



Welcome TO DIVINE CHILD ELEMENTARY GRADE 1

In first grade, students build and strengthen essential foundational academic skills. Through individual, small-group, and whole-group instruction, students engage in a variety of activities that support and extend their critical thinking skills. At this level, students begin to collaborate and develop problem-solving abilities that support growth in reading, writing, oral communication, and mathematical concepts. Content is integrated across the curriculum and grounded in the Catholic faith, as we strive to instill strong Catholic values in our students.

Mathematics

In our Mathematics curriculum, students build a strong foundation through the use of manipulatives, technology, and engaging activities. Our goal is for every student to develop problem-solving skills and strengthen their understanding of math vocabulary and basic operations. Hands-on manipulatives, interactive games, and technology are used to activate prior knowledge, reinforce skills, and introduce new concepts.

Language Arts

Our Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) program is a leading early literacy curriculum grounded in the Science of Reading. This program takes a comprehensive approach through two important strands: Skills and Knowledge. The Skills strand provides explicit instruction in foundational reading skills, including phonics, word recognition, comprehension, writing, and grammar. Students also engage in the writing process to develop and produce a variety of written work. The Knowledge strand builds rich, content-specific understanding that develops over time, sparking curiosity and strengthening comprehension of increasingly complex texts. Topics include literature, world and American history, the arts, and the sciences.

Reading is the Key to All Academic Success

Research shows that children who are read to regularly learn to read more quickly and develop stronger comprehension skills. Reading aloud to your child stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It also helps build language and listening skills, which are essential for lifelong learning. As a parent, you can support your child's success by making reading together a part of your daily routine.

How Can I Prepare My Child For First Grade?

On the following page, you will find ways to help prepare your child for first grade in both life and academic skills. A key part of this preparation is encouraging your child to develop independence—allowing them to try new tasks, problem-solve, and take responsibility for their learning and daily routines. Practicing these skills regularly will help build confidence and set a strong foundation for success. May God's grace guide you!

How Can I Prepare My Child For First Grade?

☆Life Skills☆	☆Academic Skills☆
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works independently for sustained periods <i><u>*Important- Practice independence at home</u></i> • Follows multi-step directions • Stays focused on tasks and completes activities • Demonstrates strong listening skills (listens without interrupting) • Shows respect and kindness toward others • Uses good manners and responds appropriately to adults (avoids arguing or saying “no”) • Handles small challenges without giving up easily or getting upset • Completes classroom responsibilities independently • Works cooperatively in small groups and with partners (takes turns, shares) • Communicates clearly using complete sentences • Demonstrates problem-solving skills • Recognize left and right • Is self-sufficient in the bathroom and with dressing • Manages personal belongings (opens lunch items, organizes backpack and zips coat) • Cleans up after self/stays organized • Knows personal information (birthday, phone number & address) 	<p><u>Fine Motor & Writing Mechanics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a correct grip when holding a pencil and scissors • Independently writes full name accurately using correct capitalization • Correctly forms uppercase and lowercase letters <p><u>Early Literacy Skills (Phonics, Reading)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies <u>all</u> letters (uppercase and lowercase) and knows letter sounds • Identifies beginning, middle (vowel), and ending sounds in words • Decodes simple words using letter-sound knowledge • Reads Kindergarten-level text • Demonstrates comprehension by identifying basic story elements <p><u>Writing Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segments and blends sounds to form words • Begins to form complete sentences using phonetic spelling • Uses appropriate spacing between words <p><u>Math Skills/Conceptual Knowledge</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies and writes numbers; recognizes numbers before, after, and between (up to 30) • Counts by 10s to 100, by 5s to 100, and by 2s to 20 • Solves simple addition and subtraction problems within 10 • Compares numbers and groups (greater than, less than, equal) • Identifies colors and basic shapes • Shows effort and pride in work overall

🍊 Incoming First Grade Summer Reading/Math 🍊

☀️ Summer Reading Goal ☀️

Maintain a goal of reading **20 minutes per day** to enrich important literacy skills. Continuing purposeful reading patterns over the summer can prevent learning loss.

