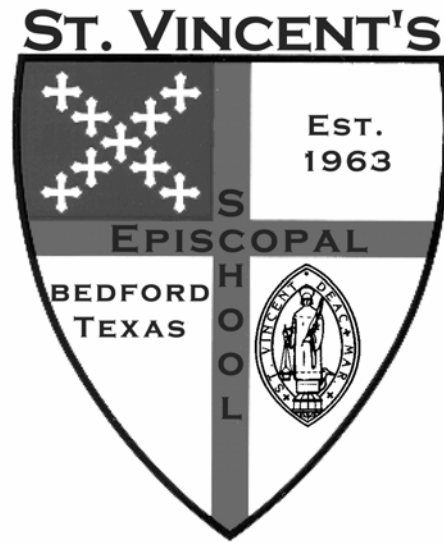


# St. Vincent's Cathedral School



## Curriculum and Course Guide Lower School

2008-2009

# Lower School Curriculum Guide

## Kindergarten

### Reading / Language Arts

The Kindergarten language arts curriculum is a comprehensive reading-language arts program. It contains and correlates reading, handwriting, auditory, and oral language skills. Using the Beginning to Read Write and Listen program, students learn the letter names, how to write the letters, what sounds the letters represent, and what function the letters serve, as their sounds are blended to form words. Beginning is a multi-sensory program of visual, kinesthetic, and auditory activities, which meets the specialized needs of the beginning student. It develops manual dexterity, perceptual awareness, and other essential readiness skills. Above all else, it produces in the beginner a high degree of involvement and motivation. The Beginning program is reinforced and enriched with the use of Stories Unique for Purposeful Extra Reading (Super Books). The first kit of forty readers has stories for students at the very earliest levels of beginning reading; its first book requires familiarity with only four different sound-spellings. Super Books Kit II offers extended experience for beginning readers; it builds on a base of sixteen sound spellings. Students are also involved in journal writing and story innovation. Children are immersed daily in the letter of the week through their involvement in learning center activities.

#### Spelling

Dictated words  
Missing sounds  
Phonetic spellings  
Syllables  
Auditory  
Discriminating sounds

#### Reading

Read / write / listen  
Phonics  
Home readers  
Journals  
Silent reading

#### English

Recognition of sentence structure  
Punctuation - period, exclamation mark, question mark, comma, quotation marks  
Development of punctuation usage  
Basic mechanics of written language  
Model / read aloud

#### Math

The focus of the Kindergarten mathematics curriculum is the child and the need for basic math skill proficiency in our world. Students experience math daily through formal math instruction, math centers, and calendar/circle time. The curriculum centers on the MATH series by Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley. It is designed to motivate and challenge students to see the power of mathematics and its use in today's society. MATH integrates problem solving, reasoning, estimation, and technology within mathematical topics. Various concepts are introduced in the following areas: numbers, numeration and order relations; estimation; patterns; statistics and graphing; measurement, time, and money; geometry and spatial sense; and critical thinking and relations.

Each morning math is an important part of calendar/circle time. The following math concepts are presented and reviewed: days of the week, months of the year, concepts of time, numeration,

patterning, graphing, counting 1 through 100, counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's, temperature, money, addition, and subtraction. Children are encouraged to participate in this informal lesson.

Children learn number or mathematical concepts in small groups at a math center. The students explore, work independently, and practice through hands-on activities. They are encouraged to talk about math and explain how they solved a given problem to their peers and the teacher.

Position words	Time (hour)
Classify	Measuring
Geometry introduction	Probability
Recognize, identify, sequence	Money
Add / subtract	Numerals through 20
Pattern	

### **Science**

The science book is divided into four modules: The Human Body, Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science. In the first module - The Human Body - the children are introduced to the wonders of their senses. They will learn to describe objects in terms of what their senses detect: color, shape, size, sound, taste, smell, and texture. The children will discover what makes up their bodies, observe how their body changes as they grow, and take a closer look at cleanliness and proper eating habits as a way of promoting good health.

The second module - Life Science - allows the children to take a closer look at other living things with which they share their world; investigate details of animals' appearances, their babies, and the care that some baby animals get; and invites the children to explore the fascinating world of plants. They will learn about plants growing from seeds, what seeds need in order to grow into plants, and they will look at parts of plants.

