



# FREEDOMPROJECT ACADEMY

## Course Syllabus

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

#### Course Description:

FPA 1st Grade curriculum has an emphasis on the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic. We believe in the importance of a strong phonics-based program. Students learn listening, writing, and reading skills that will enable them to better understand the English language. Reading brings them to new adventures as they go through rich, literature-based stories. They are challenged with comprehension exercises as well as enrichment activities that develop creative thinking. They gain consistent practice in addition and subtraction facts and begin learning about time, money, place values, shapes, and measurements.

#### Arithmetic:

Students will gain confidence as they practice number recognition and basic addition and subtraction skills through classroom review and daily worksheets that help reinforce these learning concepts.

#### Reading:

Students will gain practice in reading with these rich literature-based books. They will be challenged to think, compare, and contrast in the study guides.

#### Phonics:

Students will gain practice in applying phonics skills to help them to decode words accurately. They will practice listening, writing, reading, and language skills during class time and throughout their workbook.

#### English:

Students will have practice in phonics review, penmanship practice, reading comprehension, word usage skills, and the introduction of basic grammar concepts.

#### Spelling:

Students will combine spelling with phonics, writing, and other language arts skills. They will have opportunities for auditory, tactile, and visual learning.

#### Handwriting:

Students will learn proper letter formation and have an opportunity to practice those letters while writing verses from Scripture.

## History:

Students will hear the exciting stories of ancient history while having an opportunity to do hands on activities to help reinforce what they are learning. Class time will consist of listening to stories, engaging in comprehension questions, and playing review games to retain the knowledge of historical content.

## Science:

Students will begin to learn the exciting world of botany with a creation viewpoint through instruction and hands-on experiments. They will learn to explain and illustrate different scientific terms.

## Text/Required Materials:

*McGuffey's First Eclectic Reader (free access)*

*Soft and White*

*At the Farm*

*On the Trail*

*Sounds of the Sea*

*StoryTime Treasures (3rd Edition)*

*Little Bear*

*Frog and Toad are Friends*

*Caps for Sale*

*Make Way for Ducklings*

*More StoryTime Treasures*

*Billy and Blaze*

*Blaze and the Forest Fire*

*The Story about Ping*

*SRA Phonics 2*

*A Reason for Handwriting A*

*Voyages in English 2018 Grade 1 Student Edition*

*Apologia Exploring Creation with Botany Text (new edition)*

*FPA First Grade Arithmetic Workbook*

*History Stories for Children 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*  
(optional)

## Grading:

Assignments turned into Canvas will be graded as well as any quizzes that are done in Canvas. There will also be reading evaluations that will be done in class by the teacher.

All assignments for the week are due on Friday, but there is a grace period until the following Monday.

## Attendance/Participation:

Students are expected to attend class Monday-Thursday. They will be encouraged to participate and engage during class time. Please notify the teacher in advance (if possible) if any classes will be missed.

## Expectations/Guidelines:

Assignment sheets will be posted by Sunday evening for the following week. They will include all assignments (Monday-Friday) that need to be done for each subject for that week. Assignments in black can be done at home and checked by a parent. Assignments in red need to be scanned and uploaded into Canvas. They may not be emailed to the teacher. Assignments in blue need to be done in Canvas.

The administration and teachers of FreedomProject Academy are steadfast in our efforts to provide an excellent education for our students. This requires vigilance as practices and trends promoting mediocrity and low standards abound in government schools and private schools of all kinds.

Excellence in education begins with an evaluation of the student's independently completed work. The recent trend of resubmitting assignments after receiving teacher feedback leads to better grades but is not an accurate evaluation of a student's independent skill level. This practice stems from Common Core/ No Child Left Behind/Outcome-Based Education and puts the emphasis on grades (outcome). An excellent education is focused on learning and the student's growth not just outcome.

Our grading policy is designed to promote learning and student growth. For clarity, once an assignment is submitted, no resubmission will be accepted. Much effort is taken to grade and provide feedback. It is the parent's responsibility to review graded assignments with the child for the purpose of learning from mistakes. This permits the parent and teacher to direct the growth of each uniquely individual child with accurate knowledge.