

Willamette Christian School

FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

CHAPEL

Once a week, the faculty and student body in the elementary grades gather together in the Sanctuary to express devotion to our Lord through praise and worship. The first Wednesday of the month the whole school meets for Chapel. Biblical truths and principles of life are taught by our staff, pastors, and guest speakers. We welcome parents to attend with their children and worship with us.

BIBLE

The A Beka Bible curriculum contains an extensive series of beautifully illustrated Bible Story cards for the child to be drawn to and visually stimulated with while each account is accurately and dramatically shared. The series are as follows:

* Salvation Series

* Genesis Series (OT)

Creation, Adam, Cain
Enoch, Noah, Babel
Abraham and Isaac
Jacob
Joseph

* Life of Christ Series (NT)

The First Christmas
Boyhood and early ministry of Jesus
Jesus Heals and Helps
Later Ministry
Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ
Life of Paul

Also, a Bible section is chosen for each month to be learned, understood and memorized.

Along with the daily opportunity to begin each day with Bible time, singing and worship time play a vital role as the first graders learn to communicate their love and faith through praising Jesus Christ.

PHONICS

Willamette Christian School incorporates a logical phonics system, coupled with reading texts that are interesting, challenging and geared to the development of Christian character. Besides building the necessary background for word attack skills and confident reading, phonics teaching trains students to listen carefully, to develop good habits of thinking, analyzing, organizing, memorizing and applying important facts and rules. A workbook, *Letters and Sounds 1*, provides daily seat work activities to reinforce the phonics concepts vital to the mastery of reading skills.

READING

The A Beka reading program leads to early independence in reading by developing early word analysis and comprehension skills. The A Beka Christian readers are the basic readers for the first grade. A wide variety of quality reading selections stimulates the students' appreciation of literature and enjoyment of reading. The stories for these readers are chosen for character-building themes, Biblical principles, literary excellence and appeal to young readers.

SPELLING

Part of God's plan for our lives includes the ability to communicate with one another and with God. Writing requires accurate spelling. Thus, spelling becomes an important part of the communication process. Writing allows the transfer of information over space and time. This ability is unique to humans and is a clear reflection of the nature of God.

A combination of the A Beka spelling curriculum and Rebecca Sitton Spelling are utilized in grade one. A set of spelling words is taught each week, with a weekly spelling test at the end of the week. The weekly spelling lists are arranged phonetically and coincide beautifully with the phonics that are being taught. Along with the weekly spelling words, fifteen "Priority" words are learned throughout the year. The fifteen Priority words are from the Rebecca Sitton words. These words are the most frequently used words in the English language and it is critical that these words are mastered. The Priority words include "the, of, and, a, to, is."

LANGUAGE/GRAMMAR

In addition, the children receive daily practice in the principles of language in both written and oral communication. The workbook, *Language 1*, provides an interesting introduction to written language for the first grader. Designed for use during seat work time, this write-in text increases thinking skills, improves reading comprehension and develops creative writing ability. By the end of the year, first graders will write in complete sentences, capitalize the first letter of the word in a sentence, the days and months and names, place a period at the end of a sentence, know and use suffixes and prefixes, determined the number of syllables in a word, and alphabetize to the first letter. Lively reading comprehension and creative writing exercises appear throughout the book and special story sheets at the end of the book are provided for additional creative writing. Through classroom discussions, students review previously learned skills and learn new applications.

Students solve verbal or representational analogies daily, which enables students to understand the connecting relationships between words. By this process, students develop skills in critical and creative thinking, vocabulary and test taking skills.

WRITING/PENMANSHIP

The first grade works on manuscript writing. Daily practice of this writing reinforces phonics concepts, beginning with single letters and progressing to blends, special sounds and words. The students learn to be neat, exacting and persistent by having a standard to follow.

MATHEMATICS

Students receive mini-mental exercises weekly where they need it the most through the *Daily Mathematics* series.:

- * Number sense
- * Estimation
- * Geometry
- * Patterns
- * Mental mathematics

Critical thinking skills are incorporated into daily problem solving, which helps students see the connections among a variety of math topics. Problems emphasize real-world situations, reinforcing the importance of mathematics in student's daily lives.

In addition, the A Beka math curriculum is used as the core textbook. This is a complete math program that provides daily activities including oral drills, the teaching of new material, the practice of new material and review of basic facts. Learning centers, games, and extra math packets are used to reinforce math skills learned during lessons. Besides training students in the basic skills that are needed in life, the mathematics curriculum teaches students to believe in absolutes, to work diligently to get right answers and to see the facts of mathematics as part of the truth and order that God has built into the real universe. Listed below are many of the skills the first grade child will learn:

- * Classifying
- * Numeration: counting, writing, one-to-one matching, place value, order, comparing, missing numbers
- * Multiplication: by twos, fives and tens
- * Fractions: identification of basic fractions
- * Measurement: clock time, calendar time, money, length, weight, thermometers, metric measures
- * Geometry: identification of simple geometric figures
- * Problem Solving
- * Rounding and Estimating
- * Graphing

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Science is the study of God's order, provision, and general revelation as discovered in His physical creation. The science and health program at WCS offers a comprehensive study which gives the students understanding of the content and processes of life, physical and earth sciences. As children study the wonders of creation, they are led to a deeper reverence for the God who planned it all.

We use the Bob Jones' *Science for Christian Schools I*

- * Teeth
- * Seasons
- * Health, safety, manners

We use the *Simply Science* curriculum for the following:

- * Weather
- * Matter
- * Frogs (amphibians)

HISTORY

Based upon the foundational truths of the scriptures, Willamette Christian's history program presents the firm conviction that "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof". History, therefore, is a revelation of God in His dealings with man and the universe.

Willamette Christian School uses the Bob Jones curriculum which covers the time span from Christopher Columbus to the Pilgrims and Native Americans. Students will participate in exciting activities, games and discussions, as well as learning simple map skills and symbols. We have an Indian/Pilgrim Day to celebrate the first Thanksgiving.

Willamette Christian School uses *My America and My World* in the *A Beka* first grade history curriculum that will be utilized. The students will learn how our country was founded and what our basic freedoms are. Many American symbols will be introduced as well as learning about several famous American patriots to begin an awareness of important people in our history. We learn famous quotes and patriotic songs in order to present a Patriotic Program in the spring.

COMPUTER

A general introduction to computer terms and basics begins the class. Students become familiar with simple tasks such as mouse movement and how to enter and close programs. Interactive reading and the paint programs are utilized to accomplish this. Introduction to a computer keyboard program, *Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing for Kids*, is the primary teaching tool used for this age level.

MUSIC

God created music as a gift for us. In turn, we must use it for Him. Music is a skill that must be trained and developed, and in doing so, students will learn music as an avenue to praise and worship God. Melody, harmony, and rhythm will be points of study, with *The God Made Music* curriculum being used to help enhance this program. Willamette Christian School students will perform the Christmas Program and Night of the Arts.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Fitness and skill development are the primary goals of the P.E. program. Students participate in exercises to promote cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength, and flexibility. Basic motor and manipulative skills are sequenced or combined for greater movement challenges. Games, relays, and drills are designed to enhance skill related fitness or specific sport skills. Partner and group activities are used to meet growing social needs, while emphasizing individual development.

ACSI ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year there are opportunities for students to participate in various ACSI sponsored academic competitions with students from other Christian schools. Competitions at the classroom level select grade representatives from WCS for the ACSI Spelling Bee and Speech Meet.