In the third module, Physical Science, the children will look at the physical world. They will investigate properties of objects such as color, shape, size, and mass and how to identify objects by these properties. They will also explore one reason why some objects float in water, while others do not. The children learn about how sounds travel and how to compare sounds. They identify things as hot or cold and learn how to change the temperature of an object. They will also learn to identify sources of light and the different ways in which objects can move or be moved.

In Earth Science, the fourth module, the children explore the land and water of the world. They learn that all living things depend on the land and water, to some degree. The children will also look at how people use the land and water and how to help protect these two important resources. The wonders of the planet are also introduced in this section. They will take a peek at the sun and the moon and observe characteristics of the daytime sky and the nighttime sky; they will also explore the interesting ways that the sky alerts us to changing weather. They learn that living things need rain, but that too much (or too little) rain causes problems.

Human body	Earth science
Letter correlated centers	Life science
Physical science	

### **Social Studies**

Social and emotional development includes the development of the child's knowledge, understanding, and positive acceptance of self through interaction with others.

The focus of the Kindergarten social studies curriculum is the child and how he feels about him/herself; his family; his friends; his teachers and classroom; his culture; and his environment. The child needs to feel good about his own cultural differences before he can be taught to accept and appreciate the cultural differences of others. Developing a positive self esteem, positive relationships, and healthy lifestyle habits are the main goals of the Kindergarten social studies curriculum.

Ecology	Citizenship
City / state / country	Holidays
Introduce globes	Community helpers
Cultures	

## **First Grade**

### **Reading**

The reading program is based on the Open Court Reading and Writing Series. The first grade reading curriculum is designed to build a foundation made up of the skills and strategies that lead to early independence in decoding, comprehension, writing, and thinking for all children. The reading selections help children apply newly acquired decoding strategies. As the children become more independent readers, they are given the opportunity to read real literature. The students are given the strategies not only to get the right answers, but to know how to get the right answers. Workshop time is provided to meet individual needs. Strategies and skills are taught together to insure a solid foundation.

Reading strategies:

Word attack skills	Following directions
Phonics	Realism & fantasy
Rhyming words	Character analysis
Story elements	Main idea
Noting details	Sight words
Predicting outcomes	Inferencing
Creative dramatics	Sequencing
Summarization/cause/effect	Compare / contrast
Drawing conclusions/ predictions	

Reading experiences: children's literature, fiction / non-fiction, take home readers, class & student generated books, poetry

### **Language Arts**

The language arts program is an integrated curriculum using speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The Daily Language Review is used to introduce sentence structure; proper and common nouns; ABC order; real or make believe; contractions; singular and plural forms; writing an invitation; and addressing an envelope. Writing is included daily and may include pre-writing, drafting, revising, proofreading, and finally, publishing. Language usage is addressed through oral language activities that build on previous learning. Grammar and vocabulary building are also

included. Games for individuals and groups are used and are based on specific language concepts taught. Children create oral language posters that are designed to reinforce language skills in each unit. Creative activities extend learning concepts into other art projects. The spelling lists come from Open Court Reading Series.

Listening skills

Oral communication

Developmentally appropriate spelling

Grammar & mechanics instruction

Vocabulary development

Writing experiences: journals, story writing, class stories, letter writing

The writing process: selection of a topic, create a writing plan using the story web or the hand plan, write a rough draft, teacher critiques, revise the original draft, peer critique, second revision, proof read and edit, share or publish

## **Math**

Our first grade math curriculum centers on the MATH text by Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley. The curriculum is organized into the following content areas: number, numeration, patterns, geometry, measurement, fractions, time, money, rules, functions, and problem solving. Each of these areas is taught during the year.

In the MATH curriculum, instruction focuses on: developing readiness through hands-on activities, encouraging problem solving about everyday situations, cooperative learning through partner and small group activities, and skill practice through games.

Numbers to 12 and graphing

Addition/subtraction readiness

Addition/subtraction concepts

Facts & strategies to 18

Geometry and fractions

Two-digit addition/subtraction

Measurement

Money

Place value

Telling time

Numbers to 60

Counting patterns

## **Science**

The first grade curriculum, which includes the text book, Science by Harcourt, covers physical, earth, and life science strands. It is organized to help students make connections and explore the overarching themes of science. It is hands-on in nature, using the methods of observing; communicating; measuring; classifying; making models; collecting; and interpreting data; inferring; predicting; experimenting and formulating questions; and hypotheses.

