continue building upon what was learned in Kindergarten by increasing their reading fluency to 80-100 words per minute and continuing the study of phonograms (both single and multi-letter). Students also grow in speed with their addition facts and are introduced to subtraction.

CLASS SECTIONS

3

STUDENTS PER CLASS

16

STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO

16:1

DAYS ON CAMPUS

M/W
+OPTIONAL FRI

SCHOOL@HOME

T/TH

Vision of a Veritas Defender

We are committed to growing students towards an ideal of the good, wise, and virtuous young man or woman of faith. The Veritas Valiant reflects one such idealized vision that we hope our students aspire to become, while a Defender reflects the present status, or reality, of all of our students as they are *becoming* Valiant-like.

PORTRAIT OF A DEFENDER

We desire to cultivate people, particularly students, who:

1. Understand and believe the Gospel, trusting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
2. Are present and active in the worship and life of the local body of Christ.
3. Find joy in the study of Scripture, prayer, and service of Jesus Christ.
4. Read deeply and charitably; reason truthfully, diligently, and earnestly.
5. Speak and write with clarity, wisdom, and eloquence.
6. Engage creation with wonder and respect; pursue beauty and good workmanship.
7. Love Christ the King, following his command to make disciples of all the nations, teaching them to love God and one another.



Grammar School Overview

GRAMMAR STAGE

In the Grammar School, basic factual content and rules—the “grammar”—of each subject are mastered. The curricular emphasis during these years is on learning basic facts and figures during the time when children love to memorize (and when they are best at doing so). This is also a time where children are most curious and filled with wonder. Grammar School seeks to capitalize on these tendencies, building the habit of lifelong learning.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The parent's role in Grammar School is that of a co-teacher. As such, one parent needs to lead in the co-teaching role and become familiar with the grade level's curriculum and basic teaching techniques to actively engage and implement lessons on School@Home days. There are also ample opportunities for parents to volunteer on-campus and to attend in-class presentations and grade level special events.

SCHOOL TRADITIONS

Special GS traditions include Chapel, Veritas ROCKS, a winter Daddy-Daughter Dance, Mother-Son Event, and an annual Food Drive.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Opportunities for Grammar School students to connect to the entire community include Defender Family Night, Fall Roundup, and more.

VERITAS ROCKS

Based on the Biblical concept of building our homes on rock and not on sand, Veritas ROCKS summarizes the standard of behavior that will be promoted at Veritas Academy:

- R – Respect Authority
- O – Others are Important
- C – Correction: Accept it and Learn from it
- K – Keep Yourself Prepared
- S – Seek Excellence

Special Events

HISTORY CELEBRATION

As your family wraps up their year of History Study, we will celebrate each of the cultures and time periods studied with a Grammar-Wide Celebration. Games, costumes and food make this event an occasion the whole family will remember and reminisce for years to come.

READ ALOUD CELEBRATION

Students come together at the end of each At Home GS Read Aloud to celebrate unique aspects of each book, such as a play or puppet show, an on-campus scavenger hunt, pie eating contest, and more.

FIELD TRIP

GS families are invited to attend one school-sponsored School@Home day field trip.

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Core Subjects

MATH	Using a multi-sensory approach, students are taught addition/subtraction of 2 and 3 digit numbers, 2- and 3-dimensional shapes, measurement in metric and standard units, patterns and mental math, place value to 1000, one-step word problems, addition/subtraction of money, and graphs.
HANDWRITING	Fine motor skills are strengthened as students are instructed in the proper pencil grip and proper letter formation. First Grade students receive a thorough review of lower-case letters.
READING	The love of reading is best caught when students read in a book that fits them. Targeted reading strategies are taught in the classroom and developed through individualized and consistent reading. As students are ready, they transition into appropriate chapter books and specified comprehension questions are introduced. On home days, families will read a variety of classics through our assigned Grammar School read aloud.
PHONEMIC AWARENESS	Students develop phonemic awareness, the basis for successful reading, through structured word play.
SPELLING	Students begin learning about the encoding of language through learning the sounds and spellings of phonograms. Students continue to build their knowledge of single and multi-letter phonograms with a pattern-based approach while also learning and applying spelling rules.
MEMORY WORK	With the desire that families would memorize Scripture together, all Grammar School students memorize a passage of Scripture along with the rest of the school. "Thinking Points" are provided to facilitate meaningful discussion around the dinner table.

