

Welcome to 1st grade at St. Catherine Catholic School! This year your child will be immersed in a world full of new experiences and academic challenges. First Grade is THE YEAR that we become "big kids" and learn BIG Words like, responsibility and accountability. While this is quite an adjustment, it also equips your child with a sense of self pride as they learn many life skills that will help them become successful young people and eventually adults.

The First Grade curriculum at St. Catherine School provides a comprehensive, interdisciplinary program of developmentally appropriate curriculum that meets both Texas Catholic Conference Education Department and the Texas Education Agency standards (TEKS). These skills provide a minimum standard for 1st grade classrooms across the state. The first grade students at St Catherine School are challenged to reach above and beyond these standards.

Our 1st grade classroom curriculum consists of Handwriting, Math, Science, Spelling, English, Reading, and Social Studies. Spanish, library, and use of the computer lab, and P.E. are also scheduled throughout the week. Our class will also take part in school-wide Mass on Friday's.

The main focus of the first grade classroom is to provide phonics and reading instruction that allows our students to become fluent readers. Through our Saxon Phonics/Spelling, Accelerated Reading program, and Houghton Mifflin Reading curriculum many of our first graders are reading well above their public school peers by the end of the year. When learning differences are present we offer activities and opportunities specifically designed to meet the individual needs of your child.

In first grade we begin the Accelerated Reading adventure. It is the 1st year that our students are required to participate in the accelerated reading program. Each grading term, each child is given a goal based on reading achievement and the child works towards that goal.

Finally, and most importantly, is our Catholic religious education program. St. Catherine Catholic School is dedicated to providing the children of our area with opportunities to learn about Christian values and morals through Bible story study, explanation, and application of service to others. First grade students attend a scheduled religion class each day and are required to participate in weekly Mass.

As the first grade teacher I am available to discuss your child's progress or any concerns that you may have before and after school or during my scheduled planning periods.

Thank you for allowing me to take part in your child's life. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to touch so many young lives in such an important way.