

### First Graders apply basic geographic and economic concepts.

First graders are able to locate and describe familiar places. They begin to use geographic terminology and create representations of the earth's features through simple maps, models, and pictures. They enjoy participating in activities that require division of labor. They describe how people of different cultures work to earn money and identify the choices people make in order to satisfy their wants and needs.

### Technology Integration: Societal/Ethical Issues

- Identify, discuss and represent visually uses of technology (e.g., computers, cell phones, digital cameras) at school and home.
- Use common computing devices and resources in class activities.

## Science

### First Grade students develop the skills of science.

Through hands-on, inquiry-based learning the first grade curriculum encourages students to observe and describe, sort and classify objects based on the theme Living and Non-Living. They investigate types of rock and soil, explore animal and plant characteristics, describe position and motion of objects, and record their ideas and experiences.

### First Grade students focus on the following goals from the North Carolina Standard Course of Study-

The learner will:

- conduct investigations and make observations to build an understanding of the needs of living organisms.
- make observations and use student-made rules to build an understanding of solid earth materials.
- make observations and conduct investigations to build an understanding of the properties and relationship of objects.
- make observations and conduct investigations to build an understanding of balance, motion and weighing of objects.

### First Grade Students learn in many different ways.

First grade science students use simple equipment and tools to gather data and extend their senses. Students learn important skills such as how to observe, measure, connect, record and report data, and to classify objects using their own rules. From their own observations, they begin to ask questions and make predictions. First graders work as partners, in groups and as a whole class through both guided and independent learning centers. Students are encouraged to ask questions, express what they think, and compare their ideas with ideas of others. They are provided experiences so they can share and compare with classmates. First graders continue to relate science to their everyday world and recognize that science is fun.

## Visual Arts

The study of visual arts builds on learning that was introduced and emphasized in kindergarten. Skills and concepts are developed to a higher level through guided practices. Visual arts emphasis at Grade 1 is on:

- Reading
- Recognizing that mistakes can be turned into creative opportunities
- Repetition, pattern, geometric shapes and texture
- Observing how artists tell stories through their art
- Telling and recording their own original stories through art

Students in Grade 1 attend formal art classes weekly with a professional art teacher. They are exposed to the idea that art can be a hobby or profession.

## Music

The study of music builds upon skills learned in kindergarten. Students attend formal music classes with a music teacher weekly. Learning is primarily based on exploration and discovery. Focus areas include matching pitch, singing and playing instruments with increased accuracy, creating music using at least three notes, recognizing simple music symbols and terms, learning to listen and compose music, and an understanding of music

in relation to history and culture. Children learn to respond to music and show respect for the efforts of others.

## Physical Education (PE)

Once a week, first grade students attend formal physical education classes taught by a certified physical education teacher. Focus is on increasing competence in basic movement patterns, especially manipulative skills (i.e., striking, tapping, tossing, dribbling, etc.). First grade students explore the movement concepts of space, effort and relationships that vary the quality of movement. Students demonstrate understanding of flexibility and endurance of large muscle groups. They will also demonstrate their understanding of pacing during cardiovascular endurance activities. Students learn to cooperate with a partner regardless of personal differences such as gender, skill level or ethnicity. Problem resolution is performed in a socially acceptable manner.

## Health Education

First Graders learn the importance of eating right and getting enough sleep. Students also discuss the dangers of drugs, the importance of having a grown-up give them their medication, and the components of healthy relationships.

Parents/Guardians will receive a Family Living, Ethical Behavior and Human Sexuality (FLEBHS) Parent Packet which is designed to share FLEBHS curriculum information with the family. First Grade FLEBHS curriculum can be described as character education, and consists of instruction that promotes the understanding of physical, mental, emotional, social and moral aspects of human growth and development, including male and female relationships. FLEBHS emphasizes positive behaviors, attitude development and guidance related to relationships with family members and others.

## Special Education

Some children have special needs. It may be discovered through the course of the year that your child has special needs, either because of a learning problem that affects his ability to process information or because of special physical, mental or emotional conditions. Your teacher may discuss the need for further testing or you may notice a problem yourself that you choose to discuss with the school. If your child is evaluated and properly identified, you and a team of teachers will develop an Individualized Education Program, (IEP) or create a Section 504 Plan ( a special instruction sheet that deals specifically with your child's needs). Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools offers all services required by federal and state laws and guidelines.

# 1ST FIRST GRADE

*Especially for Parents*

# Family Curriculum Guide

**Curriculum and Instruction - 980-343-6975**  
**Family & Community Services - 980-343-6256**



REACH FURTHER.

