



# FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM GUIDE

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, ST. CHARLES

**Immanuel Lutheran School, empowered by the Holy Spirit, leads children to know God as their Heavenly Father through the redeeming love of Jesus Christ, provides them with a quality education, and prepares and nurtures them to serve the church and community in Christian love.**

The curriculum of Immanuel Lutheran School, at all grade levels, meets or exceeds Missouri State Standards in all areas. Maximum class size is 22 per classroom.

In First Grade the children begin to discover their gifts and grow in them. Parents and teachers work as partners in helping the child grow to reach his/her God-given potential. Our goal is to provide a quality education and to help children grow to their God-given potential using the gifts that He has given them. Every child is very special and has been given a unique combination of gifts to use to serve God in this world.

**22**  
**MAXIMUM  
CLASS SIZE**

Families are welcome to visit in classrooms at any time. Before the school year begins, there will be an Open House to visit with the teacher in the classroom to help students become familiar with their learning environment. This is a wonderful opportunity to foster better communication and build caring relationships to begin the school year on a positive note.



### RELIGION

In First Grade students see and experience God's story of love and salvation for His people as found in the Old and New Testaments through Bible stories. The Bible lessons teach students about sin and the need for a Savior, lead them to see God's grace in sending Jesus to save them, and encourage them as they daily live in Christ.

**Faith Families:** Each student is a member of a "Faith Family." These are multi-age, student-led groups that meet every other month for devotional activities. On alternating months, Faith Families sit together for chapel.

**Memory Work:** The benefits of committing God's Word to memory are seen through memory work. First Grade students memorize a Bible verse a week throughout the year.

**Chapel:** Chapel is held weekly. First Grade students lead a chapel service once a year.



### TECHNOLOGY

Students utilize Chromebooks with a 1:1 device per student ratio in grades 3-8. Students in K-2 enjoy a 1:2 ratio with shared Chromebook carts and iPads in each classroom. Each classroom is also equipped with interactive digital panels. Students learn how to use applications, typing skills, basic coding, and use other platforms to reinforce and enhance other curricular areas taught at Immanuel.



### LANGUAGE ARTS


**Phonics/Working With Words Block:** Concepts taught throughout the year include: reinforcing recognition of upper and lower case letters; learning consonant sounds; learning long and short-vowel sounds; learning digraphs and blends; recognizing patterns in words; and blending sounds to make words.

**Guided Reading Block:** In Guided Reading, the focus of instruction is on comprehension. Thematically-based trade books are used during the guided reading instruction. Some concepts taught throughout the year include: sequence; comprehension skills; main idea; sight words; variety of reading and decoding strategies; reading fluency; and predictions.


**Independent Reading Block:** Children use the skills gained in guided reading and phonics to decode a book independently. Some concepts taught throughout the year include: practicing reading skills; appreciating literature; gaining self-confidence in reading; and reading at one's own individual skill level.

**Writing Block:** As children learn to read, they also learn to write. Students write throughout the day and include journal writing, story writing, and poetry. Some concepts taught throughout the year include: capitalization and punctuation skills; handwriting; weekly spelling tests which reinforce sounds and patterns learned in phonics; sentence structure; grammar; and story formation.


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 **MATHEMATICS** The foundation of the math curriculum is that math concepts and skills are acquired through active involvement in problem solving. Some of the concepts taught throughout the year include: addition and subtraction facts, strategies, and practice; problem solving; counting and numeration; number sense; measurement; geometry and spatial sense; estimation; data tables and graphs; time; money; patterns and relationships.


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 **SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES** Learning about God's world is an important part of the First Grade curriculum. Themes used in our reading literature coincide with the Science and Social Studies units. Hands-on activities and field trips reinforce learning. Themes include: animal habitats (desert, ocean, forest, rain forest); the body (parts of the body, senses, health/safety); dinosaurs; earth science; embryology; bubble science; family and community; American holidays and celebrations; early American history; Christmas around the world; and economics.


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 **FOREIGN LANGUAGE** Each week the children participate in Spanish class. Our Spanish teacher visits each classroom weekly. Although the Spanish classes are mostly for enrichment purposes only, these lessons also have a cross-curricular purpose that both provide a foundation as well as build on knowledge in a variety of subject areas.


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 **MUSIC & CHORUS** First grade has Music Class twice a week which encompasses Music Education and Chorus. Music Education includes music exploration, theory, and appreciation. Chorus includes vocal technique and performance. The study of these areas is cumulative and sequential beginning with First Grade. Students sing for worship services approximately 6 times per year, plus a Christmas program, and a biennial spring musical production.

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 **ART** Teaching the Arts is an essential part of educating a child. Art helps students see the world around them in new ways. The Arts unlock children's creativity and open new pathways to learning. All art activities are taught by the classroom teacher. Students explore a variety of techniques and media.


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 **PHYSICAL EDUCATION & RECESS** The First Grade Physical Education program embraces fitness activities, movement exploration, rhythmic activities, and simple games that were introduced in Kindergarten, but with some shift of emphasis to apparatus, stunts, and tumbling skills. Loco-motor skills are of prime importance with some application to non-loco-motor movements. Manipulative skills are stressed with a foundation being laid for the important play skills of throwing and catching. Various types of objects are used as the student begins to develop hand-eye and foot-eye coordination. First Grade students are also active with two recess periods daily.

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 **SERVICE PROJECTS** Students participate in school-wide service projects such as food bank in-gatherings, supporting Immanuel's social ministry, and supporting other district and synodical mission projects.

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 **WELLNESS PROGRAM** Immanuel Lutheran School nurtures a student's social and emotional development through the counseling program. The counselor visits with students in the classroom for guidance lessons twice a month, conducts small group sessions, and works with individual students by referral.

First grade students participate in a counseling curriculum that includes lessons about friendship, feelings, and their future careers. They also learn the "I-Care Rules," which helps them to treat others with respect.

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**FIRST GRADE STUDENTS MAY ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING:**

- Immanuel's Before- and After-care programs
- Cub Scouts or Girl Scouts
- Occasional sporting events