Inspiring Excellence
Upper Merion Area School District
435 Crossfield Road • King of Prussia, PA 19406 • 610-205-6400 • Fax 610-205-6433 • www.umasd.org

Upper Merion Area School District
Curriculum Information for Parents and Community

Grade 1

First Grade is a crucial grade for students as most students "learn to read" in this grade. We continue to provide a rich, supportive learning environment for the whole child: academically, socially, and emotionally.

All of our elementary classrooms begin the day with Morning Meeting, in which students actively participate in a circle for the purpose of greeting each other, sharing something about themselves, participating in an activity, and listening to the teacher's morning message. Then students participate in English Language Arts and Excel, in which they get small-group reading instruction based on their skill needs. After recess and lunch, First Graders have math class. Students go to Specials (Art, Music, Physical Education, and Library) for a 40-minute period each day and an additional 30-minute period on half of their school days. They finish their day with 40 minutes of science/social studies. Bridgeport, Caley, and Roberts follow an 8-day schedule (Days A-H), while Caley and Gulph follow a 10-day schedule (Days 1-10).

If you have any questions regarding your child's educational program, please contact your child's teacher for more information.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)
First Grade students develop academic communication skills through regular practice in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Visual and technological communication is integrated. Specific ELA skills in First Grade include:
-Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes)
-Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words
-Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print
-Read with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension
-Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text
-Identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text
-Read and comprehend literature, literary nonfiction, and informational text on grade level, reading independently and proficiently
-Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details
-Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories
-Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information
-Write an opinion with reasons to support the opinion
-Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events
-Demonstrate a grade-appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling
-Practice and apply the correct formation of manuscript letters in writing

Upper Merion Area School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious affiliation, national origin, sex, age, marital status or non-relevant handicaps and disabilities in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504. The district's commitment to nondiscrimination extends to students, employees, prospective employees and the community. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures or for information regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and useable by handicapped persons, contact Manager of Human Resources, Upper Merion Area School District, 435 Crossfield Road, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, 19406, (610) 205-6405.

Upper Merion uses *Fundations* by Wilson to teach phonics and the correct formation of manuscript letters. We use *Wonders* by McGraw Hill to teach Balanced Literacy. *Fundations* and *Wonders* are resources that teachers use to teach the Pennsylvania Core Standards.

MATHEMATICS

First Grade students explore the mysteries of mathematics with eagerness, curiosity, imagination, and enthusiasm. They learn to master basic addition and subtraction facts, count to 100 and beyond, use a variety of measurement tools, and describe and compare plane and solid figures as they begin to lay the foundation that will eventually lead to algebra and geometry.

- Count to 120, starting at any number less than 120.
- Understand that the two digits of a two-digit number represent amounts of tens and ones.
- Add within 100, including adding a two-digit number and a one-digit number.
- Use a strategy to add within 100 and explain the reasoning used.
- Subtract multiples of 10 in the range 10 - 90 from multiples of 10 in the range 10 - 90 (positive or zero differences).
- Use addition and subtraction within 20 to solve word problems.
- Apply the Commutative property of addition/subtraction and the Associative property of addition/subtraction to add or subtract.
- Order three objects by length; compare the lengths of two objects indirectly by using a third object.
- Tell and write time in hours and half-hours using analog and digital clocks.
- Compose two-dimensional shapes (rectangles, squares, trapezoids, half-circles, and quarter-circles) or three-dimensional shapes (cubes, right rectangular prisms, right circular cones, and right circular cylinders) to create a composite shape, and compose new shapes from the composite shape.
- Partition circles and rectangles into two and four equal shares, describe the shares using the words halves, fourths, and quarters.

SPECIALS

Art -- First-grade art concentrates on understanding and using the Elements of Art to express themselves. These skills include the use of line, shape, color, texture, value, solid form, and space. The district art show in May features student work.

Music -- In general music students listen, sing, connect, create, play, and move. Students continue to learn about dynamics, tempo, steady beat, and pitch. They begin reading basic music notes, use musical percussion, and make connections to children's literature. All elementary students have access to the online curriculum available through *Musicplay*.

Health -- Our health education promotes wellness, personal responsibility, positive decision-making, and using S.M.A.R.T. goals. Students will study a variety of themes in health class that are taught at the age appropriate level for each topic. The health themes covered include: Social and emotional health, human growth and development, hygiene and disease prevention, nutrition and fitness, safety and injury prevention, and learning about the effects of drugs that help or hurt our bodies.

Physical Education -- In physical education students will learn about how lifestyle behaviors you develop now will have an impact on your wellness in the future. The curriculum is designed to promote physical fitness,

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effective communication, teamwork, sportsmanship and a determination to do your best. A basic tenet of the student's experience is that physical activity positively impacts your physical, mental, and social and emotional wellness. The main curriculum themes include: Movement (locomotor and non-locomotor movements), fitness (health and skill based fitness, manipulative games (throwing, kicking, sticking, bouncing), cooperative and creative games (working together), invasion games (soccer, basketball), net wall games (volleyball, tennis), recreational games (tag games, ga-ga ball, bocce), and safety (spatial awareness). Our goal is to have students up and moving 80% of their class time!

Library -- During library time, students listen to read-alouds, participate in lessons related to children's literature, and learn to locate and select books. School counselors provide lessons to students in place of some library periods.

SCIENCE and SOCIAL STUDIES

Science topics of study include plants (seeds), animals (frog life cycle), weather, matter (solid, liquid, gas), and various STEM challenges. Social Studies topics include citizenship, holidays, wants v. needs, map skills, and community helpers.

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