1st Grade Instructional Plan

Welcome to First Grade!

Welcome to 1st Grade! This year we will focus on developing fundamental skills in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. Through a mix of hands-on activities, group work, and individual practice, students will build a strong foundation for future learning. The goal is to create a fun and engaging environment where children can grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

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Classroom Expectations

We work together to create a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment where every student is encouraged to do their best each day.

Expectation 1: Be respectful
- Use appropriate voice level
- Raise your hand, and wait your turn to speak
- Listen to all instructions and directions
- Stay in your assigned area unless given permission.

Expectation 2: Be responsible
- Complete all assigned tasks
- Be prepared: Have all necessary materials

Expectation 3: Be safe
- Always keep your hands and feet to self
- Walk at all times
- Report problems to an adult

Expectation 4: Be ready to learn and try your best every day
- Come to class on time
- Prioritize daily attendance

Positive reinforcement, visual aids, and clear routines will help students learn and meet these expectations.

If expectations are not met, the teacher will first reteach and remind the student(s) of expectations. If a student continues to fail to meet expectations, they will be redirected, then parents will be contacted. If a student is unable to meet expectations after these preventative measures, an office referral will be made.

Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Regular and consistent attendance is vital to your child's academic and social development. First grade lays the groundwork for high engagement and rigorous learning; consistency helps children build routines, develop friendships, and feel part of the classroom community. When students attend daily, they stay current with new skills and practice important habits that support lifelong learning.

Please notify the school if your child will be absent. Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years.

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Learning Objectives

Phonics Learning Outcomes
In phonics, students will:

- Hear, blend, segment, and manipulate sounds in spoken words.
- Match sounds to letters and spelling patterns.
- Read and spell words with short vowels, long vowels, blends, digraphs, vowel teams, r-controlled vowels, and word endings.
- Read and spell high-frequency and tricky words.
- Use phonics skills to read decodable texts accurately and fluently.
- Break words into syllables and word parts to help with reading and spelling.
- Apply spelling patterns in daily writing.
- Build fluency by reading with accuracy, appropriate speed, and expression.
- Use handwriting, spacing, capitalization, and punctuation correctly.
- Respond to decodable texts through speaking, drawing, and writing.

Reading Learning Outcomes
In Reading students will:

- Develop fluency, accuracy, and confidence as readers.
- Identify characters, setting, plot, problem, solution, theme, and other elements of literary texts.
- Read and understand a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts.
- Retell, summarize, and discuss stories and informational texts.
- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of what they read.
- Make predictions, draw conclusions, and make inferences using text evidence.
- Compare and contrast stories, characters, events, and informational texts.
- Identify the central idea and important details in informational texts.
- Use text features, illustrations, and graphics to gather information and support comprehension.
- Expand vocabulary by using context, illustrations, and newly learned words.
- Explain an author's purpose and recognize how authors organize information.
- Use reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills to communicate ideas and respond to texts.
- Conduct simple research using multiple sources to answer questions and share learning.
- Build knowledge through reading about science, history, cultures, geography, and other content areas.

Math Learning Outcomes
In math, students will:

- Count, read, write, compare, and order numbers up to 120.
- Use place value to understand tens and ones.
- Compose and decompose numbers in different ways.
- Add and subtract within 20 using objects, pictures, number sentences, and strategies.
- Solve word problems involving joining, separating, comparing, and unknown numbers.
- Explain mathematical thinking using words, models, drawings, and equations.
- Understand that the equal sign means both sides have the same value.
- Identify, sort, describe, and create two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes.
- Partition shapes into equal parts, including halves and fourths.
- Measure length using same-size units and explain measurement results.
- Tell time to the hour and half hour using analog and digital clocks.
- Identify coins and count collections of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters.

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- Collect, organize, represent, and interpret data using tally marks, T-charts, picture graphs, and bar-type graphs.
- Understand basic financial concepts, including income, spending, saving, wants, needs, and charitable giving.
- Apply problem-solving strategies to real-world math situations.