☀️ Summer Math Goal ☀️

Sharpen your math skills by writing out your numbers correctly, skip counting and practicing basic math facts, addition and subtraction. **Math packet provided.**



☀️ Summer Must Do's: (click on underlined links)

- ✓ Read from summer book list provided
- ✓ Practice reading from Skills [Reader 9](#) and [Reader 10](#)
- ✓ Continue practicing [Kindergarten "Tricky Words"](#)
- ✓ Practice proper handwriting (lowercase and capital letters)
Be sure to always begin from top to bottom 👍
- ✓ Do you know your birthday? Address? Are you practicing tying your shoelaces? Can you zip your own jacket?
- ✓ *Important*: [Check out this First Grade Readiness Checklist!](#)



☀️ Summer May Do's: (click on underlined links)

- ✓ [Visit suggested learning websites](#)
- ✓ Practice from [CKLA Skills workbook](#) provided by K teacher

😎 Parents, please check out these helpful articles by clicking below 😎

[Why is it Important to Read Over the Summer?](#)

[Reading to Your Children: Why It is So Important and How to Start](#)

[Why is Reading So Important for Children? Developmental Effects](#)

[16 Benefits of Reading to Your Child](#)

[Why is Early Literacy Important?](#)

[How Does Reading Affect a Child's Development?](#)



☀️ Incoming First Grade Summer Book List ☀️

Suggested Reading	Suggested Reading	Challenge
"I Can Read" books (found in various levels)	Arthur series By Marc Brown	Frog and Toad Book Series By Arnold Lobel (<i>Beginner chapter books</i>)
Predictable, rhyming books	Llama Llama, Misses Mama By Anna Dewdney	Amelia Bedelia series By Peggy Parish
Goodnight Moon By Margaret Wise Brown	Author Todd Parr books	Flat Stanley By Jeff Brown
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? By Bill Martin	Elephant and Piggie books By Mo Willems	Fox series By James Marshall (<i>Beginner chapter books</i>)
Chicka, Chicka Boom Boom By Bill Martin Jr.	Pete the Cat series By James Dean and Eric Litwin	Author Kevin Henkes books
You Are Not Small By Anna Kang	Biscuit series By Alyssa Satin Capucilli	Clifford series By Norman Bridwell

☀️ *Have a safe and enjoyable summer!* ☀️

Remember to read, read and read some more.

God bless,

The Kindergarten and First Grade Teachers

How to Beat the **SUMMER SLIDE**



Have your child read for
at least **20 minutes**
every day.

Spend time **cooking**
together.



Explore different kinds of
reading material like picture books,
chapter books, and magazines.

Make use of your
local library.



Listen to **audio books** on
summer car trips.

Read aloud with your
children daily.



Review skills with fun,
hands-on review activities.

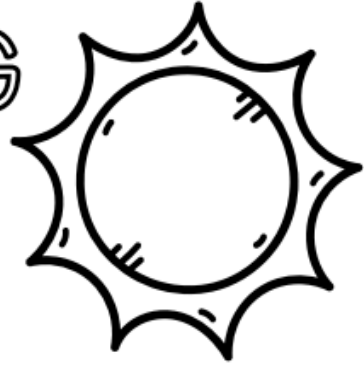
Engage in **meaningful
conversation** and help build
your child's vocabulary.



Enjoy a
new hobby!

Learn more about these great ideas at
<http://blog.AllAboutLearningPress.com/summer-slide>

SUMMER READING BINGO



Read to a pet or
stuffed animal



Build a fort and
read inside.



Read by the
water



Have someone
read to you



Read to
someone on the
phone



Read in the dark
with a flashlight



Have a picnic
and read



Write a poem or
sing a song about
reading



Read under the
covers in your
bed



Draw a picture
from your
favorite book



Read in a
park



Read to someone
younger than you



Write your own
book



Read while you
eat your favorite
snack



Read a book that
rhymes



Read to a friend

