



First Grade Curriculum Guide

- ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS • AMPLIFY CKLA
- MATHEMATICS • ENVISION
- SCIENCE • SAVVAS ELEVATE SCIENCE
- SOCIAL STUDIES • MCGRAW HILL IMPACT
- ELECTIVES

About this guide: This document describes the instructional programs, standards, pacing, and expectations for all First Grade students at Southfield Public Schools. It is intended to support teachers, families, and administrators in understanding what students learn and why.

CONTENTS

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Instructional Philosophy | 5. Mathematics — enVision | 9. Social-Emotional Learning |
| 2. English Language Arts — Amplify CKLA | 6. Science — SAVVAS elevateScience | 10. Assessment & Reporting |
| 3. The Science of Reading in Practice | 7. Social Studies — McGraw Hill IMPACT | 11. Family Partnership |
| 4. ELA Scope & Sequence Overview | 8. Electives | |

SECTION 1

Our Instructional Philosophy

Southfield Public Schools provides rigorous, joyful, and equitable instruction for every student. In First Grade, we build on Kindergarten's foundations while expanding students' capacity to read, think, communicate, and problem-solve across all content areas.

ALL STUDENTS CAN AND WILL READ

We use the Science of Reading to deliver explicit, systematic literacy instruction to every child. Amplify CKLA (Grades K–5) ensures all students receive the structured code instruction their brains need.

CURIOSITY DRIVES SCIENCE LEARNING

Students learn by investigating real phenomena. SAVVAS elevateScience anchors every unit in a question worth investigating and builds authentic scientific thinking from day one.

KNOWLEDGE FUELS COMPREHENSION

Decoding alone is not enough. Students who build rich background knowledge across history, science, geography, and literature become stronger readers over time. Our programs deliberately build this foundation at every grade level.

SECTION 2

English Language Arts

● Amplify CKLA — Third Edition

Grades
K–5

Southfield Public Schools has adopted **Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), Third Edition** as the core ELA instructional program for **Grades K–5**. CKLA is among the nation's highest-rated literacy curricula for alignment to the Science of Reading and the Common Core State Standards. Students receive two dedicated ELA blocks each day.

SKILLS STRAND • DAILY

Learning to Read

Explicit, systematic phonics — teaching students which letters and combinations represent which sounds in a carefully planned sequence. Grade 1 covers advanced vowel teams, r-controlled vowels, syllable types, and beginning morphology.

KNOWLEDGE STRAND • DAILY

Reading to Learn

Sequenced read-alouds build vocabulary, background knowledge, and comprehension across science, history, literature, and geography — the content knowledge that expert readers rely on throughout their academic lives.

Grade 1 ELA Learning Priorities

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS (RF.1)

- Long vowel teams: *ee, ea, ai, ay, oa, ow, oo, oi, oy, ew, ue*
- r-Controlled vowels: *ar, or, er, ir, ur*
- Consonant patterns: *tch, dge, kn-, wr-, ck*
- Open and closed syllable division; compound words; contractions
- Read with accuracy, rate, and expression (RF.1.4)
- Recognize and read irregularly spelled (Tricky) words

LANGUAGE (L.1)

- Inflected endings: *-ed, -ing, -er, -est* with spelling changes
- Prefixes *un-, re-* and suffixes *-ful, -less, -ness*
- Nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives; sentence types
- Correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling in writing

READING LITERATURE & INFORMATIONAL (RL.1, RI.1)

- Ask and answer questions about key details (RL/RI.1.1)
- Retell stories; identify central message or lesson (RL.1.2)
- Describe characters, settings, and major events (RL.1.3)
- Compare stories from different cultures (RL.1.9)
- Identify main topic and key details in informational text (RI.1.2)
- Use text features; explain author's reasoning (RI.1.5, RI.1.8)

WRITING (W.1)

