



Our Lady of Good Success Academy

Educating Youth for the Glory of God

J†M†J



Our Lady of Good Success First Grade Curriculum

First grade students do much of their learning orally and experientially, but are beginning readers. Many days will be spent in the carrying out of a routine of practicing orally those things being learned and recited. Begin the first graders' day with prayers, then move on to "Calendar Time," where the weather, temperature, announcement of the line leader and teacher's helper, and other pertinent things. In the beginning of the year, reminders about 'red light' and 'yellow light' times would be helpful. The teacher should discipline herself to address 'red light' and 'yellow light' infractions immediately so the rest of the class does not get out of hand, and order and formation are kept in the highest regard. Then, and only then, can learning take place.

Religion

Baltimore Catechism, First Communion Catechism

Leading the Little Ones to Mary by Sister M. Lelia

Bible History – Review Old Testament Stories, New Testament Stories

Other Catholic stories for young students

Lives of the saints

Prayers: Familiarization with the Rosary, Act of Contrition, Acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity, The Apostles' Creed, Soul of Christ

Since Religion is the Queen of the Sciences, it deserves the pride of place as being the first subject of the day. A most important preparation for First Holy Communion begins in this year in which the students should not only learn the catechism, but also be taught and encouraged to practice virtue. Begin teaching the first graders the catechism questions at the beginning of the year. Read the chapter together and discuss it, and memorize one or two questions per week. The teacher should not rush this, but time everything to finish before the children's First Holy Communion. Prayers can be memorized phrase by phrase and practiced many times before Father tests them at the end of the year. The Bible stories can be reviewed while perhaps creating their own Bible history book with a picture or drawing and a simple self-written sentence describing the story. The sentences can be prompted by the teacher at first, and as the students progress, they can create their own sentences. The teacher will endeavor to apply the lessons and virtues being studied throughout daily situations to reinforce their importance.

Math

A Beka Arithmetic 1

Various manipulatives as needed

Memorize the basic addition and subtraction facts

Math time can begin with some stretching and gentle exercise to freshen the brain. Move on to oral work standing behind or beside the chair, which can consist of counting aloud, asking individual questions, quizzing the current topic, or other memory work. The students then benefit from some hands-on work with manipulatives and finally work on a math worksheet of the day, or a project like a numbers book or fractions book. It will be important to allow the children time at the board. This offers a change of pace and a change of medium, and also allows the teacher to see immediately who understands the material and who doesn't.



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Language Arts

Spell to Write and Read by Wanda Sanseri

SSPX Language Arts 1st Grade, or *Seton English 1*

The phonics program *Spell to Write and Read* should be begun at the level recommended by the previous kindergarten teacher. If the teacher has gone through a conference or seminar to learn how to use the SSPX Language Arts 1st Grade program, this is preferred. However, if the teacher has not, then *Seton Grammar 1* and *Seton Composition 1* are to be used. When deciding on compositions, it would be most beneficial to the students to create them from material being learned in other subjects, in order to integrate their learning. Time should be divided between spelling and handwriting activities, reading activities, and grammar and composition activities. It may be best to separate them between morning and afternoon. The teacher should be careful to enforce 'red light' time during this subject, due to its importance to learning.

Poetry

The Harp and the Laurel Wreath

Nursery Rhyme books

Passages from stories read together

The first grade students will be exposed to beautiful and fun pieces of literature, study them, and memorize passages and complete poems. This subject is good to be placed after morning recess as a gentle way to settle down and get back into the classroom routine.

Literature

Little House on the Prairie, *Farmer Boy*, *The Boxcar Children*, or any book that can be read by a third or fourth grader can be read aloud to the first grade class everyday. Choose a book with a little higher language than a first grader would use. Consult the third or fourth grade booklist for many choices. Children should be still and silent during literature time, so the best time to do this is after lunch recess when their extra energy has been expended. Allowing the head to lay on the desk can promote quiet listening.

History/Geography

Maps, Charts, and Graphs Level A

Study maps of Missouri, locate the major landmarks in Missouri

Use a globe and flat maps to identify the seven continents, four major oceans, some extremes (tallest mountain, hottest desert, etc.)

Familiarity with directional words, (e.g. southwest, northeast)

Read aloud literature with historical American figures

The teacher can point out settings of the stories, draw and color maps, and discuss historical cultural activities.

This subject provides good opportunities to create old-fashioned arts and crafts.

Science/Nature



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Days of the week, months of the year
 Seasons and their changes
 Temperature
 Weather
 Five Senses
 Nature Walks
 Leaf collection, leaf rubbings
 Recognition of common songbirds, birdfeeder in place visible from classroom
 Aquarium
 Names of Bones
 Sprouting of seeds, parts of plants

There is no text for this subject. The teacher should endeavor to cultivate the natural sense of wonder in children by exciting their attention to the natural world and their place in it.

Art

The teacher should use certain days of the month to focus on drawing or doing another art or craft. The students greatly enjoy seeing their work displayed. The teacher should model how to draw correctly on the board using simple shapes the children already know how to make. This will give them great confidence in themselves. When possible, use classic artwork as a prop for a Bible story or lesson in Religion. Always draw attention to beautiful pictures in their storybooks. Encourage neat coloring within the lines.

Music

Listening to high-quality classical music is very important to the development of proper Catholic taste. When the students are engaged in quiet seat work, play classical music in the background. It is a scientifically-proven fact that classical music helps the concentration and learning process. Occasionally spend five quiet minutes just listening to a piece of music, and discuss the composer and where he lived. If music class is offered, encourage them to enjoy it!

Sample Schedule for First Grade

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00	Welcome	Welcome	Welcome	Welcome	Welcome
8:15	Calendar	Calendar	Calendar	Calendar	Calendar
8:30	Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion
9:00	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
9:45	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
10:05	Poetry	Poetry	Poetry	Poetry	Poetry
10:20	History	History	History	History	History
11:30	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess	Dismissal	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
12:30	Literature	Literature		Literature	Literature



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1:00	Gram/Comp	Gram/Comp	Gram/Comp	Gram/Comp
2:00	Recess/Review	P.E.	Music	Recess/Review
2:30	Science	Science	Science	Art
3:00	Clean-up	Clean-up	Clean-up	Clean-up
3:15	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal

The afternoon Recess/Review time can be used for a recess and then time to review something being learned, or for play-doh, puzzles, storytime, or anything the teacher may think beneficial.