

Curriculum Synopsis

Reading

1. Houghton Mifflin reading program is used in first grade. It encompasses:
 - Review of letter identification/handwriting
 - Phonemic Awareness and Blending
 - Sight Words (high-frequency words such as “the”, “said”, “are”)
 - Spelling (Word Families and Sight Words)
 - Writing
 - Big Books, Phonics Mini-Readers, Theme Paperbacks
 - Student Anthologies
2. Reader’s Workshop will provide opportunities for independent reading, partner reading, individual conferences with teacher, read-alouds, book talks and shared reading. Leveled books will allow children to move at their own pace in independent reading, using books that are “just right” for them. The goal is to develop comprehension through talking and thinking about books and to nurture a love of reading.

Core First Grade books are: ***Make Way for Ducklings***, ***Odd Velvet***, ***Amazing Grace***, and ***Sing a Song of Popcorn*** (poetry anthology).

The most important thing you can do to help your child is read to your child daily! Be sure to document books/stories/chapters on the class reading chart that is sent home each month. Use your read-aloud time to discuss ideas and develop comprehension. Practicing Sight Words and having your child read aloud to you will enhance your child’s progress in reading.

Writing:

Writer’s Workshop will include journaling, word study, mechanics of language (punctuation, capitalization, grammar, etc.), and the writing process – why we write, idea generation and organization, beginning/middle/end, editing, and publishing.

Math:

Several math programs are used in class. They cover whole class and small group instruction. The use of math manipulatives is an integral part of math in first grade.

1. Scott Foresman EnVision Math is the district math common core curriculum used. It includes Problem of the Day, student workbooks, and math mini-readers.
2. Kathy Richardson's ***Developing Number Concepts*** program is a supplemental program which provides opportunities for students to explore number concepts and build fluency in addition and subtraction through independent "tubbing" activities.
3. Mary Cook program provides hands-on activities using manipulatives such as skillboards and dominoes.
4. Methods include direct instruction, self-directed exploration, individual work-books, group work, math centers, and math packets.
5. Timed tests on addition/subtraction facts to 20 (called "mad minute") will ensure mastery of math facts.

You can help your child at home by working on number facts, counting by twos, fives, and tens. Telling time (hour and half hour), counting money (to \$100), measuring, using the calendar, identifying shapes, sorting etc. are all daily math skills that can and should be practiced in fun and interesting ways to increase mathematical understanding.

Science – NEW State Standards:

1. Students participate in a science lab with our science teacher, Mrs. Orgill, once a week for a 45-minute period.
2. Science study units include plants, animals, states of matter, weather, teeth, nutrition, seasons, ecology, and many more.
3. The Harcourt science curriculum is used to teach first grade science standards, including units of life cycles of beans, caterpillars/butterflies, frogs, worms and chicks.

Art:

- Classroom art across the curriculum
- Art Docent program

Social Studies:

1. The Scott Foresman social studies curriculum explores school, family, community, land and country, map skills, and our world. Units on safety, famous people, holidays and traditions, and good citizenship are also covered.
2. Our school-wide "Book of the Month" program is incorporated into class discussions where we can discuss values, social responsibility, feelings, and relationship among peers.
3. We will be using a program called "Second Step" which will focus on developing empathy, conflict resolution, and anger management. A weekly lesson will provide a springboard for discussions designed to teach children to recognize their feelings, see other's perspective, learn problem-solving techniques, appropriate ways of handling social situations, and behavior management.

4. We will actively seek to promote a “Caring Campus” mentality. Safety is our highest priority; derogatory language or actions that offend others are not permitted.

P.E.:

The student’s participate in a 45-minute period once a week with our P.E. teacher, Mr. Trapani. Please be sure your child is wearing appropriate footwear and clothing on P.D. days.

Music:

Vocal music instruction is provided for 45 minutes once a week with Mrs. Rick. In addition, classroom teachers will prepare students for two first-grade musical performances in December and June.

Computers:

Children will receive computer instruction each week for 30 minutes in the computer lab. Instruction includes word processing, games and tutorial programs in math, science, reading and writing. Classroom computers are available for students on a rotating basis.

Library:

Children have library time each week for 30 minutes with our school librarian, Mrs. Dvorak. Library time includes listening to a story, and time for selecting and checking out books.