- Write opinion pieces with a reason (W.1.1)
- Write informative/explanatory pieces (W.1.2)
- Write narratives with beginning, middle, and end (W.1.3)
- Participate in shared research projects (W.1.7)

Grade 1 Knowledge Domains

Domain	Content Focus	Writing Connection
D1. Fables & Tales	Aesop's fables, trickster tales, folktales; characters, morals, plot	Retell a fable; write a narrative response
D2. How Your Body Works	Skeletal, muscular, digestive, circulatory & nervous systems	Informative writing on a body system
D3. Similar Stories — World Cultures	Cinderella variants from China, Korea, Egypt; universal story themes	Compare two versions; narrative retell
D4. Reach for the Stars: Astronomy	Solar system, Earth's orbit, moon phases, space exploration, astronauts	Informative paragraph; labeled diagram
D5. Charting the World: Geography	Maps, globes, continents, oceans, regions of the United States	Create a map; informative postcard
D6. Animals & Habitats	Ecosystems, adaptations, food chains, endangered animals, conservation	Opinion writing: protect a habitat
D7. A New Nation: American Independence	Colonial America, the Revolution, Founding Fathers, Declaration of Independence	Informative essay on a Founding Father
D8. Once Upon a Time: Fairy Tales	Fairy tales worldwide; story structure; author's point of view	Write an original fairy tale
D9. From Babylon to the Nile: Early World Civilizations	Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, cuneiform, pyramids, hieroglyphics	Research writing; compare civilizations
D10. Adventure Stories: Tales from the Edge	Adventure genre; space exploration as narrative; author's craft	Draft and share an adventure story

SECTION 3

The Science of Reading in Practice

The **Science of Reading** refers to decades of research from cognitive science, linguistics, and education defining how the brain learns to read. Amplify CKLA (K–5) is built on this research, providing structured literacy instruction that works for all learners.

1

Phonological Awareness

Hear, blend, and segment sounds in spoken words

2

Phonics & Decoding

Map sounds to spellings systematically

3

Fluency

Read with accuracy, rate, and expression

4

Vocabulary

Build word knowledge through wide reading and discussion

5

Comprehension

Apply strategies to understand complex texts

STRUCTURED LITERACY IN EVERY CLASSROOM

Every CKLA Skills lesson follows a consistent structured literacy routine: phoneme awareness warm-up → phonics instruction → word reading and chaining → decodable text reading → spelling and writing practice. This predictable structure supports all learners, including students with dyslexia or language differences. End-of-unit Skills assessments guide differentiation and intervention at all grade levels K–5.

SECTION 5

Mathematics

● **enVision Mathematics** Grades K–5

Southfield uses **enVision Mathematics** for Grades K–5. The program combines problem-based learning with visual mathematical models. Each lesson opens with a *Solve & Share* task, followed by explicit instruction, guided practice, and assessment. enVision is fully aligned to the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSS-M).

OPERATIONS & ALGEBRAIC THINKING (1.OA)

- Add and subtract within 20 using various strategies
- Solve word problems using objects, drawings, and equations
- Understand the meaning of the equal sign
- Determine missing numbers in addition/subtraction equations

NUMBER & OPERATIONS IN BASE TEN (1.NBT)

- Understand tens and ones; place value to 120
- Count, read, write, and compare numbers to 120
- Add within 100 using place value understanding
- Mentally find 10 more or 10 less than any number

MEASUREMENT & DATA (1.MD)

- Order three objects by length; compare lengths indirectly
- Tell and write time to the hour and half hour
- Organize and interpret data with up to three categories

GEOMETRY (1.G)

- Distinguish between defining and non-defining attributes of shapes
- Compose and partition 2D and 3D shapes
- Partition circles and rectangles into equal shares

SECTION 6

Science

● **SAVVAS elevateScience** Grades K–5

Southfield has adopted **SAVVAS elevateScience** for Grades K–5. The program is fully aligned to the **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)** and anchors every unit in a real-world phenomenon students investigate through hands-on activities, science and engineering practices, and cross-cutting concepts. Students develop scientific literacy alongside content knowledge.

