

Language arts:

In First Grade, literacy holds a uniquely prominent and overarching place. During the Language Arts section of the day, first graders engage in reading, writing, word study, handwriting, and active listening and speaking skills. We will be using the program SUPERKIDS as part of our ELA curriculum. First grade students will learn more complex letter-sound relationships. They continue to develop their decoding and encoding skills and read longer stories where comprehension and fluency are emphasized. They read books across the genres, and develop effective, independent strategies for monitoring their reading. Teachers guide students in learning basic sight words, phonetic skills, and language structure while supporting them in reading increasingly challenging levels of text. When not in direct instruction, students engage in literacy centers. This consists of independent and small group work while the teacher meets with guided reading groups. Teachers read aloud daily, encouraging the enjoyment of a wide variety of literature which often serves as an important bridge to the rest of the curriculum. During writing workshop children verbally rehearse, sketch and write small moment stories, all-about and how-to books, and poems. Students study how authors use pictures, words and mechanics to craft their writing and experiment with these in their own writing. Over the course of the year first graders take joy in reading, writing, publishing, and sharing many styles of books.

Science:

Skills of Inquiry:

- * Ask questions about objects, organisms, and events
- * Tell about why and what would happen if?
- * Make predictions based on observations
- * Name and use simple equipment and tools to gather data and extend the senses
- * Record observations and data with pictures, numbers, or written statements

UNITS:

Life Cycles: *Monarch Butterfly*
Air and Weather: *Pattern and Cycles*
Waves: *Light and Sound*
Embryology



Math:

This year, we will continue to use the updated version of Everyday Math. In this version we see content more appropriate for first grade. Most of the year is focused on understanding addition and subtraction, and on problem solving.

In Everyday mathematics you can expect to see:

- ◆ A problem solving approach based on everyday situations
- ◆ An instructional approach that revisits concepts regularly
- ◆ Frequent practices of basic skill, often through games
- ◆ Lessons based on activities and discussion
- ◆ Mathematical content that goes beyond basic arithmetic



Curriculum Concepts and Skills:

Number and Numeration

- Counting; reading and writing numbers, investigating place value of whole numbers; exploring fractions and money

Operations and Computation

- Learning addition and subtraction facts, fact families, and extended facts; beginning informal work with properties of numbers and problem solving

Data and Chance

- Collecting, organizing, and displaying data using tables, charts, and graphs

Measurement and Reference Frames

- Using tools to measure length, capacity, and weight; using clocks, calendars, timelines, thermometers, and ordinal numbers such as *fifth and tenth*

Geometry

- Exploring 2-dimensional shapes (squares, triangles, rectangles,...) and 3-dimensional shapes (pyramids, cones, prisms)

Patterns, Functions, and Algebra

- Exploring attributes, patterns, sequences, relations, and functions; finding missing numbers and rules in problems; studying properties of operations (addition and subtraction)

Social Studies: In first grade, children listen to and read folk tales and true stories from America and from around the world. They learn about major historical events, figures, and symbols related to the United States of America and its national holidays and why they are important to Americans. As students study concepts in geography, civics, economics, and history, they also learn about each other's families and about the achievements of different people in different times and places.



Music and Movement –

Ms. Arpianinen



In first grade, students explore musical concepts including finding the singing voice, moving and playing to the steady beat, and exploring basic instrumental skills. Movement is incorporated into our music learning as well as focused activities developing coordination and body awareness. Creative movement activities provide an outlet for students to express themselves and work together in a high-energy environment..

* Interpret rhythm patterns; match pitches; recognize high, low, same and different pitches; follow contour of melodic line; beginning notation; reading left to right.

* Respond to beat; begin dancing; musical games.

Physical Education – Coach Em

First graders will be focusing on listening, following directions, and working together.

We will also capitalize on teachable moments that arise in games about how to manage feelings and conflicts with one another. The goal of our sessions together is to spend as much time moving and playing as possible while keeping everyone safe. PE will be a combination of structured play ensure that students get exposed to games beyond just their personal favorites and choice time so that students can build on their skills with familiar physical activities and deepen their joy for playing and moving.



