

First Grade Syllabus
Rufus M. Hitch Elementary School
2019-2020

Contact Information:

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Overview:

First grade is an exciting time for growth, making friends, and learning new things each day! In order to create a safe and fun learning environment for all children, we have developed the following classroom norms:

- 1) Be Respectful
- 2) Be Responsible
- 3) Be Safe

Math:

Our math curriculum Math in Focus follows the Singapore Math model. This approach addresses fewer topics in greater depth, focuses on Common Core math concepts, develops concepts to mastery through a focus on problem solving, uses visual models for presenting concepts, and focuses on a meaningful transition to the abstract. In first grade children work to develop an understanding of the following mathematical principles:

Units of Study:

- Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction
- Understand and apply properties of operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction
- Add and subtract within 20
- Extend the counting sequence to 120
- Understand place value
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract
- Measurement and time
- Represent and interpret data
- Reason with shapes and their attributes

CC Standards addressed:

<http://www.corestandards.org/Math/Content/1/introduction/>

Literacy:

First grade is a time of tremendous growth in literacy! Students typically enter first grade reading level A/B/C/D texts independently, and the end of the year goal is for children to leave first grade reading at least level I/J books independently. Our Lucy Calkins' Reading Workshop curriculum is designed to help your child move up seven (or more!) reading levels. Each day we will:

- Read independently for about 20 minutes each day
- Read with a partner, listen to reading, and write about reading as part of our balanced literacy framework
- Frequently assess your child's reading abilities
- Meet with small groups of readers and provide lessons at their instructional level
- Provide children with books at their instructional and independent levels
- Study sight words, phonics, vocabulary, and literature
- Engage your child in digital reading through RAZ-Kids.com

CC Standards addressed:

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/1/>

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RI/1/>

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RF/1/>

Units of Study:

- Building Good Reading Habits
- Learning About the World: Reading Non Fiction
- Readers Have Big Jobs to Do: Fluency, Phonics, Comprehension
- Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons: A Study of Story Elements

Writing:

First graders love to write! Our Writing Workshop curriculum provides multiple opportunities for your child to write each day. These opportunities include:

- Learning and carrying out the writing process: brainstorming, writing, revising, editing, and publishing
- Celebrating finished, published pieces and sharing them with their peers, family, and the school community
- Learning to write multiple genres, including: how-to books (information), persuasive (opinion) writing, narratives, poems, songs, reviews, and more!
- Using digital tools to research, produce, and publish their writing
- Studying mentor authors

CC Standards addressed:

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/1/>

Units of Study:

- Small Moments: Writing with Focus, Detail, and Dialogue
- Writing Non Fiction Chapter Books (All About or How to Books)
- Writing Review or Opinions
- From Scenes to Series: Writing Fiction (Make Believe Stories)

Fundations Phonics:

We will begin a new program this year to support students' phonics skills. By the end, students will be able to do the following:

- Segment syllables into sounds (phonemes)—up to 5 sounds
- Name sounds of primary consonants, consonant digraphs, and short and long vowels when given letters
- Name and write corresponding letter(s) when given sounds for consonants, consonant digraphs, and short and long vowels
- Print all uppercase and lowercase letters
- Distinguish long and short vowel sounds
- Name sounds for r-controlled vowels
- Name sounds for vowel digraphs and vowel diphthongs
- Use conventional spelling for words with common spelling patterns and for frequently occurring irregular words
- Spell untaught words phonetically, drawing on phonemic awareness and spelling conventions
- Read and spell the first 100 high frequency words, including irregular words (trick words)
- Identify word structures such as blends, digraphs, basewords, suffixes, syllable types (closed and vowel-consonant-e syllables)
- Read and spell CVC, CCVC, CVCC, CCVCC, CVCe words
- Read and spell compound words and other words with two syllables by breaking them into syllables

