



## FIRST GRADE BENCHMARKS

First graders continue to build on what they learned in kindergarten. They further develop their ability manage relationships, follow daily routines and monitor their own behavior. Saint Hilary's program is designed to provide a developmentally appropriate program that utilizes best practice around small and whole group instruction that honors students' individual needs.

There is great emphasis on a spiral curriculum for Language Arts and Math. Core concepts are introduced and revisited, progressively becoming more complex. Phonics, sight word reading and comprehension are taught through literature; writing includes spelling, grammar, mechanics, and handwriting, presented in a variety of formats. In Math, the program goal is to enable children to become lifelong mathematical thinkers.

The world is explored in increasing depth through the Social Studies programs, which extend from our local communities to the greater world, and from the present into the past. Observation, communication, estimating, inferring and predicting are skills taught in Science through textbooks and hands-on experiments. Students are introduced to Life Sciences, Earth Sciences, Physical Sciences, the Solar System, and the Human Body.

Study skills and individual responsibility for one's actions and work are highlighted as students begin to comprehend the power of their own abilities.

All students attend Mass, learn hymns, songs and prayers. All students receive enrichment classes. They begin to study Spanish. Music introduces them to rhythm and movement, and includes school wide performances. Art is taught by specialty teachers in the well-equipped Art studio, while Physical Education is a fun curriculum providing exercise while building self-confidence, sportsmanship, and skill.

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### **MATH AND ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) – Based on Common Core Standards:**

- [Common Core for Parents](#)
- [Ten Things Parents Should Know About the Common Core State Standards](#)
- [Growth Mindset and Common Core](#)

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

In grade one, your child will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will continue to learn the letters and sounds that make up words. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in stories, articles, and other sources of information. In their writing, students will work on putting together clear sentences on a range of topics using a growing vocabulary. Activities in these areas will include:

- Reading stories and showing they understand the lesson or moral of the story
- Asking and answering questions about a story, including characters, settings, and major events
- Comparing and contrasting the experiences of different characters
- Identifying the reasons an author gives to support a point

- Explaining differences between texts that tell stories and texts that provide information
- Learning and using new words
- Participating in class discussions by listening, responding to what others are saying, and asking questions
- Describing people, places, things, and events, expressing feelings and ideas clearly
- Learning basic rules of spoken and written English
- Working with others to gather facts and information on a topic
- Writing to describe an event, provide information on a topic, or share an opinion

## **MATH**

In grade one, students will extend their understanding of place value to the hundreds place. They will use this place value understanding to solve word problems, including those involving length and other units of measure. Students will continue to work on their addition and subtraction skills, quickly and accurately adding and subtracting numbers up through 20 and also working with numbers up through 100. They will also build a foundation for understanding fractions by working with shapes and geometry. Activities in these areas will include:

- Quickly and accurately adding numbers together that total up to 20 or less or subtracting from numbers up through 20
- Solving one- or two-step word problems by adding or subtracting numbers up through 100
- Understanding what the different digits mean in a three-digit number
- Adding and subtracting three digit numbers
- Measuring lengths of objects in standard units such as inches and centimeters
- Solving addition and subtraction word problems involving length
- Solving problems involving money
- Breaking up a rectangle into same-size squares
- Dividing circles and rectangles into halves, thirds, or fourths
- Solving addition, subtraction, and comparison word problems using information presented in a bar graph
- Writing equations to represent addition of equal numbers

## **RELIGION (as outlined by the Archdiocese of San Francisco)**

Religion is one of the pillars of our whole child academic approach. Each day our students participate in prayer and religious instruction, studying the traditions and practices of the Catholic faith. Religion classes are a welcome time in each the day for our students and teachers to reflect and connect as a community. In all grades students are encouraged to be stewards of God's creation by participating in age appropriate activities that promote social justice and action.

Students will understand:

1. The Profession of Faith – the understanding that God is the Father and creator, Jesus is the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit helps guide us.
2. The Celebration of the Christian Mystery – introduction of the importance of the Sacraments and that at Mass we listen to God's Word and celebrate Jesus' presence in the Eucharist.
3. Life in Christ – Understanding that Jesus is our role model and that God is forgiving.
4. Christian Prayer – introduction to the understanding of what prayer is and how Jesus taught us to pray. \*Attending monthly Mass with our Buddies.

## **PRAYERS**

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary

- Prayer to the Guardian Angel
- Grace before meals
- God Made us a Family
- Apostle's Creed
- Mass responses

## SCIENCE

Students will:

- Describe how plants and animals are alike and different
- Explain how plants and animals adapt to their habitats
- Describe the part of a plant and what each part does for the plant
- Explain how the shape of an animal's teeth is related to what it eats
- Classify animals according to what they eat
- Observe and describe weather
- Explain how the Sun affects weather conditions
- Understand the water cycle
- Describe common tools used to measure weather
- Describe how the weather, plants, and animals change and adapt to the seasons
- Describe the properties of matter

NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) were developed so that students could do less memorizing and more critical thinking, make connections between the Common Core and Science, align classroom practice with scientific research all while encouraging students to apply their knowledge in an appropriate framework. Please use the link below learn more and view the standards.

- [About the NGSS Standards](#)
- [The Standards](#)
- [Why Science Matters](#)

## SOCIAL STUDIES (per California State Standards)

Students will:

- Identify the people that make up a family
- Understand the importance of rules both at home and school
- Use a map to find home addresses
- Understand what a custom is and how customs are celebrated
- Describe what makes up a neighborhood
- Be familiar with what an interview is and how to conduct an interview
- Describe what a Native American is and be familiar with how they lived long ago
- Understand the terms settler, pilgrim, president, slavery and freedom
- Understand why our government worked to make laws
- Identify some of the characteristics of a good citizen
- Be familiar with some of the common symbols of our country