WILLIAMSVILLE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Est. 1893

GRADE 1

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS

New York State learning standards outline what students should know and be able to do by the end of first grade while also developing the critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration skills needed for lifelong success. Throughout the year, first graders continue building independence as readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, artists, musicians, and responsible citizens. The skills identified below represent a consolidated list of the most important grade-level learning priorities. They are not intended to represent a comprehensive list of all standards or content taught during first grade. Instruction encompasses the full range of New York State grade-level standards across all subject areas.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

- Identify the main topic and central message in narrative and informational texts and locate supporting details.
- Apply learning when using conjunctions like because, so, and but when writing sentences.
- Evaluate and study how word parts (prefixes and suffixes) change the meaning of a word to support decoding of larger academic vocabulary.
- Apply letter sounds to complex patterns like the "magic e" (turning can into cane), vowel teams (ai, oa), and r-controlled vowels (ar, er, ir) to support reading longer, multi-syllable words.
- Identify parts of speech—nouns (people, places, things), verbs (action words), and adjectives (descriptive words) and apply mechanics such as capitalization and punctuation.
- Apply learning through the use of a plan-draft-edit writing process to write organized paragraphs for stories, reports, and opinion pieces.

MATH

- Read, write, and represent numbers to 120 using place value.
- Add and subtract within 100 using strategies, models, and place value understanding.
- Compare two-digit numbers using place value and the symbols >, <, and =.
- Solve addition and subtraction story problems using drawings, objects, and equations.
- Compose and combine two- and three-dimensional shapes to create new figures.
- Measure, tell time to the half-hour, organize data, and identify the value of coins.



SCIENCE

- Investigate how vibrating materials produce sound and how sound waves can make other materials vibrate.
- Explore how light illuminates objects to make them visible and experiment with how different materials (transparent, translucent, opaque) block or pass light to form shadows.
- Observe how living things use their external body parts (roots, leaves, shells, claws) to protect themselves, find food, and survive.
- Apply problem-solving skills by designing tools or products for human use inspired by plant and animal traits.
- Study how parent animals care for their young and observe that while offspring inherit traits from their parents, they are not exact duplicates.
- Observe predictable patterns of the Sun, Moon, and stars, and track how daylight hours change across different seasons.

SCREENING

- Grade-level assessments are designed to measure student progress, guide instruction, and ensure students receive the appropriate resources and support to meet grade-level expectations.
- Reading: The Aimsweb Universal Screener is utilized three times per year to assess each of the following: word reading fluency, oral reading fluency and nonsense word fluency.
- Math: The Bridges in Mathematics screeners are brief, teacher-led assessments utilized up to three times per year to identify student readiness, check prerequisite skills, and guide instructional support.

STATE ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- WIDA Access for students identified as English language learners



GRADE 1

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Explore how families are alike and different by examining traditions, backgrounds, roles, and ways people contribute to their communities.
- Investigate how schools, homes, transportation, and daily life have changed over time through the study of past and present communities.
- Learn about rules, laws, and the responsibilities of being a caring and responsible member of a family, school, and community.
- Develop geographic skills by using maps and globes to identify locations, directions, and features of the places where people live.
- Understand basic economic concepts, including needs and wants, producers and consumers, and how people exchange goods and services.
- Explore important national holidays, symbols, and historical figures while learning about events that have shaped the United States.

ART

- Create and develop original artwork by exploring, planning, and expressing ideas using a variety of materials, tools, and techniques.
- Present artwork by selecting, preparing, and sharing work while explaining artistic choices and creative processes.
- Respond to artwork by observing, describing, interpreting, and evaluating works of art using age-appropriate art vocabulary.
- Connect art to personal experiences, other subject areas, cultures, traditions, and historical contexts to deepen understanding of art and its role in the world.

MUSIC

- Create simple rhythms and melodies using singing, instruments, movement, and sound.
- Perform and respond to music by singing, playing, and moving while identifying basic musical elements (beat, tempo, dynamics, and pitch) and describing what is heard and felt.
- Present music by participating in classroom performances and demonstrating appropriate performance etiquette.
- Connect music to personal experiences, other subject areas, cultures, traditions, and historical contexts to deepen understanding of music and its role in the world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Demonstrate competency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns.
- Apply knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics related to movement and performance.
- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health enhancing level of physical activity and fitness.
- Recognize the value of physical activity for overall wellness, enjoyment, challenge, and/or self expression.

TIPS FOR PARENTS/ GUARDIANS

Literacy Support: Listen to your child read aloud, choosing simple books they can sound out easily.

Spelling and Patterns: Help your child practice high-frequency words and sort spelling words into patterns (e.g., words starting with "sh-").

Math: Practice math by asking your child to read clocks, count coins, or explain how they solved a simple addition or subtraction problem. When solving addition and subtraction problems, ask your child, "Can you think of a different way?" Using drawings, counting on, making ten, or using known facts helps develop flexible thinking.

Daily Writing: Expect your child to write every day using strategies they are learning in class.

Civic and Global Engagement: Share your family's traditions and help your child recognize and appreciate the different traditions of others.

Scientific Thinking: Encourage your child to ask questions, observe patterns in nature, weather, the sky, plants, and animals. Investigate how things work through hands-on exploration, and begin to explain their discoveries using words, drawings, or models.

Home Language Use: Use your native language at home with your child. Strong native language skills help students to succeed in school.