

What to Expect in FIRST GRADE

Purpose of the Grade Level Guide

- Provide parents a general overview of the content taught at each grade level
- Provide information regarding the district instructional materials used to teach the content
- Provide key communication tools that provide information on student progress
- Provide information regarding district testing
- List resources that can be used to gain additional information

Language Arts

Students in the first grade recognize and decode print, develop reading strategies, and read a variety of complex texts fluently. They demonstrate a growing knowledge of sight words, decode by using letter-sound matches, and blend sounds into words. They develop and learn to apply strategies that help them to comprehend literary and informational text, to analyze and evaluate texts, and to self-monitor their own comprehension. Students demonstrate their understanding of text by participating in conversations about topics they are studying and by responding to individuals and groups about what they are reading and writing. As they read a variety of authors, illustrators, and genres, students describe people, places, things and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly and in complete sentences. Through reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language development, students build their vocabulary and word knowledge. In writing, students participate in shared research and write narrative, how to's and opinion pieces while focusing on mechanics and conventions, openings and closings, and supplying facts. They share and edit their work with peers.

District Instructional Materials: *Fundations* - Phonics & Handwriting; *Heggerty* - Phonemic Awareness; *Lexia* - Online Learning Platform

Mathematics

First grade introduces many new skills in math and builds on them throughout the year. Instructional time should focus on the following four critical areas: *Critical Area 1:* Developing understanding of addition, subtraction, and strategies for addition and subtraction within 20, *Critical Area 2:* Developing understanding of whole number relationships and place value, including grouping in tens and ones, *Critical Area 3:* Developing understanding of linear measurement and measuring lengths as iterating length units, *Critical Area 4:* Reasoning about attributes of, and composing and decomposing geometric shapes. The end of year expectation for first grade students is that they 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 and work with addition and subtraction equations; extend the counting sequence; understand place value; use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract; measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units; work with time and money; represent and interpret data as well as reason with shapes and their attributes.

District Instructional Material: *Eureka* - Math Curriculum *Zearn, Reflex and Dreambox* - Online Learning Platforms

Social Studies

Families Now and Long Ago, Near and Far

The first grade year builds on the concepts developed in kindergarten by focusing on the individual as a member of a family. Students begin to understand how families lived long ago and how they live in other cultures. They develop concepts about how the world is organized spatially through beginning map skills. They build the foundation for understanding principles of government and their roles as citizens learning how to be a good community member, why we have rules and how we have different rules for different settings.

Science

The first grade theme focuses on helping students develop the skills for systematic discovery to understand the science of the natural world around them in greater depth by using scientific inquiry. Science instruction in the first grade builds upon the science skills introduced in kindergarten and from the child's life experiences. In Earth Science, first graders will learn about the sun as a source of energy and energy changes that occur to land, air and water. In Physical Science, they will learn about changes in properties that occur in objects and materials and that change of position of an object is the result of pushing and pulling. In Life Science, students will learn about the physical needs of living things in Ohio. Energy from the sun or food, nutrients, water, shelter and air are some of the physical needs of living things.

Synergy

First grade students will be given opportunities to be creative and collaborate through design challenges and the use of STEM materials (Legos, Magnatiles, Keva Planks, etc.) Also in STEM, students will learn how to program using coding mice and online programs. Picture books will be used to teach and discuss social and academic skills. These skills will be used as they participate in a community service project to learn the importance of helping others outside of our school. Students will visit the Gates Mills Horticulture Center to explore careers in horticulture as well concepts learned in science. These projects will allow students to apply their portrait of a graduate skills through real world experiences. Students will also learn safe and appropriate use of technology and how to be good digital citizens. Students will be exposed to a variety of print library books as well as digital and audio books

Visual Arts

Students in first grade spend time scaffolding from kindergarten in regards to the elements of art. They build upon these skills by learning about the theme of an artist's perspective on the world around them. Students create more realistic and detailed subject matter, designing backgrounds, developing an understanding of spatial relationships. Time is spent observing and discussing artwork from different cultures and creating artwork inspired by new cultural learning.

Music

Students in first grade will be creating, performing, and responding to music and connecting music to other subject areas. First graders continue to experience music through listening, singing, dancing, moving and playing instruments in a variety of musical settings. The primary focus of first grade music is to develop singing voices, demonstrate basic rhythms and pitches. Classroom instrument playing may include rhythm sticks, hand drums, egg shakers, jingle bells, maracas, xylophones and triangles.

Physical Education

During the first grade year, time is spent on routines, class procedures, and working with partners, small groups, and teams. Students in first grade participate in experiences that lead to development within the physical, cognitive, and affective domains. The physical domain focuses on movement skills, manipulative skills, and fitness. The cognitive domain enables students to establish a movement vocabulary, develop concept knowledge, and explore critical elements of skill performance. Within the affective domain students learn about reasons to value being active and the importance of being a good sport. The overarching goal is to further develop an appreciation for an active lifestyle.

Communication with Parents

The learning platform used for first grade is Seesaw. Seesaw activities allow students to show their learning and document it in a platform that can be shared. Student learning is visible for parents and guardians to see in real time.

Infinite Campus is the student information system that is used across the district. Performance on assessments and classwork along with report cards will be housed in this system.

District and State Testing

Three times a year students will take the STAR Early Literacy and STAR Math computer-adaptive assessments. STAR Early Literacy measures students' vocabulary, phonics, language, and numeracy skills and allows teachers the ability to monitor student achievement and growth in these areas. STAR Math assesses students' math skills over multiple domains.

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) will be administered to all first graders as a gifted and talented screener. The assessment is a multiple-choice K-12 assessment that measures reasoning skills with different types of verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal questions. To learn more about gifted testing please visit Mayfield City Schools website [gifted](#) page.

Resources

For additional information regarding our curriculum and programs, please refer to the following resources:

Mayfield City Schools Website: <https://www.mayfieldschools.org/>

Ohio Department of Education Website: <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/>