Daily Schedule 8:10am-3:30pm

Bible - 20 minutes	Recess - 25 minutes	Latin - 25 minutes
Morning Meeting - 20 minutes	Lunch - 25 minutes	Writing - 30 minutes
Math - 60 minutes	Spelling - 25 minutes	Reading - 60 minutes
Science/History - 45 minutes	Grammar - 15 minutes	Specials Wheel - 60 minutes

In Grammar School, courses are combined into one core block and teachers structure the school day to include instruction of all subjects. This daily schedule is a general guide of a typical school day.

School@Home Day generally 4-5 hours per day

To prepare for each week, co-teachers will access and download homework from Family Portal, our online school management system. Co-teachers will then guide their student through the homework provided by the classroom teacher and can expect to spend approximately 1.5-2 hours on Language Arts, 1-1.5 hours on Math, and 40-60 minutes on Science/History per day.

Presentations & Projects

In order to provide ample opportunities for students to become comfortable and confident in their public speaking skills, First Graders have two major presentations during the school year. Rhetoric skills learned in Grammar and Logic schools build toward the capstone Senior Thesis, a 20-minute memorized speech that students present and defend in the spring of their Senior year.

DR. SEUSS PRESENTATION
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN AND OLD TESTAMENT PRESENTATION
AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT PROJECT

A Note on History & Science

History

Students in Grades 1-4 will be introduced to a sweeping view of history from Creation through modern times as they study and learn together family style. Each year, the curriculum will highlight specific historical times and events in order to make Biblical connections, examine culture and arts, read rich literature, and participate in living history events.

Science

From Creation to Marie Curie, students follow science as it unfolds in history. Throughout their Grammar School career, students will be exposed to a variety of scientific topics, including medicine, physiology, biology, chemistry, geology, electricity, magnetism, heat, light, and sound waves, as well as the famous men and women behind the different scientific fields and discoveries.

Sample Lesson Plans

Lesson Plans are written by classroom teachers for on-campus instruction.

LANGUAGE ARTS

MATERIALS

Independent Books
Read Alouds
All About Spelling Teacher Guide & Student Pages
Handwriting Manual
First Language Lessons (FLL) Manual
Memory Book
Science or History Journal

OBJECTIVES (THE LEARNER WILL)

TLW read independently in Individualized Reading Program (IRP) book.

TLW review phonograms and spelling rules.

TLW identify initial and final sounds.

TLW apply reading and comprehension skills.

TLW identify and apply correct punctuation, capitalization, and usage in sentences through writing and dictation.

TLW recite scripture and poems.

TLW appreciate and identify music by various composers in history.

ACTIVITIES

1. Welcome, Prayer, Pledge, Devotional:

- Review Bible Flashcard # 9 (God's Covenant with Abraham).

2. Art/Music Appreciation:

- Listen to *Viennese Musical Clock* by Kodaly.

3. Reading:

- Student reads IRP book for 20 minutes.
- Student will answer PLORE question in PLORE spiral.
- Vocabulary - Student will choose a word from their reading and define it in PLORE spiral.

4. Spelling:

- Review phonograms.
 - Alphabet phonograms (cards 1-26) should be mastered.
 - Quickly flash through all additional phonogram cards for exposure.
- Complete "New Teaching" on initial and final sounds (TM, pgs 46 & 48).
 - Choose items around the room. Have students identify the initial and final sounds for each.

5. Grammar:

- Complete lesson 21 (complete contraction page #2 in MB).
- Read *The Year* poem, copy work through 'July'.

6. Memory:

- Review Scripture - Psalm 19:1-14.
- Read the poem - *The Year*.
- Review the Familiar Saying: "Land of nod".

SEND HOME

H-2 Spelling Test paper, IRP Logs, and Handwriting Evaluation page 34.

