

# First Grade Curriculum Packet



Ms. Hubbard  
Pui Tak Christian School  
2020-2021

# Curriculum Overview

## Bible

### Bible Lessons for Little Learners

Every morning we will start the day with a brief Bible lesson that teaches Biblical truths about God and the world. These lessons will focus primarily on Biblical characters such as Noah, Abraham, and Paul and using these characters to teach Biblical truths from the Old and New Testament. There will also be a memory verse to memorize each week, sent home on Monday.

As we are a Christian school, Bible study will extend past Bible class, and permeate every subject as this is God's world. Everything we have and learn comes from Him and this will be reflected in all academic subjects.

## Phonics

### Orton Gillingham

Each week, we will have a new phonics focus. This will build off of what students learned in Kindergarten. Students will also work on phonics daily with the teacher in small groups. Phonics is the foundation from which reading skills are built, and will be the primary focus of reading class. We follow the Orton-Gillingham method for phonics instruction which includes auditory, kinesthetic, tactile, and verbal instruction.

## Spelling

Each week students will be tested on 10 spelling words based on the phonics focus for the week. These ten words are random and are not able to be studied because it is testing their knowledge of the phonics pattern instead of their ability to memorize words temporarily. They will also have four "red words" each week that do not follow spelling rules or patterns. These words will be sent home on Monday and should be studied and reviewed each evening.

# Reading, Writing, Grammar, and Vocabulary

## Imagine That!, Guided Reading Groups

Embedded in the Daily 5 block are focus lessons centered on reading and writing skills. During a focus lesson, the teacher will introduce, explain and model a specific skill to strengthen reading or writing. Students will implement these skills in group and individual activities, as well as in their Daily 5 centers. Reading focus lessons fall under four main categories: accuracy, fluency, comprehension, and expanding vocabulary.

Writing focus lessons explore various facets of writing, focusing on the 6 Traits of Writing. The 6 Traits include: ideas, sentence fluency, organization, word choice, voice, and conventions. Students will practice the 6 Traits as they explore poetry, organizing ideas, writing sentences, writing brief letters, writing informational pieces, and crafting short stories.

Each week we will focus in on a specific grammar topic. Students will practice the grammar concept in their writing in addition to practicing the skill in an interactive grammar notebook.

In our reading each week we will focus on a specific genre, reading comprehension strategy, and focus in on vocabulary words from our focus text for the week. These three vocabulary words will be practiced during word work times during the Daily 5 and students will be quizzed on the meaning behind the words each week. The words will be taught and added to their vocabulary notebooks and sent home for students to study on Monday each week.

# The Daily 5

As part of reading instruction, students will participate in the “Daily 5.” This includes:

- Read to Someone: Students practice reading to one another or a reading buddy (For now, this will be included at the socially-distanced teacher table, reading to the teacher and/or one other student).
- Listen to Reading: I will be reading from a picture book or novel on a daily basis to expose students to higher level vocabulary and students will also listen to audiobooks during Daily 5 stations.
- Word Work: Students will work with vocabulary and “red words” (see spelling below) with tactile and kinesthetic activities and games.
- Read to Self: Students read independently, working to build focus and reading stamina.
- Work on Writing: Students will work in journals and on different writing projects using learned skills.

The goal of the Daily 5 is to build reading skills and stamina. During the Daily 5, I also meet with smaller groups of students to help build up their reading, phonics, and comprehension skills.

## Math

### Envision Math

Math skills are a primary focus in First Grade. We are building off of the foundation they started building in Kindergarten and it is important that students understand the mathematical process and reasoning behind mathematical systems. First Graders will work on problem solving skills, build their math vocabulary, and master addition and subtraction math facts to 20. Other topics we will cover include: measurement, graphing, geometry, money, time and clocks, and more! Each day math will include a number routine activity, a mini-lesson on a specific math skill, and practice in math stations. Math stations will include math practice, math games, and writing about math.

# Science

## Little Science thinkers, Mystery Science

First Grade students will be learning how to think and act like scientists this year as we explore God's world. We will use the scientific method as our basis for investigation studying four primary topics: weather and air, light and shadows, space, and living things. Students will also engage with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) projects on a daily basis.

# Social Studies

## Little Social Studies Thinkers

Our Social Studies instruction is primarily project based and will include a lot of fun activities and learning experiences! Students will learn map skills, about communities, the voting process, create a personal timeline, learn through board games, do reports on important people in history, and more! We also will be learning about different cultural groups and the importance of celebrating the diverse cultures and people God has created!

# Class Schedule

Whether in-person or online, school hours will be from 8:30am-2:00pm this year. For online students, the “LIVE” portions of the day will be live-streamed via Google Meet and the time between will be used for individual practice.

|             |               |  |
|-------------|---------------|--|
|             | 8:30-8:45am   | Morning Work                                 |
| <b>LIVE</b> | 8:45-9:00am   | Morning Meeting                              |
| <b>LIVE</b> | 9:00-9:20am   | Bible  |
| <b>LIVE</b> | 9:20-9:40am   | Reading/Writing Mini-Lesson                  |
|             | 9:40-10:25am  | Daily 5 Stations                             |
|             | 10:25-10:45am | Break, Snack                                 |
| <b>LIVE</b> | 10:45-11:05am | Math Lesson                                  |
|             | 11:05-11:30am | Math Centers                                 |
| <b>LIVE</b> | 11:30-11:45am | Read-Aloud                                   |
| <b>LIVE</b> | 11:45-12:00pm | Handwriting/Grammar                          |
|             | 12:05-12:30   | Lunch  |
| <b>LIVE</b> | 12:30-1:00pm  | Science/Social Studies                       |
| <b>LIVE</b> | 1:00-1:45pm   | Art/Mandarin                                 |
| <b>LIVE</b> | 1:45-2:00pm   | Circle Time                                  |
|             | 2:00pm        | Dismissal                                    |
|             | 2:00-3:00pm   | Teacher Office Hours:<br>meet by appointment |

Tuesdays: 10:15-10:35am Library Read-Aloud

Fridays: 1-1:45pm Chapel (Bi-weekly)

On chapel days, Mandarin will be @12:25-12:55

\*This schedule is subject to change. If it is changed, students and parents will be notified of modifications.