### Life Science

Plants: Looking at trees, looking at plants, how plants are used

Growing and changing: people, growing up, animals, how animals grow.

### Earth Science

Sound & light

Hearing & seeing: making sounds

Weather: Air, Water, & Weather, Weather & You

## **Social Studies**

The integrated social studies curriculum of the first grade uses speaking, listening, map reading, reading, writing, and creative projects to learn about each unit. These processes are ongoing throughout the social studies program. Literature and the Families and Neighbors social studies book are the main sources of material used in the first grade program. The first grade program is divided into teacher created units: Globes and Maps, Christopher Columbus, Pilgrims, Christmas, Slavery and Civil Rights, Pioneers, and The Wright Brothers. The goals set for each unit reflect the objectives of this curriculum. The books listed at the end of each unit may be added to or subtracted from when teaching the units. The listed books are suggested titles that would aid in the teaching skills for each unit. Teachers may use books at their own discretion to teach the skills listed in the curriculum.

Social needs of families  
Patriotic customs, anthems, & symbols of the state & the nation  
Seasons / holidays  
Geographical locations of the state & nation  
Maps & globes  
Producers & consumers  
Explore Columbus, pilgrims, slavery & pioneers

## **Second Grade**

### **Reading**

The second grade reading curriculum provides high quality, authentic children's literature through meaningful thematic units. The program encourages students to relate the selections to each other, to readings in other content areas, and to their own life experiences. The literature provides for instruction in skills and strategies that will help students develop into fluent, lifelong readers and articulate, effective communicators. It aids in the development of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking skills. Novel and author studies are included to enhance the curriculum. The program also reinforces phonetic elements previously introduced and mastered.

Reading strategies:  
Character analysis                      Sequencing  
Following directions                  Main idea  
Creative dramatics                      Noting details  
Summarization                          Story elements  
Cause & effect                          Realism & fantasy  
Drawing conclusions                      Inferencing  
Compare & contrast  
Context clues, word attack skills, picture clues  
Reading experiences: children's literature, fiction / nonfiction, novel studies, class & student generated books, poetry, book reports

### **Language Arts**

The second grade language arts program uses literature as models for instruction, which will help improve the children's oral and written language. The literature introduced throughout the curriculum is designed to foster an appreciation of literature; to familiarize students with a model for the types of writing they will learn to produce; and to provide a common base on which to build listening, speaking, thinking, and composition skills. The children are encouraged to think and respond to the literature in a variety of ways. Grammar is taught in the context of writing and speaking and is, therefore, immediately applied to a theme-related writing activity. Emphasis is

placed on legibility in manuscript handwriting to enhance this program. Word patterns are reinforced through the spelling curriculum.

Writing experiences:

- Journals

- Letter writing

- Creative writing

- Class stories

- Response log

Listening & speaking skills

Writing process

Spelling generalizations

Grammar & mechanics instruction

Vocabulary development

Dictionary skills

## **Math**

The second grade math curriculum is designed to motivate, excite, and challenge the students in becoming proficient in basic mathematical skills. Each chapter develops a high-interest, relevant theme to assist children in seeing how mathematics applies in everyday life. The children are encouraged to talk about and communicate what they are learning, which will help them have a strong understanding of math concepts. Every lesson provides the opportunity for the students to work in pairs, individually, or as a whole class to engage in many different types of activities. The program focuses on problem solving and the strategies necessary for finding solutions; studying patterns and relationships; critical, visual and creative thinking; using manipulatives to build mathematical understanding; building number sense; estimation and mental math skills; and computational proficiency.

Graphing & estimation

Addition & subtraction:

- Facts, patterns, concepts, & strategies

Fact families

Ordinal numbers

Place value/patterns to 100

Money: counting & use

Time:

- Understanding minutes & hours

Two digit addition & subtraction with regrouping

Addition & subtraction of 3 digit numbers

Measurement

Geometry

Fractions

Introduction of multiplication & division

Problem solving

## **Science**

The second grade science curriculum is designed to allow children to explore real-life situations and to think about real world challenges. The program challenges them to recognize and discover how science impacts the world. The text is reinforced through colorful visuals, which aid the student in locating information independently.

