

St. Laurence Catholic Parish
Elementary CCE Home Study Program
At Home Lesson Planning Made Easy

This outline corresponds to the Elementary CCE Home Study Lesson Schedule which may be found at <http://stlaurence.org/home-study> under DOCUMENTS.

Week 1 Lesson – Bible Usage/Pre-Assessment before beginning Unit #1: Who is Jesus Christ?

Class Time: Approximately 65-70 minutes

Preparation: Before beginning your lesson at home, please read the excerpts from *The Catholic Children's Bible: Leader Guide* handout (Chapters 2-3, pg. 8-16) provided online on the Home Study webpage at <http://stlaurence.org/home-study> to understand our goals in teaching children how to use the Bible and why it is important to us as practicing Catholics. Also review the handout, *Bookshelf Outline of Biblical Books* which is color-coded to the St. Mary's Press Catholic Children's Bibles available at <https://www.smp.org/series/81/The-Catholic-Childrens-Bible/>, but certainly not required. If you don't have this particular Bible at home, not a problem! The 'bookshelf' graphic shows the groupings of the books of the Bible by classification. Use any Bible that you have at home, so long as it conforms to those approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). For a listing, go to <http://www.usccb.org/bible/approved-translations/>. The 'bookshelf' handout also explains the difference between the Catholic and Protestant canon of the Bible (Hint: Martin Luther removed 7 books from the Old Testament which he felt were objectionable at the time of the Protestant Reformation – Catholics did not 'add in' these books later) which is helpful in explaining to your children why our canon has more books. This fact often comes up in discussions with our Protestant brothers and sisters and your child's understanding of this fact is an important aspect of understanding the history of our faith.

Have your family Bible available at home all of the time, but especially when you are reviewing your chapters and lessons. Perhaps find a special place or prayer space to keep it on display. Show your children how to treat God's Word with reverence. Make a habit of *always* reading Scripture (even those passages in the student textbook) from the Bible, having students practice navigating their way around the Bible 'library.'

Note: You have been provided with an excerpt from *The Catholic Children's Bible: Leader Guide* online on the Home Study webpage. Several full copies of this book (as well as the accompanying Activity book) are available as a resource in the RE Bookroom off of the workroom, which you are free to use/review. Please do not remove one of these from the parish campus without first checking with staff. Thanks for your help in keeping our resources available to all of our volunteers and families!

Overall Goals/Expectations for the Week 2 Bible Usage/Pre-Assessment Class:

- **Opening Prayer (approx. 5 minutes):** Gather around your Prayer Table, have your children quiet their minds and hearts and begin with the *Sign of the Cross* and then pray a grade-level prayer appropriate for your children (refer to *Common Prayers and Formulas by Age* handout)
- **Teach a Bible Lesson: (approx. 35 minutes) EQ: *Why and how do Catholics read the Bible? The goal here is for the children to understand what the Bible is and practice how to use/read it.***
 - **Lesson Structure:**

