

First Grade Language Arts

Handwriting:

We will be using the Zaner-Bloser manuscript handwriting program in our classrooms. This program emphasizes the importance of shape, size, spacing, and slant in your child's handwriting. Your child will become confident in letter/numeral formation throughout the year.

Spelling/Vocabulary:

We are using the Houghton-Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary curriculum. This program emphasizes phonics in action, using spelling skills in writing, and building vocabulary (especially high frequency sight words).

Writing:

In first grade, we are using Write One as our writing curriculum. Write One improves students' ability to write (prewriting through publishing), to think (creatively, logically, and clearly), and to learn (in the classroom, in small groups, independently). Write One has five main components:

- Steps in the Writing Process
- The Forms of Writing
- The Tools of Learning
- Proofreader's Guide
- Student Almanac

*Daily read-aloud, morning opening, and a literacy-rich environment will further bolster your child's language arts skills.

First Grade Reading

Phonemic Awareness: The ability to hear sounds, and the awareness that sounds are represented by letters and words. (For example, one recognizes rhymes and can break words apart into syllables).

Phonics:	Matching letters to sounds, and understanding how words work.
Fluency:	The rate and ease with which one reads; <i>key</i> to comprehension.
Comprehension:	The strategies used by the reader to make sense of what he or she has read.

- We will capitalize on our teacher-student ratio by working in small reading groups (i.e. “book clubs”) that will change as the year progresses. In these groups, we will use phonics readers as well as nonfiction books to develop and hone your child’s phonemic awareness, decoding, fluency, and comprehension skills. We will also have D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) time each morning, during which your child can enjoy silent reading time.

First Grade Science

Our science curriculum is standards-based and covers several different topics throughout the year. This year, we will be utilizing FOSS science kits.

Philosophy: We believe in experiential, hands-on learning. Our field trips will be planned to enrich our science units.

Major Concepts:

- Basic Skills
- Scientific Properties
- Solids and Liquids
- Living vs. Non-living
- Plants (Parts/Needs of Plant)
- Insects
- Weather
- Animals (Classification, Food Webs, Habitats, Life Cycles)
- Earth Day (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)
- Ocean

First Grade Math

Text: Scott Foresman * Addison Wesley

Philosophy: When problem solving, students will be able to talk about their strategies, use manipulatives, and represent their thinking through writing and drawing.

Chapters/Concepts:

1. Patterns and Readiness for Addition/Subtraction
2. Understanding Addition/Subtraction
3. Strategies for Addition Facts to 12
4. Strategies for Subtraction Facts to 12
5. Geometry and Fractions
6. Time
7. Counting to 100
8. Place Value, Data, and Graphs
9. Money
10. Measurement and Probability
11. Addition and Subtraction Facts to 18
12. Two-Digit Addition and Subtraction

*We will complete several lessons for each chapter, but please note that the chapter packets will not come home entirely completed. This is to ensure that we cover each chapter's concepts throughout the school year. Any unfinished work can be completed at home.

First Grade Social Studies

Our social studies curriculum is taught through thematic units. We integrate social studies into our daily work.

Main Thematic Units:

- Character Development: Taught through the book Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, we will emphasize the development of a wide range of values in a meaningful and concrete way.
- Thanksgiving (Past and Present)
- Holidays/Winter Celebrations
- Our Community/Jobs *I'll be asking parents to come in to talk to the class about their jobs
- Black History Month/Underground Railroad
- Biography Unit
- Wild West