**1st Grade Standards Overview for Parents**

First grade is an important year for transitioning from a more play based learning environment to that of a typical elementary classroom.  The physical environment changes as well as expectations for learning (deeper academic skills). First graders focus on developing personal responsibility with activities like independent homework, collaborative group tasks, and maturing their self-management skills.  A shift from emergent reading and writing to beginning reading and writing is supported through integrated literacy tasks throughout the day.

During your child’s first grade year, they will be working to master the following concepts:

**Religion**

**\*\*\***For a comprehensive listing of Diocesan Standards, please visit: [www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum)

* Our first graders are immersed in learning about God’s love for us, and the ways that we see His love for us: in His creation, in ourselves, and in each other.  First graders learn about Jesus, Son of God, and Mary, mother of Jesus and their roles in our faith. First graders are expected to have appropriate mass decorum and prayerful habits.
  + **Profession of Faith**
    - God makes himself known and invites himself into a relationship with Him
      * The Bible is the word of God (books of the bible, new and old testament, bible stories)
      * Jesus’ teachings
      * God’s self-revelation (through sacred scripture and sacred tradition)
    - Holy Trinity and Role of Mary**:**
      * God the Father
        + Father of Jesus, Father of us all
      * God the Son
        + Jesus is fully human and fully God, reveals who God is
        + Jesus’ use of miracles and teachings
      * God the Holy Spirit
        + Identify places in church where we come to know the Holy Spirit (scripture, liturgy, prayer, saints)
        + Identify names, titles, and symbols of the Holy Spirit (water, fire, dove)The Saints:
      * Mary, Mother of God
        + Mary as model/witness of obedience, prayer, and faith
        + Annunciation, Visitation, Immaculate Conception, Apparitions of Mary recognized by the church
    - Church as community of believers/people of God
    - Identify and explain communion of saints
  + **Celebration of Christian Ministry**
    - Describe signs and symbols of: baptism, Eucharist, and reconciliation
    - Identify the seven sacraments
    - Importance of the Eucharist (Lord’s supper, sharing, celebration, and Jesus’ gift of himself)
  + **Life in Christ**
    - Describe Christian love (life patterned on Jesus).  Service, giving of oneself, sharing talents, etc.
    - Virtues
    - Grace: participation in life of God, God’s gift to us, God’s undeserved help, God’s presence in our life
  + **Christian Prayer**
    - Prayer as speaking with and listening to God, prayer as response to God’s love and goodness.
    - Recognize various forms of prayer (Rosary, devotions to Mary, Use of sacraments, etc)
    - Traditional prayers

**ELA**

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* First graders will expand their knowledge and skills built in Kindergarten, as well as develop new skills in phonics, reading, and writing.  First graders will practice reading independently, with partners, and in small groups to build their knowledge, fluency, and comprehension. First graders are expected to be reading at home each night to keep advancing.
  + **Reading: Literature:**
    - Retell stories and describe characters using key ideas and details
    - Demonstrate understanding of the central message (lesson) of a story
    - Explore a wide range of text types, identifying who is telling the story at different points
    - Identify words/phrases in poems
    - Compare and contrast stories using illustrations, characters, and details from the story
  + **Reading: Informational Text (with limited/no prompts)**
    - Identify main topic and retell important events
    - Describe connection between ideas, events, individuals, or information within text
    - Investigate unknown words (ex: what does ‘camouflage’ mean?)
    - Discover important features of informational text (front/back cover, title page, table of contents, etc)
    - Use text to find evidence on a topic/evidence author provides on topic
    - Describe the relationship between illustrations and text
    - Identify similarities and differences between two texts on the same topic
  + **Reading: Foundational Skills**
    - Recognize features of a sentence (first word, capitalization, ending punctuation)
    - Demonstrate understanding of spoken words (short and long vowels, produce single syllable words, blend sounds, segment, isolate, and pronounce sounds within single syllable words)
    - Know and apply grade level phonics skills (decoding a variety of words using vowel teams, segment sounds, inflectional endings)
    - Read grade level texts with purpose, fluency, understanding
  + **Writing**
    - Communicate ideas effectively across a variety of genres
      * Opinion pieces
      * Informative pieces
      * Narrative pieces
    - View writing as a process (revising, editing, publishing)
    - Use a variety of sources to research information for writing pieces
  + **Speaking and Listening**
    - Participate in conversations in small and large groups (ask and answer questions, listening and responding appropriately)
    - Describe people, places, and things with details, drawings, visual displays, and complete sentences
  + **Language**
    - Demonstrate understanding and proper use of conventions (upper/lower case letters, nouns, verbs and verb tense, adjectives, prepositions)
    - Demonstrate understanding and proper use of conventions in writing (Capitalization, punctuation, spelling patterns, phonetic spelling)
    - Identify meaning of unknown words
    - Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and word meanings

