

First Grade Curriculum

Textbooks & Materials

Math (Everyday Math)

Language Arts (Foundations & Geodes by Great Minds)

Social Studies (MacMillan-McGraw Hill All Together)

Science (ACSI Purposeful Design)

Pebble Go (research software for reading, science, and social studies)

Bible (Standard Publishing Biblical Choices)

Handwriting (Handwriting without Tears)

Curriculum Content Overview

Language Arts- Foundations & Geodes by Great Minds

The first grade language arts program uses two programs, Foundations and Geodes published by Great Minds. Foundations is a “multisensory, structured language program.” It emphasizes foundational skills in phonemic awareness, phonics, word study, high frequency words, reading fluency, vocabulary, comprehension strategies, handwriting, and spelling. We also use a collection of books called *Geodes* published by Great Minds. These books reinforce the skills taught in Foundations.

Mathematics - Everyday Math textbook

Mathematical content has a goal of developing mathematical thinkers. Hands-on manipulatives, collaborative group work, and mathematical computer games are used to achieve the following goals in first grade: numeration, solving basic addition and subtraction sentences, identifying 2- and 3- dimensional shapes, completing patterns, using tools to measure length, time, and temperature, data and chance collecting using charts and graphs, and an introduction to fractions.

Bible- Biblical Choices textbook

Students explore scripture through stories of the Old Testament and Jesus. Special attention is given to the role of Jesus as the Son of God, His power over nature, our bodies, life and death. Students memorize verses and apply the lessons learned to their daily lives.

Science - Purposeful Design textbook

The students will see God's design in the world from a biblical worldview through investigation and observation. Areas of study include living and non-living things, the design of fish, simple machines, states of matter, teeth, insects, and our solar system, thus covering life science, physical science, and earth and space science.

Social Studies - McGraw Hill textbook

The students use core content, leveled books, activities, and technology as they focus on our neighborhood and the community where they live. They will also study our country's history with a focus people who made a difference in history. The students will also study landforms, as well as identify our national symbols and discover the meanings of them.

Handwriting – Handwriting without Tears

Students will learn and practice handwriting skills with a focus on capital and lowercase letters and numbers.

Other subjects taught weekly in First Grade

MUSIC

Music is a universal phenomenon, a tool by which we bring glory to God, and an opportunity for self-discovery, cross-cultural connection, intercultural understanding, historical appreciation, and intellectual development.

The course objective is to glorify the Lord through music, develop an appreciation for a wide variety of musical styles, grasp skills of instrumental and vocal performance, and develop personal disciplines of hard work and creative practice.

The whole child will experience music through the following:

Singing Lips

Singing and moving to music. Learning historical and cultural backgrounds of songs.

Thinking Brains

Learning how to read, sing, and play music.

Discuss melodic and rhythmic content of music.

Learn about music's role in the life of the Christian and in the Church, both visible and invisible.

Busy Limbs

Putting concepts and skills into practice through song, playing instruments, dancing, and arranging or composing music. Using programs like Sibelius and Logic Pro to discover new ways of viewing and creating music.

Listening Ears

Listening to classical, folk, world, and pop music to develop critical thinking skills in the area of music.

Evaluating music and performances of music

ART

The VCS art program focuses on understanding that God formed us in his image as creative beings. As a result, each student is gifted with the ability to create, design, and discover in unique ways. The Elements of Art are introduced and built upon each year through exposure to both traditional and non-traditional art forms, interdisciplinary study, and self-evaluation that focuses more on the learning process than the end product. At VCS we strive to encourage and equip students with creative thinking and reasoning skills that go beyond the art classroom and into all areas of the student's life. At the end of the year, students work is displayed at an art show the chronicles student projects and growth over the year.

TECHNOLOGY

Valley Christian School's objective is to create a self-directed learner. We want the students to solve problems on devices through teacher-guided and self-exploration. By integrating biblical concepts, we teach students personal responsibility with Social Media.

Students focus on Microsoft Office (Power point, Excel, Word and Publisher), Cyber Ethics and Keyboarding. Each year students learn a new aspect of the 4 divisions increasing their skills while integrating the classroom curriculum.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students are encouraged to achieve a personal physical goal and to gain appreciation for sports and physical activity. Biblically based social skills are acquired through sports and team building. Our physical fitness program emphasizes exercise so students learn to appreciate and incorporate physical fitness into their daily lives to stay healthy. The Presidential Fitness program is a year-end goal. Students work on flexibility, strength, and cardiovascular endurance.

SPANISH

Passaporte al Español (BJU Press) textbook

God is the creator and sustainer of World languages and we can appreciate God's...

- Creativity through cultural diversity
- Character through the speaking, reading and listening of the Spanish language
- Logic and order through learning Spanish grammar

Students would appreciate all of the different cultures and people that God has created and will value their knowledge of Spanish and use it to the glory of God.

Learn vocabulary surrounding various subjects.

Understand and use simple sentence and question structures in listening, speaking, and writing. Explore geography and cultures of various Spanish-speaking countries.

Course content includes:

- Greetings and Introductions
- Numbers
- School Supplies
- Colors
- Shapes
- The Family
- Around the House
- Days of the Week
- Christmas
- The Face and Parts of the Body
- Pets, Farm Animals, and Wild Animals
- Fruits
- Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
- Alphabet (Letters and Sounds)
- Traveling with Family
- Various Professions
- School Subjects
- Basic introductory grammar