

FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

Balanced Literacy

The School District of Fort Atkinson offers a balanced literacy approach to teaching reading, writing and spelling. In a balanced literacy program, how you teach is as important as what you teach. Students are taught at their instructional level insuring that all students progress and learn. Reading, writing and spelling are continuously integrated to develop all language arts skills.



READING

By the end of first grade, we expect students to have the following reading skills:

- Listens and responds to literature
- Actively participates in literature discussions
- Reads familiar materials with fluency and expression
- Uses reading strategies to read new materials (pictures, meaning, sentence structure, phonics)
- Knows and uses basic sight words
- Rereads to problem solve
- Self-corrects reading errors
- Shows comprehension through answering questions or retelling and participating in class discussions



WRITING AND SPELLING

Our district uses a Writer's Workshop approach to writing instruction. Daily, students write about self-selected topics and then conference and share their writing with peers and the teacher.

By the end of first grade, the students will demonstrate the following writing and spelling skills:

- Generates and organizes own ideas for writing
- Creates sequential text from own ideas
- Develops writing with a beginning, middle and end
- Rereads own writing to generate text
- Uses letter sounds and spelling knowledge (phonics) to write unfamiliar words
- Consistently spells high frequency words in writing
- Shares writing with teacher for improvement
- Applies teacher feedback
- With teacher support, revises own writing by adding, subtracting, rearranging and rewording text
- With teacher support, edits writing for basic conventions (end mark, spacing, capitalization)
- Writes for a variety of purposes and audiences
- Writes in legible and neat handwriting
- Associates sounds with letters
- Connects spelling words to their reading and writing
- Transitions from phonetic to conventional spelling
- Uses Writer's Workshop time effectively

Mathematics

By the end of first grade, we expect students to have the following math skills:

- Reads, writes, compares and applies numbers to 130
- Skip counts by 2's, 5's and 10's to 130
- Counts backward from 130
- Forms numbers correctly
- Recognizes and applies ordinal numbers to 10th
- Uses reasonable estimation (less than 100)
- Knows addition facts (sums to 12)
- Knows subtraction facts (differences to 12)
- Understands the tens and ones place value
- Applies concept of lesser than, greater than and equal to
- Recognizes and creates patterns
- Collects and interprets data from graphs and charts
- Identifies basic shapes and 3-D figures (cones, sphere, cube, and cylinder)
- Understands basic concept of fractions (halves, thirds and fourths) through pictorial representation as well as numerals
- Identifies parts of a clock
- Tells time to the hour, half-hour and 15 minute interval
- Identifies, names and knows the value of coins
- Uses standard measurement to measure length (nearest inch)
- Uses and communicates problem solving strategies
- Works with accuracy



ART

By the end of first grade, we expect students to have the following art skills:

- Displays creativity in work
- Reflects pride and enthusiasm in art work
- Employs original ideas
- Demonstrates craftsmanship
- Respects efforts of peers and working artists

HEALTH

During first grade, students will learn age-appropriate concepts related to the following areas:

- Safety and Accident Prevention
- Nutrition
- Personal Health
- Mental and Social Health
- Family Life Education
- Substance Use and Abuse
- Prevention and Control of Disease

Social Studies

First grade social studies is taught in thematic units designed to help students learn more about themselves as well as the people and world around them. Essential understandings or social studies “big ideas” are presented along with geography and map skills, vocabulary and a selection of key historical figures, events and symbols.

During first grade, students will experience the following social studies units:

- Citizenship
- Timelines
- Cultural Heritage and Celebrations
- Our Country
- Maps and Globes
- Needs and Wants

Science

During first grade science, students discover and learn about the universe, the world and their own environment.

During first grade, students will experience the following science units:

- Seasons and Weather
- Matter
- Plants and Animals
- Earth and Sky
- Health and the Human Body
- The Environment



Allied Arts

MUSIC

By the end of first grade, we expect students to have the following music skills:

- Uses singing voice to match pitch
- Plays instruments maintaining a beat and performing short patterns
- Composes a rhythmic or melodic phrase
- Begins to read and write music
- Responds to tempos and various music dynamics
- Identifies classroom instruments

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

By the end of first grade, students will have experienced and enhanced the following physical education skills and focus areas:

Locomotor Skills	Ball Handling	Personal Fitness	Tumbling
Rhythm and Dance	Use of Manipulatives	Cooperative Activities and Adventures	Good Sportsmanship