

## **First Grade Syllabus**

**Course Description:** In First Grade students work on mastering the Standards of Learning as required by the state of Virginia. Students will work on the following skills - Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies , and writing.

**Reading-** Throughout the course of study students will develop literacy skills that continue to be a priority in the First grade. The student will be immersed in an environment filled with fiction and nonfiction texts, which relate to all content areas and personal interests. The student will expand vocabulary, use a combination of strategies when reading, and read familiar selections with fluency, accuracy, and expression. Students will identify story elements including plot, characters, setting, theme, conflict, and resolution. The student will demonstrate comprehension skills by identifying main ideas, making and confirming predictions, questioning, summarizing, and drawing conclusions. Students will learn and apply comprehension strategies while reading cross-content materials. Teachers will encourage the development of reading skills that are foundational to effective comprehension and critical thinking. These skills are essential for success in future postsecondary education and the workplace.

**Math-**Throughout the course of study, students will demonstrate skills for mathematical process goals of problem solving, communication, reasoning, connections, and representations. Spiral review expectations include Number Sense Routines and Calendar Math daily.

**Science/ Social Studies-** Throughout the science/social science course of study, students will develop skills in posing simple questions, conducting simple investigations, observing, classifying, and communicating information about the natural world while being introduced to the engineering design process. Spiral review expectations include citizenship skills daily and embedded scientific engineering practices with each science lesson.

**Writing-**At the first-grade level, students will develop reading and writing together. They will be given daily opportunities to write and will be expected to revise selected pieces and share them with others. Students will begin to make the transition to

cursive handwriting. The student will understand writing as a process and will write in a variety of forms. Students will organize writing according to type and purpose and will elaborate to provide support and detail. They will also begin to apply written communication skills across all content areas. Teachers will encourage the development of writing skills that are foundational to effective written communication and critical thinking. These skills are necessary for success in future postsecondary and workplace environments.

**Instructional Philosophy:** First Grade provides your child with an opportunity to learn and practice the essential social, emotional, problem-solving, and study skills that they will use throughout their schooling. The development of self-esteem is one of the important goals of second grade. Room 105 is a safe, supportive and welcoming environment. It provides children with a variety of opportunities to try out new ideas and be challenged with new experiences that engage budding readers, writers, scientists, mathematicians and artists. Teachers help children to be empowered, to feel valued, to be listened to, to be competent and successful in school.

**Major Course Goals:** The course goal is to master the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs) for First Grade in Math, English/Language Arts, Reading, Writing, Science and Social Studies. Once mastered students will have the reasoning and thinking skills to help prepare them for their next level of learning.

**Major Course Projects & Instructional Activities: TBD**

**Course Assessment Plan (DPS Grading Scale):** SOL based assessments will be given periodically to check for mastery and will be graded using the following grading scale.

Grading Scale for Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies

- 4 - 100 - 90
- 3 - 89 - 80
- 2 - 60 - 79
- 1 - 59-0

Grading Scale for Conduct, Handwriting, P.E., Music, and Art

- E - Excellent
- S - Satisfactory
- N - Needs Improvement
- U - Unsatisfactory

State required assessment, VALLSS will be given according to the state schedule - usually at the end of September, Mid-year, and late April to May.

**Classroom Expectations:** We will follow the district-wide PBIS/VTSS expectations of...

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Ready to Learn

Behavior Policy - students are expected to follow classroom expectations. Below is the process we use in our classroom to help students monitor their behavior, and keep parents informed.

For minor behavior mistakes...

- 1st offense - conference with child and teacher
- 2nd offense - student takes a break and reviews expectations, and parent is notified
- 3rd offense - time away from group / remove to another room
- 4th offense - office referral

Major behavior issues, such as a physical confrontation, will result in an automatic office referral.

**Supplies and Materials Needed:** ● 4 Composition Notebooks

- Pencils/Erasers
- Crayola Crayons (24 count)
- Glue sticks
- Pencil box or Pouch
- Backpack (no wheels)
- Earbuds or headphones

**DPS Homework Policy:**

Homework provides an essential communication link between the school and the home. One measure of a program or course is the quality of the work done at home by the student. A strong home-school partnership, with many lasting benefits for the individual student and the student's family, can be greatly enhanced by a sound program of homework. In addition, homework should be an important tool in developing independent thought, self-direction and self-discipline. It assists the student in developing good work habits and in the wise use of time.

Guidelines for homework include: The homework policy is the same policy that was adopted by the DPS School Board and is found in the Student Handbook. **First Grade Homework:** consists of reading and math problems that are on the skills being taught

that week.

**Extra Help:** Students who are having difficulty will receive additional support through Literacy Lab tutors, small group instruction, individual instruction by the teacher and parent/teacher conferences to share ideas to use at home to help with learning.

**Learning Games:**

[ABCYa.com](http://www.abcyacom.com)

[Splash Math](http://www.splashmath.com)

[Prodigy](http://www.prodigy.com)

[Teach Your Monster to Read](http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com)

email: [gcostley@mail.dps.k12.va.us](mailto:gcostley@mail.dps.k12.va.us)

School Phone #: 434-799-6455

Planning Time: 11:30- 12:10 p.m. (I'm usually not available at this time due to planning and professional development)



**ClassDojo** is the best way to reach me. Just send a text message and I will respond ASAP.