

First Grade

- **Language Arts –**

Communications: Students develop clear and detailed sentences. This is accomplished through journaling, writing letters (thank you, friendly), and reports. Poetry and oral presentations help the students to become better speakers.

Reading: The reading curriculum consists of four main components: phonics, basal readers, trade books, and leveled readers. In phonics, specific letter sounds are reviewed. Students also learn new phonetic sounds and sight words. There are eight different themes for our basal readers. Each theme focuses on stories relating to that particular theme. In October, we start off with the trade book *Teeny Tiny*. Other trade books read throughout the year include: *Penguins Through the Year*, *The Mitten*, and *Diary of a Worm*. Leveled readers are used for small group instruction and as homework reinforcement. To develop fluent readers, we use a combination of whole group instruction, small group work, partner work, and one-on-one individualized instruction.

Spelling: We will focus on the mastery of words connected to reading and writing. Areas of concentration include short and long vowel words, beginning and ending sounds, blends (sh, th), and sight words.

- **Math** - The students will develop an understanding of addition, subtraction, geometry, fractions, patterns, numbers to 100 (100th day celebration), time, money, and measurement. We accomplish this through the use of manipulatives, drawing pictures, and acting out problems.
- **Religion** - Our religious studies include specific prayers (Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary), the liturgical year, theology, scripture, and our Catholic heritage. The upcoming Sunday scripture is highlighted in the weekly Promise magazine.

Second Step is introduced to help children improve their social skills, by learning how to respond emphatically to others and practice skill steps for calming down, reducing anger and solving problems.

- **Science** – First grade covers life science and earth science. In life science, we look at living things, plants, animals, and how animals meet their needs. In earth science, we learn about the sky (sun, moon, stars, planets), weather, and seasons. Students do a special pond study and nature walk at the Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve.

- **Social Studies** – This area of study includes community, important people (Christopher Columbus, Martin Luther King Jr., George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln), and traditions. We look forward to the study of the first Thanksgiving and Chinese New Year. Students will also learn about different health and safety issues affecting their lives.
- **Art** - Students will review and build on the foundations of art theory, the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, form) and applying that knowledge to projects and activities. They will begin to learn about the principles of design (balance, pattern). The projects will reflect cultures some of which are Polynesian, Chinese, Tibetan and American.
- **Physical Education** - The focus in Physical Education for the primary level is on basic skills: locomotor movements (running, skipping, hopping galloping and sliding), non-locomotor skills (bending, twisting, stretching, turning, and lifting), basic skills (throwing, catching, hand & foot dribble, kick and strike), movement activities and balance activities. We center in on the benefits of physical activity and the use of good sportsmanship
- **Vocal Music** – Students will review the notes, rests, and musical symbols that we learned last year. We will review/reinforce keeping a steady beat. We will expand on the concepts and rhythms learned last year and learn more about world music and instruments. We will read and write stories accompanied by musical instruments and sing a wide variety of songs and listen to a wide variety of music.
- **Spanish** - Your student will be reviewing greetings, weather, and school vocabulary, which are concepts they learned as Kindergarteners. They'll be getting more into colors, days of the week, classroom commands, body parts, and family.
- **Technology** – Technology for the kids at Lourdes is part of the daily curriculum in the classrooms and computer lab with a variety of activities, lessons and software programs. All classrooms have personal computers for use in small group and individual activities. The computer lab is used for large group instruction, research and independent study. The lab is reserved by classroom teachers as required by their lesson plans.

First grade utilizes technology by: How to use the computer; Kidware software to reinforce or review concepts; introduction to word processing using Microsoft Word; Key Skills software for phonics and spelling; Kid Pix software for computer drawing and story telling; Riverdeep software for review and math concepts.