



FIRST GRADE

Classroom Overview

❖ General Information:

- Rancho Santa Margarita Christian School (RSMCS) First Graders begin each day with pledges, prayers, and worship. Homeroom teachers instruct the students on the core subjects of math, science, language arts, social science, and Bible. The enrichment subjects of physical education, technology, music, Spanish, art, and library are taught by teachers who specialize in those areas. The students conclude each day with prayer in their classroom. All subjects are taught to meet or exceed California State Standards. RSMCS is fully accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). All teachers are Christians and have valid teaching credentials.

Spiritual & Social

❖ Bible:

- 30 minutes, 5 days per week
- Emphasis on reading familiar Bible stories that are expanded into a theme of Godly character traits. Students study how God gives us gifts of the world, family, friends, leaders, salvation, the church, and a way to live.
- Emphasis on encouraging Bible reading and memorization. Students memorize and recite different Bible verses weekly. Children are taught that the Bible reveals God's plan for living wisely and righteously in the present day.
- Textbook: *Bible Truths 1 – A Father's Care* (BJU Press)

❖ Chapel:

- Chapel each week with worship and message

❖ Social:

- Emphasis on Christian character development and biblical conflict resolution. Each week a different character trait is highlighted throughout the curriculum. Students are encouraged to incorporate this character trait into their daily lives and to acknowledge it in others.
- Focus on further developing students' independent study habits, proper classroom and school ground etiquette, as well as instilling academic and social responsibilities that will serve students throughout their school years and beyond.

Academic

❖ Mathematics:

- 60 minutes, 5 days per week
- Emphasis on learning basic mathematical functions and problem solving skills in such areas as classifying, patterning, time, measurement, place value, fractions, addition, subtraction, graphing, symmetry, geometry, and word problems.
- Special Activities: Annual celebration of the 100th Day of School
- Textbook: *My Math (McGraw-Hill)*
- IXL Math and a variety of extension activities.

Academic Continued

❖ Language Arts & Reading:

- 120 minutes, 5 days per week
- Leveled reading groups
- Emphasis on reading, comprehending, and responding to grade-level appropriate materials and significant works of literature, equipping students to analyze literature from a biblical worldview.
- Improved reading fluency and comprehension is fostered through continued study of phonics, memorization of sight words, oral reading, and class discussion.
- Emphasis on learning to write clear, coherent, and focused sentences and paragraphs while demonstrating a command of English grammar, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and penmanship.
- Kids A - Z reading program; IXL Language Arts
- Special Activities: ACSI Speech Meet and ACSI Spelling Bee
- Textbooks: *Phonics and English 1* (BJU Press), *Spelling 1* (BJU Press), *Handwriting* (Zaner-Bloser)

❖ Science & Health:

- 30 minutes, 2 days per week
- Emphasis on the study of states of matter (solids, liquids, and gases); plants (their environments, characteristics, and needs); animals (their habitats, characteristics, and needs); weather (measuring weather and seasons); and on recording and graphing observations and findings.
- Students conduct a variety of experiments and participate in activities, including individual and group projects, to promote hands-on learning in a stimulating scientific environment.
- Mystery Science
- Textbooks: *Science* (Scholastic News)

❖ Social Studies:

- 30 minutes, 2 days per week
- Emphasis on studying rights and responsibilities of citizenship, map skills, United States symbols and traditions, everyday life in different times and places, basic economic concepts, and cultural diversity.
- Students participate in hands-on activities and projects based on California State Standards.
- Textbook: *California Studies Weekly*

Enrichment

❖ Physical Education:

- Two days per week students participate in a variety of cardiovascular and strength building exercises. Throughout the year students play a variety of games and activities to encourage coordination and movement as well as good sportsmanship. In addition, fitness testing is conducted at the beginning and end of the school year.

❖ Music:

- Emphasis on choral singing, breathing, vocal exercises and rhythm. A basic understanding of the fundamentals of music will be taught. The students will learn the value of worship as a part of their daily lives. The students will learn and perform many songs throughout the year and will become more comfortable with how to use their voices as well as incorporating movement when possible.
- Special Activities: Perform at Grandparents Day, Christmas Chapel, and various other venues during the school year. There are two auditioned annual musical productions.

❖ Art:

- A hands-on program that introduces students to the great artists and their work. Students engage in creative expression by painting their own masterpieces using the techniques of the masters.

Enrichment Continued

❖ Spanish:

- 30 minutes, 1 day per week
- All RSMCS students in Kindergarten through sixth grade gain a greater appreciation for the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world.
- Emphasis on teaching students a yearly theme, including how to say the alphabet, colors, numbers, days of the week, months of the year, words related to the family, animals, food, school, Bible verses and prayers, as well as basic commands and phrases. Students are taught songs in Spanish that reinforce their learning.

❖ Library:

- Emphasis on developing basic library research skills and on teaching students how to use the library as a resource to find age-appropriate books that match their interests for pleasure reading.

❖ Technology:

- All RSM Christian School students in Kindergarten through second grade engage in hands-on learning instruction from the classroom teacher as well as educational testing and assessments on an iPad through our one-to-one technology initiative. Emphasis for first grade is on becoming comfortable with using technology. Students integrate technology with a variety of themes and subject matter.
- Applications used: IXL, Prodigy Math, MAP by NWEA, Freckle, Vocabulary A-Z, Bible for Kids, Seesaw