THREE DIMENSIONS OF SCIENCE LEARNING (NGSS)

Disciplinary Core Ideas

The key science concepts students need to know

Science & Engineering Practices

How scientists investigate and engineers design

Crosscutting Concepts

Ideas that apply across all science disciplines

Grade 1 Science Units

Unit & NGSS Standard	Phenomenon & Key Questions	Core Concepts
Unit 1: Light and Sound 1-PS4-1 through 1-PS4-4	How does sound travel? Why can we see through some objects but not others?	Vibration produces sound; light travels in straight lines; materials can block, absorb, or transmit light
Unit 2: Plants and Animals 1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1	What do plants and animals need to survive? How do offspring resemble their parents?	Basic needs of organisms; structures that help survival; inherited and learned behaviors
Unit 3: Sky and Seasons 1-ESS1-1, 1-ESS1-2	How does the sky change throughout the day and year? Why do we see different stars in different seasons?	Patterns of sunlight; moon phases; seasonal star patterns; day/night cycle
Unit 4: Weather and Climate K-2-ETS1-1 through K-2-ETS1-3	How do we prepare for different kinds of weather? How can we design a solution to a weather problem?	Seasonal weather patterns; weather forecasting; engineering design: test, evaluate, and improve solutions

SECTION 7

Social Studies

● McGraw Hill IMPACT Social Studies

Grades
K–

Southfield uses **McGraw Hill IMPACT Social Studies** for Grades K–5. IMPACT uses an inquiry-based approach anchored in compelling and supporting questions. Students investigate primary and secondary sources, construct arguments, and take informed action. The program integrates civics, economics, geography, and history in a cohesive, grade-level sequence.

GRADE 1 SOCIAL STUDIES — UNITS

Unit	Focus
Unit 1	Community & Citizenship — rules, responsibilities, rights; school and neighborhood community
Unit 2	Government & Civics — local leaders, laws, how government works, national symbols and holidays
Unit 3	Economics — wants vs. needs; goods and services; jobs and income; spending and saving
Unit 4	Geography — maps and map skills; physical features of the earth; landforms and bodies of water
Unit 5	History & Culture — family history and traditions; celebrations; how life has changed over time
Unit 6	Primary Sources & Research — using photographs, artifacts, and documents; asking historical questions

INQUIRY PROCESS (C3 FRAMEWORK)

- Construct compelling questions
- Gather and evaluate sources
- Develop claims with evidence
- Communicate and take action

KEY STANDARDS (MICHIGAN GLCE)

All IMPACT units are aligned to Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations for Social Studies, covering civic values, geographic literacy, historical thinking, and economic reasoning at the First Grade level.

SECTION 8

Electives

Elective offerings at Southfield Public Schools depend on the individual school building. First Grade students may have access to one or more of the following enrichment and specialty areas. Please contact your child's school directly for the specific elective schedule at your building.

WORLD LANGUAGE — SPANISH

Introduction to Spanish language and Latin American cultures. Students develop basic conversational vocabulary, practice listening and speaking skills, and explore cultural traditions through songs, games, and stories.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Gross motor skill development, spatial awareness, and cooperative play. Students participate in fitness activities, games, and movement challenges aligned to Michigan Health Education Standards, building habits of physical wellness that last a lifetime.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS — DANCE

Creative movement, rhythmic awareness, and expressive dance forms. Students explore elements of dance (body, space, time, energy) and develop coordination, self-expression, and cultural appreciation through movement.

TECHNOLOGY

Foundational digital literacy including keyboarding, responsible technology use, and introduction to digital tools. Students develop age-appropriate technology skills in alignment with ISTE Standards for Students.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS — MUSIC

Foundational music literacy including rhythm, melody, dynamics, and music from diverse cultural traditions. Students sing, play instruments, move to music, and explore musical concepts aligned to Michigan Visual and Performing Arts Standards.

