Springhurst Elementary School
Independent Thinkers Change Worlds

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First Grade Curriculum

The first grade experience at Springhurst is based on the belief that children learn by doing. When children are interested and actively involved, true learning occurs. Children learn best when provided with a wide range of stimulating ideas and activities that build upon their real life experiences. Our goal is to create classrooms where the children are free to explore, react, think and grow at their own pace. As teachers, we will provide learning experiences that integrate students' interests with the first grade curriculum.

English Language Arts

Bookworms, the K-5 curriculum, provides the instruction that each of the students needs and deserves as they are actively reading, writing, listening, and speaking about complex ideas every day. A Bookworms classroom has three designated literacy blocks each day: Shared Reading, English Language Arts, and Differentiated Instruction.

- Within the *Shared Reading* block, children will partake in rereading activities and discussions to build students' ability to read fluently, build vocabulary, and to think critically about text.
- The *English Language Arts* block features a read-aloud to build language and vocabulary knowledge, build world knowledge, and improve students' inferential thinking. During this time, students participate in genre-based writing with embedded grammar instruction.
- In the *Differentiated Instruction* time, children work through cycles of teacher-led and student-driven activities addressing specific individual needs.

Another component of the Bookworms Reading and Writing day is a dedication to word study. Word study is a type of spelling instruction that is designed to help children link sound and pattern so that they can read and spell unknown words. Students in all grade levels have a daily designated time for word study instruction and time to practice the words across the week.

Math

IM Math™ (Illustrative Mathematics) is fully aligned to the focus, rigor, and coherence of the standards, and has been given the stamp of approval by EdReports, earning perfect scores in the areas of Focus & Coherence and Rigor & Mathematical Practices. The scope and sequence of units, activities and representations are designed to help students develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts, build fluency with procedures and solve mathematical problems that reflect and connect to their lived experiences. A problem based curriculum, IM places a focus on student thinking and reasoning, mathematical discourse, and student collaboration.

Topics of Study for Grade 1:

- Addition, Subtraction, and Working with Data
- Addition and Subtraction Story Problems
- Adding and Subtracting within 20
- Numbers to 99
- Adding within 100
- Length Measurements within 120 units
- Geometry and Time
- Money

Link to family website: Illustrative Mathematics Website

Social Studies and Science

Our Social Studies curriculum stresses that children learn about themselves, their families and respecting others. We will learn about our town, in which we work, live and play. We strive to integrate all curriculum areas with our Science and Social Studies themes.

In science, we support the children's natural curiosity about their physical world by providing centers and units of study that allow them to have hands on experiences. We will also be using Science 21: A Comprehensive Standards-based Science Program for the 21st Century Learner. In first grade the units of study are: Space Systems: Patterns and Cycles; Waves: Light and Sound; and Structure, Function and Information Processing.

Character Education

Developing caring, responsible, and respectful community members through education and active participation is one of our primary goals as elementary school educators. Parental and guardian support is key to the success of some of these programs and initiatives. In grade 1, some of the topics we discuss in Second Step include: Skills for Learning, Empathy, Emotion Management, and Problem Solving.

Homework

English Language Arts: Instead of traditional homework, we encourage families to engage in reading together, discussing the themes and characters, and sharing personal reflections about the texts. The type of text chosen does not matter. Students can choose magazines, books, newspapers, blogs, informative texts, or fiction texts. All of these provide an opportunity for children to build vocabulary, world knowledge, and understanding of text structures. Also in line with Bookworms' philosophy around homework, they do not suggest sending spelling lists home, as the goal is to move away from rote memorization and to help students develop a strong understanding of spelling conventions and concepts.

Math: Math homework will be given on a regular basis. Teachers will communicate how and when homework should be turned in. The purpose of these assignments is to practice concepts the child is working on at school. Please set aside a quiet time and place for homework. Encourage your child to work independently as much as possible. Your interest in your child's work is an important component in the development of good work habits and a positive attitude.

Communication

Please remember that any changes to your child's dismissal must be completed through School Dismissal Manager. Throughout the year, we will be observing your child's growth and development so that we can support their individual needs. It is helpful to advise your child's teacher if your child had a particularly difficult time, is experiencing some sort of change, or is under any unusual stress. We are always available to discuss any thoughts, questions or concerns.

We look forward to a wonderful year with your child! Thank you!