

1

First Grade



curriculum overview

Curriculum and Instruction

Curriculum can be described as "what we teach." While a textbook may be used as a tool in this process, it is not the only resource or method used in instruction. Instruction can be described as "how we teach," and the distinctive in Christian education is that all subjects are taught from a biblical worldview. This curriculum overview gives a summary of the basic content covered for the year. It also addresses some commonly asked questions: What is taught in this grade? What curriculum is used? What experiences will my child have in this grade? What can I expect my child to know by year's end?

The teachers and staff at Tree of Life Christian Schools are committed to offering a balanced instructional program and establishing a positive learning environment for students. Teachers bring a unique perspective to a particular grade through their own personal experiences, additional materials and resources, hands-on activities, field trips, and guest speakers.

Together, these opportunities allow each student to best learn the required content.

Core subjects

o Language Arts

Students develop writing skills, reading fluency and comprehension, oral communication, listening techniques and critical thinking. Reading curriculum uses sight words, basal vocabulary, phonics instruction, comprehension and interpretive skills. Students begin learning to read orally and silently with expression, and have weekly spelling lists that parallel the phonics/reading program.. Other skills:

- Phonetic decoding
- Read, understand and retell a story
- Demonstrate active listening skills
- Develop oral expression skills
- Read, recognize, and use vocabulary words
- Context clues
- Comprehension, classification and categorizing skills
- Reading with expression
- Recognize biblical truths in literature
- Writing complete sentences, parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization
- Writing steps of prewriting, drafting, revising, final copy
- Manuscript printing
- Reading buddies with 5th grade students

o Social Studies

Content and concepts are investigated through the strands of learning of history, government, citizenship, economics, geography, people and places. Some topics include:

- Citizenship – rules, rights, responsibilities
- Americans in History
- Families – Cultures/Customs
- Geography – Maps, charts, graphs, address
- Holidays (including Christian)
- Patriotism - Voting, Pledge of Allegiance, Symbols of America
- Economics - Needs/Wants, Work/Jobs, Goods/Services
- Missions

o What is taught in this grade?

o What curriculum is used?

o What experiences will my child have in this grade?

o What can I expect my child to know by year's end?

o Mathematics

Students acquire knowledge and skills and develop an understanding of mathematics from their own experience. Our math curriculum builds upon the concrete foundations of mathematics and leads towards an understanding of the abstract and symbolic.

It also provides multiple exposures to topics and offers frequent opportunities for review and practice of skills:

- Count by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's
- Math Facts
- Name numbers less than 1000 using base 10 blocks
- Place Value
- Math symbols
- Identify and count money P N D Q \$1
- Addition and Subtraction
- Problem-solving and Number Stories
- Number Grids
- Odd/Even Numbers
- Shapes and line segments
- Time to quarter hours
- Measurement to nearest inch
- Reading temperature
- Collect /Record Data
- Bar Graphs
- Explore fraction concepts of $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$

o Science/Health

Curriculum introduces Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science. The scientific method is taught through hands-on activities and biblical worldview is an imperative component as students observe, investigate and draw conclusions. Some topics include:

- Animals/Habitats (Mammals, Fish, Birds, Insects)
- Seasons and Space
- Movement and Machines
- Solids and Liquids
- Healthy habits, nutrition, manners, safety
- Our Bodies

Tree of Life Christian School - Elementary Branches

Dublin Branch (P-5) · 2900 Martin Road · Dublin, OH 43017 614.792.2671

Indianola Branch (P-5) · 2141 Indianola Avenue · Columbus, OH 43201 299.4906

Westerville Branch (Preschool only) · 471 E. College Avenue * · Westerville, OH 43081 614.818.4405

1 First Grade

o Bible

Daily Bible lessons and weekly memory verses emphasize life-application and values. Students are encouraged early on and guided to develop a personal and private devotional and prayer time using the Word to know the Father and His Son in a personal way. While Bible is taught as a separate subject, a biblical worldview is integrated into all subject areas.

Students begin to memorize the books of the Bible and find verses in the Bible

Yearly theme: **The God of Impossibilities**

Quarterly themes:

- **God's New World**
- **God's Covenant With Abraham's Family**
- **Jesus, the Son of God Part 1 (Birth, Early Life)**
- **Jesus, the Son of God Part 2 (Parables, Death/Resurrection)**

Resources & Texts

Bible: Standard Publishing; Biblical Choices; NIV Bible

Reading: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill

Spelling/Phonics: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill; Process Phonics

English: Shurley English and Macmillan/McGraw-Hill

Handwriting: Handwriting Without Tears

Math: Everyday Mathematics including on-line Math games

Science and Health: Purposeful Design Publications

Social Studies: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill

Other miscellaneous materials

Specials

o Music

The music program for grades 1-5 emphasizes music appreciation and the teaching of basic music skills through singing, movement, and playing of instruments.

They learn to glorify God through praise and worship and in participation in a musical. Students may also attend the Young People's Concert presented by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra

o Physical Education

The goal of Tree of Life is to promote the spiritual, mental, and physical well-being of students.

The physical education program fosters an enjoyment of physical activity through the teaching of both individual and team sports, as well as developing motor skills, strength, flexibility and cardio-respiratory fitness.

Extra curriculars

o Field Trips

Classes go on specific, purposeful field trips that enrich units of study from a variety of subjects. These may vary from year to year depending on availability, class focus, and scheduling.

- **Columbus Symphony (every other year)**
- **Zoo**
- **Metro Park**
- **Apple Orchard/Pumpkin Patch**
- **Franklin Park Conservatory/Oakland Nursery**
- **Library**

o Art

Students experience art through a variety of mediums and they will learn to appreciate art through the study of famous artists and in the recognition of the elements of art in both man-made works and the natural world created by God. Creativity and individuality are encouraged in the art classes, which are held once a week.

o Chapel

Grades 1-5 attend chapel twice a month. Chapel includes worship through singing, Bible reading, and application of biblical truths at an appropriate level. Students are challenged to live out their faith. Missions are emphasized in our chapels so that students will understand their part in the Great Commission.

o Library

During weekly library visits, students learn parts of a book, genres of literature, award books, authors and illustrators, how to use reference materials, and the Dewey Decimal System. Picture books, nonfiction books and novels are also read aloud to the students.

o Service Projects

Students will participate in both class and school-wide projects designed to help students follow God's precepts in reaching out in love to others, both in the community and around the world.

o Special Events

- **Book Parade**
- **Thanksgiving Celebration/service project**
- **Reading Buddies**

