First Grade at Harvest Christian Academy-Lantana

Growing in Wisdom, Faith, and Purpose

At Harvest Christian Academy, first grade is about more than learning to read, write, and solve math problems. We provide a **kingdom-centered education that nurtures the whole child—mind, heart, character, and creativity.** Through engaging lessons, hands-on exploration, meaningful relationships, and biblical truth, students build the academic skills and life foundations they need to grow into confident, compassionate, and capable learners.

Biblical Education

First grade focuses on familiar Bible characters and events that help students recognize and understand God's many gifts. Through stories from Scripture, students explore God's gifts of family, leaders, helpers, His Word, His Son, and His Church. As they learn about these biblical people and events, students begin to understand God's love, care, and faithfulness. Through discussion, prayer, and practical application, students are encouraged to grow in their faith, develop gratitude for God's gifts, and learn how to love and serve others.

Language Arts

Students develop the skills to become confident readers, thoughtful writers, and effective communicators. They practice reading with fluency and understanding, building vocabulary, recognizing story elements, and learning from both fiction and informational texts. Students also strengthen their listening and speaking skills, learn to express their ideas clearly, and begin writing their own stories, descriptions, letters, and informational pieces. These experiences help build a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

Phonics

Students strengthen the connection between letters and sounds as they learn to read and spell increasingly complex words. They practice blending sounds, recognizing spelling patterns, reading common words, and applying phonics skills to unfamiliar words. Through consistent practice, students grow in accuracy, fluency, and confidence as independent readers and writers.

Math

Students build a strong understanding of numbers and how they work. They learn place value, compare and represent numbers, develop addition and subtraction strategies, and solve real-world problems. Students also explore shapes, measurement, time, money, patterns, and simple graphs. Hands-on activities encourage them to explain their thinking, recognize relationships, persevere through challenges, and understand how math connects to everyday life—including saving, spending, and giving.

Science

Students explore God's creation through observation, questions, investigation, and discovery. They investigate the properties of materials, how pushes and pulls affect movement, seasonal and weather patterns, soil and water, and the needs and life cycles of living things. Through hands-on activities and simple experiments, students learn to observe carefully, collect information, recognize patterns, and develop explanations. They also begin to understand their responsibility to care for the world God has entrusted to us.

Social Studies

Students discover how they fit into their families, school, community, state, and nation. They learn about maps and geography, the past and present, important historical figures, American and Texas symbols, and the ways people work and exchange goods and services. Students also explore rules, responsibilities, leadership, citizenship, and the importance of making thoughtful choices. These lessons help them develop an appreciation for their community and understand how they can contribute to the good of others.

Spanish

Students begin developing familiarity with the Spanish language and the cultures connected to it. Through age-appropriate instruction, they can build foundational vocabulary, practice listening and speaking, and explore simple expressions used in everyday communication. Early language learning encourages curiosity about other cultures and helps students begin developing the confidence to communicate in another language.

Art

Students develop creativity and visual expression as they explore line, shape, color, texture, form, and pattern. They experiment with different materials and techniques to create original artwork, learning to plan, make choices, and bring their ideas to life. Students also observe and discuss artwork, appreciate different artistic styles and cultures, and learn to express their own ideas while respecting the creativity of others.

Music

Students discover the joy of music through singing, rhythm, movement, listening, and playing classroom instruments. They explore steady beat, simple rhythmic and melodic patterns, changes in tempo and volume, and music from different styles and cultures. These experiences develop listening skills, coordination, creativity, and confidence while helping students learn to work together and appreciate music as a meaningful form of expression and worship.

STEM

Students use curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking to explore how things work and how problems can be solved. Through age-appropriate building challenges, design activities, and hands-on investigations, they practice asking questions, testing ideas, making observations, and improving their designs. STEM learning encourages students to collaborate, think flexibly, learn from mistakes, and approach challenges with perseverance.

Physical Education (PE)

Students develop coordination, balance, strength, and fundamental movement skills through age-appropriate physical activities and games. They practice running, jumping, throwing, catching, kicking, and working with others while learning about fitness, hydration, healthy habits, and safety. PE also provides opportunities to grow in sportsmanship, self-control, perseverance, cooperation, and respect for others.

More Than Academics

At Harvest Christian Academy, we believe a successful first-grade year is measured by more than academic milestones. We want students to grow in knowledge while also developing the character, confidence, independence, and compassion to use that knowledge well.

Through daily opportunities to make choices, solve problems, work with others, practice responsibility, and show kindness, students learn that their words and actions matter. We strive to help every child recognize their God-given value, discover their unique gifts, and understand that learning is one way to prepare for a life of purpose and service.

Our goal is to partner with families in laying a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning, faithful living, and service to Christ.