Space & weather; constellations, moon, sun  
 Living things: plants & animals, habitats, grouping plants & animals, outdoor classroom - turtles  
 Exploring earth's surface: rocks, soil, fossils, dinosaurs  
 Exploring matter: solids, liquids, gasses  
 Energy in motion: forces, sound

## **Social Studies**

The second grade social studies curriculum is designed to allow the children to explore the world and their role in it. The children are exposed to a variety of themes. They are challenged to incorporate their learning into their own lives to aid in making the world a better place.

Map & globe skills  
 Communities:  
     Urban, suburban, rural, and local  
 Foreign cultures & traditions  
 Goods & services  
 Community government  
 Communities: growth & change  
 Chart, graphs, & diagram skills

## **Third Grade**

### **Reading**

The third grade reading curriculum is a literature-based program designed to encourage and stimulate the students in reading a variety of genres. The anthologies of six thematic units serve as a springboard for instruction in skills and strategies that will help students develop into fluent, lifelong readers and articulate communicators. Since the students read more independently and with increased comprehension, they are able to enjoy three novel studies and four book reports with many creative activities.

<u>Reading Strategies</u>	Story elements	
Context clues	Sequencing	
Making inferences	Cause & effect	
Drawing conclusions	Realism & fantasy	
Fact & opinion	Dialogue	
Main idea	Plot	
Story structure	Mood & tone	
Predicting outcomes	Characterization	Supporting details
Author's purpose		Summarization

Reading experiences  
 Fiction / non-fiction  
 Children's literature  
 Novel studies/  
 poetry/plays

## **Language Arts**

The third grade language arts curriculum is composed of the teaching of grammar, the teaching of the writing process, and the teaching of cursive handwriting. The integrated nature of the language arts program teaches process and method, as well as skills. The literature-based English textbook alternates units of grammar skills with the writing process. The grammar connection provides an opportunity to integrate previously taught language and usage skills with student writing. Cursive handwriting is systematically instructed. Specific instruction in proper letter formation and joinings is supported by much practice and application.

Listening & speaking skills

Writing experiences:

Writing workshop	Class stories
Journals	Letter writing
Creative writing	

Grammar and mechanics:

Sentence types	Capitalization
Sentence structure	Punctuation
Nouns	Adverbs
Verbs	Adjectives
Pronouns	

Oral communications

Finding & organizing info	Spelling
Vocabulary development	

### **Math**

The primary focus of the third grade math program is to build on and to master the mathematical foundation that the students have in place, to introduce multiplication/division, and to make the students comfortable with math. The program enhances students' confidence by offering a variety of rich problem solving experiences. The emphasis is on attaining good number sense, estimation skills, and mental math skills. The "Accelerated Math" program allows the students to work independently at their own levels of expertise, reinforcing skills and challenging concepts. The students are actively engaged in math, frequently using manipulatives and cooperative groups.

Problem of the day

Graphs

Adding / subtracting numbers through 4 digits with regrouping

Place value-order, read, compare, write through 1,000,000

Rounding to nearest tens or hundreds

Telling time / money

Multiplication - basic facts through 12; 1 digit x 2 digits

Division

Basic geometry - solid shapes, perimeter, area, volume, symmetry, congruent, grids

Fractions - name, order, compare, add & subtract decimals

Measurement-customary & metric

Word problems-techniques & strategies

"Accelerated Math" enrichment program

### **Science**

The third grade science program offers personalized experiences with a wide variety of scientific materials. The students investigate life, earth, and physical science content with many hands-on

investigations. The program offers the students opportunities to observe and gather information, as they learn vocabulary and organize thoughts.

Life Science

Plant growth  
Photosynthesis  
Plant & animal interaction  
Ecosystems  
Food chain

Physical Science

Investigating matter  
Exploring energy & Types of animals forces  
Heat  
Light  
Forces & motion  
Simple machines

Earth Science

Earth's land / soil  
Rocks, minerals, fossils  
Cycles on earth  
Water cycle  
Observe weather  
Solar system

**Social Studies**

The third grade students learn how individuals have changed Texas and their world. They learn about the lives of heroic men and women who sacrificed for the betterment of others. Texas history helps the students see the link between the past and the present. It gives them a better understanding of how the events of today can affect the events of the future. The students build a foundation in not only history, but in geography, government, citizenship, culture, and social study skills.