Science Learning Outcomes
In science, students will:

- Ask questions, make observations, and investigate the world using the scientific process.
- Collect, record, and communicate observations using drawings, writing, charts, and graphs.
- Use simple scientific tools safely to observe, measure, and compare objects and events.
- Identify and describe the physical properties of objects and materials.
- Investigate how heat, light, and forces affect objects.
- Observe weather patterns, seasons, and changes that occur in the natural world.
- Describe the basic needs, life cycles, and habitats of plants and animals.
- Identify the structures and functions of the human body and explain how healthy habits help the body grow and stay healthy.
- Recognize patterns in Earth, space, and the sky, including the Sun, Moon, and stars.
- Explain how people use science in everyday life to solve problems and make decisions.

Social Studies Learning Outcomes
In social studies, students will:

- Describe good citizenship by demonstrating responsibility, respect, honesty, and cooperation.
- Explain the purpose of rules, laws, and authority figures in homes, schools, and communities.
- Identify important people, symbols, holidays, and events in United States and Texas history.
- Compare life in the past with life today.
- Use maps, globes, and other geographic tools to describe places and locate communities.
- Describe how people live, work, and adapt to different environments and cultures.
- Explain basic economic concepts, including goods, services, wants, needs, income, saving, and spending.
- Identify how communities work together to meet the needs of their citizens.
- Develop an understanding of cultures, traditions, and historical civilizations through stories, informational texts, and classroom investigations.
- Ask questions, gather information from a variety of sources, and communicate ideas about history, geography, economics, and citizenship.

Instructional Resources

Our classroom uses a variety of research-based instructional programs and resources to support student learning across all subject areas.

Reading & Phonics

- Bluebonnet Learning Curriculum for phonics, reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing
- Magnetic Reading Foundations for differentiated small-group reading instruction
- Decodable readers to build phonics skills, fluency, and reading confidence
- Authentic literature and informational texts to build background knowledge, vocabulary, and comprehension across all content areas.

Mathematics

- STEMscopes Math for hands-on lessons, problem solving, math fluency, and digital learning activities

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Science

- Texas Experience Science Grade 1 for inquiry-based science instruction and hands-on investigations
- Science decodable readers to reinforce vocabulary, reading comprehension, and science concepts
- STEM investigations, experiments, and interactive activities

Social Studies

- Studies Weekly for engaging lessons in history, geography, economics, government, and citizenship
- Primary source images, maps, photographs, and informational texts to build content knowledge

Technology Resources

- i-Ready Reading
- i-Ready Math
- IXL Math
- Prodigy

Grading Policy

In 1st grade, student proficiency will be determined using a traditional grading scale. A minimum of 1 grade per week will be assigned to English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Student proficiency shall be reported using a 100 point system as outlined below.

Letter	Numerical Grade
A	100 – 90
B	89 – 80
C	79 – 70
D	69 – 60
F	59 and below

The primary purpose of grades is to evaluate and provide feedback to students, parents/guardians, and teachers on relative mastery of state standards. Grades should be fair, timely, and actionable information which can be used for continued learning and improvement. Grades shall reflect the students' progress towards proficiency of grade level learning standards, called the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Teachers should use various indicators to monitor and assess student progress; however it is not required that grades be assigned every time progress is assessed and feedback given.

MAKE UP WORK DUE TO ABSENCES
All students shall be allowed to make up work when they are absent from class. Students have the total number of school days absent plus one additional school day in which to complete the assignments. In certain circumstances where a prolonged illness or family emergencies are involved, an arrangement will be made between student and teacher for additional time to complete make-up work.

LATE & MISSING WORK
Missing assignments and grades earned below 70 are allowed to be corrected. These assignments will be given a two-week window. Any outstanding assignments after the two-week window will receive a final grade of 50. Any corrected work submitted within the two-week window will be assigned a maximum grade of 70.

Homework Policy

Homework is intended to reinforce classroom learning and build positive study habits. Homework is not graded but will be checked for completion and effort.

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Students should:

- Read or be read to for 10–15 minutes each evening.
- Practice weekly Tricky Words (high frequency words) each night.
- Complete occasional reading, writing, or math practice sent home to reinforce current learning.

Class Dojo (School-wide System of Communication)

Our campus uses ClassDojo to communicate with families. Please ensure you join our class for important updates.

We look forward to partnering with you to make this a successful and exciting year of learning!

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

I have reviewed the First Grade Instructional Plan and understand the classroom expectations, grading policies, communication methods, and instructional goals for the school year.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____