



Welcome to first grade! We are excited about this school year. This will be my 10th year teaching and my 7th year teaching first grade at TCS. I have other teaching experiences with grades Pre-K and 3rd grade. So far, first grade has been my favorite! My goal is to meet your child in the learning process educationally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. We have high expectations that each student will try their very best each and every day. I value parent partnership. Parents are the first teachers, so together we can help your child reach their full potential. Thank you for trusting me to be your child's teacher! My instructional aide is Ms. Kady Beckwith. This is her first year as an instructional aide, but has experience working with BTB and summer camp here at TCS.

Objectives for Student Learning

I want your child to know that God loves them so much, and God has a purpose and a plan for each and every one of them! One of my favorite parts of scripture is Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I refer to this not only for myself as a teacher, but for your children too.

Here our key learning objectives for the first grade this year:

- **Organization:** Students will learn to keep their materials organized to enhance their learning experience. Folder colors coincide with each subject area. Each child is responsible for keeping up with their own supplies.
- **Religion:** We will explore topics related to the Catholic faith, fostering a deeper understanding of our values and Catholic identity. We will learn about reverence and important prayers. We attend Mass as a class weekly. Parents are encouraged to come join.
- **Phonics:** Students will develop phonics skills/phonemic awareness to support their reading journey.
- **Handwriting:** We will focus on improving handwriting for clear and effective written communication. Handwriting will be explicitly taught/teacher guided.
- **Writing Skills:** We will write various pieces of writing: narrative, opinion, expository, recipe, rules, and creative (free journal writing). We will practice using transitional words: first, next, then, and last.
- **Reading Fluency:** Our goal is for each child to learn to read fluently and with confidence.

- **Math Strategies:** Although we will cover a wide range of math concepts, we will spend a good bit of time on practicing various strategies for addition and subtraction to strengthen math skills/math fact fluency.
- **Science:** Students will engage in science exploration to ignite their curiosity.
- **Social Studies:** We will discuss important dates, holidays, economics, and map skills, enhancing their understanding of our community and history.

First grade can be challenging, but with hard work, your child will accomplish amazing things!

Curriculum

During the first weeks of school we will be assessing students, learning about first grade work, establishing routines, and getting to know what is expected. I have started recording some grades, but be on the lookout for more grades on PowerSchool soon.

Here are the names of the curriculums that we use for each subject:

Religion - Our Sunday Visitor Alive in Christ Grade 1 ISBN 978-1-61278-022-1 Copyright 2014

Reading - CKLA 2nd Edition 2019 978-1-68391-109-8

Phonics 95% Booster Phonics; Haggerty (Oral-Phonemic Awareness)

Handwriting - Writing Our Catholic Faith Grade 1 ISBN 978-1-931181-79-2 Copyright 2018

Writing - Strategies for Writers Grade 1 ISBN 978-14531-0359-3 Copyright 2013

Math - Go Math Florida B.E.S.T. Standards Grade 1

Science- Nancy Larson Grade 1 ISBN 978-60212-122-5

Science Weekly-Florida Science Skills and Beyond Grade 1 Copyright 2018

Social Studies-Florida Social Studies Our Community and Beyond Grade 1 Copyright 2018

Social Studies Weekly-Florida Science Skills and Beyond Grade 1 Copyright 2018

Other Resources:

Simple Solutions Phonics-Grade 1

Simple Solutions Math-Grade 1

Supplies

Students will use the supplies brought in at the beginning of the school year. If we are in need of additional supplies throughout the year I will let you know.

-Folder colors are orange, yellow, black, purple, green, and red.

-3 Primary Composition Books

-Crayons, Colored Pencils, Markers, Scissors, Glue Sticks, Dry Erase Markers

I will send out a “Wish List” of needed items/supplies throughout the year. Please check periodically as needs/wants change throughout the school year. **Anything purchased for our class can be used at volunteer hours for your family.**

