

## **Eagle Ridge Academy First Grade**

At Eagle Ridge Academy, we follow the Core Knowledge Framework and the Minnesota State Standards for Language Arts; History and Geography; Visual Arts; Music; Mathematics; and Science. Core Knowledge provides a solid foundation for learning by building upon student knowledge and skills from one year to the next and eliminating gaps in student learning.

### **Students will receive instruction in the following areas during First Grade:**

**Language Arts:** Our reading program instruction is done through guided reading, read-alouds, and Saxon phonics (this program includes a handwriting and spelling component). We use Shurley English for writing and grammar.

**Benchmarks:** In reading, students will demonstrate phonemic awareness; decode and recognize words; complete oral reading; reading comprehension and response; study poetry, fictional stories, Aesop's fables, and different lands with similar stories; and literary terms. In writing, students will produce a variety of writing (short stories, descriptions, journals); and work on spelling, grammar, and usage. They will also learn sayings and phrases.

**History and Geography:** The topics studied will include geography with spatial sense (working with maps, globes, geographic tools); geographical terms and features; early civilizations (Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt); history of Monotheistic Religions; early people and civilizations (the Maya, Aztec, and Inca); modern civilizations and cultures (Mexico); early exploration and settlement (Columbus, the Conquistadors, English settlers); the American Revolution; early exploration of the American West; and historical symbols and figures.

**Visual Arts:** The topics will include the elements of art such as color, line, shape, and texture; ancient art; and portraits and still life.

**Music:** The topics will include the elements of music through participation (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre); listening and understanding musical terms and concepts, music that tells a story (Opera, Ballet, and Orchestral Music); and American musical traditions; singing folk songs and dancing or moving responsively to music.

**Mathematics:** We follow the Saxon Math curriculum that allows for the development of foundational concepts and critical thinking skills, and concepts are developed, reviewed, and practiced over time. This curriculum is effective in reaching and challenging student at all levels. The scope and sequence of the curriculum provides instruction in Numbers and Operations; Measurement; Geometry; Patterns; Algebra and Functions; Statistics; Data Analysis and Probability; Problem Solving; Communication; Mathematical Reasoning and Connections. **Benchmarks:** The topics will include patterns and classification; numbers and number sense; money; computation with addition and subtraction; solving problems and equations; measurement; time; and geometry.

**Science:** In Science, teachers follow the FOSS science kits which create a hands-on, lab approach to developing science skills.

**Benchmarks:** The topics will include habitats; oceans and undersea life; special classifications of animals; environmental change and habitat destruction; the human body (systems, germs, disease, preventing illness); introduction to electricity; astronomy; the Earth (geographical features of the Earth's surface and what is inside the Earth); introduction to magnetism; and various science biographies.

**Latin:** Students receive weekly instruction in simple Latin vocabulary and derivatives.

**Physical Education:** Students in first grade receive instruction in physical education three times a week.