# Classroom Management

In our class we are a family which means we care for each other, respect each other, and look out for each other. In all things we aim to imitate Christ, specifically His grace and humility.

## Classroom Rules

Rule Above All Rules: Respect everyone and everything.

Rule #1: Follow directions quickly.

Rule #2: Raise your hand for permission to speak.

Rule #3: Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat.

Rule #4: Make smart choices.

The Diamond Rule: Keep your eye on the target.

## Online Classroom Rules

Rule Above All Rules: Respect everyone and everything.

Rule #1: Turn on your video and mute yourself.

Rule #2: Raise your hand for permission to speak.

Rule #3: Be on time and be prepared.

Rule #4: Make smart choices.

The Diamond Rule: Keep your eyes on the target.

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## Behavior Chart

In order to build the classroom as a thriving and respectful learning environment, the teacher's focus will be on reminding and reinforcing classroom rules. However, if a child is struggling to follow classroom rules, they will be asked to sign the chart. This behavior chart is not a public display, but a private binder that will log student behavior on a daily basis in order to provide feedback for the teacher. Signing the chart once is simply a warning. If the student has to sign the chart twice or more, it is up to the teacher's discretion on how to move forward. If a child's behavior continues to be of concern, the parent(s) will be contacted.

# Peace Place

Pui Tak Christian School implements a school-wide program promoting social/emotional learning across grades. In our hallway we have a “Peace Place,” an area where students may take a break from stress or negative feelings brought on by various circumstances from home or the school day. This is not a time-out for students; it is a safe space designed for the student to reflect and learn to self-regulate so that her/she can rejoin the class after a brief time. It is our goal to teach students God’s peace for whenever we feel sad, upset, overwhelmed or other feelings they have a hard time coping with at the moment. The “Peace Place” can be student-selected or teacher-directed. Please feel free to visit this space and ask any questions you may have. As parents, you can partner with us by talking to your child about this and perhaps implement the same for him/her at home.



# Other Important Information

## Snacks

Every day we will have a break time mid-morning. During this time your child may have a healthy snack. Students will not be permitted to eat chocolate or sugar-filled snacks during snack time. Students will not be allowed to share snacks or bring a class-snack at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Water bottles

Your child is encouraged to bring a water bottle to school each day. The water fountains will be shut down, so each student will need a water bottle in order to have water during lunch and throughout the day. Please do not send in bottles of flavored water, carbonated drinks, sugary beverages, or breakable bottles. Water bottles can be disposable or reusable, but if your child is using a reusable bottle, please make sure to wash it each night before returning it to school.

## Birthdays

Unfortunately, sharing birthday snacks/treats will not be allowed due to COVID-19. Instead, students are invited to celebrate with a whole class reward, such as a pajama day, or an individual reward, such as wearing a hat for the day. The class will also celebrate by singing a birthday song.

## Classroom Volunteers

Due to COVID-19 related procedures, parents are not allowed inside the school building at this time. However, there will still be opportunities to volunteer and participate in the classroom and school-wide. These volunteer opportunities will be announced via ClassTag.

# Grading and Report Cards

Students receive quarterly report cards that reflect what your child has learned and how they are meeting curriculum goals. At Pui Tak Christian School, First Grade marks the first year students receive traditional letter grades. The grading scale is as follows:

100-98= A+

82-80=B-

67-63= D

97-93= A

79-78=C+

62-60= D-

92-90=A-

77-73= C

59 and less=

89-88=B+

72-70= C-

87-83=B

69-68= D+

Students are also graded on their habits and attitudes as follows:

- 1- Consistently demonstrates
- 2- Sometimes demonstrates
- 3- Seldom demonstrates

You can keep track of your student's grades by checking their Google Classroom account. Grades are important, but students are so much more than any grade could ever reflect. I want to encourage your students in their love of the Lord and learning first and foremost, but will grade fairly according to quality of work and demonstration of learning.

## Homework

The first grade class homework will be to read for 15-20 minutes every night. This reading may be assigned by the teacher, or it may be chosen by the student, depending on the night. This will be communicated on Google Classroom. Due to COVID-19, students will not be allowed to bring books home from the classroom, but they may choose from books at home, or read online through online platforms such as Epic!. Students will be expected to complete and turn in a reading log via Google Classroom each week. Other optional enrichment activities will be available but not required.

# Communication

If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback about your child's education, you are always welcome to email me at [alexhubbard@puitakschool.org](mailto:alexhubbard@puitakschool.org). You can also message me privately via ClassTag. I will do my best to get back to you in a timely manner. The best time to contact me is during my working hours, Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm. If you contact me outside of those times, I may not get back to you right away, but I will at my soonest convenience.

Throughout the year, you may also make appointments with me during my office hours from 2:00-3:00pm on weekdays to help with online learning, conference, or help your child if they are struggling. This is not a replacement for tutoring, but merely an extra resource to help you and your child.