Daily Schedule

Gallentine – 1st Grade 2026-2027

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	7:50-8:10 Morning Message Bell Work	7:50-8:10 Morning Message Bell Work	7:50-8:10 Morning Message Bell Work	7:50-8:10 Morning Message Bell Work	7:50-8:10 Morning Message Bell Work
	8:10-8:40 Religion	8:10-8:40 Religion	8:10-8:40 Religion	8:10-8:40 Religion	8:10-8:40 Religion
9:00-9:15 Daily Snack	8:40-10:00 Language Arts	8:40-10:00 Language Arts	8:40-10:00 Language Arts	8:40-10:00 Language Arts	8:40-10:00 Language Arts
	10:00-10:20 Recess	10:00-10:20 Recess	10:00-10:20 Recess	10:00-10:20 Recess	10:00-10:20 Recess
	10:20-11:00 Language Arts Writing 11:00-11:30 Spanish 11:30-11:50 Language Arts Writing	10:20-11:50 Language Arts Writing	10:20-11:00 Language Arts Writing 11:00-11:30 Spanish 11:30-11:50 Language Arts Writing	10:20-11:50 Language Arts Writing	10:20-11:50 Language Arts Writing
	11:50-12:10 Lunch	11:50-12:10 Lunch	11:50-12:10 Lunch	11:50-12:10 Lunch	11:50-12:10 Lunch
	12:10-12:30 Daily 5 (ELA Interventions)	12:10-12:40 Daily 5 (ELA Interventions)	12:10-12:40 Daily 5 (ELA Interventions)	12:10-12:40 Daily 5 (ELA Interventions)	12:10-12:40 Daily 5 (ELA Interventions)
	12:30-1:15 Media	12:40-1:00 Math	12:40-1:05 Math	12:40-1:00 Math	12:40-1:00 Math
	1:15-1:55 Math	1:00-1:45 PE	1:05-1:50 Art	1:00-1:45 Music	1:00-1:45 PE
	1:55-2:25 Science	1:45-2:00 Math	1:50-2:00 Math	1:45-2:00 Math	1:45-2:00 Math
	2:25-2:55 Social Studies	2:00-2:30 Science	2:00-2:30 Science	2:00-2:30 Science	2:00-2:30 Science
		2:30-2:55 Social Studies	2:30-2:55 Social Studies	2:30-2:55 Social Studies	2:30-2:55 Social Studies
	2:55-3:00 Dismissal	2:55-3:00 Dismissal	2:55-3:00 Dismissal	2:55-3:00 Dismissal	2:55-3:00 Dismissal

Assignment

Each week will include packets, assignments, and activities for each of the academic subject areas. Papers are turned in at the end of the week and then once graded will be sent home in the Friday Folders. Every week there is homework attached to the newsletter that is sent home the Friday before and due the following Friday. Each Friday is “Show What You Know” Test Day.

Graded work will be entered and documented into PowerSchool for parent access. I expect students to complete work when assigned each day. Students must write their name, number, and the date on each assignment, and put the assignments in their folders until they are collected.

Make-up Assignments and Late Work

Please communicate absences with me, and please email me about make-up work. Depending on the length of absence, we will determine what work will be sent home to be completed. If your child only misses one or two days, most assignments can be made up at school. Some work can be exempted.

Behavior Management

We have 5 classroom rules to help us get along with each other and to help us be respectful to our teachers.

1. We listen to each other (listen the 1st time).
2. Hands are for helping not hurting (sharing, working together, talk about it).
3. We use caring words (please, thank you, sorry, I forgive you).
4. We are respectful to our friends and our teacher.
5. We are responsible for what we do and say.

Things Ms. Gallentine says a lot of:

- Ask yourself: “Are my choices honoring God?”
- “Mistakes are for learning!”
- “There is a time for everything!”
- “I will always give you a second chance to fix it!”

Behavior expectations:

Grow Notes=**misbehavior**; needs to be signed by the parent and returned to school.

Glow Notes=**exceptional behavior**; does NOT need to be signed...keep it, hang it on the fridge!

If there is ever an immediate concern, a phone call will be made to you.

Blue Ribbons: “I got caught doing something good today!” The blue ribbons are given out for exemplary behavior/model students. They can be given out at any point of the day. These ribbons can be given out by the special area teachers as well. Mr. Bridges loves seeing the students get these blue ribbons.

Brownie Points: This is our whole class rewards system. Ms. Gallentine does not give the Brownie Points. Brownie Points are received when our class gets a compliment from office staff/administration, special area teachers, other teachers, or maintenance staff/cleaning crew. We never know who is watching us, so it is always a great idea to be on our best behavior! When the “Brownie Pan” gets full, then the whole class will participate in a fun reward.

I am looking forward to our partnership!

Please refer to the “Conduct Grade” below. The grades for conduct will be on your child’s report card.

Conduct Grade Guidelines (see Parent-Student Handbook for more information)

Trinity Catholic School is committed to providing a high quality Catholic education for all students in an atmosphere conducive to learning and teaching. Grounded in the teachings of the Gospels, we demonstrate our faith through our behavior and we take responsibility for our actions and their consequences. We maintain high expectations with respect to student effort, positive growth, personal responsibility, and respect.

