

St. Isidore Catholic School's curriculum is fully aligned to the Diocesan Learning Standards and the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools. Furthermore, our curriculum is vertically aligned from grades preK through 8. Our curricula is strengthened even more by using a continuous improvement framework based on Response to Intervention / Multiple Tiered System of Supports, scientifically based instructional strategies, formative and summative assessment, and positive behavior management.

### *The Whole Child*

A complete **Grade One** experience revolves around developing the skills of the whole child. At St. Isidore Catholic School, it is our goal to provide an opportunity for children to grow not only academically, but spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically as well. We will instruct the children in Christian values, social skills and manners, independence, and the structure and routine of school. It is our quest to build a foundation for the children to become not only life-long learners, but loving and caring individuals. Through partnering with parents, we are able to meet these high goals.

### *Religion*

Jesus is at the center of everything we do at St. Isidore Catholic School. First grade students learn through stories, activities, Scripture, prayer, weekly mass, discussion and reflection about their Catholic faith. Catholic values are discussed and integrated in all subject areas throughout the day.

The focus is on:

- Church teachings
- Celebrating liturgy
- Liturgical experiences
- Liturgical seasons
- Sacraments
- Prayer
- Lives of the Saints
- Mary, our Heavenly Mother
- Bible Stories
- The Rosary

### *English Language Arts*

The English Language Arts program is all encompassing and includes reading, phonics, writing, speaking, listening, and the study of literature. The components of the program emphasize the development of those skills that allow students to read with fluency; comprehend and interpret written materials; apply correct spelling, grammar, and phonemic awareness; communicate well; and listen and speak effectively. The skills acquired and understood are applied and reinforced in all content areas.

#### **READING**

Reading and literature are essentially presented through the insight of our Catholic faith. Students develop reading skills while experiencing different genres such as poetry, folktales, information texts, fantasies, and plays. Through differentiated instruction, the literacy program integrates phonemic awareness, comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency to successfully foster skills throughout the year.

Through our balanced reading program, we focus on:

- Phonological awareness
- Phonics and word recognition
- Fluency
- Comprehension
- Vocabulary development
- Guided and independent reading

#### **WRITING**

**First grade** students implement writing to convey thoughts, ideas and meanings. Students will communicate effectively using words and illustrations. Through instruction and guided editing, students will incorporate spelling knowledge, phonetic patterns, grammar, and mechanics to construct complete sentences.

Areas studied include:

- Text type and purposes
- Production and distribution of writing
- Research to build and present knowledge
- Opinion pieces
- Informational texts
- Narratives

#### **SPEAKING AND LISTENING**

Students will listen for understanding, follow directions, and respond appropriately to the speaker. Students will utilize acquired language and vocabulary to express thoughts and ideas. Through orally presenting material to classmates, students will describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details. Areas studied include:

- Comprehension and collaboration
- Presentation of knowledge and ideas
- Developing questions
- Expression of ideas

## Mathematics

**First grade** students will acquire knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply numerical skills to solve math problems. Students will develop mathematical skills through implementing strategies and algebraic thinking. First grade students will:

- Identify, write and order numbers from 0 to 120
- Fluently skip count by 2, 5, 10
- Apply operations in base of ten
- Use addition and subtraction within 20 to solve word problems
- Develop understanding of math symbols and vocabulary
- Use place value
- Use grouping and regrouping
- Measure and compare length, weight, and width
- Tell and write time in hours and half hours using analog and digital form
- Estimate quantity
- Identify money and value
- Identify patterns and shapes
- Complete a hundred chart

## Science

**First grade** students will use concrete and hands-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world around them. Through the study of life, the solar system, and physical science, students will foster their awareness of God's creations. Students will observe, predict, question, and explain the following scientific topics:

- Plants and animals
- Seasons and weather
- Light, sound, objects
- Property of matter
- The solar system
- Patterns of change of sun | moon | earth

## Music

Through a weekly music class, **First graders** will use rhythm instruments, their voices, and their bodies to experience music. They will continue the study of theory to include musical concepts such as pitch, tempo, and dynamics. Students will be introduced to the instruments of the orchestra. Instruction includes both sacred and secular music.

## Social Studies

**First grade** students will develop awareness of communities and the people around them. Through activities, discussion, field trips, and guest speakers, students will enlighten their awareness of the following topics:

- Holidays | Celebrations
- Cultures
- Countries
- Families, homes, neighborhoods
- Working together

## Physical Education

In **First grade**, our students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Students will maintain personal fitness, acquire an awareness of personal health needs, demonstrate and build gross and fine motor skills, and participate in cooperative group games.

## Technology

As part of our STEM focus, **First grade** students will begin to develop digital skills enabling cross curricular activities that integrate technology in the classroom.

**First grade** students will:

- Expand their technology related vocabulary
- Refine computer navigation skills
- Begin to explore word processing and assignment management programs
- Be introduced to proper keyboarding concepts
- Continue to understand computer programming
- Use various websites and programs to enhance learning in all subjects
- Gain a greater understanding of what it means to be a good digital citizen

## Library

**First grade** students will use the school library and locate books of interest to be checked out each week.

## The Arts

**First grade** students are introduced to color theory and texture in art. They have the opportunity to express themselves through various art forms.

