

Science / Health

In science, 1st and 2nd grade standards are rotated each year using the grade level “Discovery Works” curriculum, along with supplemental materials to enhance the learning experience.

While working towards the standards, our class will take part in the school’s science fair with our own class project each spring, in which the students extensively experience the scientific inquiry method in action.

One year, students will learn more about the life cycles of living things, compare/contrast traits of plants & animals, use tools to construct simple structures, work as a team with their classmates, and observe and record patterns of organisms and objects like the sun & moon.

Another year, students will learn about the properties of objects, motion when force is applied, the basic needs of living things, to use simple tools to answer questions about the natural world, to practice recording observations using pictures and words, and demonstrate knowledge of how the parts of a structure work together to perform a function.

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St. Francis of Assisi School
A Place Where Minds and Hearts Grow

Religion

First Graders learn that God is the Creator who gives us life and grace, and promises us eternal life through Jesus. This religion standard is taught using the “Blest Are We” text by RCL/Benziger. Students become aware of Jesus as God’s Son who came to show us the way to His Father.

The 1st grade curriculum combines what Catholics believe, based on Scripture, with how we worship, how we live, and how we pray.

Students listen to and discuss passages from Scripture, experience prayer in multiple ways (including learning a few new prayers), and celebrate our Catholic traditions.



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1st Grade

Social Studies

Our class will rotate each year between the 1st grade (“School & Family” theme) and the 2nd grade, (“Neighborhoods” theme) social studies curriculum, linked with the Archdiocese of Portland’s standards. Supplemental teaching material will be used when needed.

The standards include a little bit of the following topics: history, geography, civics & government, economics/finances, and analysis of issues related to social science.

Teaching such diverse topics is exciting!

Math

A math inventory assessment is given to the students during the first week of school. Based on that assessment and on the standards for Grade 2, mathematical concepts and skills are planned for each student’s instructional level.

Some of the main standards for First Grade include: composing and decomposing 2-D & 3-D shapes; finding the value of mixed coins; and discovering the relationship between addition & subtraction, using single digits.

Language Arts

Language arts is the gateway to learning all other subjects. Once reading for learning can take place, a child can grow in knowledge forever. This is why the subject of language arts is crucial for a child in the primary grades.

For the morning language arts time, students rotate through four stations: guided reading with the teacher, independent table work time on spelling practice or phonics, quiet reading at the carpet, and writing, which is planned by the teacher and overseen by the instructional assistant.

Often, there are literacy mini-lessons at different times throughout the day or week to learn about a new reading strategy, writing style, or to simply hear a good book read aloud to increase a love for reading.

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Formation

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Curriculum