

Curriculum Overview

Grade 1

Donelson Christian Academy

Math 1 Saxon Mathematics

Math 1 is used to help the children begin their understanding of math language and concepts. New skills are introduced and then practiced and reinforced in lessons throughout the year.

Many "hands on" materials are used to introduce the skills. The lesson is introduced with a group activity. Children also work in cooperative groups to help each other learn. Math centers are provided to reinforce a skill that has been taught. Each lesson also includes math facts practice. It is important for the children to master basic addition and subtraction facts. Written practice is included with each lesson. Homework is given on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Oral and written assessments are built into the program. Written assessments are given every five lessons. Oral assessments are given every ten lessons.

Reading Program Overview

McGraw-Hill reading series is used as a basal text. There are three pre-primers and two readers to be completed. The program includes vocabulary practice, phonics, phonemic awareness, comprehension, and study skills. To meet individual needs leveled readers are provided to go along with each selection in the basal reader. Guided Instruction is provided with small groups for instruction with the leveled readers. Assessment is given each week to evaluate the skills taught with each reading selection.

In addition to the reading series, the children use Accelerated Reader. The children take the STAR reading test. Their reading level is determined to aid in their selection of books for the program. After reading books the children take a computer test to check comprehension. They are awarded points for this testing. Points are used for prizes in the library or for the on going reading contest.

Spelling is taught with the reading program. Short and long vowel word families are taught in the spelling program. Challenge words are added to improve the spelling of sight vocabulary. A word wall is also used in the room. This improves the reading and spelling of sight vocabulary and using words to make rhyming words. (look, book, cook, took, etc.)

Language Program Overview

English 1 by Houghton Mifflin is used in first grade. Sentences, nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, capitalization, and punctuation are taught in units. Grammar units alternate with writing units. Different types of writing are introduced including descriptive writing, and a personal narrative.

Handwriting Overview

Zaner-Bloser handwriting is used in first grade. Each letter is introduced for correct formation. Proper formation and spacing are practiced daily.

Bible Overview

Our Bible curriculum is published by Positive Action for Christ. We discuss how different people in the Bible were obedient to God. Some of the people include Noah, Abraham, Mary, and David. We use stories each week to teach the about these

people. Flannelgraphs are also used. A verse to memorize is part of each week's lesson. Character traits are taught each week as part of the lesson.

Social Studies Overview

MacMillan/McGraw-Hill text is used in first grade. Units are taught that include geography, history, and economics, Teacher made units are used to go along with the text. Units are taught with whole group instruction and small groups. Centers are also provided to reinforce skills. Grading is done based on participation and understanding of concepts. No testing is done in first grade Social Studies.

Science Overview

Science in first grade consists of teacher made units, and also two hands-on science kits. One of the kits used is about weather. The other kit is Organisms. The organisms kit includes planting seeds, making your own terrariums and aquariums, different animals, and habitats. Grading is based on participation and understanding of concepts. No testing is done in first grade Science.

Special Areas of Instruction

First graders have different related arts classes during the week. They attend music classes twice a week. They go to PE two times a week. Classes in Spanish are offered weekly. They participate in art class once a week. Library story time is offered weekly. They are allowed to check out books at this time and other times during the week. The media center is used to enhance our program. Mrs. Terry (media specialist) creates programs for the computer lab to go along with our topics of study.