

# FIRST GRADE



Grade Level Capacity 48

Class Sections 3

Students per Class 16

Student to Teacher Ratio 16:1

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL OVERVIEW

### Grammar Stage

In the Grammar School, basic factual content and rules – the “grammar” – of each subject is mastered. The curricular emphasis during these years is on learning basic facts and figures during the time when children love to memorize (and when they are best at doing so).

### Parent Involvement

The parent’s role in Grammar School is that of a co-teacher. As such, one parent needs to lead in the co-teaching role and is expected to become familiar with the curriculum and basic teaching techniques to actively engage and implement lessons on school at home days. There are also ample opportunities for parents to volunteer on-campus as a Home Room Helper, Copy Mom, Field Trip Chaperone, and more. Parents are also encouraged to attend in-class presentations and grade level special events.

### School Traditions

Special Grammar School traditions include Chapel, Veritas ROCKS, a special Homecoming Pep Rally, a winter Daddy-Daughter Dance, and an annual Food Drive.

### Community Connections

Opportunities for Grammar School students to connect to the entire community include Adopt a School of Rhetoric Athlete, MLK Service Day, Family Defender Night, and Fall Fest.

### Grammar School Chapel

Grammar School students gather regularly for Chapel. During this time, students participate in liturgies such as the singing of the Doxology, saying the Lord’s Prayer, and singing Shalom. They also discuss what it means to be a Veritas Valiant.

### Veritas ROCKS

Based on the Biblical concept of building our homes on rock and not on sand, Veritas ROCKS summarizes the standard of behavior that will be promoted at Veritas Academy:

- R – Respect Authority
- O – Others are Important
- C – Correction: Accept it and Learn from it
- K – Keep Yourself Prepared
- S – Seek Excellence

## GOALS

### Spiritual

In addition to participating in devotionals and class prayer, First Grade students have the opportunity to seek Biblical truth as their history lessons are intertwined with the Biblical timeline and their study of Ancient History.

### Academic

First Grade students continue building upon what was learned in Kindergarten by increasing their reading fluency to 80 words per minute and continuing the study of phonograms (both single and multi-letter). Students also grow in speed with their addition facts and are introduced to subtraction.

### Social/Emotional

First Grade students continue to learn classroom behavior by focusing on exhibiting self-control, following directions, and making choices that reflect Godly character.

## TRADITIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS

### Egyptian Feast

After researching and presenting to their class as an ancient Egyptian or Hebrew character, First Grade students enjoy a “feast” of ancient activities which include mummy wrapping, pyramid building, and tasting exotic dishes.

### Roman Olympics

After their study of the Romans, students design and construct a chariot (cardboard) to participate in a chariot race and other relays. This eventful afternoon culminates in a traditional medal ceremony.

### Mother’s Day Tea

Mothers are honored at our annual Mother’s Day Tea where students serve mothers and spend some uninterrupted time together.

## CORE CLASSES

<b>MATH</b>	Using a multi-sensory approach, students are taught addition/subtraction of 2 and 3 digit numbers, 2- and 3-dimensional shapes, measurement in metric and standard units, patterns and mental math, place value to 1000, one-step word problems, addition/subtraction of money, and graphs.
<b>HANDWRITING</b>	Fine motor skills are strengthened as students are instructed in the proper pencil grip and through proper letter formation. First Grade students receive a thorough review of lower-case letters.
<b>READING</b>	The love of reading is best caught when students read in a book that fits them. Students receive individualized instruction by reading through basal readers with a controlled vocabulary. As students are ready, they transition into appropriate chapter books and specified comprehension questions are introduced. Classes enjoy <i>Charlotte's Web</i> as their grade level read-aloud.
<b>SPELLING</b>	Students continue to build their knowledge of single and multi-letter phonograms and study the spelling of the most frequently used words by reviewing the words studied in Kindergarten and progressing into spelling more challenging words. Spelling rules are also introduced.
<b>MEMORY WORK</b>	With the desire that families would memorize Scripture together, all Grammar School students memorize a passage of Scripture along with the rest of the school. "Thinking Points" are provided to facilitate meaningful discussion around the dinner table.

## DAILY SCHEDULE 8:20AM – 3PM, WITH AN OPTIONAL ELECTIVE UNTIL 4PM

Morning Meeting – 20 minutes	Lunch – 20 minutes	Science/History – 30 minutes
ELF/Math – 60 minutes	Spelling – 20 minutes	Reading – 20-25 minutes
Writing – 20-25 minutes	Grammar – 15 minutes	Specials Wheel – 50 minutes
Recess – 20 minutes	Latin – 10 minutes	

IN GRAMMAR SCHOOL, COURSES ARE COMBINED INTO ONE CORE BLOCK AND TEACHERS STRUCTURE THE SCHOOL DAY TO INCLUDE INSTRUCTION OF ALL SUBJECTS. THIS DAILY SCHEDULE IS A GENERAL GUIDE OF A TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY.

## SCHOOL AT HOME DAY GENERALLY 4-5 HOURS PER DAY

Language Arts – 1.5-2 hours	Math – 1-1.5 hours	Science/History – 40-60 minutes
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## FIELD TRIPS

First Grade students go on two specifically crafted field trips that are aimed at supporting the grade level's curriculum. Field trips are teacher-led, occur on a Veritas classroom day, and are required for students enrolled in the class.

<b>FALL</b>	<b>SPRING</b>
CROWE'S NEST FARM	LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER



## PROJECTS/PRESENTATIONS

In order to provide ample opportunities for students to become comfortable and confident in their public speaking skills, First Graders have two major presentations during the school year. Rhetoric skills learned in Grammar and Logic schools build toward the capstone Senior Thesis, a 20-minute memorized speech that students present and defend in the spring of their Senior year.

<b>FALL</b>	<b>SPRING</b>
ANCIENT EGYPT PRESENTATION	BODY PROJECT

