



First Grade
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

mount pisgah
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

P

Language Arts

Reading

We use the Houghton-Mifflin Reading Series, A Legacy of Literacy. This series focuses on the teaching of reading through quality, award-winning literature. An integrated language approach is utilized to interest students through the use of thematic units, genres, and author studies. This series is used to introduce and develop decoding skills and phonemic awareness to assist in reading and writing abilities.

Our Spelling curriculum is also incorporated in this series. Spelling patterns and practice in context improves students spelling in all content areas. Students develop vocabulary for reading and writing through words applied in meaningful contexts.

Writing

Students write daily and creatively using skills and strategies of the writing process. Students write, illustrate, and publish class and individual books.

Students are provided a foundation of basic strokes for correct letter and numeral formation, correct pencil grip and paper placement using the *Zaner-Bloser* Handwriting Series.

Math

We incorporate the Write Group's *Everyday Math* series to introduce students to math concepts and to help them move from concrete to abstract thinking via a spiraling curriculum. The manipulatives, math games, and small group activities allow students to record, demonstrate, and practice what they are learning. Students learn addition, subtraction, place value, time, money, measurement, geometry, fractions, graphing and problem-solving strategies.

Social Studies

We use a thematic approach designed to incorporate and enrich the Georgia Quality Core Curriculum to allow students to examine families and communities near and far, today and long ago. Units include history, Canada, Mexico, Georgia, presidents, U.S. symbols, and holidays. Field trips make unit concepts meaningful. Map skills are also taught using Rand McNally maps and globes.

Science

Mount Pisgah Christian School's curriculum is used to introduce the scientific method of discovery. Units of study include health and safety, animals and their habitats, life cycles, sound, seasons, weather, magnets, and various ecological systems. Field trips, exploration of elements, and scientific studies are used to enrich these units.

Art

Kindergarten through fifth grade students have Art class each week with the Art Education Specialist. The curriculum is based on the SRA series, *Art Connections*. The program integrates the four dimensions of Art into every age-appropriate lesson: art history and culture, aesthetic perception, art production and art criticism. Students encounter a broad range of art media for both two-dimensional and three-dimensional self-expression.

Christian Education

Christian Education is taught each week by the Christian Education Specialist. First grade students are introduced to God's love and faithfulness through stories in Genesis. They learn about Deborah, Gideon, Ruth and David. Students learn about the importance of prayer. The life of Jesus is shared from birth through the Resurrection. They study about Paul and his witness for Jesus.

A daily devotion and prayer is shared at the beginning of each school day. Blessings are shared at meal time. Christianity is incorporated into the school day. Teachers intertwine moral values and Christian nurturing in their everyday teaching.

All Lower School students attend chapel every Monday afternoon. This service is conducted by the Christian Education Specialist and members of the Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church ministerial staff. Songs, prayers and a children's sermon make this an important start to our spiritual as well as our academic week at Mount Pisgah Christian School. All Lower School students participate in Christmas and Easter services.

Computer

Students go to the computer lab each week for instruction with the Technology Specialist. Each classroom has a multi-media computer for their use during learning center activities. The curriculum includes using age appropriate software to support topics and units that are introduced in the classroom. Fundamental computer skills emphasizing proper use and

care of software and hardware plus computer terminology are introduced. The students add text to illustrations and create short stories and poems while learning basic word processing skills and concepts such as saving and retrieving files. Computer networking and telecommunication skills are introduced through the use of network printing, saving files and using multiple storage drives.

Foreign Language

Spanish is taught each week by the Spanish Education Specialist. Greetings and farewells, colors, numbers, body parts, weather, vocabulary, days of the week, and months of the year are introduced to students with songs and hands-on activities. Stories are read to give the students an opportunity to hear the spoken dialect. Spanish culture and customs are explored. Simple skills such as making a personal introduction, giving family information, and sharing personal preferences are introduced.

Library Science

First graders visit the Media Center each week for book check out and formal library science instruction. The library teacher instructs students on how to use the media center as a source of information and pleasure. Students become aware of the variety of resources available in the media center and identify specific areas of interest. They also learn specific vocabulary and reference skills necessary to effectively use the library/media center.

Music

First grade students have music each week with the Music Education Specialist. The Macmillan series, *Music and You*, is used to help students understand the relationship between music, history and culture. Students sing and play rhythm instruments to a varied repertoire of music. They move creatively to music, listen for melody and rhythm patterns and recognize high-low-same sounds. They respond to simple musical concepts, such as up/down. They participate in a musical performance at Christmas.

Physical Education

First grade students participate in physical education twice each week. During this time, they engage in developmental activities related to gross motor movement and begin the more specific developmental process of throwing and catching, kicking, tumbling and dodging. We also begin emphasizing aerobic fitness.

Enrichment Activities

After School Enrichment Classes

After School enrichment activities, such as additional art, science and computer classes are designed for both learning and fun. Classes begin immediately after school is dismissed.

Cultural Arts Experiences

Field trips and special performances serve as an important extension of the Cultural Arts Program. Students attend symphony and/or ballet performances annually. Each year students enjoy live performances by various professional groups.

Service Projects

Each year we provide opportunities for students to experience the joy of Christian service. Each class chooses a service project as their focus for the year. Students also participate in school-wide service projects such as Habitat for Humanity, the North Fulton Charities food drive, and Operation Christmas Child. At Mount Pisgah Christian School, our students realize that they are important members of the body of Christ.

Character Education

*Mount Pisgah Christian School incorporates differentiated instructional practices to meet the needs of individual learners.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide an outstanding college-preparatory education
grounded in Christian faith and values



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CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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