



# montgomeryschool

1141 Kimberton Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425

2017-2018

## FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

### SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

First grade is an exciting year when significant growth and development take place. Children love coming to school and learning is exciting for them. This is also a year of change. While the children begin to feel independent by having their own desks and books, they are also dependent on the structure provided by the school and their teachers.

Friends are important to first graders, and peers' opinions begin to influence their behavior. Also, the students are very aware of what is right and wrong and do not hesitate to let someone know when a rule is broken. Consequently, problem resolution often requires teacher modeling and intervention. The students are aware of the accomplishments of their peers and often compare their own performance to that of others. There is often a desire to be first, to be best, and to be successful in all they undertake.

First graders are excited and proud when they complete a task successfully. They show this pride in their beaming smiles and dancing bodies that testify to their expressive nature. The children develop a sense of humor at this age and enjoy telling jokes and being silly. All of these behaviors dictate the need for confidence building and learning from their mistakes. The best learning in first grade takes place experientially. Examples include using manipulatives to aid the solving of math problems or creating a diorama depicting scenes from favorite books.

First graders are wonderfully motivated students. Their energy and enthusiasm are contagious, but upsets and disappointments do occur. As the year progresses, the students learn to handle these ups and downs and become less dependent on teacher intervention for problem solving.

First grade is a wonderful time to grow and learn. This is evidenced by the social, emotional, academic, and physical growth of each child. As the children reflect on first grade, they take pride in everything they have accomplished and feel like seasoned students ready to take on the world.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

The first grade language arts program presents the students with many opportunities to develop their emerging reading, writing, listening, speaking and handwriting skills through formal and informal instruction. The reading program emphasizes the direct teaching of phonics skills, other decoding strategies, and comprehension skills within a literature-rich environment. Teachers follow a systematized plan using the Wilson Language program called FUNDATIONS. FUNDATIONS is a structured program that builds and improves students' decoding skills in reading and encoding skills for spelling. The program emphasizes phonemic awareness, phonics, high frequency words (TRICK/SIGHT), fluency, vocabulary, handwriting, and spelling.

Poems, rhymes, chants, and predictable stories reinforce language and motivate the students to want to read. Reading groups are needs based and focus on decoding skills, building sight vocabulary, reading fluency, and comprehension skills. Directed reading-thinking activities are used during instructional reading groups when students read a variety of fiction and nonfiction trade books. The students' comprehension is evaluated during group discussions and follow-up activities that also help to further develop reading and writing skills.

First graders listen to books of different genres read to them by teachers and guest readers. In addition to improving listening and comprehension skills, this daily read-aloud time exposes the students to quality literature. The children also view stories on various internet sites and have opportunities to interact in phonics and comprehension activities.

The Six Traits Writing model is used in grades PreK through grade eight. The program will foster a common language and consistency about writing and assessment for teachers and students, which is designed to teach students the craft and quality of writing. The model is comprised of *ideas and content, word choice, conventions, voice, sentence fluency, and organization*. These traits will be taught through literature, teacher modeling, and student examples. The strength of the model is the opportunity to give feedback and individualize instruction in writing.

## **SKILLS**

### **Speaking and Listening**

- Communicating ideas effectively
- Performing for an audience
- Asking questions to clarify understanding
- Listening attentively in class
- Following oral directions

### **Reading**

- Recognizing and using phonetic clues (beginning and ending sounds, short and long vowels, blends, digraphs, etc.)
- Identifying rhyming words
- Recognizing word families
- Using picture and context clues to decode familiar words
- Expanding sight word vocabulary
- Participating in literature discussions

- Recalling facts from a story
- Using prior knowledge to aid comprehension
- Retelling the main part of a story
- Using text to locate specific information
- Recognizing the difference between fiction and nonfiction
- Using computer programs to enhance phonics skills, reading, and to do research

### **Writing**

- Writing stories and poems
- Writing letters and notes
- Responding to literature
- Beginning to integrate spelling, punctuation, and capitalization skills
- Incorporating the *Six Traits*: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions

