

## **FIRST GRADE: Curriculum Summary**

The program of instruction in first grade classes at Brentwood Christian School includes a wide variety of developmentally appropriate activities and studies. Teachers write curriculum for each area of study based upon the school's philosophy and goals while aligning with Texas Essential Skills and Knowledge. In areas where texts are used, the teachers review publications from both Christian and secular publishers and select the material which best facilitates learning. Studies and activities in each class are based upon the following guidelines:

**BIBLE** – We read the *Day by Day Kid's Bible* by Karen Henley for an overview of the Bible. We focus on the attributes of God and what He wants us to learn about interacting with His creation. Memory work, including learning the names of the books of the Old and New Testaments, the Lord's Prayer, and learning scripture verses, is assigned weekly. Our goal is to teach students to hide God's word in their hearts to use in their everyday lives.

Text currently in use: *Day by Day Kid's Bible*. Students hear the word of God read daily, followed by discussion and activities.

**CHAPEL** – Is held weekly with K4 through 5th grade in attendance; about once every six weeks an all-community chapel assembly is held and secondary students pair up with elementary students for the service. Chapel services have messages that focus on Christian living. Each chapel service includes fellowship, singing, and prayer. Recognition of achievements will typically be announced at the conclusion of each chapel service.

**LANGUAGE ARTS** – Includes reading, spelling, English, and writing. A phonetic approach is used to introduce basic sounds, giving a firm background in fundamental decoding skills. The curriculum applies vocabulary, comprehension, spelling patterns, basic grammar and usage, and punctuation skills in writing processes such as proofreading and editing. Writing Workshop is one way we develop our writing skills each day.

Texts currently in use: *A Beka Phonics, Reading, Language, and Spelling* program and selected trade books. Students continue to master phonics fundamentals while developing their comprehension skills through the systematic use of library and classroom books.

**MATHEMATICS** – Includes classification, patterns, measurement, geometry, place value, number relationships, counting patterns, money, time, and simple addition and subtraction. We use manipulatives extensively to enhance understanding of mathematical concepts. Lessons are presented in small groups to fit the learner. This enables us to enrich and reteach daily.

Text currently in use: *Math*, Harcourt. Students practice concepts taught in the classroom. (We use IXL for Math enrichment on iPads each day to enrich each lesson we teach. We also integrate Pearson's Envision Math to expose the children to a variety of ways to think and learn about Math.)

**SCIENCE** – 1st Grade has adopted the *Full Option Science System (FOSS)* by Delta Education, which was created specifically to provide students and teachers with meaningful experiences through active participation in scientific practices.

This program starts the lesson with a small-group investigation where students collaborate to make observations and record results in data notebooks. The investigation is followed by readings from science materials and group discussions. Each lesson makes real-world and cross-curricular connections to make the learning relevant. It is aligned to TEKS and integrated into BCS grade level standards. It cycles through life science, earth science, and physical science through the school year, providing a balanced science curriculum each year.

**SOCIAL STUDIES** – We learn about our state, country, and our world while teaching students respect for our country. We begin each day reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. We want the children to be aware of the freedoms we have in our country and to realize it is the best country in the world despite some weaknesses. We also have weekly lessons where we learn basic map skills.

**SPANISH** – Taught by a Spanish teacher once a week. Spanish class incorporates singing, movement, and games to provide an opportunity to learn basic vocabulary and develop a positive attitude toward language learning. This class is based on the premise that acquaintance with another language and culture is important in broadening students' horizons and reminding them of the value of all people in God's sight.

**ART** – Taught twice weekly in a thirty-minute class and also integrated into the other core curriculum on a regular basis. This class uses a variety of media including crayons, markers, tempera, finger paints, watercolors, and pastels. Art aids in the development of small motor skills with activities such as drawing, coloring, cutting, and pasting and encourages the use of imagination. Students will also explore the paintings and techniques of famous artists and employ themes and methods from these artists in their own products in the regular classroom.

**MUSIC** – Taught by a trained music teacher three days per week in a thirty-minute class that emphasizes singing and movement two days a week and basic ukulele instruction one day per week. This study introduces early music concepts such as rhythm and beat, pitch, volume, and tempo. Music is reinforced by the classroom teacher, especially in devotional activities. This class also combines musical training with performance opportunities in the annual Christmas and Grandparents' Day programs.

Text currently in use: *Spotlight on Music*, Macmillan/McGraw-Hill. Students are introduced to music selections and music terminology.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** – Taught by physical education teachers four days a week for thirty minutes taking place in the gym and on outdoor fields. This class includes conditioning exercises, physical games and activities, and athletic skills.

**COMPUTER LAB** – Students in first grade will have varying degrees of comfort with technology applications. 21st-century skills will be taught and reinforced by a trained computer teacher as students work on projects in weekly classes. Students will learn about computer hardware, applications, and components. They will learn to identify computer accessories like printers and hard drives and begin to understand how these function. They will use software interfaces, choosing the correct applications for different types of tasks, and how to use built-in help tools. During the fourth quarter, students will be introduced to basic coding/programming concepts such as sequencing, loops and events, and problem-solving using Blockly.

Text currently in use: *Easy Tech*, Learning.com. Students will learn to communicate, construct, evaluate, collaborate, and create using technology.

**LIBRARY** – Students have a daily opportunity to visit the library to check out books for independent reading. They have a regularly scheduled story time and check-out time each week with the librarian.

**FIELD TRIPS** – Taken in connection with and to enhance classroom studies. Destinations include an Elgin Christmas Tree Farm, a fishing trip to E. Metropolitan Park, and the Cameron Park Zoo in Waco.

**RECESS** – A twenty-minute daily playtime on the outside playground. Both first grade classes enjoy this time to play and socialize together.

**SOCIALIZATION** – Under the watchful guidance and with the encouragement of the teacher, social skills are practiced at recess and during daily activities. Problem-solving strategies in the context of Christian values are modeled and practiced.

**HOMEWORK** – Assigned regularly including reading fluency practice, spelling mastery, math computation, and Bible memory work. No homework is sent home on Wednesday nights or over the weekend. See Handbook for time guidelines for each grade.