

FIRST GRADE AT ST. PAUL

Curriculum Summary

Welcome to St. Paul's First Grade

Welcome to St. Paul Elementary School! Our early elementary students are offered an exciting, engaging curriculum that lays a solid foundation in all subject areas.

Students explore and discover as they develop a love and passion for learning. Early elementary students also engage in a variety of additional classes including technology, music, gym and library. The following paragraphs describe the curriculum for first grade. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like more information.

The St. Paul School First Grade curriculum and classroom environment take into account the strengths, interests, needs, and cultural backgrounds of all children. Our developmentally appropriate program offers experiences, materials, and interactions that are safe, healthy, interesting, achievable, and challenging to first grade aged children.

The outcomes listed below reflect the grade level expectations (as defined by the *Michigan Curriculum Framework* and the *Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*) that will move your child toward achieving the Michigan elementary content standards and more by the end of fifth grade.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our first grade teacher or our director of admissions. The teacher will be working together with you to provide your child with a meaningful, positive first grade year.



495 Earhart Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734.665.0604
school.stpaulannarbor.org

Our First Grade Teacher, Mrs. Deb Schnack

Deb Schnack holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership/Curriculum and Instruction. She has been an early childhood educator for 36+ years. The last eight years have been at St. Paul Ann Arbor as the first grade teacher. She has also taught reading courses for the College of Education at Concordia University, Chicago. She has led teacher professional development for individual schools. She has presented workshops at the district, state and national levels. The most recent workshops were presented on the integration of technology into the early childhood classroom. While teaching in Illinois, she served as an early childhood consultant, and held offices in the Macon/Piatt County Reading Association and Lutheran Education Association network. She enjoys leading the yearbook staff at St. Paul. She cross stitches and fuses glass in her spare time. She looks forward to seeing your child in first grade!

Things that Happen in First Grade

First graders do many exciting things throughout the year! Here are just a few of the things first graders have done in the past few years.

Students have presented reader's theater to other classrooms, created power point presentations, used technology to enhance learning about landforms, presenting this information to parents. They have participated in cross-curricular themes including a bat cave simulation, with new experiences occurring each year.

Field Trips – They have visited the Leslie Science and Nature Center where student learned about animal classification. Learning about weather has been great fun at the Michigan Museum of Natural History.

The First Grade Week

The first grade week includes working individually, in small group and/or large groups with the core subjects and specials. Specials for the week include technology, art, music, physical education, library and

Calendar & Morning Meeting
 Reading & Language Arts
 Recess
 Reading & Language Arts
 Lunch & Recess



tech-
Span-

Math
 Social Studies/Science

Bible Study

First graders begin and end each day learning about God's love for them. The day begins with devotions. The day ends with learning Bible truths from Old and New Testament stories. Students memorize Bible verses, songs and prayers. Through these activities students will develop a deeper understanding of Bible truths and how to apply them to their lives. Students will learn and experience that praise, prayer and service is our response to God's continued blessings.

Reading & Language Arts

A systematic phonetic approach is used to teach students how to read. A variety of children's literature, including informational text, is used with direct instruction, shared reading, guided reading, independent reading and read-a-louds to develop fluent, lifelong readers. Skills and strategies are practiced daily to increase comprehension, accuracy and vocabulary. Integrated language arts lessons are used to develop and practice writing forms; grammar, usage and mechanics skills; handwriting and spelling.

Math

A morning meeting is held daily to help students practice fundamental math skills, such as identifying & correctly writing the days of the week, months of the year & the date, rote counting, one-to-one correspondence, place value, telling time, counting coins, patterns, number sense, addition & subtraction, & greater/less than concepts. Students will develop an understanding of addition and subtraction, and strategies for addition and subtraction within 20, whole number relationships and place value, including grouping in tens and ones, linear measurement and reasoning about attributes of two- and three-dimensional shapes, and composing and decomposing geometric shapes, partition shapes into equal parts of halves and fourths.

Science

Students explore the world God created through informational text and inquiry-based activities. Students engage in the exploration of plants, animals and their habitats, our earth, weather and space, matter, energy and motion using the scientific method. Science, technology, engineering and math activities allow for inquiring, planning, problem solving, implementation, recording and communicating.

Social Studies

Students learn about going to school, how to be a good citizen, people, jobs, the land around us, history and jobs through a variety of children's literature, informational text, small group activities and projects.

Physical Education

Physical education teaches the concept of "good health" through exercise and physical activity. Students learn basic skills to popular sporting activities. Games are played to practice and use these basic skills.

Spanish

Students learn to count, the color words, the Spanish alphabet and sounds as students are introduced to the Spanish culture.

Fine Arts

Creative expression, creative and critical thinking and problem solving are taught through art and music.

Technology