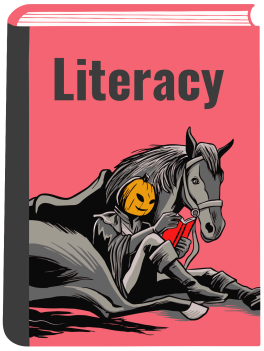
Overview of First Grade Learning Goals

W. L. Morse School

Our K-2 curriculum embeds essential skills and dispositions, laying the foundation for our **Portrait of a Learner**. Through interactive and engaging activities, we nurture communication, executive functioning, creativity, and critical thinking. Our students develop curiosity, perseverance, socio-cultural competence, and civic-mindedness, ensuring they grow into empathetic, resilient, and socially responsible individuals. This holistic approach prepares them for a lifetime of learning and active citizenship.

Literacy



Oral Language – Students participate in conversations, ask and answer questions, and describe events in detail. They practice using complete sentences and proper grammar, including nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

Phonological Awareness – Students learn to segment and blend individual phonemes, as well as manipulate sounds by adding, substituting, or deleting phonemes to create new words. Additionally, students identify and recognize individual phonemes within spoken words, including beginning, middle, and ending sounds.

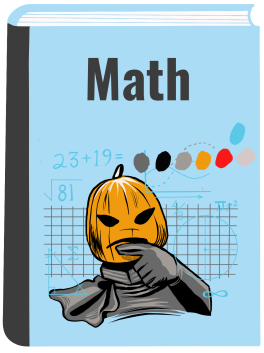
Phonics – Students decode and blend sounds to read more complex words, like those with long vowels, digraphs, and blends.

Vocabulary – Students develop basic vocabulary skills. They use context clues to understand new words, start recognizing simple synonyms and antonyms.

Fluency – Students read grade-level text accurately, adjust reading speed appropriately, and use expression effectively. Additionally, they decode words fluently, and recognize high-frequency words quickly.

Comprehension – Students retell key details and make personal connections. They ask and answer questions, retell stories, and describe characters, settings, and major events. Students identify main topics and use text features. They also understand text structures, distinguish between picture and text information, and compare texts.

Mathematics



In first grade, students **solve addition and subtraction problems within 10**, gradually progressing to fluency in basic facts. They extend their strategies to **solve addition and subtraction problems within 20** and work with equations. Additionally, students learn to **represent and interpret data**, **extend their counting sequence**, and grasp concepts like **place value** and comparing two-digit numbers. They also develop skills in using models and strategies for **adding and subtracting with tens and ones**. They engage in **measurement**, **telling time**, and **reasoning with shapes**. Finally, they explore concepts of **fair sharing with equal shares** of shapes. They **identify coins** while adding their values using place value understanding.

Science

Sun, Moon, and Stars – Students learn how shadows can tell time and show the Earth's movement. They also study the Moon's orbit and phases and observe stars in the night sky, noticing changes between day and night.

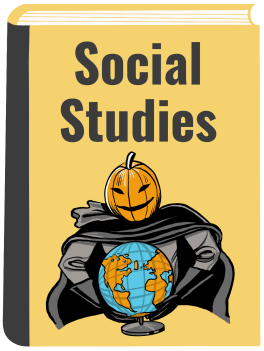
Light and Sound Waves – Students explore that sound comes from vibrations, light moves in straight lines, and different materials reflect light.

The Life Cycle of a Duck – Students discover how ducks hatch from eggs, grow and change as ducklings, and how feathers help them swim. They also learn about the stages in a duck's life cycle: egg, duckling, and duck.

Biomimicry – Students explore how nature inspires inventions. Students explore how inventors mimic nature's designs to solve problems, learning from animals and plants to innovate.

Social Studies

Our social studies curriculum uses essential questions so first graders can delve deeper into the concept of family, explore community roles, and understand the connection between work and community well-being.



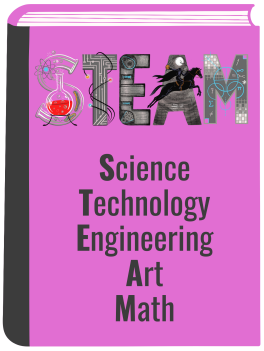
Why are families important, and how do they influence who we are? — Students discuss the importance of family by sharing family traditions, roles within families, and ways families show love and support. Classes explore how family influences interests, values, and cultural traditions.

How do families grow and change over time? — Students explore family structures through pictures, stories, or class discussions. They explore historical family structures and how these can introduce the concept of change over time.

What is a community? — Students explore the concept of community by creating maps of their neighborhood or school and identifying key locations like homes, stores, and parks. They can interview community members (firefighters, librarians) about their roles and how they contribute. Field trips around solidify the understanding of different places and people working together.

How do jobs and money affect communities? — Students learn about different jobs within the community through class discussions, simulations, or guest speakers. They can explore how different jobs provide goods and services and how money is used to purchase them.

STEAM & Computer Science



Digital Literacy & Citizenship — Students focus on *digital literacy* skills, learning how computers work (hardware, software, inputs, outputs). Additionally, they explore essential *digital citizenship* skills such as understanding the importance of media balance and fostering responsible and effective use of educational technology.

Computer Science & Robotics — Students explore computer science concepts including advanced sequencing and using loops, which allow for the creation of repeat actions, making programs more efficient. Students apply these skills to program robots through "unplugged" (tech-free) activities.