NOTE TO FAMILIES

Elective schedules are determined at the building level and are subject to change. Contact your school's main office for the most current information about elective offerings and scheduling for your child.

SECTION 9

Social-Emotional Learning

Southfield Public Schools integrates social-emotional learning (SEL) throughout the school day. First Grade students develop competencies aligned to the **CASEL framework**: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. SEL is embedded in daily routines, morning meetings, and subject-area instruction.

FIRST GRADE SEL FOCUS AREAS

- Identifying and naming emotions; managing big feelings
- Building positive peer relationships and resolving conflicts
- Practicing empathy and perspective-taking
- Developing a growth mindset toward learning challenges
- Understanding community responsibility and school norms

INTEGRATION ACROSS SUBJECTS

CKLA Knowledge domains — including fables, tales about heroes, and stories about community — provide natural opportunities to discuss characters' emotions, decision-making, and social challenges. Teachers intentionally connect SEL competencies to literature and content throughout the year.

SECTION 10

Assessment & Reporting

Southfield Public Schools uses multiple forms of assessment to monitor student progress and guide instruction. Assessment data informs differentiation, intervention decisions, and communication with families.

Assessment Type	Program/Tool	Frequency	Purpose
ELA Skills Assessment	Amplify CKLA	End of each unit	Monitor phonics mastery; identify students needing support or enrichment
ELA Knowledge Assessment	Amplify CKLA	End of each domain	Assess vocabulary and comprehension; inform re-teaching decisions
Math Unit Assessments	enVision	End of each topic/unit	Measure mastery of CCSS-M standards; guide grouping and intervention
Science Performance Tasks	SAVVAS elevateScience	End of each unit	Evaluate NGSS science and engineering practices through authentic tasks
Social Studies Assessments	McGraw Hill IMPACT	End of each unit	Check understanding of civics, history, geography, and economics concepts
Progress Reports	Southfield SIS	4 times/year (quarterly)	Communicate student performance across all subject areas to families
Reading Fluency Check	CKLA / Teacher observation	Ongoing	Monitor reading accuracy, rate, and expression; flag for early intervention
State Assessments	Michigan M-STEP	Spring (Grade 3+)	Measure grade-level proficiency; Grade 1 does not take M-STEP

EARLY LITERACY SCREENING

In alignment with Michigan's Read by Third Grade Law, Southfield administers early literacy screeners to all students in Grades K–3 to identify students at risk for reading difficulties. Students identified as needing support receive targeted intervention through our tiered support system.

Family Partnership

Families are essential partners in student success. Here are meaningful ways to support your First Grader at home:

SUPPORTING ELA (CKLA) AT HOME

- Read together for at least 15 minutes daily — Student Readers from class are perfect for this
- Ask open-ended questions about stories: *"Who was your favorite character?"*
- Talk about Knowledge topics: *"Tell me what you learned about the solar system today"*
- Visit amplify.com/caregiver-hub/amplify-ckla for free family resources and the K–2 Sound Library

SUPPORTING MATHEMATICS AT HOME

- Practice counting, adding, and subtracting with everyday objects
- Tell time together using analog and digital clocks
- Talk about shapes and patterns in the environment

SUPPORTING SCIENCE AT HOME

- Go on nature walks and ask questions about what you observe
- Encourage questions: *"Why does that happen?"* — look up answers together
- Connect school units to real life (sound, light, weather, plants, animals)

STAYING CONNECTED

- Review quarterly progress reports and reach out with questions
- Attend parent-teacher conferences in fall and spring
- Contact your child's teacher whenever you have concerns or want to celebrate successes

CURRICULUM CONTACTS

For questions about First Grade curriculum, instructional programs, or assessment, please contact the **Southfield Public Schools Office of Curriculum & Instruction**. Your child's classroom teacher is always your first point of contact for questions about your child's specific progress and learning.



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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