

First Grade Information Sheet

At Fortis Academy, students in grades K-5 are enrolled in the Grammar School. During these six years children have an incredible capacity to learn and store copious amounts of information. We, as educators, take advantage of this time by maintaining high expectations on material being learned. Our aim is to fill and form a child's mind, first with the truth and beauty of God's sovereignty, and second with the facts of each subject necessary to grow in understanding and wisdom.

In scripture we regularly see the words *knowledge*, *understanding*, and *wisdom* distinguished one from the other: "For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding," Proverbs 2:6. The grammar stage corresponds to the scriptural term *knowledge*. "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge," Proverbs 19:27.

Morning Assembly

All students attending Fortis Academy gather each morning before school begins for a brief time of worship. This assembly takes place from 8:45-8:55 behind the school at the cross. Principals and upper school students lead traditional hymns, prayers, and read scripture. This is a peaceful time for students to come together and have the opportunity to reflect on how God has blessed our school and how they can contribute to a healthy school atmosphere that glorifies Him. "*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*" I Peter 1:13-16

Parent Role: Co-Teacher

At Home Work Time: approximately 1-2 hours per homeschool day

FIRST GRADE CORE:

Language Arts

First grade language arts use a multi-sensory approach to teaching phonics, spelling, handwriting, grammar, and reading in a logical sequence. Students are introduced to the phonograms—the basic building blocks of the English language—which are then applied in oral and written spelling exercises as well as in reading. Our reading instruction also utilizes recognition of carefully selected sight words and contextual skills to teach students to become fluent readers with well-developed comprehension skills. In writing, students take part in copywork, narration and other classical techniques to develop excellent language abilities. Additionally, students will be taught five of the eight parts of speech while mastering basic sentence structure. This course lays the foundation for reading, writing and literature comprehension.

Math

First grade Singapore Math features the Concrete> Pictorial> Abstract approach. Students begin by learning through concrete and pictorial means before moving into abstract thought and development, which encourages an active thinking process, communication of mathematical ideas and problem solving. Lessons are designed for a mix of teacher instruction and independent work. Book 1A teaches students numbers 0-10, addition, subtraction, naming number positions, counting, common shapes, comparing and measuring length and weight. Book 1B teaches number comparison, picture graphs, counting, addition, and subtraction to 100, multiplication, halves, quarters, telling time, money and more.

History

Students explore the culture and key events of a particular time period through our curriculum *Mystery of History*. With assistance from both the teacher and co-teacher, students gain knowledge through quality literature, hands-on activities and time line figures. Students begin oral narration by telling the co-teacher what they thought was most interesting from the lesson. Knowledge of key historical dates and other history-related memory work is tested through oral recitation.

Science

The focus of Science is to explore and celebrate God's creation. Students will use Apologia Science to gain knowledge and understanding of a concentrated science subject. Understanding important science key terms and ideas is introduced through the use of lapbooks, unit studies and hands on activities.

Memory Work

Memorization is a crucial tool for students in the grammar stage. It is how the bedrock of facts is built, upon which the house of dialectic and rhetoric stands. For continued practice in memorization, memory work builds from the Kindergarten level to include lengthier Bible verses and poetry. Students also memorize geography, math facts, science and history facts, grammar rules, spelling rules, and more.

SUMMER PREPARATION:

Keep reading! For a list of Classical literature, go to <http://www.classical-homeschooling.org/celoop/1000.html>. To grow in writing skills, have students copy bible verses and beautiful poetry. Review AAS word and phonograms cards.

FIRST GRADE CO-TEACHER SUPPLIES:

1 large dry erase board for use with All About Spelling phonics tiles, pencil sharpener, 1-1.5" binder (style/color your choice), Office Max Write On 8-tab Color plastic divider (Item # 20615390), page protectors, 3-hole hole punch, tape dispenser, stapler, printer.