

First Grade Curriculum

[English-language arts:](#)

Reading: In first grade students will learn decoding skills and will be able to distinguish letter sounds and short and long vowel sounds in simple words, create rhyming words and recognize common irregular sight words (i.e. the, were, you). First graders will be able to comprehend grade-level appropriate text using schema/making connections, visualizing, and wondering/questioning. They will use context to understand meaning, make predictions about what will happen next, and retell central ideas of simple passages. Students will be able to identify and describe elements of plot, setting, and characters in a story, as well as the story's beginning, middle, and end.

Writing: First grade students use and understand the writing process. Students write about familiar objects, events, and experiences. They learn to write in complete sentences and use ending punctuation.

Spelling/Conventions: Penmanship is developed. Students are expected to use correctly spaced letters, words and sentences. They will learn to spell three and four letter short vowel words and grade-level appropriate sight words correctly. They will learn to capitalize the first word in a sentence, proper names, and the pronoun "I". Students begin to use accurate spellings of high frequency words.

Listening and Speaking: First graders practice speaking skills through the process of classroom discussion, response to literature and student writing, and individual sharing. Students are expected to be attentive and respectful listeners. Activities in all areas of the curriculum are designed to promote comprehension and following of directions.

Mathematics: By the end of first grade, students understand and use numbers up to 100. They count and group objects to learn place value, explore the concepts of addition (putting together, increasing) and subtraction (taking away, comparing, finding the difference). Students begin to apply number equations to express relationships. First graders are introduced to geometry concepts and fractions. They also learn about collecting, representing and interpreting data, as well as time, money and measurement. Throughout first grade, students develop multiple strategies for problem solving and are able to communicate their mathematical thinking to others.

Social Studies: First Grade social studies focuses on developing social skills and citizen responsibilities. Students learn about the symbols and traditions of the United States. They develop an understanding of the physical world through

maps and globes. Students learn about the ways that groups interact with one another and develop an awareness of cultural diversity.

[Science](#): In all areas of science, students are expected to ask meaningful questions and record observations. For life science, first graders learn about plant and animal habitats and ecosystems. For physical science, students explore the basic concepts of matter and characteristics of light and color. Students study weather for earth science.

[Dance, Music, Visual and Performing Arts](#): Performance of dance, music, theater and art, and instruction about these art forms occurs throughout the curriculum and also through direct instruction from specialists in art and music at first grade.