

First Grade

- 8:15 AM – 3:00 PM (Extended Day available until 6:00 PM)
- Number of classes: 2
- Class size: Maximum 18
- Two teachers, one teaching associate
- Specialist instruction in art, drama, library, music, PE, Spanish, science, robotics, and technology

FIRST GRADE HIGHLIGHTS:

- The introduction of the specialist class science
- Robotics and coding using LEGO® Education WeDo 1.0 materials
- Flat Stanley project

In first grade, curriculum and instruction are designed to develop children's self-esteem, sense of competence, and positive feelings toward learning. Each child is viewed as a unique person with an individual pattern and timing of growth. Different levels of ability, development, and learning styles are expected and accepted, and curriculum is adapted with these variabilities in mind.

Children are allowed to move at their own pace in acquiring the important skills they need to be successful. The curriculum is integrated; academic areas and the arts are combined to explore specific concepts and themes. Learning occurs primarily through skill-focused lessons, projects and learning centers, and playful activities that are concrete, real, and relevant to children's lives as students today and stewards of our Earth tomorrow.

Our curriculum honors the experiences and perspectives of different social groups. The learning environment is designed to encourage mutual respect, personal responsibility, cooperation, natural curiosity, creative thinking, and problem-solving skills.



Language Arts • Reading, writing, listening, and speaking are the four essential components of our literacy program. Text selections as well as our writing topics provide opportunities for discussions revolving around personal characteristics that create positive global citizens. The goal of our language and literacy program is to give students the tools and confidence to be self-motivated writers and readers.

First graders will grow as **readers** by:

- Exploring fiction and nonfiction literature
- Reading “just right” books independently and with partners
- Learning and applying phonics through direct instruction
- Develop phonics and comprehension skills through small group instruction
- Completing a Home Reading Project
- Participating in interactive read alouds that provide the opportunities to think, discuss, and respond

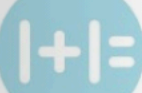


First graders will grow as **writers** by:

- Using proper letter formation using the Handwriting Without Tears method
- Embracing the “writers are brave” mentality as they work from inventive to conventional spelling
- Learning about sentence structure, capital letters, grammar, and punctuation
- Trying persuasive, narrative, and informative types of writing
- Learning to model the prewriting process using graphic organization
- Reading mentor texts to guide and inspire
- Editing, revising, and utilizing checklists with peer and teacher support



Math • The goal of our daily first grade math routine is to meet the needs of each student in the class through fluid math groupings. The math work occurs through whole and small group lessons, differentiated instruction, games, and individual practice. Developmentally, children begin to move from concrete materials to more symbolic work using the EnVision math curriculum as well as additional materials and lessons to meet best practices.



First graders will grow as **mathematicians** by exploring these areas:

- Number and Operations
- Place Value
- Data and Measurement
- Geometry
- Time
- Fractions

Social Studies • The first grade focus is on self, families, and community. In our classrooms, children learn respect for individual differences, taking pride in themselves and their efforts, and care for their community and environment.



Students will grow as community members by:

- Participating in morning meeting which sets a positive, respectful, and safe tone for the classroom each day
- Thinking about themselves as individuals including self-care
- Engaging in sustainable practices by packing lunches in a waste-free manner and recycling and composting in the classroom
- Using the Flat Stanley project as one of the many ways to practice map skills and discover family structures throughout the world
- Seeing Changemakers in our history, read aloud stories, local community, and in themselves
- Going on field trips to learn through hands-on and in-person experiences

Social-Emotional Learning • Students in first grade focus on the core competencies of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making. Drawing from a variety of resources including the Institute for Social-Emotional Learning, Responsive Classroom, and the Virtues Project, our approach is to teach social-emotional skills directly through lessons and examples as well as indirectly through teachable moments as they arise when children learn and play in community.



Specialist Classes • First graders also learn from our specialist teachers in the areas of art, drama, library, music, PE, Spanish, science, robotics, and technology.

