



# Grades 1-3

The Primary Grades are a time of tremendous academic, emotional, and spiritual growth. The students at GSCS will form the strong foundations needed for future success as life-long learners. Differentiated instruction techniques are incorporated throughout the day to assist each child in meeting his/her potential.

- Technology is used in our classrooms every day! We have SMART Boards, document cameras, and student computers to enhance student learning.
- Learning Centers are used to promote independent learning and enrich the curriculum.
- We have recess and at least one Special class each day. These Specials include Art, Music, Technology, P.E., Library, and Spanish.



## Language Arts & Math

Our curriculum integrates reading, writing, spelling, phonics, and grammar to develop skills and concepts. Age-appropriate novels and other literature are used to improve comprehension and fluency while cultivating vocabulary and an enjoyment of reading in small and whole group settings. Additionally, students participate in the *Reading Counts* program. The *Handwriting Without Tears* program allows students to practice print formation and learn cursive.

A variety of resources provide the structure for our math program. Many hands-on materials are used to enhance the concrete/abstract connection including unit blocks, ten rods, plastic coins, student clocks, and geoboards. Small groups and STEM activities are used to develop math concepts and critical thinking skills.

## Religion

Your child will experience religion daily. We attend Mass weekly and will present the Mass several times throughout the year. The prayers of the Mass are learned, prayed, and sung. Applying what we learn from the Bible to everyday life is an important part of our religious studies. In second grade, students prepare for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist.

## Science & Social Studies

Science and Social Studies are integrated into the curriculum. Labs, hands-on activities, and small group activities are incorporated to help students experience the concepts presented. Science units include life, earth, and physical sciences. Social Studies units include communities, geography, American history, and citizenship.

