PARENT CURRICULUM GUIDE TO GRADE

1

CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

EST. 1954

EVERY DAY COUNTS

WELCOME TO FIRST GRADE

The Canon-McMillan School District believes in providing a well-rounded education that is strong in core academics: Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. In addition, students are provided with engaging experiences in the areas of Art, Library, Music, Physical Education, and Character Education.

The First Grade Curriculum Guide provides a snapshot of the learning experiences students will engage in during the school year. To view each content area's curriculum, please visit the Curriculum and Instruction page on the District website.

In the core content areas, instruction is teacher-led and includes modeling, guided practice, and frequent opportunities for students to demonstrate their understanding. High-quality print materials; including student workbooks, readers, and journals are an essential component of daily instruction. Research shows that students learn best when they engage with printed materials. Using print materials leads to greater focus, deeper understanding, and stronger retention. In return, students are able to apply what they have learned with confidence and independence.

The mission of the Canon-McMillan School District, in partnership with the community, is to teach, to challenge, to motivate and to support all students to maximize their full individual potential.

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BIG MACS
BIG
POSSIBILITIES

READING & WRITING 1

First grade is an exciting year as students build on the reading and writing foundation established in kindergarten. Students receive quality reading and writing instruction with our Structured Literacy approach to learning. This approach includes explicit, systematic instruction to help students acquire essential literacy skills. On a daily basis, teachers use multi-sensory strategies that incorporate visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile components during instruction. With this approach, students are actively engaged, which leads to better retention and stronger connections in the brain.

Throughout the year, students expand their knowledge of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, spelling, language development, and comprehension. Daily instruction and meaningful practice help students become more accurate, fluent, and independent readers and writers.

The first grade literacy block balances Foundational Skills with Knowledge Building through the use of Heggerty, Wilson Fundations, and Geodes decodable readers. Together, these programs strengthen phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, spelling, handwriting, and vocabulary while providing engaging, knowledge-rich texts that help students apply their reading skills and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

HEGGERTY

First graders continue practicing blending, segmenting, and manipulating sounds while strengthening their ability to hear and work with increasingly complex words. These skills support reading fluency and accurate decoding.

WILSON FUNDATIONS

Building on the foundational skills introduced in kindergarten, first grade students strengthen their phonics, decoding, spelling, handwriting, word recognition, and reading fluency through explicit, systematic instruction,

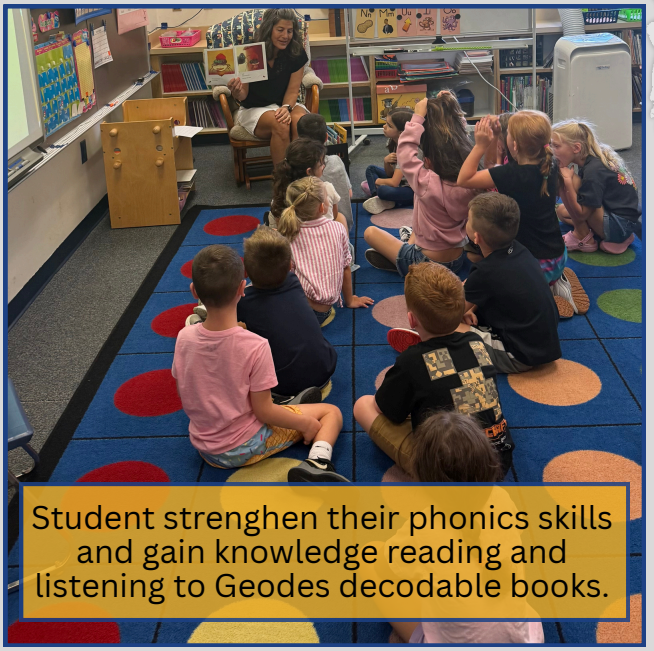
THE WRITING REVOLUTION

First-grade students develop strong writing skills through The Writing Revolution (TWR), a structured, research-based approach to writing instruction. Through explicit teaching and guided practice, students learn to write complete sentences, expand their ideas, organize their thoughts, and apply grammar and vocabulary skills.

Learn more about Canon-McMillan's Structured Literacy Program.

FIRST GRADE QUICK FACTS

- ☑ 120 minutes of literacy instruction daily
- ☑ Teacher- led explicit, systematic instruction with research-based programs to develop reading and writing fluency
- ☑ DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) given beginning- middle-, and end- of year to monitor students' reading development.