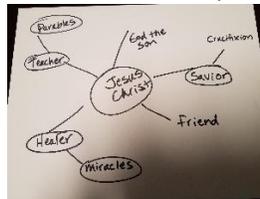
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- **Engage** (mental warm-up): *Today, we are going to focus on the Holy Bible. I want to share with you one of my favorite passages...* Read your favorite passage from the Bible that points to Jesus Christ and explain WHY it is important to you or your favorite passage
- **Explore** (pre-assessment of faith concepts): **Ask/Discuss:** *What do you know about this Sacred book, the Holy Bible, the Word of God?*
 - ❖ As your child shares their ideas, have them jot a few down on a yellow stickie (with their name) and then place them on the wall in your study space. (For younger students, you may act as the 'scribe'). Retain the stickie notes to have an understanding of what your child already knows or not. This will be helpful as you move along in your lessons.
 - ❖ To facilitate thinking and discussion use some of the following questions: *What is the Bible? Who wrote it? What's in this book – who is it about? What does the Bible tell us? How is the Bible organized? When do you see and/or hear people reading in it or from this book? Why is this book important for us who believe in God? How do we treat the Bible?*
- **Essential Question "EQ"** (visible as a mental anchor): Share and post a physical representation of the lesson's EQ in your study space: *Why and how should Catholics read the Bible?*
- **Explain & Check for Understanding** (direct teaching, infused with Scripture): *The Bible is our best source for learning about Jesus Christ...*
 - ❖ **Go over pages 4-5 of the grade-level AIC student texts. Note that for grades 1 & 2, there's an AIC chapter which may also be applicable and helpful in your lesson preparation.**
 - ❖ **Reinforce the ideas generated** by your child **in the EXPLORE** section of the lesson and present/expand on any new ideas not yet mentioned
 - ❖ **Focus for listening:** Ask your child to listen to a verse read by you and then be ready to share what it makes them think of and see in their minds.
 - **Grades 1-2:** Read *John 8:12* out loud and prompt your child to share what they think of or see in their minds when they hear the reading; then, flip the room's light switch on and off several times – *What's the difference between the light being on and the light being off?* Encourage responses. Answer: The Bible tells us that Jesus is the light of the world and that if we love and follow him we will never be alone in the darkness. Have your child share what they think about this...
 - **Grades 3-5:** Read *John 14:1-6* out loud and prompt your child to share what they understand from the passage AND what questions about it they still have. Reread the verse and have

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your child share their ideas and ask questions. Optional: Ask your child to explain “Jesus is the WAY”, “Jesus is the TRUTH,” “Jesus is the LIFE” – Remember, this lesson occurs at the beginning of the year and informs you of your child’s understanding at this time.

- ❖ **Practice Activity:** The Bible is like a library. Use one or two of the activities provided for your child to practice navigating through the Bible by finding certain passages.
 - ❖ **Debrief/Self-Reflect:** Summarize the lesson and bring it to closure – *In today’s lesson, we learned about the Bible. The Bible expresses the Word of God in words that humans can understand. Each time we learn about Jesus, we will continue to read from this Holy Book. Remember: each time you attend Mass, you will hear people read from the Bible.*
 - ❖ **Evaluate:** Return to the lesson’s Essential Question – *Why and how should Catholics read the Bible?*
- **Upcoming Unit 1 (Who is Jesus Christ?) Pre-Assessment (approx. 10-15 minutes):** Before moving into our Unit 1 BIG IDEA (Who is Jesus Christ?) next week, take some time at the end of this week’s lesson to pre-assess your child’s current knowledge regarding “upcoming” key topics. These and other assessment ideas are on the Archdiocesan website: www.catecheticalresources.org [password: holy spirit]
 - **Suggested Activity to INTRODUCE (not teach – not yet!) the upcoming Unit:**
“Web” Exercise - Sketch a “web” (a circle with the words, *Jesus Christ*, written in the center). Ask your child to contribute words or phrases that come to mind when they hear or see this name or think of a picture of Jesus Christ. With each contribution, write the word or phrase on the “web”, connecting it with a line to the center circle.
Age-appropriate Modifications: Parents may serve as a recorder and scribe to write all responses on the “web” OR older learners might be given time to record their own responses and share them with you. See the example below.

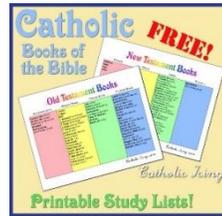
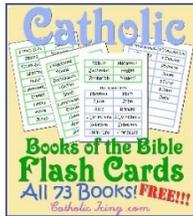
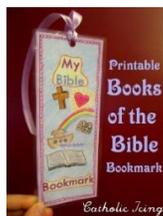


- **Closing Prayer (approx. 5 minutes) – Finish your time together around the Prayer Table.** Use an age-appropriate prayer and invite your child to add their own concerns/intentions when praying intercessory prayers.
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Other Available *Bible Lesson* Planning Resources & Activities:

- *The Catholic Children's Bible: Leader Guide* handout (Chapter 5, pg. 20-24 + 3 activity pages)
- Four Ways to Help Students Learn the Books of the Bible
<https://www.thereligionteacher.com/learning-the-books-of-the-bible/>
- What is the Bible? (Power Point) @ St. Mary's Press Resources
<http://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/resource/4210/>
- <http://www.catholicicing.com/bible/> (activities)



