Course Overview

Elementary School | 1st Grade | ELA - *Last Updated on July 22, 2025*

DESCRIPTION

K-12 Content Area | Mission & Philosophy Statement
• Foster a love for literacy across diverse backgrounds and abilities, ensuring equitable access to rich learning experiences equipping learners with the skills, mindset, and passion to engage actively as informed readers, writers, and communicators throughout their lives. • Cultivate communicators and critical thinkers, empowering them to inquire, analyze, and create meaningfully from a variety of texts and perspectives, preparing them for the responsibilities of active participation as a citizen in our democracy as well as in an evolving global society. • Engender collaborative and creative environments where learners innovate, elevate diverse voices and modalities to express themselves effectively and imaginatively. • Promote a culturally responsive English Language Arts education that honors the identities, cultures, and experiences of all students, integrating diverse texts and voices to promote empathy, understanding, and respect.

Course Description
This comprehensive 1st Grade English Language Arts course combines the creative, theme-based learning of **Great Minds Arts and Letters** with the structured, evidence-based instruction of the **95 Percent Group Core Phonics Program**, supported by **Geodes** decodable readers and **Lexia Core5** personalized literacy instruction. Students explore engaging themes such as *A World of Books*, *Creature Features*, *Wind Power*, and *World Tales* through rich literature, music, visual art, and dramatic play. These experiences strengthen oral language, vocabulary, and comprehension while encouraging creative expression. Daily phonics lessons from the 95 Percent Group Core Phonics Program build essential reading skills including: • Phoneme-grapheme correspondence • Consonant blends and digraphs • Long and short vowels • Phonograms: ang, ing, ong, ung, ink, ank, onk, ild, ind, old, olt, ost, all, oll, alk • R-controlled vowels • Syllable types and multisyllabic word decoding • Spelling and fluency practice **Geodes** books, aligned with the phonics scope and sequence, give students opportunities to apply decoding skills in meaningful, knowledge-building texts. **Lexia Core5** provides differentiated, adaptive practice to

reinforce foundational skills and target individual learning needs.

Key Features:

- Integration of reading, writing, speaking, and the arts
- Systematic phonics instruction rooted in the science of reading
- Decodable, content-rich texts through Geodes
- Personalized literacy support with Lexia Core5
- Multi-sensory, engaging activities for all learners

Outcome:

By year's end, students will read with increased fluency and comprehension, apply phonics skills independently, and express themselves confidently through language and the arts. This balanced program nurtures both academic achievement and creativity, laying a strong foundation for lifelong literacy.

ATTACHMENTS

1st_Grade_A_L_Synopses.pdf

1st_Grade_95__Group_Scope_and_Sequence.pdf

1st_Grade_Geodes.pdf

STANDARDS

Pennsylvania - Grade 1 - English Language Arts ELA

CC.1.1.1.B CC.1.1.1.C CC.1.1.1.D CC.1.1.1.E CC.1.2.1.A CC.1.2.1.B CC.1.2.1.C

CC.1.2.1.E CC.1.2.1.F CC.1.2.1.G CC.1.2.1.H CC.1.2.1.I CC.1.2.1.J CC.1.2.1.K

CC.1.2.1.L CC.1.3.1.A CC.1.3.1.B CC.1.3.1.C CC.1.3.1.D CC.1.3.1.E CC.1.3.1.F

CC.1.3.1.G CC.1.3.1.H CC.1.3.1.I CC.1.3.1.J CC.1.3.1.K CC.1.4.1.A CC.1.4.1.B

CC.1.4.1.C CC.1.4.1.D CC.1.4.1.E CC.1.4.1.F CC.1.4.1.G CC.1.4.1.H CC.1.4.1.I

CC.1.4.1.J CC.1.4.1.K CC.1.4.1.L CC.1.4.1.M CC.1.4.1.N CC.1.4.1.O CC.1.4.1.P

CC.1.4.1.Q CC.1.4.1.R CC.1.4.1.T CC.1.4.1.U CC.1.4.1.V CC.1.4.1.W CC.1.4.1.X

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CC.1.5.1.A | CC.1.5.1.B | CC.1.5.1.C | CC.1.5.1.D | CC.1.5.1.E | CC.1.5.1.F

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Specific objectives for this course are aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and the Common Core State Standards for ELA as outlined in the Scope and Sequence for Grade 1.

ASSESSMENT TYPES

Forms of Assessment to Measure Course Objectives:

- Diagnostic Assessments
- Formative Assessments
- Summative Assessments
- Criterion-Referenced
- Norm-Referenced

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SUGGESTED METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- **Systematic and Explicit Phonics Instruction:** Direct, sequential teaching of letter-sound relationships, consonant blends, digraphs, long and short vowels, vowel teams, r-controlled vowels, and multisyllabic decoding (95 Percent Group Core Phonics, Geodes, Lexia Core5).
- **Phonemic Awareness and Word Study:** Activities targeting sound blending, segmenting, manipulating, onset-rime, word families, and syllable types to build strong decoding skills (95 Percent Group Core Phonics, Geodes, Lexia Core5).
- **Decodable Text Practice:** Use of decodable readers aligned to phonics instruction to apply decoding skills and build fluency through repeated and teacher lead reading instruction (Geodes, 95 Percent Group Core Phonics).
- **Multisensory Engagement:** Visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning experiences including letter formation, tapping sounds, interactive digital activities, and manipulatives to reinforce phonics and language concepts (all programs).
- **Targeted Small Group and Individualized Instruction:** Instructional support driven by continuous assessment data and personalized learning platforms to meet diverse student needs (95 Percent Group Core Phonics, Geodes, Lexia Core5).
- **Thematic, Knowledge-Building Lessons:** Integration of rich, content-focused themes to develop background knowledge, vocabulary, and comprehension (Great Minds Arts & Letters, Geodes).
- **Integrated Literacy Experiences:** Connected reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities including writing workshops with explicit guidance on sentence structure, spelling, and expression (Great Minds Arts & Letters).
- **Shared Reading and Read-Alouds:** Teacher modeling fluent reading to enhance vocabulary, comprehension, and engagement with texts (Great Minds Arts & Letters).
- **Close Reading and Critical Thinking:** Teaching students to analyze text meaning, language, and structure through close reading strategies (Great Minds Arts & Letters).
- **Adaptive, Personalized Digital Practice:** Use of Lexia Core5's interactive, data-driven platform for individualized phonics and literacy skill reinforcement, with motivational supports to keep students engaged.

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RESOURCES

District Approved Program Resources	District Approved Supplemental Resources	District Approved Technology Resources
• Great Minds PBC. (2025). *Arts & Letters: First Grade English language arts curriculum*. • 95 Percent Group LLC. (2022). *95 Phonics Core Program™, First Grade*. 95 Percent Group LLC.	• Great Minds PBC. (2025). *Inside Geodes® Level 1* [Teacher guide]. Great Minds PBC. • Great Minds PBC. (2025). *My Geodes® Level 1* [Print and digital reader]. Great Minds PBC.	Lexia Learning Systems, LLC. (2025, April 16). *Lexia Core5 Reading* (Version 5.3.5) [Educational software]. Lexia Learning Systems, LLC. https://www.lexialearning.com/core5