

Parent Newsletter



First Grade

September 2019

Each month, you will receive a Parent Newsletter. This is one way for us to communicate what is happening in the classrooms and throughout the school. Typically, this newsletter will include The Common Core State Standards we are addressing during the month and an update on school events.



Instructional Focus

A collaborative and coordinated school-wide initiative is for all teachers to use continued strategic assessments in instruction to ensure that all students can monitor their own understanding and clearly articulate the characteristics of high quality work.

All students will:

- Be engaged in all learning lessons and activities that will consist of multiple entry points for various types of learners .
- Create goals with their teacher and monitor their learning through the use of student-friendly rubrics, checklists, and learning standards .
- Learn how to use a student-friendly rubric to help them become strong readers, writers, mathematicians, artists, and scientists.

Assessment and Goal Setting in First Grade



The beginning of the year is a busy time for First Grade teachers as they are getting to know your child. They are assessing your child in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. They are analyzing your child's independent writing and giving them feedback on how they can write stronger sentences and even more lines. Teachers use both formal and informal assessments to make goals for and with your child. They use the assessments to plan meaningful learning experiences that will help your child meet and exceed the standards for First Grade. You can help your child reach his/her goals by reading with and to him/her every night, practicing high frequency words (also called "snap words"), addition and subtraction facts, and having your child write "stories" at home.



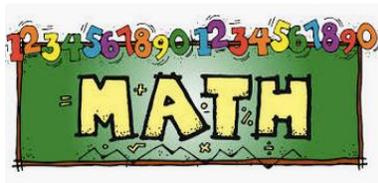
In this unit, “Building Good Reading Habits” first graders will be introduced to good reading habits through routines and rituals within the Reading Workshop lesson. Readers will learn to problem solve when they come to tricky words by using the beginning letter sound(s) or considering what would make sense based on what is happening in the story. First graders will also learn to double-check to be sure that what they are reading makes sense and looks right. First graders will learn to track print with their eyes and reread to make their voices sound smoother. The priority standards that will be addressed during this unit are:

- Develop and answer questions about key ideas and details in a text.
- Identify a main topic or central idea in a text and retell important details.
- Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, or pieces of information in a text.
- Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).



In this unit: “Small Moments: Writing with Focus, Detail, and Dialogue”, first grade students will use events from their lives and everyday experiences, to write “small moment” stories. First grade students will learn to choose an idea, plan their writing by sketching a story across the pages of a booklet, story-tell repeatedly until the story feels just write, and revise to bring more detail and life to their story. In this unit, students will learn to edit their writing by using an editing checklist and publish their writing. At the end of the unit, students will celebrate their favorite story by sharing it with others. The priority standards that will be addressed during this unit are:

- Write narratives, which recount real or imagined experiences or events or a short sequence of events.



We are excited to implement a new mathematics program this year called enVision $math$ 2.0 Common Core. This program, is a comprehensive mathematics curriculum aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Students will learn mathematics through project-based learning and visual learning strategies. In the first topic, students will learn about addition and subtraction. This topic will expand on what first graders learned in Kindergarten. Students will develop an understanding of addition and subtraction by understanding how to “add to”, “put together”, “take from”, “take apart,” and compare problems. The priority standard that will be addressed during this unit is:

- Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction.



In the Amplify Science program, students will be working on Unit Two, “Animal and Plant Defenses”. Students will learn about how plants and animals survive and about parents and offspring. Students will make physical models and write explanations to show what they learned about the structure and function of animal defenses.



In this unit, “Families and Communities are Important,” students will answer the essential question “Why are families important and how do they influence who we are?” Students will learn about ways that families are diverse and how they pass down customs and traditions. They will discuss the rules and routines that families have as well as how families take care of one another.

Important Dates

September 30 – October 1: Rosh Hashanah – School is closed.

October 9: Yom Kippur – School is closed.

October 14: Columbus Day – School is closed.