Games:

- <http://catholicblogger1.blogspot.com/2009/11/books-of-bible.html>
(REMINDER: Some of these games linked above come from Protestant websites. Don't forget that the Catholic Bible has 73 Books and not 66. Make any necessary adjustments to the games you play in class).
- Books of the Bible Race (Catholic)
<https://churchofsaintpaul.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/books-of-the-bible-race.pdf>

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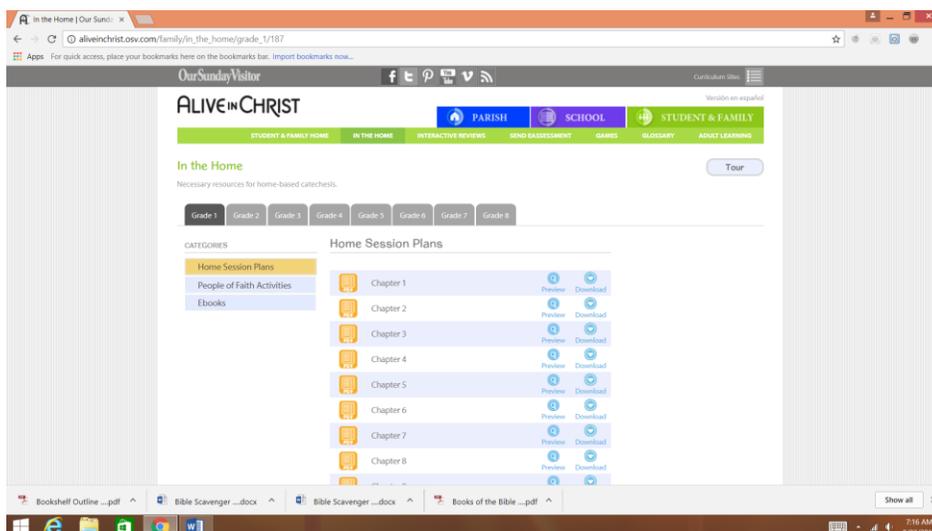
[Lesson Weeks 3 and 4 – Unit # 1: Who is Jesus Christ? / Unit #1 Essential Questions \(EQs\) # 1 and #2](#)

The *Alive in Christ* (AIC) textbook series published by Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) which we are using in the Elementary CCE program serves as the *basis of content* for conveying the ‘tasks of catechesis’ as outlined in the *Catechetical Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation* (CFLFF) promulgated by Daniel Cardinal DiNardo on behalf of the Archdiocese in 2014. The CFLFF provides age-appropriate declarative statements about our faith which students are expected to know.

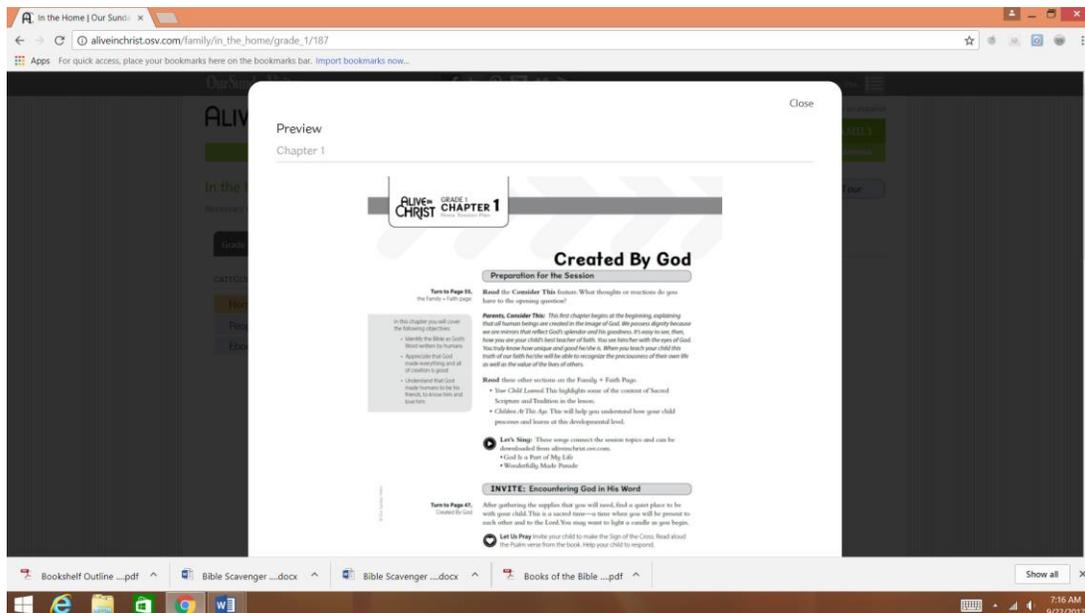
Using a series of Essential Questions (or EQs) clustered around four BIG IDEAS or Units, weekly lessons are developed and presented in class which gradually deepen the students’ relationships with God, as well as their understanding of the Catholic faith. Focus each week will be on only one EQ which is the Catechist’s teaching framework for the lesson and also the students’ mental anchor or cognitive bookend for the day. The means of conveying the lesson by book ending each with an Essential Question invites a more interactive rather than a lecture-based classroom setting for the students and teachers alike. As the parent catechist, it also provides you with an overriding guide as to content to cover, especially when multiple chapters are referenced for a particular lesson week.

