

ARMENIAN CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL “Working” BENCHMARKS

What They Need To Know By When . . .

A foundation in the faith of the Armenian Church is provided by the Diocesan curriculum. Over the course of their studies, Sunday school students should have knowledge of basic Armenian Christian literacy.

The following is a guideline based on the premise that Sunday school is dedicated to cultivating a Christian lifestyle in our children founded on a thoughtful and heartfelt relationship with Jesus Christ. This is accomplished by teaching the life of Christ, Holy Scripture, prayer and worship, church history, and church doctrine as they are understood by the Armenian Church and by our students' participation in worship, parish, Diocesan fellowship, and good works.

✓ when
completed

NURSERY - KINDERGARTEN

Students should complete the following benchmarks for this grade level:

	Prayer before meals or bedtime - simple such as God is Great," etc.
	The Bible as inspired by God; a wonderful book of stories about the people of God
	Signing oneself with the cross - beginning
	<i>Hayr Mer</i> (Lord's Prayer) - hearing it in Armenian and English
	Regular church attendance for brief periods; vary times allowing children to experience different parts of Badarak
	Receive <i>mahs</i>

GRADE 1

In addition to reviewing all items listed above, grade 1 students should complete the following:

	Signing oneself with the cross - mastering it
	<i>Hayr Mer</i> (Lord's Prayer) - beginning to learn it in Armenian and English
	Regular church attendance for brief periods; allowing children to experience the different parts of Badarak
	Kiss of Peace (gestures only)
	Name of your parish priest
	Appropriate greeting for priest: <i>Orhnetzek, Der Hayr / Asdvadz Oknagan, Hayr Soorp.</i>

GRADE 2

In addition to reviewing all items listed above, grade 2 students should complete the following:

	<i>Hayr Mer</i> (Lord's Prayer) - master it in Armenian and English
	Regular church attendance for brief periods; cross oneself before/after taking Communion
	Kiss of Peace - beginning to learn it in English and Armenian
	Kiss the Gospel book
	<i>Jashagestzook</i> (Armenian prayer before meals) - beginning to learn it in Armenian and English
	Name of Diocesan Primate - <i>Archbishop Hovnan Derderian</i>
	Name of the Mother Cathedral of the Western Diocese - <i>St. Leon Armenian Cathedral, in Burbank</i>
	Appropriate greeting for Primate: <i>Asdvadz Okanagan, Surpazan Hayr.</i>

GRADE 3

In addition to all items listed from beginning, Grade 3 students should complete the following:

	Introduction to the use of the Bible (how to find a book, chapter, and verse) and its contents
	Regular church attendance; understanding of basic gestures and words of worship
	Kiss of Peace - master it in English and Armenian
	<i>Jashagestzook</i> (Armenian prayer before meals) - master it in Armenian and English
	<i>Uzliyootyoon</i> (Armenian prayer after meals) - beginning to learn it in Armenian and English
	Name of Catholicos: <i>His Holiness Karekin II</i>
	Name of the Mother Cathedral: <i>Holy Etchmiadzin (Armenia)</i> , meaning “where the Only-begotten descended”
	Appropriate greeting for Catholicos <i>Asdvadz Okanagan, Vehapar Der.</i>

GRADE 4

In addition to all items listed from beginning, Grade 4 students should complete the following:

	Use of the Bible - (reading scriptures)
	Regular church attendance; read scripture in church
	Uzliyootyoon (Armenian prayer after meals) - master it in Armenian and English

GRADE 5

In addition to all items listed from beginning, Grade 5 students should complete the following:

	Biblical literacy: Use of the Bible, its contents in major categories of Old and New Testaments; key people and events; explanation of different translations; use of Bible dictionary and concordance.
	Regular church attendance: understanding and use of pew books during liturgy.
	<i>Jesus Wisdom of the Father, St. Nersess' prayer</i> - beginning to learn it in English and Armenian
	The Ten Commandments

GRADE 6

In addition to all items listed from beginning, Grade 6 students should complete the following:

	Regular church attendance for brief periods; use pew books to actively participate in liturgy
	Sundays of Lent
	Twelve Disciples
	Five major feast days

GRADE 7-8

In addition to all items listed from beginning, Grade 7-8 students should complete the following:

	Regular church attendance for brief periods; use pew books to actively participate in liturgy, including singing of sharagans
	Know the meaning of the Nicene Creed and be able to recite it in Armenian and English
	Main events of Jesus' life
	Key dates in Armenian Church history
	Important parables and miracles of Jesus
	Awareness of online resources such as the Diocesan website: http://www.wdacna.com/

HIGH SCHOOL

High School students should know ALL items listed on this Benchmark sheet along with:

	Church service in an area of student's choice (Altar, Choir, Sunday school, help in church, etc.)
	<i>Also should experience one or more of the following activities throughout their years in Sunday school:</i>
	Armenian Summer Camp
	ACYO
	October Cultural Month activity
	Christmas Advent program/activity
	Armenian Christmas program
	Lenten program/activity
	Graduation activity
	Holy Bible readings (in church, assembly, etc.)
	Church Service Project (CSP)