Study of Texas History

Maps & globes  
Texas Revolution  
Lone Star State  
Texas growth & economics  
Texas government  
Texas heroes study  
Native American culture in Texas  
Exploration & settlement in Texas

Natural regions of Texas  
Republic of Texas  
Cattle kingdom

**Fourth Grade**

**Reading**

The fourth grade reading curriculum provides high-quality children's literature based on thematic units. Students develop reading, writing, listening, and thinking skills through the study of at least two novels, three book reports, and a research paper. Comprehension and independent reading are emphasized to create a life-long love of reading and learning.

Story elements  
Sequencing  
Cause & effect

Characterization  
Fact & opinion  
Point of view

Summarization	Author's purpose
Drawing conclusions	Context clues
Inferencing	Predicting outcomes
Main idea	Realism & fantasy
Supporting details	Dialogue
Literary elements	Literary devices

Reading experiences  
 Novel studies  
 Fiction / non-fiction  
 Biographies  
 Poetry  
 Newspapers  
 Encyclopedias

### **Language Arts**

The fourth grade Language Arts curriculum is designed to provide students with the processes and techniques to write effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences and to equip students with a grammatical understanding of the English language, in order to communicate more effectively.

Sentences /writing paragraphs  
 Nouns / comparison and contrast paragraphs  
 Verbs / story writing  
 Adjectives / descriptive paragraphs  
 Capitalization and punctuation / pronouns / persuasive writing  
 Adverbs / composition  
 Writing experiences: journals, creative writing, letter writing, note taking, research – note cards outlines, bibliography  
 Spelling uses the consumable textbook integrated with the reading series.  
Wordly Wise introduces vocabulary skills that will be useful in standardized testing.

### **Math**

The purpose of our fourth grade mathematics curriculum is to teach students the ability to reason, solve problems, and use mathematics to communicate ideas. This is achieved through problem-solving activities, manipulative activities, calculator activities, and board work. Students work individually, in pairs, and in groups. We also stress computational proficiency, number sense, estimation, and mental math.

Place value / time	Money
Adding and subtracting	Whole numbers
Multiplication–concept /facts	Geometry
Fractions	Decimals

Multiplication- 1 & 2 digit factors  
 Division-1 & 2 digit factors  
 Problem solving; data, graphs, and facts review  
 Measurement – customary and metric  
 "Hands-on-Equations" program to introduce algebra  
 "Accelerated Math" enrichment program

### **Science**

The fourth grade science curriculum is designed for development of the students' thinking skills. Students use these skills to collect, understand, interpret, apply, and evaluate information and ideas when they solve problems and make decisions concerning scientific hypotheses. The program provides a science knowledge base of specific concepts and principles of earth, life, and physical sciences.

Physical Science

Matter & energy

Force & motion

Life Science

A world of living things

Looking at ecosystems

Earth Science

Patterns on earth and in space

Earth's surface

### **Social Studies**

The fourth grade social studies curriculum is a U.S. geography program divided by geographic regions, based on five themes identified by the National Geography Standards, which include Region, Human/Environment Interactions, Place, Location, and Movement. Students learn about the natural features and resources of each region, as well as the history of the region. Students learn to work with maps and apply historical data to regions of the U.S. Students work independently, in pairs, and in groups to master map skills and apply knowledge of the history, environment, and economy of each region. Students compare and contrast other areas of the world with each region of the U.S.

United States Geography

Regions of the United States: the Southwest, the Northeast, the Middle West, the Southwest, the West

People & heritage of the regions: history, Native Americans, immigrants, present populace

Environment of the regions: geography, land forms, economy

Study skills: maps & globes, time lines, graphing, primary, & secondary sources

Thinking skills: decision making, cause & effect, conclusions, fact & opinion

Citizenship

## **Fifth Grade**

### **Reading**

The fifth grade reading curriculum is designed to provide students the opportunity to access information and become independent, self-directed, engaged readers. The program is based in both contemporary and classic literature, as well as a reading text. Students are exposed to a wide variety of literary works, some of which correlate with either the social studies or the science curriculum. They are guided toward competent discernment of factual, interpretive, and experiential information. The instructional framework of daily classes allows the student the opportunity to develop reading strategies.

