

First Grade Curriculum

Theology - At Salve Regina Academy, the study of theology is infused in every subject throughout our day as students encounter stories of the Saints and biblical lessons in their study of Language Arts, and as they learn to view the world as God's creation in Science and Social Studies. By starting our day with our school-wide Theology Practicum, our students will learn to apply theology to their everyday life through time spent worshipping God in the Church at Mass, or engaging in various prayers or devotionals. We will also follow the *Spirit of Truth* curriculum from Sophia Institute. This program keeps students engaged through interactive lessons, sacred art reflections, games, and role-plays. It covers the breadth of the *Catechism* in a rich and age-appropriate way and is designed to connect with students of diverse backgrounds and differing familiarity with the Catholic Faith.

Language Arts - Our First Grade class will be using the *Superkids Reading Program* from Zaner-Bloser, which is a comprehensive ELA program that was crafted using evidence-based literacy practices. In the Word Work section of the program, students at the first grade level master more complex phonetic elements and learn to decode and encode structural patterns. In the Reading portion, students' comprehension and fluency skills increase greatly as they read longer and more complex literary and informational texts. Read-alouds build vocabulary and prepare students to read more rigorous text. Lastly, in the Writing lesson, students use the writing process to write narratives, informational texts, and opinion pieces.

Social Studies - This hands-on course takes our students on a step-by-step exploration of the geography, climate, animals, landmarks, and saints of each of the seven continents. *Explore the Continents* includes discussions, read-alouds, and activities including creating a colorful poster with all the fun facts that the students have learned about each continent.

Science – *Behold and See 1* presents both Creation and Creator, in a context familiar to the child: the family. Activities that follow lessons reinforce and bring topics to life. Through these lessons, children learn the scientific method of observing, comparing, grouping, and measuring change. Lessons are formed around the seasons and include Spring on the Farm, Summer on the Farm, Fall on the Farm, and Winter on the Farm.

Mathematics – *HMH Into Math* was built from expert insights and real teacher feedback to deliver a student-centered, outcomes-driven approach to learning mathematics that supports deeper understanding of concepts along with true procedural fluency and application embedded throughout. These solutions were designed to foster a longstanding culture of learning that helps students to grow and continue growing year after year by allowing teachers to tailor lessons to the needs and learning styles of their students. At the core of this curriculum is the belief that growth at every level is possible, and its driving goal is to create fearless problem solvers.

STEM - There will be weekly STEM projects and/or lessons for students K-7 at Salve Regina Academy. By adopting the popular interdisciplinary approach to combining science, technology, engineering, and mathematics into age appropriate hands-on activities, students will improve their ability to think critically and to form solutions to problems.

Art - Our art program is designed to introduce our students to basic art techniques, and build off of the basics with creative exploration, various mediums, concepts, skills, knowledge, and aesthetic awareness.

Students will develop a sense of Art history within the Catholic Church including an ability to value art created by different cultures.

Library - We are introducing our very own library this year, which will be filled with stories of the saints, various classical books, and so much more. In addition, we will be using the Gorham Public Library in order to further introduce our First Graders to the wonderful world of books. They will learn about the different types of books available, basic library etiquette, and how to locate books in a library. Our students will experience story time with a special focus on books with lessons about virtues and morals.

Music - Our music curriculum fosters a love of the arts by promoting creation of music, performance, individual response to music, and connecting in a personal way with music. Music will also be incorporated into our Theology lessons as children learn liturgical music and Gregorian chants as well as seasonal hymns and songs.

Physical Education - Our goal is to foster a life-long love of physical activity and to introduce our students to various ways to enjoy God's creation. At the First Grade level, this is completed by nurturing the development of gross motor skills and body awareness through games and activities that are easy and fun to play. In addition, our students will be participating in hikes and nature walks which will challenge their balance and endurance while exposing them to the beautiful trails that we have here in the White Mountains. Over the course of their time at Salve Regina Academy, students will be introduced to diverse age-appropriate outdoor activities such as snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, canoeing, swimming, ice skating etc.

Service/Outreach – Learning to give of one's time, talent, and treasure and adopting a mentality of service are crucial lessons for children to learn at an early age. We are dedicated to helping our students learn to love serving others in various ways including offering physical assistance to those in need, raising money for those less fortunate, lending a hand to a classmate, giving back to our community, and by praying for intentions daily. As is stated in our Mission Statement, "Students, faculty, and staff of Salve Regina Academy strive together to know, love, and serve God as we commit ourselves to the study of the world around us, to the imitation of Jesus, and to all the teachings of the Catholic Church under the Queenship of Mary, our Mother.