



FIRST GRADE

Religion

[Spirit of Truth by Sophia Institute for Teachers](#) is a beautiful series that introduces the Catholic faith to each grade in a way that helps students both understand and internalize our Catholic faith so they can apply it to their lives. Catechesis, scripture study, sacred art reflections, and lectio divina guide class lessons and activities. First Graders also study virtues through the [Virtues in Practice](#) curriculum and develop a foundational understanding of our identities as sons and daughters of God through the [REVEALED Theology of the Body curriculum](#).

English Language Arts

- **Phonics & Spelling:** Primary Phonics is a systematic, phonics-based reading program with simple teacher guides and bountiful options for teaching phonics concepts to children of varying learning styles and needs. Phonics workbooks and decodable readers reinforce the lessons, and reading comprehension activities and workbooks teach students to understand content as they read. In class, we will also use the [Intervention Guide](#) to help all students learn more in-depth and tactile methods for grasping phonics concepts. First Graders will progress through [Level 2](#), [Level 3](#), and [Level 4](#), and we will apply the same phonics concepts that students are learning to help them decode words to read for teaching students how to encode words to spell.
- **Handwriting:** Students continue practicing proper letter formation through [Writing Our Catholic Faith](#).
- **Literature:** Though other picture books will also be incorporated during story time at school and encouraged at home, our classroom read-alouds primarily come from our Connecting with History curriculum.
- **Poetry:** The study and memorization of poetry and Bible verses expands students' language skills and gives them a treasure trove of rich verses to call upon throughout their lifetime.
- **Writing:** In the early grades, students are exposed to various writing styles and vocabulary while building their handwriting stamina through the beautiful art of copywork. Copying great literature passages and poetry allows children to slow down and see proper punctuation and grammar in action.

Mathematics

[First Grade Math with Confidence](#) is a fun and hands-on math curriculum that uses a conceptual and mastery based approach to lessons to ensure that students grasp each concept in depth before moving forward. Each day's student work contains both mastery-reinforcing problems and spiral review problems to help students learn the current concepts in depth and review past concepts daily. Math with Confidence has easy-to-follow teacher manuals that make teaching math simple, and games are an integral part of this curriculum to help children become proficient in math concepts while having fun.



Science

Scientific Connections Through Inquiry is an interdisciplinary science curriculum which seeks to build a true foundation of scientific thinking through hands-on activities, data journaling and recording, and thought-provoking discussions. This curriculum cultivates wonder in students by its inquiry model which sparks curiosity and the desire to learn. First Graders use [SCI's Level 1](#) to learn about biology, chemistry, physics, and earth and space science.

History

[Connecting with History by RC \(Roman Catholic\) History](#) is a cyclical, family-based approach to studying history through a Catholic lens. We are using the co-op version of Connecting with History which includes rhyming songs, hands-on activities, art studies, mini plays, picture books, and more to bring history to life for the younger grades in a fun and age appropriate manner on school days. Home days are assigned to be as family-centered as possible with family read-alouds and family activities. The 2025-2026 school year will study the first cycle which covers the Old Testament and Ancient Cultures Before Christ time period. We will also take a break from Connecting with History in the spring for the entire school to spend a unit studying Tennessee state and U.S. History using [TN History for Kids](#) and a local field trip.

Geography

An overview of maps and hands-on map crafts and worksheets in [Evan-Moor's Skill Sharpeners series](#) introduces students to a new level of understanding the world around them.

Specials

All students in First through Eighth Grades will attend one special per school day. These classes have not yet been determined for the 2025-2026 school year.

