

# Valley Catholic Elementary School



## First Grade Curriculum

### Language Arts

In first grade, we use a combination of two research based programs to help students grow in their phonemic understanding. The use of cross curricular texts allows students to build comprehension skills, reading fluency, and accuracy while incorporating their unique interests. We support students as they work to become strong writers by teaching grammar and spelling rules. First graders practice writing narrative, informational, and opinion pieces along with poetry.

### Math

Students work to develop strong problem solving and algebraic thinking skills as they practice addition, subtraction, and place value. Later, students will work on defining attributes and finding lines of symmetry in geometry.

### Social Studies

We explore cultural traditions and celebrations, national symbols and holidays, and government and leadership. Students will develop map skills and learn basic financial literacy. We will work to honor each other's unique gifts by celebrating one student each week.

### Science

Students question, explore, observe, construct, and research throughout the year. We learn about shadows and the sun, the phases of the moon, why the stars are not visible during the day, how plants survive and move, animal behavior and camouflage, and inherited traits.

### Religion

Following the guidance of the Archdiocese, we offer students the opportunity to grow their faith through scripture, prayers, service, Mass participation, and living according to the Church's teaching through our Schoolwide Learning Expectations (SLEs).

### Health

We focus on whole body health by following the Jump Rope for Heart program. We also support social emotional growth by incorporating Second Step program lessons and daily routines such as community circles.

### Art

Students learn about many styles of art and explore personal expression as they draw, paint, sculpt, move, act, and dance.