

## **Course Descriptions: First Grade**

### **Course Type:**

**Course Title:** Art 1

**Instructor:** Mrs. Boden, [hboden@ahsmail.com](mailto:hboden@ahsmail.com)

In this course, students will learn art techniques and skills to increase their understanding of God's Principles of Art and know that they are part of the Divine Design. They will learn the elements of design and how to observe the "Beauty of this World." The students will have an introduction to many mediums and styles of creating art images. Also, the students will experience cross-curricular art projects that will enhance their literature, history, science and geography studies. They will learn that by partnering with the spirit, they may all become wonderful artists. The students develop their talents through persistent efforts in the art practices of coloring, cutting, drawing, painting, clay-building, and print-making. In addition to being able to discuss their learning, students will demonstrate their understanding of these topics through three events that will give each student an opportunity to display their art. These events include a gallery competition in December, a State-wide competition, that will challenge them, in developing Arbor Day posters, and the American Heritage School Art Show which will display all work completed during the year. The most reliable way to receive specific information about course work, including topics and timing, is through Edline. For many students, the most challenging part of class is to complete assignments during class time and keep them organized. To support your student, please consider coloring and cutting at home and encouraging creativity in any media.

### **Course Type:**

**Course Title:** History 1

**Instructors:** Mrs. McNamara, [jmcnamara@ahsmail.com](mailto:jmcnamara@ahsmail.com), Mrs. Sivert, [esivert@ahsmail.com](mailto:esivert@ahsmail.com), Mrs. Soderstrom, [psoderstrom@ahsmail.com](mailto:psoderstrom@ahsmail.com)

In this course, students will learn about God's providential view of history and how He calls individuals to forward "His" story as He prepares and protects them. Christian character is highlighted in the study of Adam and Eve, Noah, Enoch, Abraham, Moses, Abigail and John Adams, and other patriots. Their lives exemplify the principles of liberty of conscience and voluntarily yielding their wills to God. The Christian form of government is introduced through studying the Pilgrims, the foundation of our American government, and national symbols of liberty. While all links on the Chain of Christianity are discussed, our key link focuses on God's providential preparation of Christopher Columbus, his character, and his mission of discovery. Students will show their understanding and application of their studies by notebook work, memorization, and writing. Each child will feel their equal and independent worth, their potential and unique gifts in Christ, and their use of those gifts in their calling and place in history. The most reliable way to receive specific information about course work, including topics and timing, is through weekly email, paper, or Edline communication from teachers to parents. To support your student, please consider reviewing and discussing the weekly communication.

**Course Type:**

**Course Title:** Language 1

**Instructors:** Mrs. McNamara, [jmcnamara@ahsmail.com](mailto:jmcnamara@ahsmail.com), Mrs. Sivert, [esivert@ahsmail.com](mailto:esivert@ahsmail.com), Mrs. Soderstrom, [psoderstrom@ahsmail.com](mailto:psoderstrom@ahsmail.com)

Language is taught through Rigg's Writing Road to Reading & Spelling program, which is comprehensive of phonemic spelling, rules of composition, and reading. Students will demonstrate their mastery of language through spelling assessments, notebook recording, penmanship, leveled reading advancement, and creative writing. Students are required to do daily homework from their spelling notebook and recording on daily reading logs. The most reliable way to receive specific information about course work, including topics and timing, is through weekly email, paper, or Edline communication from teachers to parents. To support your student, please consider reviewing and discussing the weekly communication.

**Course Type:**

**Course Title:** Literature 1

**Instructors:** Mrs. McNamara, [jmcnamara@ahsmail.com](mailto:jmcnamara@ahsmail.com), Mrs. Sivert, [esivert@ahsmail.com](mailto:esivert@ahsmail.com), Mrs. Soderstrom, [psoderstrom@ahsmail.com](mailto:psoderstrom@ahsmail.com)

Literature comes alive as our students learn the importance of classical writings as an expression of life in word and truth, the record of man's spirit and history of the human soul. Students receive a vision of the power of language, identify and discuss its importance as a gift from God, raise the standard of quality in language, and learn to emphasize the individual's responsibility to use this gift as God would have it be used. Major literary works include: poetry of Isaac Watts, Robert Louis Stevenson, William Blake, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; the fictional work of *Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi; a biography of Abigail Adams; and a fictional tale of *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White. The principle of Christian Self-government is learned through analyzing the external and internal characteristics of the individuals studied in the literary works. From class discussions, students learn to reason from leading ideas to principles found in scriptural accounts of Noah, Isaac, and Joseph. Students will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of these works through memorization and notebook recording. The most reliable way to receive specific information about course work, including topics and timing, is through weekly email, paper, or Edline communication from teachers to parents. To support your student, please consider reviewing and discussing the weekly communication.