Note: The steps used below to create a Week 3 or Week 4 lesson is the same format that should be used throughout the year to teach every EQ on the Elementary CCE Lesson Schedule for each of the four BIG IDEA Units. Instructions will be given in other sections below addressing other weeks when there is a Unit Review/Evaluation, Liturgical or Circle of Grace lesson to be presented.

Preparation: Begin your teaching by reflecting on the appropriate EQ for the coming week as noted on the Lesson Schedule. Be tuned in to any hints or helps that might come your way in your day to day activities (that’s the Holy Spirit at work!) as you reflect on the upcoming subject/theme to be covered. **Go to the Alive in Christ website at <http://aliveinchrist.osv.com/>. Access your materials under the green section of the website, **STUDENT & FAMILY**, as noted below. Lesson Plans for each chapter by grade are available for you to preview and/or download under **IN THE HOME** and then **Home Session Plans**.**



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Each *Home Session Plan* will basically script you through teaching the lesson to your child. When teaching various grade levels, download the various grade appropriate lesson plans and look for commonalities that can be reinforced together.

Each **BIG IDEA** (i.e. Unit) on your Elementary CCE Home Study Lesson Schedule has been broken down into 2-3 essential questions, with one being covered each week. Units build upon each other in terms of deepening the students' understanding of who Jesus is (Christocentric or Christ-centered) and how personally knowing Him impacts our lives.

To prepare your lesson plan for the week:

- Consult the *Elementary CCE Home Study Lesson Schedule* (in your materials and also on-line at <http://stlaurence.org/home-study> for the appropriate Unit EQ being discussed for the coming week.
- Use the AIC on-line resources at <http://aliveinchrist.osv.com/family> to access the *Home Session Plans* and the other available activities under **STUDENT & FAMILY** to develop a lesson plan for the week's EQ that meets the needs of your child. If there are multiple chapters to be reviewed, use the weekly EQ to help you direct which material should be incorporated into your lesson to cover/reinforce this bottom line 'takeaway' for the day. Note that it is **NOT** required to cover every page in the text in your lesson. In this teaching model, the *student text* is considered a supplement rather than the driving force of your lesson content.
- When structuring your lesson, consider the following for the most effective teaching:
 - **Learning style of your child**– We all learn differently, so be sure to incorporate a teaching style that matches your child's learning ability. Use the grade and chapter specific resources suggested in the OSV Home Lesson Plan, or incorporate some of your

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own. **Remember: When using any resources from the internet or elsewhere (besides the AIC website), please make sure that they are consistent with our Catholic teachings** and make adjustments accordingly. If you are unsure, ask before using. We can also point you in the direction of other resources, if requested.