- Read and spell words with -s, -es, -ed, -ing suffixes when added to non-changing basewords
- Apply correct punctuation (period, question mark, exclamation point)
- Apply capitalization rules for beginning of sentences and names of people, places and dates
- Explain major differences between fictional stories and informational text
- Explain narrative story structure including characters, settings and main events
- Retell key details of a fictional story and demonstrate understanding
- Use illustrations and/or details in a story to describe its characters, settings, and events
- Ask and answer questions about key details in a text
- Ask and answer questions to help determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases in a text
- Identify specific words in a story that tell or suggest details
- Identify who is telling the story at various points in a text
- Identify the main topic and retell key details of informational text
- Identify and explain new meanings for familiar words and newly taught words
- Produce and expand complete simple and compound declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences in response to prompts
- Construct complete sentences using vocabulary words
- Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase
- Identify frequently occurring root words (e.g., look) and their inflectional forms (e.g., looks, looked, looking)
- Sort words into categories to gain a sense of the concept the category represents
- Define words by category and by one or more key attributes
- Apply beginning dictionary skills
- Identify real-life connections between words and their use
- Use verbs to convey a sense of past, present, and future
- Read controlled stories with fluency, expression and understanding

Units of Study:

- Talking and Thinking about Letters
- The Mystery of the Silent E
- From Tip to Tail
- Word Builders
- Marvelous Bloopers

Social Studies:

This year we will study the world around us while also using our literacy and math skills. We are lucky enough to receive a weekly copy of *Scholastic News*. This weekly magazine allows us to study and discuss the following first grade state of Illinois Social Studies and Science topics and units:

September <ul style="list-style-type: none">● School Rules● Manners● Meet an Author● What Scientists Do	February <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Presidents’ Day● Black History Month● American Symbols● How It’s Made
October	March

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pumpkins ● Autumn Changes ● Fire Safety/Firefighters ● Bats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read Across America Day ● Habitats ● Spring Babies ● What's in the Soil?
November/December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Veterans Day ● Pilgrims/Wampanoag ● Hibernation ● Science of Light 	April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Earth Day ● Life Cycle ● Endangered Animals ● Inventions From Nature
January <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ● The Science of Sound ● New Year's Traditions ● Pushes and Pulls 	May/June <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summer Sky ● Sharks ● Summer Safety ● Animals Stay Cool

Science:

We will be implementing a new curriculum called Amplify this year. This program provides lots of critical thinking opportunities and hands-on experiences! The students will learn the following topics: Animal and Plant Defenses, Light and Sound, and Spinning Earth.

Second Step:

This is a new program this year. It is a universal program designed to increase students' school success and decrease problem behaviors by promoting social-emotional competence and self-regulation. It teaches skills that strengthen students' ability to learn, have empathy, manage emotions, and solve problems. Equipping students with Second Step skills creates a safer, more respectful learning environment that promotes school success for all. The units include:

- Skills for Learning
- Empathy
- Emotion Management
- Problem Solving

Calm Classroom:

Everyday students will engage in a short peaceful time called Calm Classroom where they will work on self-awareness, focus, and emotional resilience.

Homework:

Most nights you can expect your child to bring home the following: their homework folder, agenda, reading/spelling notebook, and math homework. Children are expected to complete a spelling activity of their choice Tuesday and Wednesday each week. This activity should be completed in their spelling notebook and will be checked for completion. On Thursdays, please help your child study their spelling words in preparation for the test on Friday. Later in the year, an additional assignment with RAZ will be added.

Math homework is aligned with the math work completed in the classroom on that same day and is intended to reinforce the concepts from class. It will be checked for completion. Homework is two-sided. One side is at level and the other is advanced. Only one side is required. However, you can do both sides if you wish. If homework is taking more than 45 minutes per day, please let your teacher know so we can modify the assignments.

We also encourage you to read with your child in addition to their nightly homework!

Our Grading Scale:

- A 100-90
- B 89-80
- C 79-70

D 69-60

F 59-0

Students will be graded with rubrics and with percentage of items correct (9 out of 10 = 90%). Generally, grades are weighted using the following categories:

Exams - 30%

Quizzes - 20%

Classwork (Workshops) - 30%

Homework - 10%

Projects - 10%