MATH

MATERIALS

Saxon Math 3 Student Workbook & Teacher's Edition
Math Meeting Booklet and materials
Worksheets for lesson
Rapid Recall flash cards
Rapid Recall books
Demonstration Clock
Money
Outdoor Thermometer (or phone)

OBJECTIVE (THE LEARNER WILL)

TLW make a pattern block design with a given rule.

ACTIVITIES

- Conduct math meeting for Lesson 20.
- Teach concepts for lesson 20 and complete practice page 20A.
- Do Rapid Recall: Addition, Track 5, Day 3.
- Complete Assessment #2.

HISTORY

MATERIALS

Story of the World (SOW)
Aesop's Fables

OBJECTIVE (THE LEARNER WILL)

TLW hear about how the Greeks transition from barbarians to a civilized culture.

TLW understand what a myth is and listen to several of Aesop's Fables.

ACTIVITIES

- Sing/Chat through History Pegs
- Read *Story of the World (SOW)* Ch. 20 - Greece Gets an Alphabet.
 - Have several students narrate the chapter, one sentence each.
- Students will write their names using Greek letters.
- Read two of Aesop's Fables, noting he was a famous Greek storyteller.

HISTORY

In First through Fourth Grade, history and science tend to alternate days. During most weeks, classes will receive science lessons on Monday and Tuesday and history lessons on Wednesday and Thursday.

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Sample Homework

Homework is written by classroom teachers.

HOMEWORK

READING (20 MINUTES)

1. Student should complete given assignment in their reading folder.
2. Sign reading log and record reading rate.

SPELLING (25-30 MINUTES)

1. Read through the "Before You Begin" section for Lesson 2.
2. Complete "Review" section. (TM, pg 46)
3. Teach 4 more phonograms from behind the "Future Lessons" tab (if applicable)
4. Review "New Teaching" (TM, pgs 46&48) Can your student identify the initial and final sounds in given words?
5. Choose 1 (or more) activities to complete
 - Explore the Animals (TM, pg 47; AB pg 21)
 - Explore the Foods (TM, pg 48; AB pg 23)

HANDWRITING (10 MINUTES)

1. Complete page 21 and correct messy letters.

READ ALOUD (20 MINUTES)

1. As a family, read Chapter 13-14 of *Pinocchio* and discuss. Throughout the week complete the designated writing assignments from the Read Aloud Reading Guide.

GRAMMAR (20 MINUTES)

1. Complete First Language Lessons (FLL) Lesson 23: Adjectives.

MEMORIZATION (5 MINUTES)

1. Review *The Caterpillar*.
2. Continue to memorize *Work*.

MATH (90 MINUTES)

1. Complete Morning Meeting for Lesson 14.
2. Complete Lesson 14.
3. Complete lesson 14A Written Practice.
4. Complete Rapid Recall: Track 3, Day 4.
5. Enrichment: Complete 13B/14B Written Practice.

LATIN (15 MINUTES)

1. Use the spiral bound notecard booklet to make a flash card for each new word/phrase in Song School Latin Ch. 6 ("Words to Learn").
2. Review flashcards.
3. Listen to/sing chapter 6 "Chapter Songs".
4. Complete all other activities in chapter 6.
5. Watch chapter 6 on the Song School Latin DVD.

HISTORY (60 MINUTES)

Scholé History/Science Explorers students will complete on Friday.

1. Sing/chant through History Pegs.
2. Show examples of mosaics (ancient and current - search 'ancient greek mosaics).
3. Follow instructions sent home on Mosaic Tiles to help student create their own mosaic tile in their history notebook.
4. Read Story of the World (SOW) Ch. 20 - The Stories of Homer.
5. Complete SOW Ch. 20 map.

FRIDAY FLEX DAY OR SCHOLÉ

HISTORY ENRICHMENT

1. Make Egyptian tomb paintings (instructions found here).
2. Review the story of Joseph and create Joseph's colorful coat.

READING:

1. Read assigned story and pages in reading folder.
2. Sign Reading Log and record reading rate.

RAPID RECALL:

1. Complete Track 3, Day 5.

Complete any unfinished work from the week or spend additional time on project work.

