



# First Grade Curriculum Overview



## **Literacy**

The mission of the District 30 English Language Arts program is to challenge our students through effective instruction in the skills required to live and work in a 21st century global community. Early literacy instruction of foundational skills addresses phonological awareness, print awareness, phonics and word recognition, fluency, vocabulary and oral language comprehension, and text comprehension. Our K–2 classrooms follow a structured phonics scope and sequence that is diagnostic and responsive. Beginning in kindergarten, there is a cumulative progression of foundational skills taught through explicit direct instruction. As students move into the next grade level, these skills progressively become more complex. With texts and tasks that become increasingly sophisticated through the grades, students develop confidence and proficiency in oral and written language, comprehension, and critical thinking skills. District 30 recognizes the importance of differentiating instruction to maximize achievement for all students. Language skills are essential to furthering learning, communication, career development, and the human spirit.

The first grade balanced literacy curriculum includes:

- Explicit reading comprehension strategy instruction (with an emphasis on “monitor for meaning”, “images”, “questioning”, and “schema”)
- Reading and writing in narrative, information, and opinion genres
- Word Work (phonemic awareness, phonics, spelling, and vocabulary)
- Grammar
- Independent reading and writing
- Small group work
- Conferences



## **Social Studies**

Social Studies is the integrated study of the social sciences to promote informed citizenship. Our curriculum is designed to tell the story of who we are as citizens of the United States and of a larger global society. As educators of 21<sup>st</sup> century learners, our job is to prepare students to be able to critically participate as active citizens with the ability to intelligently and compassionately participate in our democracy in this millennium (NCSS, Media Literacy, 2009).

Our curriculum thoughtfully integrates the disciplines of history, geography, economics, and government to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an increasingly interdependent world. Units of study are grounded in the inquiry process, in which students acquire key concepts and skills through questioning, analysis, and critical thinking.

The first grade social studies curriculum around citizenship includes the following units:

- Character and Citizenship
- Citizenship and Maps
- Citizenship - Past and Present
- Citizenship and Government

The District 30 curriculum is being developed in alignment with Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and C3 Standards and has been informed by current research and best practice in the field.



## **Mathematics**

The District 30 mathematics curriculum emphasizes deep mathematical understanding and reasoning with problem solving at the center of math learning. Concepts are taught utilizing a concrete, pictorial, abstract learning progression through daily lessons, hands on activities, real-world problems, and differentiated math workshop experiences.

Mathematical thinking and fluency is embedded throughout the curriculum. Students become mathematicians engaging in a mathematical practices such as making sense of problems, persevering in solving problems, modeling mathematics, and utilizing appropriate math tools. These mathematical practices are distinct from specific content students learn because the practices are characteristics of broader behavior, rather than mastery of a single concept or idea.

The mathematical practices, skills and concepts connect and build across the grade levels. In grades K-5 students utilize Math in Focus by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt as the primary resource.

1st Grade Mathematicians:

- