

## **CSP First Grade Curricula—An Overview**

For required First Grade curricula purchase(s), please see the “CSP Curriculum Orders” tab on the CSP website or click [here](#).

### **Writing and Spelling**

**Text(s): *The Writing Road to Reading* by Romalda Spalding and Spalding Phonogram Cards (required purchase if not purchased in kindergarten); *Letterland* books**

We use the soundly proved Spalding Method for teaching writing and spelling. Studies have shown that the Spalding Method promotes one of the most powerful predictors of reading proficiency: phonemic awareness. Spalding implements sequential and multisensory direct instruction in listening, speaking, spelling, writing, and reading. Throughout the first-grade year, we strive to build upon the phonemic awareness introduced in kindergarten (or at home, if a student was not at CSP for kindergarten) by engaging in activities that focus on rhyming, beginning sounds, middle sounds, ending sounds, and spelling rules. First-grade students master all 70 phonograms. In our school day, we practice phonograms, handwriting (including proper pencil grip and letter formation), spelling, and writing sentences (both copied from the board and original thoughts). Your child will be most successful when you practice these literacy skills, using the Spalding Method, at home on a daily basis. While we teach mainly pre-reading skills in the classroom, the foundation of Spalding will support you and your student as you select and implement your own reading curriculum for use at home. (Reading itself is not explicitly taught in CSP.)

### **Grammar**

**Text(s): *Easy Grammar***

Students are introduced to basic elements of grammar, gaining an understanding of nouns, verbs, adjectives and sentence structure (to include the formation of complete sentences and the use of proper capitalization and end marks).

### **Literature**

**Text(s): *Aesop’s Fables*, *A Beatrix Potter Treasury*, a variety of fairy tales, books from the Core Knowledge reading list**

During daily read-alouds, students are exposed to different genres, authors, and styles of writing. Students learn about the essential story elements of plot, character(s), and setting. We also discuss different types of writing, such as narrative, scientific, historical, and informative. Literature appreciation and a love of books are key areas of focus as we experience quality texts as a class. Students also participate in weekly Nature Study observations and discussions to promote literacy across subject areas (i.e. language arts and science).

### **Character Education**

Character education plays a central role in our overall curriculum and is therefore incorporated into many parts of our school day. We talk about behaviors that exhibit good character and how we can practice them daily. Each month, we focus on different character traits that include the following: kindness, love of learning, curiosity, self-regulation, teamwork, gratitude, courage, respect, responsibility, diligence, perseverance, compassion, loyalty, forgiveness, and true heroism. Literature is used to reinforce these character traits.

### **Enrichment**

In addition to the Language Arts instruction offered at CSP, we are pleased to offer enrichment classes, (aka Specials) in the areas of art, music, and physical education. A field trip, field day, school concert, and art show are also part of every CSP student’s experience.

### **Our Mission**

The Classical Academy exists to assist parents in their mission to develop exemplary citizens equipped with analytical thinking skills, virtuous character, and a passion for learning, all build upon a solid foundation of knowledge.

We look forward to partnering with you!