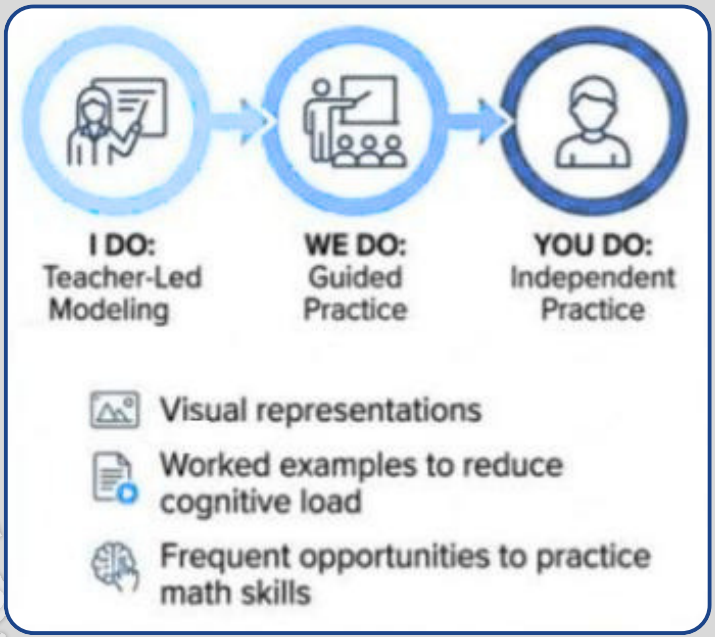


Student strenghen their phonics skills and gain knowledge reading and listening to Geodes decodable books.

MATHEMATICS

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In first grade, enVision+ Mathematics helps students develop number sense, strengthen their understanding of addition and subtraction, and learn to explain their thinking using a variety of strategies and mathematical models. Students develop fluency with addition and subtraction within 20, build place value understanding to 120, and explore measurement, time, data, and geometry. Through collaborative learning, visual models, and meaningful problem-solving experiences, students develop critical thinking, perseverance, and the mathematical skills needed for continued success in the elementary grades.



INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH

Using the **"I Do**, **We Do**, **You Do**" approach, teachers provide clear, direct instruction by modeling and explaining new concepts ("I Do"), guide students through supported practice ("We Do"), and then give students opportunities to apply their learning independently ("You Do").

This research-based approach ensures students receive the instruction, practice, and feedback needed to build mastery and become confident, independent learners.

ENVISION GRADE 1 TOPICS

TOPICS 1–6: Students develop fluency with addition and subtraction facts through 20 by using a variety of strategies to solve and explain mathematical problems.

TOPICS 7–8: Students build an understanding of place value by exploring the base-ten number system, counting patterns, and numbers to 120.

TOPIC 9: Students apply addition and subtraction strategies to solve problems with numbers to 100 while building accuracy, flexibility, and confidence.

TOPICS 10–11: Students identify, describe, compare, and partition two- and three-dimensional shapes while exploring their attributes and relationships.

TOPIC 12: Students learn to measure and compare lengths using standard units and apply measurement skills to solve real-world problems.

GRADE 1 MATH FACTS

- 60-75 minutes of instruction daily
- Fluency practice with basic facts and computation
- Hands-on activities with math manipulatives
- Topics are sequenced to support mathematics progressions that connect new content to prior knowledge.

Learn more about each topic by visiting the First Grade enVision+ Resource Page for families.

SOCIAL STUDIES

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First grade students explore the people, places, and communities that shape their everyday lives using Teacher's Curriculum Institute (TCI) Social Studies Alive! - My School and Family. Through engaging stories, maps, hands-on activities, and collaborative learning, they develop an understanding of geography, history, citizenship, economics, and culture. Students learn about families, schools, and communities, discover the importance of rules and responsible citizenship, and explore how people meet their needs and contribute to society.

MY SCHOOL AND FAMILY

Civics: Students learn the importance of cooperation, communication, and respecting others while building positive relationships at school. They explore how rules promote fairness and safety, practice solving problems together, develop leadership skills by setting a positive example, and recognize the value of different groups and communities.

Economics: Students explore different jobs and the important roles workers play in the community. They learn about needs and wants, make thoughtful spending decisions, organize tasks in sequence, and discover the qualities of being a responsible and caring neighbor.

Geography: Students learn to use maps, map keys, and compass roses to explore their world. They compare communities, discover how geography influences the way people live, and explore the diverse cultures, traditions, and family experiences that make each community unique.