Reading experiences

Novel studies

Fiction / non-fiction

Biographies

Fact & opinion

Drawing conclusions

Story elements

Main idea

Poetry detail	Plot, mood, theme	Newspapers	Noting
Encyclopedias	Author's purpose		
Comprehension skills	Supporting details		
Cause & effect	Character analysis		
Predicting outcomes	Literary elements / Context clues		devices
Summarization			

## Language Arts

The fifth grade language arts curriculum seeks to endow the student with a solid basic foundation in English grammar that may be applied to a variety of writing experiences. They are afforded multiple opportunities for oral expression. The writing modes to which students are exposed include comparing and contrasting, personal narratives, writing instructions, story writing, writing descriptions, letter writing, and writing a research paper. The hallmark of writing experience in fifth grade is a research paper, which includes research and use of five resources, making of note cards, writing an outline of the paper, writing of the paper, and recording bibliographical information. Regular instruction in spelling, vocabulary, and handwriting, along with writing and grammar instruction help to ensure that the skills and art of the language arts are carried over to other curriculum areas. The instructional framework of daily classes allows the student the opportunity to develop listening and speaking strategies and utilizes these strategies in formulation of responses to class discussions.

Writing: narrative, descriptive, informative, persuasive, research, expressive

Mechanics & language (grammar): sentences, nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, adverbs, prepositions, capitalization, punctuation

Spelling

Vocabulary

## Math

The fifth grade mathematics curriculum is designed to provide all students the opportunity to be successful in mathematics. The curriculum continues the learning processes developed in earlier years by building and strengthening computational skills and focusing on developing problem solving and reasoning skills. These skills are used in all school subjects and life situations. Calculators and computers are used as tools for exploring concepts and solving problems.

Problem solving

Data, graphs, and facts review

Place value

Adding and subtracting

Whole numbers

Decimals

Multiplying

Whole numbers

Decimals

Geometry

Dividing

Whole numbers

Decimals (1 & 2 digits)

Fractions

Adding, subtracting, multiplying  
Perimeter and area  
Measurement

Metric and customary Ratio, percent, and probability  
"Hands-on Equations" program to introduce algebra  
"Accelerated Math" enrichment program

## **Science**

The fifth grade science curriculum is a combination of earth, life, and physical sciences. It includes conducting field and laboratory investigations using scientific method; analyzing data; making informed decisions; and using tools such as beakers, test tubes and spring scales to collect and record information. Students also use computer and information technology tools to support scientific investigations. Students learn that science has built a vast body of changing and increasing knowledge, and also learn that science may not answer all questions. Work and learning are accomplished with small groups of students sharing tasks, ideas, and information.

### Physical Science

Building blocks of matter  
Energy & motion

### Earth Science

Processes that change the earth  
The solar system and beyond

### Life Science

Processes of living things  
Systems & interactions in nature

## **Social Studies**

The fifth grade social studies curriculum is designed to give students a broad spectrum of skills and concepts relating to the history and development of the United States, from its beginning to the present day. Special emphasis is placed on the understanding of the United States' founding principles and the government as it is recognized today. Students are given multiple opportunities to develop a sense of patriotism and pride in their country by such activities as memorization of the *Preamble to the Constitution of the United States*, *The Preamble to the Declaration of Independence*, and *The Gettysburg Address*. The curriculum provides opportunities to examine the people, places, and events that molded the country's development. Through such thinking skills as analysis, synthesis, concept formation, prediction, evaluation, and comparison, the students are able to understand and utilize the exploration, discovery, and development of the United States.

### United States History

Immigration, government, and geography  
Explorers & early Native Americans  
Exploration & early settlement  
Life in the English colonies  
The American Revolution  
The Constitution of the United States  
Westward movement  
The Civil War  
Study skills: maps & globes, time lines, graphing, primary & secondary sources, political cartoons

Thinking skills: decision making, cause & effect, fact & opinion, conclusions, point of view,  
generalizations, credibility of a source  
Citizenship