

# TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## First Grade Curriculum

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Trinity Christian School is committed to providing a safe and caring environment where children receive a quality education from a biblical worldview, while developing thinking and articulate students. We are devoted to fusing faith and learning in such a way that each student is practically equipped to face their future and become a life-long learner.

At the core of academic excellence is the role of the classroom teacher. Trinity Christian School seeks the most qualified teachers, who have a love for their students and a passion for teaching. All of our teachers are state certified and are devoted followers of Christ, who teach truth from a biblical perspective.

### **Mathematics: Purposeful Design**

First graders are provided with the resources to develop mathematical proficiency and appreciation for the power and usefulness of math in everyday life. Students are challenged to develop problem-solving and reasoning skills as well as computational strategies. Math drills are given to increase automaticity. Math consists of whole-group teaching, as well as small-group and one-on-one time to reinforce concepts learned. The curriculum also incorporates hands-on learning through the use of centers and manipulatives.

### **Reading and Phonics/English: A Beka and Purposeful Design**

First grade reading facilitates individualized reading advancement during the whole-group and small-group lessons. Fluency, expression, and comprehension skills are introduced and reinforced during this quality reading time. Within the reading block, specific reading skills are practiced and retaught in a small group. The program is designed to create independent and motivated readers. During this time, students rotate between centers: work on writing, read to self, work on words, and listen to reading to further develop literacy skills.

### **Spelling: Purposeful Design**

First graders integrate spelling and phonics patterns starting in the first quarter. They review vowel sounds, and then learn spelling patterns such as consonant blends and digraphs. Each week they have an opportunity to “earn” the challenge list based on their pretest. We teach children to apply these spelling words correctly in their reading and writing.

### **Bible: Positive Action for Christ**

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matt. 4:19). First graders are challenged to become Christ followers. Special emphasis is on creation, building relationships with our families, friends, and Jesus. Each week students are encouraged to memorize scripture that coincides with practical Bible lessons. First graders are given numerous opportunities to love God and to love others.

### **History: BJU Press**

This course gives students a broad foundation for future grades. While the materials encourage academic growth, each lesson relies on hands-on activities, colorful visual, and age-appropriate text. As students look at their roles as family and community members, they are encouraged to see themselves from God’s perspective. Units covered • Our Land • Our Nation • Our History

### **Science: Purposeful Design**

The name Purposeful Design relates to the creative work of God. Every chapter in this series weaves together the wonders of the created world and a biblical worldview. The program includes age-appropriate text challenges, science vocabulary, and investigations through an engineering design process covering sound, light, space, and the human body.



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**Handwriting: A Reason for Handwriting**

- Manuscript
- Correct formation and Practice

**Art: Deep Space Sparkle**

Art includes lessons from a combination of the EASE and EPIC curriculum, as well as additional seasonal projects. Exploring Art Supplies through Environments (EASE) – technique-rich exploration of different mediums and their potential, with colorful projects reflecting a variety of habitats. Elements and Principles Integration Curriculum (EPIC) – units that focus on each of the 14 elements and principles of art, with scaffolded lessons to meet student abilities at each grade level.

**Music**

Students continue learning music through song, dance, games, rhythm instruments, performance, and composition. Lessons focus on steady beat, highs and lows, louds and softs, fast and slow, singing alone and together. Students also complete a unit on *Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saens.

**Spanish**

The Spanish curriculum is designed to build a foundation in the Spanish language for students in grades 1-8. Through engaging lessons, students build essential vocabulary for everyday use, explore basic grammar concepts, and develop reading and writing skills in Spanish. A variety of resources, including videos, practice worksheets, and interactive games, make learning both effective and enjoyable.

**Computers**

Students in grades K-8 learn about the working parts of computers, the internet and internet safety, research, coding, and how to use Microsoft Office Suite; all in order to further the Gospel and share the love of Jesus with others.

**Library**

Students participate in the AISLE Monarch Award program. This is a state-wide program where K-3rd grade students read 18 nominated books together, and then each student votes on his or her favorite in February. The Monarch Award is given to the author of the book that earns the most votes by all the students participating in Illinois. Throughout the year, students also learn about different sections of the library and how to find the type of book they are looking for. Classes also learn about popular authors and the books or series they have written.

**Physical Education**

- Develop team-building skills by working with others through physical activity
- Understand principles of health promotion and the prevention and treatment of illness and injury
- Students perform loco motor, non-loco motor and manipulative skills at a utilization level, show fundamental components of healthy living, and use appropriate skills in team, group and individual activities
- Introduced to basic fundamental skills of various team sports and other health-enhancing activities
- During all activities, recreational play versus competitive play and good sportsmanship are continually fostered and encouraged.

**2024-2025 First Grade Test Scores**  
Iowa Assessment

Please contact our Director of Education if you have any questions.

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**NP of Mean NCE**

This means, a student whose NP is 72, scored higher than 72 percent of the first grade students nationally who also took the test. NP scores are useful for comparing local student achievement to student achievement at the national level.

Reading	Math	Language
60	66	84