



## **First Grade Curriculum**

Our multiage TK/KOne class provides students ages four through six with a nurturing and collaborative community where children are known and respected for their individual strengths. Students who begin the program in K grade spend two years with our teaching team (teacher, aides, behavior specialist, and TOSA), ensuring continuous academic and social growth.

Our thematic curricula starts the ONEs with the concept of Tools, then moves into the Sun and Moon/Day and Night, and culminates with Birds and Flight. These thematic units integrate most of the elements: social studies, language arts, science, math, art, and music, and they provide a meaningful context in which students develop their skills.

## **OVERVIEW**

Students in the first grade are ready to learn more about the world they live in, about the choices they make, and about their responsibilities to other people. They begin to learn how necessary it is for people and groups to work together and how to resolve problems through cooperation. Students' expanding sense of place and spatial relationships provides readiness for new geographic learning and a deeper understanding of chronology. Students also are ready to develop a deeper understanding of cultural diversity and to appreciate people from various backgrounds and ways of life that exist in the larger world that they are now beginning to explore. Students also begin to develop economic and financial literacy as they learn about work in school, in the home, and outside the home, and the exchange of goods and services for money. Students increase their knowledge of cost-benefit analysis by recognizing that choices have consequences. Teachers should also work collaboratively with their colleagues who teach kindergarten and grades two and three to avoid repetition. The content themes they begin in kindergarten—such as understanding of and appreciation for American culture and government, geographic awareness, and (starting in grade one) economic reasoning—serve as a multigrade strand that can allow an extended and relatively in-depth course of study

## LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts is integrated into all areas of the curriculum and includes reading, writing, listening and speaking.

### READING

Our goal is for children to recognize the enjoyment that reading brings and the patterns that exist within language for decoding and spelling. Children read individually, as well as to peers and teachers, and meet in small language arts groups. They express their understanding and appreciation of literature through dramatic interpretations and adaptations of stories. Through lively discussions, children make connections between characters and the plot and learn to recognize patterns of language. This process enables children to develop an appetite for independent reading and to think about literature and language patterns.

#### Skills

- Acquire sight words
- Begin dictionary skills
- Develop rich, descriptive, accurate vocabulary
- Decode using context
- Decode phonetic elements
- Develop independence in reading
- Read with oral fluency and expression
- Develop comprehension skills
- Respond to oral and written questions
- Discuss content and meaning
- Dramatize stories
- Syllabicate words and apply knowledge to decode
- Read independently

### WRITING

Children dictate and write stories using their own resources for content and spelling. As children write, they learn that recording their experiences makes lasting impressions. In first grade, children are exposed to the steps of the writing process: writing rough drafts, conferencing with peers and teachers, and revising their work. Children are expected to use their phonetic skills within the context of inventive spelling. Writing within thematic content areas helps students to relate facts and to create longer pieces of writing.. We utilize the Handwriting Without Tears program.

#### Skills

##### Composition

- Dictate sentences and stories
- Write sentences of varying complexity
- Write sentences and stories to represent personal experience
- Apply phonetic instruction to written work
- Draft, revise, edit
- Create original poems and stories
- Use correct sequence of events
- Describe, using developing vocabulary

## Conventions

- Apply knowledge of phonics and word families
- Apply spelling skills in independent writing
- Decode short, long vowel sounds
- Decode consonant blends, consonant digraphs
- Use sight words in writing
- Use inventive spelling independently
- Develop awareness of sentence structure:
  - Develop awareness of grammatical structure
  - Apply rules of capitalization and punctuation
  - Writing in complete sentences
- Penmanship: Handwriting Without Tears
  - Learn/review proper letter formation for upper and lowercase letters
  - Position letters appropriately on lines
  - Use correct pencil grip
  - Develop directionality when writing
- Recognize nouns, verbs, and adjectives

## MATHEMATICS

The math program in First is taught by grade due to developing mathematical concepts. There are times throughout the year when grades collaborate on a math project or one grade helps the other further their thinking. For example, Grade One sorts coins collected for UNICEF, and counts each group of coins to find the totals. They give all the totals to Grade Two who then use their addition skills to figure out the grand total of all the money donated.

