LAKEVIEW ACADEMY

Lower School

Curriculum

1st Grade

Language Arts

A major focus of the first-grade curriculum is helping children learn how to read by teaching them decoding and comprehension skills. Teaching children to memorize 'high frequency words', words which typically do not follow phonemic patterns, aids in the development of reading skills. Learning to read is critical to success in school, and it is heavily emphasized in our program. Through whole group and small group classroom lessons, students learn guided and independent reading and spelling practices.

First grade continues to emphasize the students' writing development through a formalized program. By the end of the year, students will write complete sentences, using appropriate punctuation.

Mathematics

The concepts of addition and subtraction are continually emphasized and developed. Multiple strategies for problem solving are introduced. Students also practice rote memorization of basic facts. Money, time, calendar, fractions, place value, measurement, geometric shapes, graphing, and probability are introduced. The course develops the students' abilities to express mathematical ideas, knowledge, and problem-solving strategies for real world applications. Active participation, oral prediction, and estimation are emphasized using manipulatives, hands-on project planning, and computer technology.

Social Studies

In first grade, the aim of the social studies curriculum is for students to apply their foundational social science skills through the exploration of their immediate environments such as their school, neighborhood, and families. Through their examination of their immediate communities, students grow in their understanding of civilizations, cultures, and basic map skills.

Art

Basic knowledge of the proper use of art tools and materials is introduced. A "Master Artist" is introduced weekly along with two historical facts. Students begin to use a ground line to organize objects in art works. Improvement in fine motor skills should be more noticeable. Larger materials and tools should be used because they are still easier to manipulate. Students are introduced to four studio areas: drawing, painting, ceramics, and sculpting. The teacher will adjust the skill level in each of these studios to the student's needs and abilities.

Library

The mission of the library is to encourage curiosity and to support instruction through collaboration with classroom teachers. In addition to promoting reading for pleasure, first grade students learn the parts of a book (authors and illustrators), the difference between fiction and nonfiction, and ABC order. In preparation for lessons in later grades, first graders are also introduced to the "birthday of the book" (copyright date). The library collection is enhanced by the Accelerated Reader program, which allows students to regularly select at least one book that is on their reading level.

Music

The first-grade music class enhances previous course learnings through a more in-depth exploration of creating, performing, reading, and responding to music, while developing insights, awareness, and appreciation of people and cultures represented in our world and communities. The class utilizes a wide range of activities involving classroom instruments, movement, games and singing.

Physical Education

Students will learn to work with partners, in small groups, and in large groups practicing many locomotor and non-locomotor movements. Students will participate in modified circuit training and flexibility training and will begin to learn fitness concepts. Emphasis is placed on developing basic strength, endurance, and coordination of the large muscle groups of the body including body space awareness. The course initiates team sportsmanship by encouraging sharing and taking turns through various games and activities, including creative movement through music. In health education, we pull from the Build Healthy Kids curriculum for healthy eating topics. These topics rotate monthly.

Science

Each of the three branches of science (Physical, Earth, and Life) is covered in a hands-on, minds-on format. Children develop an understanding of what science is and that there are many kinds of scientists. In Physical Science, students explore the concepts of balance and motion. Life science involves a comparison of living and non-living things, as well as a comparison of the different kinds of animals. Earth Science includes a study of air and weather concepts and their relationship and the relationship between rocks and soil.

Spanish

The overall objectives of Spanish in first grade are to develop and reinforce communicative competency in listening, speaking, writing, and culture. Students will gain an understanding of how the language is acquired and how they can use this knowledge to express themselves linguistically. Students will also acquire a basic understanding and appreciation of the diversity of cultures in the Spanish–speaking world.

Technology

The goal of this course in first grade is to help students develop a fundamental understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations. Students will demonstrate the ability to navigate in virtual environments including software programs and on prescribed websites. They will learn how to use digital tools and apply them with creativity and innovation. Students will also engage in critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making activities to strengthen these skills. The concept of Digital Citizenship will also be introduced.