**Global competitiveness starts here.**

*In compliance with federal law, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools administers all education programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination against any person on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability.*

## Reading

First grade students will learn how to blend sounds into words through explicit, systematic phonic awareness and phonics skills instruction. Students will develop comprehension skills and strategies. Oral reading fluency is a primary goal in first grade.

### First graders will learn explicit phonics.

First graders will be given specific instruction in letter sounds, phonetic spellings, decoding and blending. This enables the students to read and build fluency by giving them strategies when coming to unknown words. Students will practice the use of these skills in take-home books that target the phonetic skill(s) addressed in class.

### First graders will build sight vocabulary.

Sight words will be introduced in class and then practiced in take-home books. Reading these books at home will provide opportunities for developing fluency.

### First graders will develop comprehension strategies and skills.

First graders learn strategies that will help them monitor and check understanding while reading. Teachers will model these strategies using authentic literature. Comprehension skills will also be modeled by the teacher to give first graders a way to organize information within the story.

## Writing

Writing goes hand in hand with reading. Organizing thoughts for writing enhances reading skills.

### First graders practice handwriting first.

### First graders will write the sounds that they hear.

First graders use spelling based on the sounds they hear to write the words they don't know. During the year, they will correctly write more words as they learn to spell the sounds they hear. They also learn to break larger words into syllables and deal with them one part at a time. First graders also begin spelling some high frequency words correctly.

### First graders will learn basic writing conventions.

First graders will learn to use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence and a period, question mark or exclamation mark at the end. They learn to leave a space between words and sentences. The children will write stories that contain a few sentences in the beginning of the year and more details as the year progresses.

### Technology Integration: Word Processing.

- Identify, discuss and use word processing as a tool to enter numbers, words, and phrases.

#### Example of a First Grade Story Zoo

We went to the zoo. We saw munkees at the zoo. The munkees were in a caje. the tigas looked mene. We had ice crem at the giraf plase. We went home in the car. The zoo was fun!

## Parent Support

### Reading

- Provide time for a minimum of 15-20 minutes daily reading.
- Identify letters and/or familiar words when reading.
- Provide opportunities to sequence and retell stories.
- Read to your child and ask questions about the story.
- Listen and respond to stories relating a variety of experiences.
- Share favorite stories through storytelling, discussing the beginning, middle and end.

### Writing

- Encourage your child to retell stories using complete sentences.
- Encourage your child to talk about places they have gone, things they have seen, and adventures they have had. Ask questions to enhance your child's speaking skills. Tell your child about your activities, your work and your interests.
- Play spelling games with your child.
- Use words from your child's own writing to help him/her practice spelling.
- Help your child write upper and lower case letters of the alphabet.

## Mathematics

### Major Concepts

- Number sense with numbers through 99
- Counting objects efficiently
- Writing numbers and number words
- Comparing and ordering numbers
- Estimating quantities
- Counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s
- Single-digit addition and subtraction
- Measuring with non-standard units
- Telling time to the hour and 1/2 hour
- Using a calendar

1 + 2 = 3  
3 - 2 = 1  
2 + 2 = 4  
4 - 3 = 1  
4 - 2 = 2

- Line plots
- Probability vocabulary (certain, impossible, more/less likely)
- 2-way Venn diagrams
- Patterns

### Skills to Maintain

- Counting
- Identifying shapes
- Sorting and classifying

### Technology Integration: Spreadsheet

- Identify graphing as a tool for organizing information.
- Identify and discuss graphing software terms/concepts (e.g., graph, patterns, display).

Help your child figure out what the next number will be:

1, 2, 3, 4, .....  
5, 10, 15, 20 .....  
2, 4, 6, 8, 10 .....  
15, 11, 7, 3 .....  
1, 3, 5, 7, 9 .....

## Social Studies

In first grade, children build on concepts introduced in kindergarten as they learn about their neighborhood and community and extend their knowledge of people throughout the world.

### First graders examine how individuals, families and other groups are alike and different and begin to understand the concept of change in various settings.

First graders recognize the multiple roles of individuals and families both past and present. They examine a variety of neighborhoods and communities and compare and contrast past and present changes. They share their cultures and learn about other cultures represented in their classrooms, school, and around the world, as they participate in activities associated with special days, holidays, and cultural traditions.

### First graders identify and exhibit qualities of good citizenship and recognize the need for laws and justice in the home, school and other environments.

First graders learn to develop and exhibit responsible behavior in the classroom, school, and other social environments. They identify the roles of leaders in the home, school and community and recognize the importance of these roles. They learn about the need for rules and to predict consequences that result from responsible and irresponsible actions.