### *ONEs*

Through the use of manipulatives, children discover relationships between numbers and patterns. While building basic mathematical concepts they learn to predict patterns in mathematics using manipulatives and written materials. Our mathematical units include number sense, numeration, number and geometric patterns, balancing equations, addition, subtraction, missing addends, multiplication as repeated addition, value systems, simple fractions, time, and money. Estimating, predicting, graphing, and problem solving are always part of the math curriculum.

### Skills

#### Number

- Read and write numbers 1-100
- Group by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s
- Apply grouping concept when adding and subtracting
- Count quantities greater than 100
- Recognize 1s and 10s places
- Form addition and subtraction stories
- Solve addition equations
- Solve equations with missing addends
- Introduce multiplication concept as repeated addition

- Document work with stamps, stickers, drawings, symbols, and numerals

#### Logical Reasoning and Relationships

- Identify and name attributes of sets
- Group by likeness or difference
- Group into subsets
- Organize objects by size and weight
- Introduce intersections of sets
- Reproduce, extend and compare patterns
- Use graph to make comparisons
- Use equalities and inequalities
- Estimate and test hypotheses
- Learn about simple fractions  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $\frac{3}{4}$

#### Measurement

- Time: Tell time - hour, half-hour, and quarter-hour
  - Understand 30 minutes =  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour, 60 minutes = 1 hour
  - Gain a sense of time (one minute, 30 minutes, one hour)
  - Sequence times in a day
- Linear: Introduce measurement to nearest inch, foot, yard
- Area: Count squares on graph paper
- Mass: Balance, weigh

#### Geometry

- Name shapes and recognize shapes in structures
- Construct designs with pattern blocks
- Recognize symmetry

## ART

First grade art is a sequential program integrating the life of a student and thematic studies with an in-depth study of studio art. Projects rotate according to the classroom theme for the year.

#### Shapes, Marks and Lines

- Animal drawings and paintings
- Drawing imaginary objects
- Sequential drawings that tell a story
- Capture characteristics of objects found in nature
- Create Large-scale collages
- Paint from observation
- Capture facial expressions in a series of drawings
- Draw from natural and man-made subject matter (perspective)

#### Color

- Review of color mixing with primary and secondary colors plus black and white
- Symbolic use of color in facial expression drawings
- Capture observed color in drawings and paintings of observational subject matter
- Learn to read the color wheel
- Blending dark and light variations of color in paint exploration
- Blending colors in the painting of landscapes and seascapes

#### Texture and Pattern

- Paper relief faces
- Multi-media creature collage
- Surface textures in clay constructions
- Etching into Styrofoam in a print-making process
- Exploring pattern possibilities through paper weaving
- Exploring animal patterns in mobile construction

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students in first grade work on a variety of skills designed to help improve eye-hand coordination, balance, sense of rhythm, locomotor skills, physical fitness, and overall coordination.

#### Skills

- Manipulative skills (throw, catch, kick, dribble, strike)
- Balance and coordination
- Locomotor skills (run, hop, skip, jump, leap, slide)
- Social skills, positive self-concept, teamwork and cooperation
- Body and spatial awareness
- Sense of rhythm

#### Activities

Locomotor skills, fitness activities,, kickball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, cooperative games, relays, fitness stations, balance activities.

## LIBRARY

First grade students are encouraged to use their classroom library for its quiet space, to treat library materials responsibly, and to enjoy books. The main goals of the classroom library program are to have students gain an appreciation for a “good story” (literature appreciation), and to recognize that information can satisfy one’s curiosity (information literacy). Children can begin to be able to find resources independently in the classroom library.. Children are encouraged to enjoy themselves while observing library etiquette so others can concentrate and use their time well.

#### Literature Appreciation Skills

- Listen and visualize during read alouds
- Participate in discussion of story or other group activity
- Recall and summarize what has been listened to and seen
- Select books of interest at appropriate reading level

- Identify most methods of book illustration, i.e., photograph, watercolor or oil painting, drawing, ink sketch, lithograph
- Use illustrations to acquire a greater understanding of the story
- Understand the difference between an author and an illustrator
- Listen to literature for pleasure and information
- Read, write, and listen to poetry
- Dramatize stories