

1st Grade

Literacy:

Phonics/Spelling

The first grade uses the Orton-Gillingham method to further develop phonemic awareness. Students review letter sounds, begin blending, and learn phonetic rules and how to apply them. They learn a list of basic sight words that do not follow phonetic rules. Spelling tests are given weekly to assess their progress and determine mastery.

Reading

The first grade reading curriculum develops the concept that reading is an essential skill that not only gives us information, but a true knowledge and understanding of the world. Readers strengthen word attack skills, fluency, and comprehension through the use of “just right books “. These books are based on individual needs and allow for movement through levels as fluency and comprehension develop in a balanced approach. Instruction is based on whole group mini-lessons, individual conferences, and small group guided reading and strategy sessions. The goal is to develop readers who can interpret and understand different genres of text while generating new ideas and impressions that impact positively on their lives.

Writing

In the first grade writing program we strive to strengthen each student’s communication and listening skills through the Writer’s Workshop. The Writer’s Workshop format includes a mini-lesson, independent writing time, and share time. Students write daily about favorite topics in the form of a personal narrative. They also learn to write stories with a beginning, middle, and end using appropriate descriptive words. Students are given the opportunity to write letters, respond to literature, and write non-fiction reports that are an age appropriate length. They are also introduced to the writing process. In Writer’s Workshop first graders begin to develop writing skills and enjoy the independence of writing.

Handwriting

Students continue to master D’Nealian printing. First grade focuses on correct pencil grip, proper letter formation, and accurate spacing.

Math

During the first grade, students will understand and use place value notation and will begin to develop quantity with numbers and estimation. Through manipulatives, students will explore concepts of measurement, geometry, time, and apply these to real world situations. Students will continue their exploration of money by investigating equivalent quantities of coins. Students will investigate mathematical language and express these to solve word problems

Science

First grade Science is taught in units of study through a hands-on, child centered approach. The students explore various topics by using non-fiction books, observation,

experiments, and field trips. Some of the topics will cover life science, earth science, and physical science.

Social Studies

The first grade Social Studies program provides opportunities to learn about people working together in homes, schools, communities, states and countries. Our country's national symbols, landforms, and American History are also studied. Maps, globes, children's literature and other supplemental materials support the instruction of the Social Studies curriculum.

Spanish

Students will demonstrate receptive and productive knowledge of themes such as colors, numbers, calendar, weather, emotions, school supplies, family, body parts, foods, and animals. Throughout the year, students will also learn about Hispanic culture and holidays. The language is taught with emphasis on speaking.

Music

Children continue to develop listening, rhythmic, and singing skills. Rhythmic patterns become more complex and the use of Orff instruments are introduced. They develop the ability to accompany songs with various ostinati on pitched and unpitched percussion instruments. Musical notation is also introduced.

Chorus

All Atlanta Academy students in grades 1-3 participate in the Chorus. The goals in chorus are to develop the unique voice while making music. Other goals of the program are to develop musicianship through singing, sight-reading, theory practice, and listening to, analyzing and critiquing music. The chorus performs multiple times throughout the year including Grandparent's Day, Christmas, and Night of the Arts.

Media Center

Students continue to receive library orientation and learn Media Center behavior and procedures. The Dewey Decimal System is introduced. Georgia Book Awards and the Caldecott Award are reviewed and expanded upon. Library terms are reviewed with the introduction of call number, barcode number, and table of contents. Students continue to develop listening skills through recall, sequencing and questioning while being exposed to a variety of literature and authors through read-aloud and other media. Familiarity with various forms or genres of literature is expanded. Students are encouraged to select books on their reading level to develop independent reading.

Technology

Throughout the year students are introduced to computer basics while using PCs and Apple computers. Open Court Online Phonics is used to reinforce phonics rules and to help students improve their reading skills while learning basic computer navigation. Kid-Pix and Microsoft Word 2008 are also implemented throughout the year. Students learn how to capitalize letters, type complete sentences, use punctuation, and auto-formatting with Microsoft Word 2008.

Art

Students are introduced to many different mediums and processes. The emphasis is on the creative process, art production and following directions. In these years they will develop and begin to master, caring for materials, drawing skills, painting skills, manipulating clay, cutting, gluing, manipulating paper, printmaking, collage, and sculptures.

Projects are designed to allow students to practice and refine basic skills focusing on color, shape, line, value and texture. Students are introduced to the balance, emphasis and proportion of design. Students learn to use and recognize differences in art media. They will learn to mix primary colors to make secondary colors, make colors lighter and darker, use watercolors and make crayon resists. Students manipulate clay and learn to score and join clay pieces, while also learning the process of glazing clay.

Students are exposed to the area of different cultures, the different styles of art and famous artists. Students will learn to recognize, appreciate and create the art of different cultures and styles famous works of art. There is an emphasis to expand art vocabulary and exposure to famous works of art.

Physical Education

First graders continue to improve motor skills. This is achieved through student participation in games, relays, and team sports such as soccer, parachute, and modified floor hockey. Students continue to take part in circuit training is to develop skills such as: jump rope, sit-ups, catching & throwing, dribbling, and kicking. Good sportsmanship continues to be an emphasis.