

## First Grade Curriculum Guide (Revised 2/2024) Monday-Thursday 8:00AM-3:30PM & First Fridays

Main Street Ministry		
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Chapel (1x week)	Each Wednesday, local pastors and community leaders share a Biblical message with our student body. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join us for our Wednesday chapels to share in worshiping God, learning about His Word and how to demonstrate biblical truth daily throughout life.	
Biblical Teaching (Daily)	In-class biblical teaching is placed on the following topics and individuals: Creation, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Memory verses are learned each week. BJU Press curriculum	
<b>Joy Time</b> (Daily)	Each day at MSS begins with Joy Time with Ms. Jackie, where our student body comes together for praise, worship, and prayer, to start our school day off on a positive note. Throughout the year, each grade level showcases their musical gifts and talents. Students receive updates about ongoing community service projects; prayer requests school updates; and birthday celebrations!	
Liberal Arts		
Art	First grade students learn about line, color, value, space, form, shape and texture. Teacher directed.	
<b>Music</b> (2x week)	Students learn and explore musical fundamentals through song, play, performance, and dance such as beat, rhythm and pitch. We learn to read, hear, and echo basic rhythms and melodies. Further exploration occurs in relation to instruments and orchestral families, as well as major time periods in musical history. Students will perform as part of a choir, and also use boomwhackers and bucket drums to perform as a band!	
Spanish (2x week)	Hola! In Spanish, students learn the second most spoken language in the USA. They are immersed in the Spanish language, its culture and its tradition through games, songs, movies, poetry and many other activities reflecting Hispanic heritage around the world and its connection to their own country	
Recess (Daily)	Students receive a minimum of thirty minutes of recess time each day. This includes use of the playground and access to PE equipment on nice days; or indoor play in the fellowship hall or classrooms, on cooler or rainy days.	
PE/Health (2x week)	Taught twice weekly so that children learn to use the bodies God gave them and to help them develop strength, hand to eye coordination, team work, etc. Health classes teach basics about these amazing bodies and guide students in making wise choices in foods and activities all for the glory of God.	
	Traditional Academics	
Language Arts & Writing (Daily)	Language Arts focuses on classifying simple sentences; learning beginning rules of spelling; writing complete sentences using descriptive vocabulary; writing a friendly letter; and writing narratives and expository stories. Manuscript handwriting, with a mastery of correct formation of letters, is taught through the Abeka Curriculum.	
Reading & Literature (Daily)	The Abeka Curriculum is used to help teach parts of speech, nouns, verbs, adjectives, punctuation, comprehension, literary themes, plots, and settings. An emphasis is placed on memorization in first grade, as students learn short poems, The Lord's Prayer (in English and Spanish), Pledge of Allegiance, Pledge to the Christian Flag, Pledge to the Bible, and MSS Motto. Read-aloud books, such as <i>The Boxcar Children</i> , help students attain higher comprehension and fluency rates.	
<b>Math</b> (Daily)	First grade math lessons include practice on addition and subtraction facts; speed drills and mental math; sorting and patterns; graphing; time and money; measurements and conversions; calendars; fractions; and place values using the Abeka math curriculum.	
Science (Daily)	Instructional units in science include: seasons and weather; simple machines; life cycles; seeds, plants, leaves, and trees; insects, mammals, and birds; the solar system and space; force and motion; the human body, senses, and health; and thematic and hands-on learning experiences. The BJU Press curriculum is used along with other supplemental resources.	
Social Studies (Daily)	A combination of History, Geography, and Civics, our Social Studies Discipline focuses on: the State of Virginia, and our local communities; US symbols and freedoms; map and compass rose skills; US geography; and countries around the world. Historical figures of focus include: Christopher Columbus, George Washington, Abraham Linconln, and Martin Luther King, Jr. The Abeka curriculum is used.	

Special Considerations	
Lunch & Snack Time	Students are asked to bring their own lunch, snack, and drink. Students may choose to purchase ice cream daily.
Local Missions	MSS students have the opportunity to volunteer their time, resources, and/or creativity, through community connections. In prior years, students have collected pet supplies for the Tazewell County Animal Shelter; visited nursing homes and senior groups to lead praise and worship; and assisted with food and clothing drives for the local food pantry.
Global Missions	MSS participates in multiple, on-going international mission projects, including: making Christmas ornaments to send to children in Kenya; partnering with the Amani Children's Choir in Uganda; and writing letters to African Refugees.
Field Trips	Educational field trips occur regularly throughout the school year, and align with the MSS curriculum. Learning does not always have to happen in a classroom setting, and we strive to create hands-on experiences that will last a lifetime. Some of our fields trips have been:Social Studies: Historic Crab Orchard Museum; Tazewell County Courthouse; The Barter Theater; Broadway CinemasMath/Science: Clinch River Farms; Visiting a local bank; Etter's Pumpkin Patch; Southern StatesPhysical Education: Picnic & Play Day at the Park
Special Events	Celebrations make learning fun! A few of the school-wide events MSS students observe, include: Grandparent's Day, Veterans Day, and the 100th Day of School. Students also enjoy special events, such as a Multicultural Fair, going Christmas caroling, and participating in end of semester, school-wide performances.
Standardized Testing	The lowa Assessments are evidence-based standardized testing, which measure student achievement and growth against the next generation. They monitor growth of academic progress, indicate college and career readiness, and evaluate students' mastery of rigorous learning standards. Subjects tested include: language arts, reading, math, science, and social studies. The lowa Assessment does not measure a student's IQ or cognivity, rather what a student has learned throughout the school year, to ensure they are on par with State and National standards.
Baseline Reading Assessment	Baseline Reading Assessment: Administered at the beginning of the year and the end of the year.
Communication	Parents may expect continual, open communication with MSS teachers and administration. The Bloomz App is used to share important updates directly to parents, through text messaging, and newsletters are sent home regularly.