



English/Language Arts Curriculum – First Grade

Capital's English/Language Arts curriculum is aligned with the national Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Key features of the curriculum include reading (literature, informational text, and foundational skills), writing, speaking/listening, and language. A strong emphasis on higher-level comprehension skills provides opportunities for students to analyze and integrate information from multiple texts, noting similarities and differences in the points of view presented. Students read an abundance of different types of complex texts and engage in rich discussions and conversations that focus on text-based information. Students express their thinking verbally and in writing across the curriculum for various purposes and audiences. Teachers use research-based practices and materials to teach students the strategies they need to be successful readers and writers.

Students in grade one will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will continue to learn how to use word analysis skills to figure out unfamiliar words when reading and writing. Students will read, think, talk, and write about what they read in stories, articles and other sources of information. In their writing, students will work on putting together clear sentences on a range of topics using a growing vocabulary.

Listening and Speaking

- Describe people, places, things, and events expressing feelings and ideas clearly
- Participate in collaborative conversations by listening, responding to what others are saying, and asking questions

Foundational Skills

- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills when reading
- Increase word recognition and sight words
- Begin to read fluently with appropriate phrasing and expression

Reading Literature and Informational Texts

- Retell stories and demonstrate understanding of central ideas or messages
- Ask and answer questions about a story or about key details in a text
- Explain differences between texts that tell stories and texts that provide information
- Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details
- Know and use text features (headings, table of contents, etc.) to locate key facts or information in a text

Writing

- Understand that writing is a way to communicate ideas, thoughts, stories, and information
- Write using phonetic, transitional, and conventional spelling to communicate ideas, write stories, and record information
- Begin to use correct capitalization and punctuation when writing
- Write narrative, informative, or opinion pieces that include a clear beginning, sequence of events or details, and a sense of closure or ending
- Write to describe an event, provide information on a topic, or share an opinion
- Participate in shared research and writing projects