**Math**

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* Our first graders will explore number relationships and patterns in a way that will build a solid mathematical foundation.  We do this through small group work, independent work, hands-on activities and math conversation.
  + **Numbers and Operations** 
    - Skip counting, ordinals, compare (<, >, =) and order numbers to 120
    - Addition and subtraction within 20, relating addition and subtraction (fact families)
    - Solve word problems with multiple steps
    - Mentally compute sums and differences within 20; memorize basic addition and subtraction within 12
    - Recognize 2 digit numbers as representative of 10’s and 1’s
    - Introduction to fractions (1/2, 1/3, 1/4)
  + **Measurement**
    - Order objects by length; measure using nonstandard units
    - Tell and write time in hours and half hours
    - Mastery of calendar months and days of the week (in sequence)
    - Identify different denominations (coins and bills); add value of coins, solve word problems using coins
  + **Geometry**
    - Sort, describe, and identify physical and geometric attributes such as: color and shape
    - Identify and describe 2D and 3D shapes
    - Describe relative position of objects
  + **Algebraic Reasoning**
    - Develop algebraic concepts
  + **Data, Probability, and Statistics**
    - Collect, organize, read, and interpret pictographs and bar graphs
  + **Mathematical Practices**
    - Make sense of problems and persevere in finding solution
    - Attend to precision and accuracy
    - Communicate math thinking with clarity
    - Build connections with mathematical concepts
    - Use models to represent math concepts

**Science**

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* Our science standards reflect the shift in scientific education practices outlined with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).  Most importantly, science education has shifted to focusing on the importance of the development of understanding (rather than the rote recall of facts).  First graders will develop and use models, plan and carry out investigations, analyze and interpret data, design solutions, engage in argument from evidence, and obtain, evaluate, and communicate information. First graders will learn how to use these practices to demonstrate understanding.
  + **Waves and their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer**
    - Vibrations make sound
    - Experimenting with properties of light and illumination
    - Using light and sound to communicate
  + **From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and processes**
    - Investigate and describe animal and plant parts, use this understanding to solve a human problem
    - Growth and development of organisms, describing characteristics of offspring.
  + **Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits**
    - Develop an understanding that offspring (plants and animals) are similar, but not exactly the same as parents
  + **Earth’s Place in the Universe**
    - Observe, describe, and predict motion of sun, moon, and stars
    - Observe seasonal patterns, including sunrise and sunset

**Social Studies**

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* In first grade, students continue to explore the social studies disciplines learned in kindergarten.  We use an integrated approach using the context of school and families to develop more sophisticated understandings of each discipline.
  + **History:** 
    - Investigate family history using historical records and artifacts (photos, diaries, videos)
    - Compare life today with life in the past with a focus on school and families
    - Identify events and people celebrated during national holidays
  + **Geography**:
    - Construct simple maps and use personal directions
    - Describe and distinguish between physical and human characteristics in relation to the environment
  + **Civics and Government:**
    - Describe roles of authority in school (principal, bus driver, etc)
    - Conflict resolution
    - Responsibilities at home and at school
  + **Economics:**
    - Explore producers and consumers of goods and services
    - How people earn money; how families use goods and services
  + **Public discourse, decision making, and citizen involvement:**
    - Identify and resolve a public issue in school community