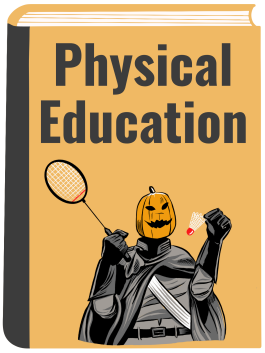
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) — Through hands-on activities, students use the engineering design process, applying problem-solving skills to real-world problems.

Visual & Performing Arts

Art — Students in visual arts expand their abilities by creating *artworks with a wider range of materials, applying more advanced techniques, analyzing and discussing artworks in greater depth,* connecting art to broader personal and cultural experiences, and reflecting thoughtfully on their own and others' creations. Concepts include *symmetry, 3-D drawing, self-portraits, and collage.*

Music — Students advance their music skills by listening to and identifying *different musical elements, performing more complex songs and rhythms, creating and improvising with greater variety,* understanding and appreciating music from diverse cultures and contexts, and integrating music with other subjects such as math and literacy. *All students are introduced to piano technique.*

Physical Education & Health

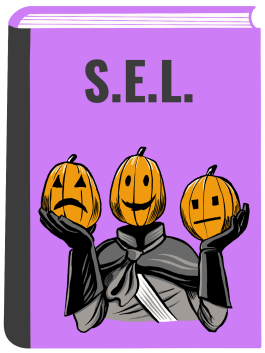


Motor Skills/Movement Patterns/Spacial Awareness – Students consistently demonstrate recognizable form in at least four locomotor skills (gallop, hop, leap, skip, slide, walk, horizontal jump, vertical jump) while maintaining balance; they identify movement concepts such as space (personal space at L, M, H levels), effort (body movement), and relationships.

Health/Wellness/Character – Students understand the importance of covering mouth and nose when coughing, washing hands regularly, getting the proper sleep, and dressing appropriately. Exhibits sensitivity by demonstrating caring behavior towards others works well in teams, acknowledges responsibility when prompted, and shows leadership by trying new activities.

Self-Challenge/Personal & Community Resources – Students explore and participate in new and challenging activities, persist after failure, and identify enjoyable activities, including those outside physical education and those that can be done with family. They recognizes community facilities available for participation**.**

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)



Growth Mindset & Goal Setting — Students learn how to manage distractions. They also discover that making mistakes is part of learning, and by practicing and putting in effort, they can get better at anything.

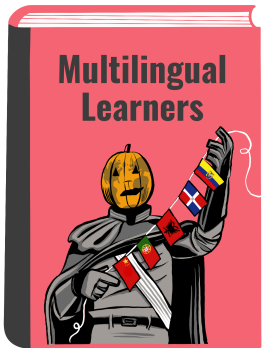
Emotion Management — Students learn to identify and label emotions by looking at facial expressions, body language and situations. They also learn strategies to manage strong emotions, like taking slow-counting and asking for help.

Empathy and Kindness — Students understand that being kind helps others feel good and shows that they care. They practice empathy by thinking of kind things they can do or say to help others feel better in different situations.

Problem-Solving — Students identify strategies to help them feel calm before solving a problem. They learn to state the problem without blame or name-calling, along with problem-solving strategies like apologizing, making amends and asking for what they want or need.

Multilingual Learners

Our language learners focus on the *4+1 language domains* (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, & Metalinguistic awareness). The following are assessed based on the student's English language proficiency level (entering, emerging, transitioning, expanding, commanding).



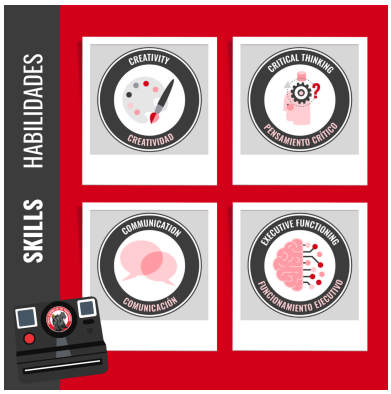
Reading – Students can identify key narrative elements and central ideas in a text. Students can determine the meaning of vocabulary in a text.

Writing – Students can use appropriate language to introduce and complete thoughts and ideas in a written text.

Listening – Students can identify words, phrases, or sentences that signal important individuals, ideas, events, a narrator, and/or the main idea. Students can identify words, phrases, or sentences that signal or describe key details, sequence, and/or relationships.

Speaking – Students can use appropriate language to describe information on a topic or text, with or without graphics.

Portrait of a Learner



Skills:	Dispositions:
💬 **Communication** – We empower students to express themselves clearly, thoughtfully, and persuasively in written and spoken forms, fostering understanding of diverse perspectives.	🧐 **Curiosity** – We nurture a sense of wonder and inquisitiveness, motivating students to explore, question, and seek answers, propelling personal growth and a love of discovery.
🧠 **Executive Functioning** – Students develop organization, time management, and problem-solving skills to navigate life's challenges and opportunities.	💪 **Perseverance** – Students learn to face adversity with determination and push forward to pursue goals, setting the stage for personal achievement and resilience.
🎨 **Creativity** – We encourage students to think imaginatively, generate innovative ideas, and approach issues from fresh angles, cultivating open-mindedness and adaptability.	🌍 **Socio-Cultural Competence** – Students engage respectfully and effectively with diverse individuals, fostering empathy, inclusivity, and a deeper understanding of global issues.
🤔 **Critical Thinking** – Students will evaluate information, analyze complex situations, and make informed decisions, inspiring intellectual curiosity and a commitment to lifelong learning.	🏛️ **Civic Mindedness** – We cultivate a strong sense of civic responsibility, inspiring students to impact their community and promoting active engagement for the betterment of society.