

GRADE ONE CURRICULUM GUIDELINE

Dear Parents/Guardian: This guideline contains a brief description of each of the subjects your child will study in First Grade. It is designed to provide you with a general overview of the content and skills which are taught as well as other pertinent information. Teaching strategies will, of course, vary according to the needs of the class. We hope that the continued use of this guideline and the meetings with your child's teachers and learning specialists will keep you informed about the goals of the Andover Public Schools and your child's learning progress.

The Elementary School Principals

English/Language Arts

First Grade students in Andover engage in a year-long facilitated "balanced" approach to literacy experiences that includes whole class, small group, and individualized instruction and practice of reading and writing skills. Instruction focuses on four specific strands, including Language, Reading and Literature, Composition, and Media. Within this framework, examples of activities that develop reading skills include: Guided Reading (instructional level reading with a teacher, focusing on strategies to improve decoding, fluency, and comprehension) and instruction on how to select a "just right" text for Independent Reading. Within this framework, examples of activities that develop writing skills include: Independent Writing (i.e. journals and narratives), and Interactive Writing.

Language - Students will demonstrate an understanding of the structure of the English language by participating in Reading and Literature. Students will respond thoughtfully to all forms of spoken and written literature as they understand text, make connections, investigate various genres, themes, fiction and non-fiction works, forms of poetry, myths, traditional narratives, classical literature, and dramatic readings and performance. Within these works, students will look at the author's style and language to identify sensory language, mood, and tone. Students will write well-organized compositions with a beginning, middle, and end, drawing on a variety of strategies as needed to generate and organize ideas. They will write with consideration of: proper sequencing/organization, audience and purpose, revision techniques, standard English conventions, research, and proper presentation.

Media - Students will obtain information by using a variety of media and evaluate the quality of materials they obtain.

Mathematics

Students engage in problem solving, communications, reasoning, connecting and representing as they examine the five mathematical strands (Number Sense and Operations; Patterns, Relations, and Algebra; Geometry; Measurement; and Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability). The goal of the *Everyday Math* program is for students to become effective problem solvers in each of these areas. Learning experiences take multiple formats, incorporating independent and collaborative work, and the use of games to practice related concepts. The Everyday Math program is designed so that concepts are introduced, practiced, and mastered over several school years.

Number Sense and Operations - In an exploration of number sense and operations, students utilize skills relating to counting and comparing whole numbers, place value, ordinal and cardinal numbers, identification and use of common fractions, odd and even numbers, identification and use of coins, identification of dollars, addition/subtraction of single-digit numbers (without manipulatives) and double-digit numbers (with manipulatives) and the relationship between the two operations, and estimation.

Patterns, Relations, and Algebra - In an exploration of patterns, relations, and algebra, students utilize skills relating to extension, creation, and use of patterns to solve math problems, skip counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's, writing number sentences, and using functions to solve problems (including coin trades).

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Geometry - In an exploration of geometry, students utilize skills relating to the description, sorting, and drawing of two- and three-dimensional shapes, and the recognition of congruence and symmetry in two dimensional shapes.

Measurement - In an exploration of measurement, students utilize skills relating to telling time, using a calendar, and identification and comparison of length, width, and weight using a variety of units of measure.

Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability - In an exploration of data analysis, statistics, and probability, students utilize skills relating to collection, representation, and interpretation of data about themselves and their surroundings, and determine likely outcomes of experiments.

Social Studies

Students engage in broad-based studies of four major areas relating to Social Studies, and how these subjects relate to themselves and the children in their environment. These subjects are: **Geography** (*Map Skills & Land Forms*), **Civics** (*Rules & Responsibilities*), **Economics** (*Goods & Services*), and **History** (*Sequencing; Communities Now and Long Ago*). Additionally, during the year, children also participate in investigations of folk tales, tall tales, true stories from America and around the world, U.S. holidays, and major American historical events, figures, and symbols.

Science/Technology/Engineering

By engaging in the process of Scientific Inquiry—asking questions, and recording, analyzing, displaying and reflecting on data—students will engage in scientific investigation on topics relating to: **Physical Science** (*Liquids & Solids*), **Life Science** (*Organisms-Plants & Animals*), **Earth and Space Science** (*Weather & Objects in the Sky*), and **Technology** (*The Design Process*). They also investigate how topics in Science and Technology are impacted by Human Affair.

Art

Students develop and design their own portfolio covers. Using the elements of art and principles of design, they use a variety of media in developing fine motor skills (cut and glue, form geometric shapes, adhere one medium to another). Students learn primary and secondary colors and begin to control, mix, and apply paint. They also begin to make aesthetic decisions during the process and to reflect upon their work and share their thoughts with others.

Music

When singing songs, listening and moving to music, children learn to determine the meter and pattern and they can demonstrate the difference between the macro and micro beat. Children are encouraged to improvise their own melodies and audiate the home tone through internal hearing. They play tonal instruments and begin to choose rhythm instruments to accompany songs, poems, and stories.

Physical Education

Movement exploration is the methodology used by the physical education staff to develop perceptual motor skills for first grade students. Lessons develop the concepts of balance, spatial awareness, eye-hand and eye-foot coordination and loco motor skills. Students also learn more about their bodies and how exercise affects heart function.