

Parents' Guide to Student Success



This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 1st grade in English Language Arts and mathematics. This guide is based on West Virginia's College and Career Readiness Standards. If your child is meeting expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 2nd grade.

1ST GRADE

English Language Arts & Literacy

In first grade, students will focus on building foundational literacy skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Instruction emphasizes developing confident readers and writers through phonics, comprehension, and expression.

Students learn to decode and recognize high-frequency words, understand basic story elements, and engage with both fiction and informational texts. Writing instruction includes forming complete sentences, using correct capitalization and punctuation, and expressing ideas through simple narratives, opinions, and informative pieces. Speaking and listening skills are strengthened through conversations, storytelling, and responding to texts.

Example classroom activities:

- Practice phonics and word recognition through guided reading groups and word-building games
- Read short stories and identify characters, setting, and main idea using graphic organizers
- Write simple sentences and short stories about personal experiences
- Participate in shared reading and read-aloud discussions to build comprehension
- Use drawing and labeling to support early writing and storytelling
- Engage in partner conversations to ask and answer questions about a text
- Learn and practice spelling patterns and high-frequency words

Mathematics

In first grade, students build a strong foundation in basic math concepts. Instruction focuses on developing number sense, solving problems, and understanding how numbers and shapes work in everyday life. They also practice important mathematical habits, such as explaining their thinking, solving problems step-by-step, and using tools like drawings or objects to model ideas.

Example classroom activities:

- Add and subtract within 20 and begin solving simple word problems
- Understand place value (tens and ones) and work with numbers up to 100
- Measure and compare lengths using everyday objects
- Tell time (to the hour and half-hour) and identify coins
- Collect and interpret simple data (graphs, charts)
- Recognize, build, and describe 2D and 3D shapes