- **Resources outside of the OSV/AIC website** – Any resources used from outside your the OSV/AIC website should be checked for conformity with our Catholic teachings. If you are unsure, please ask or run it by RE Staff before using. Thanks!
- **Study space Set-Up:**
 - **Decorate your prayer table** – Find a small table or counter space to set aside for prayer. Use a Bible, crucifix, candle and/or tablecloth to decorate your table. Add devotional or other liturgically themed items as the seasons or your lesson Units change. Be creative!
 - **Bring out Bibles and the student text**
 - **Rearrange your study space to accommodate your child. Get comfortable**
 - **Check the Elementary CCE Home Study Lesson Schedule and create an EQ poster to use as a visual for the week's lesson.** This will give your child a visual anchor for your lesson theme/topic.
- **Implementation** – Teach your lesson, making note of whether or not your child might be struggling with certain concepts. Take time for any discussion that ensues, providing necessary instruction and always redirecting the conversation towards the weekly EQ.
- **Post-Lesson Evaluation** – After your lesson, reflect upon what worked/didn't with your child and how you might modify or incorporate other strategies in your upcoming lessons.

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[Lesson Week 5 – Unit 1 Review/Evaluate for Understanding: Who is Jesus Christ?](#)

Note: The following is the format to be used for each of the four *Unit Review/Evaluate for Understanding* CCE Sessions noted on the Elementary CCE Lesson Calendar during the course of the program year

The purpose of the Review/Evaluate for Understanding session at the end of each Unit is *threefold*: 1). Summarize the UNIT material previously covered (think BIG IDEA/UNIT EQ), 2). Assess your child for understanding of the UNIT material and 3). Reteach certain material, as necessary.

This session provides you some flexibility in your teaching schedule in that it can be used to ‘catch up’ or finish anything from prior *Unit* lessons (only) that you did not get an opportunity to present at all or adequately cover in the prior weeks. It can also be used as a ‘fun’ day to incorporate a craft, longer video or some other activity that summarizes and/or reinforces the Unit material previously presented.

This should not be a free-for-all or party day, but rather a constructive day/lesson which focuses on assessing what the child has retained of the Unit material and ‘wrapping it up’ for them before we proceed into the next Unit. Again, remember the overall ‘takeaway’ (i.e. Unit EQ) for the material presented in the Unit and the fact that a sound understanding of this is foundational to moving on to the next Unit and its subsequent lessons.

Some considerations to remember:

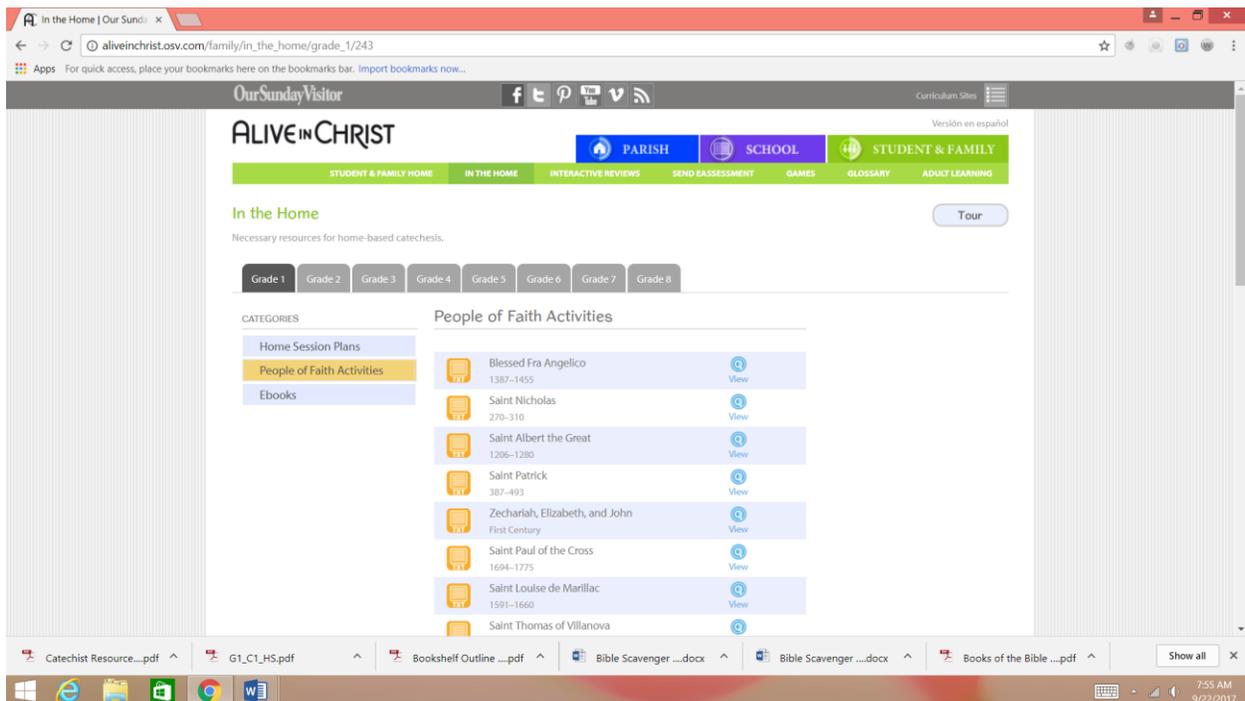
- **Remember the Lesson Planning ideas previously discussed** to provide some structure to this time together.
- **Pull out all your stops/resources to make this a fun and interesting day.** Be creative! If you are stumped, ask us and we can help provide you with some outside resources and/or suggestions, or go back to those you weren’t able to cover previously. Also be sure to check out the links on the *Lesson Resources* handout on the Home Study webpage at <http://stlaurence.org/home-study>.
- **Be sure what you choose reinforces previous content and adds value to your lesson.** Be intentional in your opening/closing prayer, sponge activities, etc. so that it ‘fits’ your lesson theme.
- **Be sure to ‘Catholicize’ anything you use from the internet. ALL videos should be *previewed* beforehand. You don’t want any surprises. ☺**
- **REMEMBER: ‘Assessment’ does NOT mean a quiz or test,** but rather an activity that will help you evaluate what your child has learned/retained in an interactive way. If it’s engaging, and done properly, they will not even realize that they are being assessed. See the *A Potpourri of Assessment Strategies* handout on the Home Study website for suggestions.
- **Don’t forget we are teaching about a “WHO” and not a “WHAT.”** At the end of the day, we should be helping to strengthen the child’s relationship with God through their personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Only by helping to develop this love of Christ can the tenets of our faith make sense to them and be retained.

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Liturgical Lessons

Liturgical lessons are sprinkled throughout the Elementary CCE Home Study Lesson Schedule to reinforce the seasons being celebrated by the Church. As with any other lessons, follow the scheduled lesson material outlined on the Lesson Schedule for your content. This is an excellent opportunity to not only cover the material in the book, but be creative in driving home the season of our Church in a profound way for your children by sharing family traditions, discussing what we see at Mass with the changing of Liturgical colors, etc. You can also use the resources at the AIC website to incorporate the lives of the Saints by using the **People of Faith Activities (see below)** related to the seasons we are celebrating. Be sure to also check out great Catholic websites such as:

- Catholic Icing (<http://www.catholicicing.com/>)
- The Catholic Toolbox (<http://catholicblogger1.blogspot.com/p/games.html>),
- Catholic Relief Services (especially for Lent! <http://www.crsricebowl.org/>)
- Catholic Mom (<http://catholicmom.com/>)
- The Religion Teacher (<https://www.thereligionteacher.com/>)



Reminders:

- **Prayer Table** – This is a great time to incorporate some seasonal devotionals or decorations in your classroom prayer table.

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[Circle of Grace Lessons](#)

As of August 14, 2017, the Archdiocese has discontinued the use of the safe environment *Sacred & Safe* curriculum for children in favor of a more updated and ‘gentler’ curriculum called *Circle of Grace*. Depending upon grade level, there may be up to three consecutive lessons which must be presented to the students in consecutive order, preferably with no breaks in between. This will be implemented in the current 2017-18 program year.

For the St. Laurence Elementary CCE Home Study program, the *Circle of Grace* lessons will be presented *at home*, each taught by the child’s parent. These lessons have been factored in to our program calendar in the spring semester, beginning the week of January 15th. All parents will be provided with links to the lesson plans for their children two weeks before the implementation of these lessons.