

# FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

First grade students proudly develop and celebrate their independence in this pivotal year. Nightly homework and spelling tests are introduced, and students use the opportunities to build their organization and study habits.

Through small, targeted guided reading groups, students learn a variety of strategies to support decoding, engage in word work, and build comprehension skills across an assortment of genres. First grade authors develop written pieces during Writing Workshop and eagerly share them with classmates in the Author's Chair each day. Perhaps a favorite writing project of our students is a nonfiction research project on bats!

First graders celebrate themselves as mathematicians. Each day, math centers, partner work, and hands-on games and activities fuel mathematical learning.

Students relish their increased time in the science lab as the subject becomes fully departmentalized, and they particularly enjoy their time in the Drost Greenhouse as part of their plant study.

Students venture off campus for field trips in their first grade year, a highlight of which is a visit to the Children's Village at The Magic House as a culmination of their study of economics in social studies.

## Reading

Help students utilize decoding strategies while reading for meaning independently | Self-correct and monitor for meaning during reading | Solidify sight word knowledge | Engage in phonics instruction in long and short vowels, irregular vowels, blends and digraphs | Use a variety of strategies to decode more complex and unfamiliar words | Identify basic parts of speech | Develop reading fluency by pausing at punctuation, reading in longer phrases, and incorporating expression | Read and build comprehension of a variety of genres | Deepen comprehension by recalling information that is both explicit and implicit within the text | Recognize basic story elements, main idea and supporting details and draw conclusions from a text | Respond to comprehension questions using text to support thinking

Resources used: Foundations | Classroom fiction and nonfiction literature sets | Kids A-Z | |Xl | Scholastic Magazine | Osmo

## Writing

Brainstorm creative writing topics | Develop writing with a clear beginning, middle, and end | Experiment with opening hooks, word choice, and sentence structure | Write a variety of genres, including small-moment stories, non-fiction, persuasive writing, realistic fiction, letter writing, journal writing, and poetry | Engage in daily independent practice with editing and conventions | Share writing with peers in the Author's Chair | Memorize and present a poem of choice | Begin weekly spelling tests

Resources used: Writing Workshop | 6 +1 Traits of Writing | Foundations

## Mathematics

Recognize place value through the thousands | Decompose numbers to 20 | Indicate greater than, less than, or equal to | Tell time to the half hour | Identify coins and calculate small coin and dollar combinations | Solve “Estimation Mysteries” and provide estimates for two-digit addition and subtraction problems | Identify lines of symmetry | Introduce fractions and geometric figures | Write a number problem to solve a word problem | Use standard and non-standard measures for measuring length | Engage in math games and centers in small groups | Encourage mental math skills and number conversations

Resources: Everyday Math | IXL

## Social Studies

Build understanding of how to earn and budget with money | Explore needs and wants and supply and demand | Participate in a field trip to The Magic House connected to the study of economics | Read and explore a variety of print and digital resources to synthesize information and draw conclusions about historical events | Complete writing projects connected to social studies topics | Study maps to identify continents, landforms, and directions

Units of study include: Economics | Maps | The First Thanksgiving | Global and Domestic Poverty | Missouri history and landmarks

## Science

Make predictions and hypotheses | Incorporate specific scientific vocabulary into classroom discussions | Sequence the life cycle of various living things (i.e., butterfly, frog, chicken) | Define vertebrates and their characteristics | Explain the purpose of all major body systems | locate major organs and body parts | Identify types of teeth and parts of teeth and key aspects of dental care | Understand what plants need to grow and plant a variety of types of plants

Units of study include: Vertebrate Animals | Human Body | Dental Health | Plants (includes planting in the greenhouse) | life Cycles

## Art

Use the concepts of line, shape, color, texture and form to express themselves creatively | Explore a wide variety of art media including paint, various drawing supplies, clay, collage, textiles and sculpture | Develop observational skills through drawing | Identify primary and secondary colors and understand how color mixing is used to create them by making color wheels and understanding warm and cool colors | Use knowledge of shapes and textures to create clay owls | Create multi-media art projects

## Music

Distinguish between high and low tones from singing and instruments | Identify and incorporate dynamic levels | Build a repertoire of folk songs, chants, games and pentatonic songs | Distinguish between long and short sounds and imitate patterns with long and short sounds | learn the dynamics “piano” and “forte” | Use rhythmic knowledge to decode the rhythms in familiar songs | Read rhythms and write rhythmic notation including quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests | Begin introduction to Orff instruments and learn mallet technique | Begin reading three note songs and melodies | Use bodies as instruments to add percussion to familiar songs | Build confidence performing in front of classmates | learn songs and perform in whole school concerts and performances

## Spanish

Practice simple greetings through songs and chants | Build vocabulary related to greetings, colors, families, transportation, ocean animals, classroom objects and supplies, months of the year, sizes, fruits and vegetables, parts of the body, and numbers 1-20 | Introduce Spanish vowels and some consonants | Conjugate verbs in first person | learn additional common verbs | Combine vocabulary to write short sentences | Engage in treasure hunts, parades, and simple games | learn about traditions from Spanish-speaking countries (Dia de los Muertos, Navidad, Cinco de Mayo)

Resources include: Rockalingua | Pocoyó en Español | Bilingual picture books | Youtube Channels (Pingfong en Espanol, Smile and learn en Espanol, Super Simple en Espanol, Basho and Friends)

## Library

locate A through Z in the E second of the library | Explain the significance of the Show Me Readers Award | Identify the difference between E/F and NF literature and locate these sections of the library | locate books in the library that are a “good reading fit” | Identify story elements within picture books | Begin to understand what it means to be a digital citizen

## Physical Education

Our lower school curriculum is movement-based. Students learn through gameplay and skill development. From Junior Kindergarten to second grade, our program is a spiraling curriculum that builds upon itself. Through this curriculum, our students will also develop and grow in sportsmanship, cooperation, and physical fitness.

Hit a stationary and moving target | Catch rebounded ball | Kick a self-dropped ball | Run at various speeds | Further build tumbling skills (bridge, back rocker) | Jump in the “front door” of a long rope

## Specialty Subject Schedule

Science — 45 minutes, 4 times a week  
Art — 45 minutes, 2 times a week  
Music — 30 minutes, 2 times a week  
Spanish — 30 minutes, 2 times a week  
library — 45 minutes, 2 times a week  
Physical Education — 30 minutes daily