### **RESOURCES**

*Real Kids Readers*

*Hello Reader!*

*Primary Phonics* readers series

*I Can Read* Book series

*Fox* Series

*The Bones* Series

*Nate the Great* series

*Magic Treehouse* series

*Cam Jansen* series

Assorted Non-fiction stories

*FUNDATIONS LEVEL 1*, Wilson Language Basics, 2013

*The Trait Crate*, Scholastic, 2008

*My Writing Words*, Really Good Stuff, 2009

*Invitations to Literacy*, Houghton-Mifflin, 2001

*Explode the Code*, Educators Publishing Service, Inc., 1996

*Clues to Meaning*, Educators Publishing Service, Inc., 2000

*Punctuation*, Evan-Moor Corp., 1998

*Writing Doodleloops*, Good Apple, 2004

*Reading Doodleloops*, Good Apple, 2004

Reading websites

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

The social studies curriculum is centered on famous Americans, the 50 U.S. states, and current events. Throughout the year, the children will learn about inventors, authors, astronauts, scientists, athletes, and U.S. Presidents. Lessons include reading a variety of literature, keeping a journal about famous Americans, and creating a class google slide show about famous Americans. States in the United States of America will be identified, and students will make

“passports” to record important facts about each state. Current events will also be introduced through the News-O-Matic app, as well as topical issues relating to the students’ lives.

### **CONCEPTS COVERED**

- Famous Americans - authors, inventors, athletes, scientists, astronauts, U.S. Presidents
- Familiarity of the 50 U.S. states
- Current Events

### **RESOURCES**

Trade books that present facts, concepts, and history of famous Americans and the 50 U.S. States  
Field Trip to a theater play (author study)  
NEWS-O-MATIC current events app  
Google docs and internet use  
Google Earth  
Website games  
Maps and globes

### **MATHEMATICS**

The Singapore Math method of teaching and learning is taught in grades PreK-3 using the US Edition of Primary Mathematics textbook and workbook series. Singapore Math emphasizes the development of strong number sense, excellent mental math skills, and a deep understanding of place value. The curriculum is based on a progression from a concrete experience (using manipulatives), to a pictorial stage (picture representations), and finally to an abstract level or algorithm. The sequence gives students a solid understanding of basic mathematical concepts and relationships. These concepts are taught to mastery with a focus on early math vocabulary and math literacy. Singapore Math’s framework has problem solving at the heart of the curriculum to foster strong mathematical thinkers who are persistent and confident math students.

### **SKILLS**

- Reading and writing numerals
- Counting, comparing, and ordering numbers to 100
- Recognizing number bonds (fact families)
- Adding and subtracting within 100
- Creating and solving addition and subtraction number stories (word problems)
- Introduction to bar modeling with addition and subtraction
- Demonstrating understanding of multiplication as repeated addition and division as sharing and grouping
- Recognizing fractions
- Recognizing two-dimensional shapes
- Telling time to the half-hour
- Comparing and measuring length and weight
- Recognizing, naming, and counting coins and bills

- Reading and interpreting data

## **RESOURCES**

*Singapore Primary Mathematics*, 2009

*Number Bonds CD*, Crystal Springs Books, 2011

*Word Problems for Model Drawing Practice*, Catherine Kuhns, 2009

*Math Sprints*, Singapore Math Inc., 2010

*Number Wonders*, Catherine Kuhns, 2006

*Math Talks*, Crystal Springs Books, 2009

*Marcy Cook Number Tiles*

*Think Central* website

*Singapore Math* websites

*SMARTBoard Exchange*

## **SERVICE LEARNING**

Montgomery has always taken pride in teaching our students the importance of service to others, which is part of our school mission. The service projects are directly tied to our classroom curriculum. This approach gives students the opportunity to observe directly the measurable change that is provided through their efforts in a grade appropriate way. The project will not only affect the recipient of the service, but also the providers -- our students. In first grade, the Service Learning Project will relate to our Six Traits writing model. The students will write and word process their favorite jokes and riddles along with friendly letters to young friends, which will be published into book form and sent to Child Life at Nemours DuPont Children's Hospital in Delaware. Our hope is that this yearlong project will help bring smiles and giggles to the children and their families during their hospital visit.