Conduct grades are a separate evaluation from academic performance. They reflect a student’s overall behavior and development as a citizen within the classroom environment. Consistent positive behavior contributes significantly to a strong learning environment for everyone. By striving to meet the character traits of “KNIGHTS,” students can earn high conduct grades in each subject, while fostering a positive and respectful classroom community.

I show... **K**indness
 I am... **N**urturing
 I act with... **I**ntegrity
 I show... **G**rit
 I have... **H**ope
 I show... **T**olerance
 I show... **S**elf-Discipline

Teachers base conduct grades on a student’s consistent behavior throughout the quarter, not just isolated incidents. They look for the following:

Conduct Grade-Citizenship in the Classroom	
Above Average Knight Behavior 1	● Is a positive role model, who leads quietly or outwardly ● Shows kindness and care for others ● Is always respectful of teachers and fellow students ● Works to improve the classroom atmosphere ● Takes an active part in class discussions, groups, etc. ● Is a self-starter and seeks to help others ● Completes all work to the best of their ability ● Demonstrates personal and academic integrity

	● Respect classroom resources/tools ● Arrives on time and prepared to learn
Satisfactory Knight Behavior 2	● Contributes positively to class ● Shows respect for others ● Comes to class prepared and on time ● Demonstrates personal and academic integrity ● Listens and talks when appropriate ● Does what is expected ● Willing to help others ● Respect classroom resources/tools
Needs Improvement Knight Behavior 3	● Needs frequent reminders by the teacher to stay on task and/or behave appropriately ● Needs improvement in showing respect and kindness to classmates/teacher ● Sometimes comes to class unprepared and/or does not complete work ● Distracts other students' learning ● Occasionally displays a negative or uncooperative attitude ● Irresponsible with classroom resources/tools
Unsatisfactory Knight Behavior 4	● Is a disruptive influence on the class, negatively impacting the learning environment ● Shows a lack of respect for teacher/fellow students ● Is disrespectful or unkind to others, in actions or words ● Regularly comes to class unprepared and puts forth little effort ● Demonstrates a lack of personal and academic integrity ● Harms classroom resources/tools

In the event a student receives a 3 or 4 in Conduct and the behavior does not improve, a Parent/Teacher Conference may be scheduled, a Behavior Plan will be put in place, and the student may lose privileges. In the event that the behaviors don't improve over time, it may be decided that Trinity is not the best fit for that student.

Celebrations

We celebrate birthdays in our classrooms with special, fun activities.

No special food treats or sweet treats are allowed. This is a school policy, please refer to the Student Handbook for more information.

We celebrate various holidays in our class. Below is a list of what we will celebrate:

- All Saints Day (1st Graders get assigned a Saint; information will come home soon!)
- Thanksgiving
- St. Nicholas Day
- Christmas
- 100th Day of First Grade
- Valentine's Day

- Mardi Gras
- Easter
- End of the Year Party

AI Policy for Students

AI is not used by the students in first grade. We will not be implementing AI within our classroom activities.

Homework

Please look in your child's daily "plant" binder for homework assignments and weekly newsletter. Homework will include spelling words, phonics, reading comprehension, and math. There is also a "menu" choice board in the binder. Your child will pick **three** items to complete during the week. Please write down the three activities on the back of the newsletter. Homework is sent home each Friday and will be due the following Friday.

Homework is a grade.

Grading Scale

If your child tries their very best, then they will have good grades! :)

94-100 E
90-93 G+
85-89 G
80-84 S+
75-79 S
65-74 N
64-below P

If you have any questions about the grading scale, please let me know.

PowerSchool

Parents and students are responsible for checking PowerSchool on a regular basis to monitor progress. Please bring any concerns to my attention as soon as they appear. Parents and teachers are responsible to work together to promote student progress. Questions regarding access to PowerSchool usage should be directed to the front office. Sara Paul is the main contact for questions regarding PowerSchool: pauls@trinityknights.org

Communication

White Binders

Weekly Newsletter/Calendar in Plant Binder

This binder is an important two-way tool for communication. The binder will be used for newsletters, homework, notes, money, and any other important information.

Google Classroom- not used in First Grade

E-mail gallentinek@trinityknights.org

My preferred method of communication between teacher and parent is e-mail. Parents should expect to receive a reply from the teacher within 24 hours. Parents may confer directly with the teacher to resolve any questions or concerns. Please contact me if you would like to meet in person. I have an open door policy. If you would like to stop by after school to talk/see how things are going please contact me 24 hours beforehand. I am looking forward to future communication and conferences. Thank you for your support! Information for student conferences will be sent out to you soon!