Computers– Mr. Fanning

Students are developing the ability to log in to their online Wixie accounts and create slides in their Alphabet projects. In Wixie, students can create slides with text, drawings, and music. Students are progressing well with their ability to retrieve images by searching the Wixie library. Later we will develop projects



Social/Emotional Development:

Children will know when, where, and how to seek help; demonstrate the ability to respect boundaries, rights, and personal safety; recognize the situation whether s/he is in a safe place; recognize a wide variety feelings and needs of self and others; recognize safe ways of expressing emotions; describe and respect individual differences.

Guidance Counselor Lamar Batiste supports classroom teachers in implementing the "Second Step" program integrated with our anti-bullying Curriculum.

Art-Ms. Mattison

Students explore a wide range of art techniques and materials. Skills, concepts and vocabulary are introduced, leading towards creative confidence, visual literacy, multicultural appreciation and a life-long relationship to the world of art.

In first grade we:

- * Introduce art media and techniques in drawing, painting, clay, and collage
- * Learn what makes primary colors the building blocks of the color wheel
- * Identify visual elements in works of art (line, shape, color, form etc.)
- * Introduce respect for differences in personal and cultural expression
- * Connect visual literacy to emerging verbal literacy

District Assessments:

Math: Beginning, middle, and end of year Every Day Math assessments, AIMSWEB

Writing: Fall/Spring Writing Prompts

English Language Arts: Benchmark Assessment System (Reading), Words Their Way spelling, letter recognition and sound identification, and AIMSWEB



Homework: First Grade will follow the district guidelines for homework. It is also expected that families and students spend 15-20 minutes daily, reading and talking about books together. This includes both reading to your child and listening to your child read to you. A reading log will go home every month for parents or students to fill in.

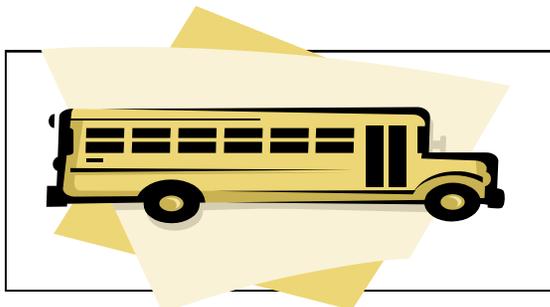
We encourage parents/guardians to strengthen the home-school connection in several ways:

- *Talk with your child regularly about school.
- *Play games that strengthen math thinking and strategies, like checkers, cards, puzzles.
- *Talk about everyday events in your family. These discussions often provide rich material for writing in school.

Research is clear that everyday conversation between parents and children benefits reading comprehension.

Enhancement

Literacy is central to the first grade curriculum and enhancement largely revolves around supporting initiatives in this area. Children are given direct instruction as well as opportunities to practice reading, writing and math using a variety of instructional methods and materials which will include independent and small group work. Students will be working with peers in small groups on areas where they show strength as well as areas that need improvement.



First Grade at Pelham Elementary

2017-2018

Teacher and Room Information

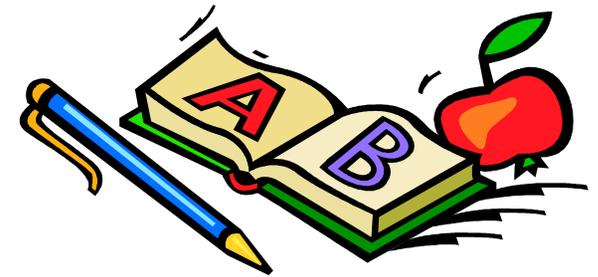
Giselle Gonzalez

Leanne Hunt

Elaine Caraballo

Room 28

This brochure will provide you with information about the key curriculum areas your child will study this year. We hope that you will use this as a guide in supporting your child's success at school.



Pelham Elementary School

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