

First grade is a very busy and exciting year. It is a year filled with tremendous spiritual, academic, and social growth. The children become responsible students who care about those around them. The classroom learning environment is a fun-filled and hands-on. We follow the 3 L's: Love, Listen, and Learn. My goal is for the children to love school and learning, and to have fun along the way. The safe community atmosphere at Our Lady of the Assumption School fosters a strong partnership between home and school. This helps to build a solid foundation that supports the spiritual, academic, and social growth of each of its students.

We begin each day with a prayer and learn how much God loves us throughout the year. We learn that Jesus teaches us about God's love and that we are followers of Jesus. As the year progresses, we learn that we belong to the Church and that we are encouraged to celebrate and live our faith daily. We attend Mass twice a month, once a month with our school family and once a month with our fifth grade buddies. We learn how to treat others as Jesus wants us to throughout the year as well.

Our language rich classroom focuses on becoming good readers and writers. Through our integrated reading and language arts program, students learn how to read fluently and how to write detailed paragraphs. The children are challenged to become critical thinkers and independent workers. They learn how to use their phonetic awareness and understanding of how letters go together to make words to become good spellers. The goal is for the children to develop a love of reading and writing.

Every year students say that their favorite subject in school is math. A hands-on approach is used to develop math concepts. The students develop a solid number sense that enables them count through 150, to recognize number patterns, add, and subtract. They learn their basic addition and subtraction facts through 20. The students learn how to write and solve story problems, the names of shapes, and how to measure and draw line segments. Students are challenged to become problems solvers through daily word problem practice. By the end of the year, students are able to add and subtract double-digit numbers as well.

In social studies, we learn that we are all unique with many things to offer the world. We learn that there are rules and laws in which we must follow at school, at home, and in the community. We learn about where people live in neighborhoods, towns, cities, and countries. We study our country and develop a sense of patriotism as we learn the Pledge of Allegiance. We learn about national holidays and heroes. We learn about the birth of our country and how our world has changes. Most importantly, we learn to respect each other and the differences we have. We also learn how to read maps and draw simple maps.

Students love the hands on approach to science as well. Students learn about plants, animals, and habitats. They learn that weather can be observed and measured. They learn about the different seasons and what causes the various seasons. Also, they learn about the different states of matter and that all things have mass. Students are able to tell the difference between living and non-living things. The children learn how to graph data and how to read the results of the data.

The children have physical education class three times a week. They attend music class twice a week. They also go to the computer lab and library once a week. Children have weekly art projects and are given opportunity to enhance their writing with illustrations. An Art Docent program is also in place. Children learn how to look at and discuss fine art. The children look forward to the time they spend with the specialty teachers.

As you can see, we are busy in first grade. It is truly a year of growth in all aspects of the child. A solid foundation is built where students learn to believe they can.