**Course Type:**

**Course Title:** Math 1 (Saxon)

**Instructors:** Mrs. McNamara, [jmcnamara@ahsmail.com](mailto:jmcnamara@ahsmail.com), Mrs. Sivert, [esivert@ahsmail.com](mailto:esivert@ahsmail.com), Mrs. Soderstrom, [psoderstrom@ahsmail.com](mailto:psoderstrom@ahsmail.com)

Saxon math is the mathematical course of study. By mastering math, an individual may more fully demonstrate the character of God especially in the areas of dominion and justice. The scope of math covers the science of numbers and the art of computation with expectation of mastery of the addition facts to twenty. Geometrical shapes are introduced or reviewed, units of measurement including time are taught, and reasoning of mathematical computations from stories is developed. The students will demonstrate their acquired skills through assessments, written and oral, class and homework assignments, and fact mastery. The most reliable way to receive specific information about course work, including topics and timing, is through weekly email, paper, or Edline communication from teachers to parents. To support your student, please consider reviewing and discussing the weekly communication.

**Course Type:**

**Course Title:** Geography 1

**Instructors:** Mrs. McNamara, [jmcnamara@ahsmail.com](mailto:jmcnamara@ahsmail.com), Mrs. Sivert, [esivert@ahsmail.com](mailto:esivert@ahsmail.com), Mrs. Soderstrom, [psoderstrom@ahsmail.com](mailto:psoderstrom@ahsmail.com)

In this course, students will learn about the creation of the universe, earth, and all creations in view of God's Principle of Individuality. Included are continents, oceans and rivers, mountains, deserts and plains, people's cultures, and cardinal directions. In addition to being able to discuss what they learn at school and home, students will demonstrate their understanding of these topics through notebook work, map work, and recording. The most reliable way to receive specific information about course work, including topics and timing, is through weekly email, paper, or Edline communication from teachers to parents. To support your student, please consider reviewing and discussing the weekly communication.

**Course Type:**

**Course Title:** Music 1

**Instructor:** Mrs. Otteson, [dotteson@ahsmail.com](mailto:dotteson@ahsmail.com)

In this course, students will learn new skills, building on the skills and repertoire from kindergarten by working with strong and weak beat feelings; recognizing high and low pitches; switching between beat and rhythm; identifying beat as quarter note (ta); eighth notes (ti-ti); rhythm as two sounds on one beat; seven basic rhythm patterns; rest notation; quarter rest; identifying staff, treble clef, and bar lines; writing l-s-m on the staff; and reading the material. Students will learn through observing 2/4 meter, beginning to practice solfege (sol-mi-la), and writing in beat books. In addition to being able to discuss their learning, students will demonstrate their understanding of these topics through beat books, devotionals, demonstrations of hand signals, reading the music, using felt staffs, and completing other musical handouts. The most reliable way to receive specific information about course work, including topics and timing, is through occasional notes home and email or phone calls. For many students, the most challenging part of class is to master "in-tune" singing, conducting, and demonstrating mastery of skills. To support your student, please consider coming anytime to visit the classroom, especially when invited. Ask students to demonstrate musical skills or songs they have learned.

**Course Type:**

**Course Title:** Physical Education 1

**Instructor:** Ms. Patch, [chrisann.patch@gmail.com](mailto:chrisann.patch@gmail.com)

In this course, students will learn fundamental skills (using beanbags, playground balls, hoops, basketballs, jump ropes, scooters, and the parachute), enjoy rhythmic movement, play games, and experience quiet time. The children will learn primarily through play. In addition to being able to discuss their learning, students will demonstrate their understanding of these topics through performing in a school-wide dance festival and participating in the Presidential Fitness program. Fitness tests will be administered at the beginning and end of the year. Children are encouraged to improve their test scores by practicing daily at home. To support your student, please consider enjoying recreational activities as a family such as swimming, biking, and playing sports or practicing push-ups or doing exercises each day after family prayer or after Family Home Evening. You could run a marathon with your child or take walks, rake leaves, or do other work projects together. Keeping a record of work done outside of class is optional. Enrolling them in a sports program such as soccer, basketball, football, or swimming is also a great way to help them be active.

**Course Type:**

**Course Title:** Science 1

**Instructor:** Ms. Jewell, [kjewell@ahsmaail.com](mailto:kjewell@ahsmaail.com)

In this course, students will learn about invertebrates, vertebrates (with an emphasis on mammals), animals of the Bible, and anatomy through live animal observation, practicing stewardship of an animal, study of animals, drawings, study of human body parts, assembling body parts on a human cut out, and science labs, and stories and parables from the scriptures. In addition to being able to discuss these topics, students will demonstrate their understanding through drawings, charts, assembling a model human body, participating in open classroom discussions, demonstrating stewardship over animals by taking the guinea pig home for a weekend. The most reliable way for parents to receive ongoing information about specific coursework, including topics and timing, is through the “Science Weekly” newsletter that is posted on Edline every week. To support your student, please consider reviewing the “Science Weekly” newsletter twice per week with your child for five minutes per day.