



First Grade Curriculum Guide

PRIORITY STANDARDS: District 92 will expect that each student will know and be able to demonstrate proficiency by the end of the school year. Students who have not mastered the priority standards will be supported to progress toward mastery. Students who have mastered the priority standards will receive enrichment activities/tasks to grow further.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

District 92 utilized a structured literacy approach. The reading is an evidence-based approach to teaching reading that draws on research from various fields, including psychology, linguistics, cognitive science, and education. It responds to the need for effective reading instruction and is informed by a growing body of scientific research on how the brain learns to read. Key principles of reading include:

Phonemic Awareness: The ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words is crucial for reading. Phonemic awareness involves tasks such as blending, segmenting, and manipulating sounds.

Phonics: Phonics instruction teaches the relationship between sounds and the letters or letter combinations that represent them. It helps students decode words by recognizing and applying letter-sound correspondences.

Fluency: Fluent reading involves reading with accuracy, speed, and expression. Fluency is developed through practice and the application of phonics skills.

Vocabulary Development: Building a strong vocabulary is essential for comprehension. The reading emphasizes explicit vocabulary instruction and exposure to a rich and diverse range of words.

Reading Comprehension Strategies: Effective readers use various strategies to understand and interpret text. These strategies include making predictions, summarizing, asking questions, and connecting prior knowledge and new information.

Text Structure and Syntax: Understanding the structure of sentences and the organization of texts enhances reading comprehension. Instruction in syntax and text structure helps students navigate and comprehend written material.

Morphology: Morphology involves the study of meaningful units of language, such as prefixes, suffixes, and root words. Understanding morphological elements contributes to vocabulary development and decoding skills.



Comprehension Monitoring and Metacognition: Skilled readers actively monitor their understanding of text and use metacognitive strategies to fix comprehension problems. This reading approach encourages the development of these metacognitive skills.

The reading instruction advocates for systematic, explicit, and sequential instruction based on understanding how language and reading develop in the brain. It highlights the importance of early and effective intervention for struggling readers and promotes evidence-based practices in literacy instruction. Teachers aim to provide students with a solid foundation in the essential skills needed for proficient reading and comprehension.

MATH

In first grade, the primary goal of mathematics education is to build upon the foundational concepts introduced in kindergarten and further develop students' mathematical understanding and skills. First-grade mathematics education is hands-on and engaging and promotes a positive attitude toward learning math. It also builds a strong foundation for mathematical thinking, problem-solving, and a lifelong interest in mathematics. The goals for first-grade mathematics include:

- **Number Sense and Place Value:** Students will develop a solid understanding of numbers up to 100. They will explore place value concepts and understand the tens and ones places.
- **Basic Addition and Subtraction:** Students will develop fluency in basic addition and subtraction facts within 20. Learners will understand and apply the concept of addition and subtraction as combining and separating quantities.
- **Understanding and Using Symbols:** Students will learn to read and write numbers up to 100. They will understand and use symbols for addition (+), subtraction (-), and equal to (=).
- **Measurement:** Students will utilize measurement concepts such as length, weight, and capacity. They will use non-standard units to measure and compare objects.
- **Geometry:** Students will identify and describe basic shapes (e.g., squares, circles, triangles, rectangles). Learners will explore concepts of symmetry and positional relationships.
- **Data and Graphs:** Students will collect and organize simple data and create and interpret basic graphs, such as pictographs and bar graphs.
- **Problem Solving:** Students will solve simple word problems involving addition and subtraction. Students will develop problem-solving strategies and understand the importance of showing and communicating solutions.
- **Patterns and Sequences:** Learners will recognize and create repeating patterns. Students will understand and extend simple number patterns.



- **Time and Money:** Students will understand the concept of time, including telling time to the hour and half-hour. They will understand the basic concepts of money and its value.
- **Mathematical Reasoning:** Students will develop logical reasoning skills. They will explain and justify mathematical thinking and strategies.
- **Communication and Mathematical Vocabulary:** Students will use appropriate mathematical vocabulary to describe mathematical concepts. Learners will communicate mathematical ideas clearly and effectively.
- **Real-World Applications:** Students will apply mathematical concepts to real-world situations and explore connections between mathematics and everyday experiences.

Aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards, First Grade students will explore the following units of study:

- Unit 1: Numbers All Around Us
- Unit 2: Developing Strategies with Dice and Domino
- Unit 3: Adding, Subtracting, Counting & Comparing
- Unit 4: Leapfrogs on the Number Line
- Unit 5: Geometry
- Unit 6: Figure the Facts with Penguins
- Unit 7: One Hundred and Beyond

SPECIALS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education (PE) curriculum for grades K-8 promotes physical activity, motor skill development, and overall health and well-being. The curriculum evolves as students progress through the grades, incorporating age-appropriate activities and focusing on developing fundamental movement skills.

MUSIC

In music class for first graders, the focus is on introducing fundamental musical concepts in an engaging and developmentally appropriate way. The goal is to foster a love for music, build basic musical skills, and provide opportunities for creative expression. First-grade music class focuses on creating a positive and inclusive environment where children can explore, express themselves, and develop a foundation for further musical learning.



ART

The elementary art curriculum in District 92 is designed to provide students with a well-rounded art education that fosters creativity, self-expression, and an appreciation for various art forms. The curriculum evolves as students progress through the elementary grades, introducing them to various artistic techniques, media, and concepts.

LIBRARY/MEDIA

In first grade, students develop foundational library and media skills that lay the groundwork for future learning. The focus is on fostering a love for reading, introducing basic research skills, and promoting responsible media use. These foundational library and media skills aim to create a positive and engaging environment for first-grade students as they start their literacy journey. The focus is on building essential skills for navigating print and digital resources, fostering a love for reading, and promoting responsible media use.