

Science in First Grade

Students explore topics in life science, physical science, and earth science. Concepts and skills are developed by a hands-on approach, allowing students to focus on processes and techniques of discovery. Throughout the year, your child will have opportunities to share these discoveries with you. We encourage you to talk with your child about what he/she is learning, as this helps to solidify and expand understanding, and encourages curiosity beyond the classroom. The first grade units of study are:

Space and Beyond

Students begin the unit by learning about the differences between an astronomer and an astronaut. They learn about the components of the solar system. They study the sun, stars, and the planets. They learn the cause of patterns seen on Earth, such as phases of the moon and changes of seasons.

Animal Adaptation with Observing an Aquarium

Students learn about how animals have adapted to live in their habitats. With this unit, we will study aquatic life as they build and maintain their own aquariums. They also learn about ecosystems and the food chain.

Light and Sound

The Sound and Light Module provides students with experiences to develop an understanding of how to observe and manipulate sound and light. Students learn that sound comes from vibrating objects. They explore how to change sound volume and pitch, and develop simple models for how sound travels from the source to the receiver. With light, students also work with sources and receivers. They find out what happens when materials with different properties are placed in a beam of light, and explore how to create and change shadows and reflections.