History: Students explore how schools, families, and communities have changed over time by analyzing photographs, artifacts, and other primary sources. They develop an understanding of the past while using timelines and sequence words to identify the order of events.

Learn more about each unit by visiting the First Grade Social Studies Curriculum Map.

GRADE 1 SOCIAL STUDIES FACTS

- ☑ 60 minutes of instruction weekly
- ☑ Hands-on collaborative learning activities
- ☑ Visual learning with maps, timelines, charts, photographs



"...elementary social studies classrooms are "laboratorie of democracy," where young students develop social skills, grapple with complex ideas, and build a foundation for developing into civically knowledgeable and informed people in a democracy (NCSS, 2024)."

SCIENCE

1

In first grade, Amplify Science inspires students to think and work like scientists and engineers as they explore the natural world through hands-on investigations and real-world phenomena. Students ask questions, make observations, gather evidence, and design solutions while building a deeper understanding of life, physical, and Earth sciences. During the year, students investigate how plants and animals use structures to survive, explore how light and sound can be used to solve problems, and discover patterns in the sky caused by Earth's movement.

AMPLIFY SCIENCE GRADE 1

Animal and Plant Defenses: Students become marine scientists as they investigate how plants and animals use physical structures and behaviors to protect themselves. They apply their learning to explain how sea turtles survive in the wild and communicate their findings to others.

Light and Sound: Students take on the role of light and sound engineers to explore how light and sound travel and interact. They use their understanding to design shadow scenery and sound effects for a puppet theater.

Spinning Earth: As sky scientists, students observe the Sun, Moon, and stars to identify patterns in the sky. They investigate how Earth's movement creates day and night and explains why people in different locations may observe different skies at the same time.

Learn more about each unit by viewing the First Grade Amplify Science Unit Maps.

GRADE 1 SCIENCE FACTS

- 120 minutes of instruction weekly
- Hands-on investigations, experiments, and simulations
- Collaborative discussions, reading, and writing opportunities to explain scientific ideas

INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH



Amplify Science is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). It is designed to help students move beyond simply learning scientific facts to investigating real-world phenomena by gathering evidence, developing explanations, and applying their learning to solve new problems.



Students learn how animals protect themselves from predators by creating models of animals' defense system.

RELATED ARTS

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Related arts classes are an important part of every student's elementary school experience. Throughout the school year, students participate in Art, Music, Physical Education, and Library, where they develop skills and interests that complement their core classroom learning. Students also participate in Character Education lessons taught by the school counselor. These classes encourage creativity, curiosity, collaboration, healthy decision-making, and personal responsibility while giving students opportunities to discover new talents, build confidence, and develop lifelong interests. The elementary related arts program supports the growth of the whole child by helping students become well-rounded learners.



ART

In first grade art, students explore the basic elements and principles of art such as line, color, shape, texture, pattern, balance, and form. They experiment with drawing, painting, and printmaking while developing fine motor skills and creative confidence. Students learn to recognize art in the world around them, connect artwork to everyday life and cultures, and begin sharing ideas and feelings about their own artwork and the artwork of others.

MUSIC

- Sing a variety of songs and discover singing voice
- Compose rhythmic and melodic patters using voice, body percussion, classroom instruments and movement
- Identify rhythmic notation, terms and symbols at grade level
- Understand relationship of music to culture and history
- Demonstrate proper audience etiquette

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Practice exhibiting good sportsmanship skills to show respect to self and others
- Understand importance of physical activity in all environments (classroom, home, and community)
- Work on both locomotor and non-locomotor movements
- Improve ability to move at different speeds, in space and in distance
- Develop manipulative skills such as ability to throw, catch, kick, punt and dribble.
- Develop striking skills using hands, feet, and striking instruments.
- Complete cardiovascular, flexibility, muscular endurance, muscular strength, agility, and balance exercises.

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LIBRARY

- Enjoy a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction books through engaging read-alouds and discussions.
- Explore fairy tales while identifying characters, settings, story elements, and common themes.
- Learn to distinguish between fiction and nonfiction texts and compare information from different sources.
- Learn about the Caldecott Medal and discover how illustrations enhance stories and support meaning.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

- Develop self-awareness by helping students recognize, express, and manage their emotions.
- Builds positive relationship skills through kindness, empathy, cooperation, and respectful communication.
- Strengthens problem-solving and conflict-resolution skills for everyday situations.
- Helps students become positive contributors to their classroom community.
- Provides opportunities to practice teamwork, active listening, and collaboration through engaging activities.

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BIG MACS BIG POSSIBILITIES