



Welcome to First Grade

Teacher: Carey Pooler

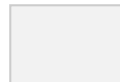
School Phone: 624 - 2221 ext.203

Dear Families:

First grade is a year of tremendous growth and progress for children. I am looking forward to encouraging and motivating your children to learn this year! My contact information is listed above for your convenience. Please feel free to send a note or call with any question or concerns you may have.

Outlined below is a description of what we will be studying in each content area this year!

Literacy



Reading and writing comprise a large portion of the school day in first grade. This is a very exciting time as your child will be working toward becoming an independent reader! I will be using a structured literacy model for reading and writing. This means that there are a variety of reading and writing activities that foster literacy growth each day. These activities are built into our day in predictable routines. Some activities include guided reading groups, shared reading, read-alouds, and independent reading. Each day students will be reading independently, listening to reading and practicing reading skills (word work).

Writing skills will be modeled on a daily basis. Students will practice what is modeled (with guidance from the teacher) and begin to use writing skills such as capitals, punctuation, spacing between words, spelling simple three and four letter words and high frequency words correctly. Students will learn to write for a variety of purposes: tell "how to" do something, write both friendly and

persuasive letters, write stories, facts and ideas/opinions.

Handwriting



We teach Zaner-Blosner handwriting. Handwriting is important so that student's writing and numbers can be easily read. However, the ability to write neatly corresponds to fine motor skills and will vary with each student. I encourage students to do their best to write neatly but do not want to discourage students from writing freely and enjoying the process. We will review and refine handwriting skills by expanding upon the program utilized in Kindergarten.

Spelling

We will use the spelling program that compliments the basis of the Scott-Foresman Reading Program. This is a meaningful and relevant program that will help students practice words that they are using in their reading and writing each day.

We will not begin a spelling program that requires studying at home in the first weeks of school. Prior to the start of the home reinforcement portion of the program, I will send home a note reminding parents of the spelling routine!

Each Monday, I will send home the spelling words for students to practice. We will work on mastering the words in a variety of ways throughout the week in the classroom. On Wednesday we will take a practice test to determine which words need more practice. On Friday students will complete a test that counts towards a grade.

Math

The math program, *enVisionMATH*, covers 17 main topics:

- Understanding Addition
- Understanding Subtraction
- Five and Ten Relationships
- Addition and Subtraction Facts to 12
- Addition Facts to 20
- Subtraction Facts to 20
- Counting and Number Patterns to 20
- Tens and Ones
- Comparing and Ordering Numbers to 100
- Adding with Tens and Ones
- Subtracting with Tens and Ones
- Length
- Time
- Using Data to Answer Questions
- Geometry
- Fractions of Shapes
- Stepping Up to Grade 2





Science and Social Studies

Our main focus in Social Studies in First Grade includes:

- Citizenship and Traditions
- Families & Communities
- National Holidays & Famous Americans
- Civic Practices
- Mapping Skills, Humans, and the Environment
- Economic Systems

In Science, of our units are based on the New Generation Science Standards:

- Life Sciences (structure and function, growth and development of organisms, inheritance of traits, variation of traits, information processing)
- Physical Sciences (wave properties, electromagnetic radiation, information technologies)
- Earth and Space Sciences (the universe and its stars, Earth and the Solar System)
- STEM projects and experiments

Science and Social Studies topics are often integrated during reading and writing time. This means that students listen, discuss, read, and write about Science and Social Studies topics as part of their core subject skill development/objectives.

