



First Grade at Westgate Christian Academy



The Family and Community

Summary

At the first grade level the students learn about major historical events, figures, and symbols related to different people in different times and places. The books chosen to read aloud, the stories told, and the songs they hear and learn will emphasize this theme throughout the year.

Concept Statements

1. Most families belong to a larger community of society: extended family, clan, tribe, and community.
2. The world is made up of many countries.
3. People have the same basic needs: food, clothing, shelter, love, belonging, and meaning.
4. Different ethnic groups have distinctive physical characteristics.
5. Different ethnic groups have unique food, clothing, and shelter.
6. Different ethnic groups have unique language, religion, art forms, and festivals.

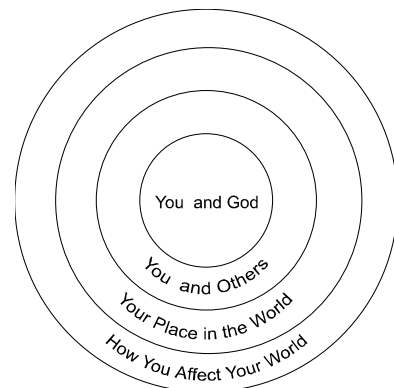
Thematic Units

Thematic Units are organized around a particular theme. For the first grade this theme is “Family and Community.” This theme is then infused into all the basic subjects such as reading and science with hands on exploration. This is based on the idea that children learn best in the context of the “whole,” and when they can connect subjects together with the real world. The culminating unit involves a project that links the units studied to the student’s life. In first grade, this unit is “My Own Community.” The thematic units for first grade are:

Colonial America	Japan	Egypt
African Country	Australia (Optional)	My Own Community

The Big Picture

The curriculum can be translated into a visual model that looks like a target. In the center of the target is the child’s relationship with God which is the primary focus. As we move from the center, the child begins to understand how he or she relates to others, how he or she has a place in this world and finally how this world is affected by the child’s actions.



Subject	Curriculum	Projects/Units
History	The Family and Community	Colonial America Japan Egypt African Country My Own Community Australia
Geography	Developed within History	Map work: Massachusetts, Boston, Plymouth, Japan, Egypt, and Australia
Bible	Developed within History	Jacob and Isaac and their families Joseph and his family with their community Jacob blesses his sons Story of Moses Jesus and His community Jesus as a member of a community
Mathematics	Saxon 1	<i>Number Sense and Operations:</i> Includes counting by 100's, reading and writing whole numbers, place value, writing number sentences, mental computation, and mastering math <i>Patterns, Relations, and Algebra:</i> Includes using comparison symbols (<, >, =) and writing sentence problem <i>Geometry:</i> Includes drawing and measuring lines and identifying angles and sides <i>Measurement:</i> Includes telling and showing time to the half hour and reading a Fahrenheit thermometer <i>Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability:</i> Includes drawing and reading a bar graph and predicting the probability of an event
Language Arts	Open Court 1 Books A & B Books 1 & 2	Name Necklace Letter Games Sentence Snakes Step-by-Step Practice Stories *Grammar and Writing are incorporated into the Open Court program Journals Letter Books Scrambled Sentence Game Riddle Games
Spelling	Spellwell Books A and Aa	Units include review of: Long and short vowels and vowel pairs
Science	Real Science 1	<i>Life</i> - Animal and Plant Needs; All Kinds of Animals and Plants; Living Things and Their Habitats <i>Earth</i> -Weather; Climate; Land, Water, and Resources <i>Physical</i> - Forms of Matter; Motion; Sound and Waves <i>Health</i> - Your Body, A Healthy Body, Feeding Your Body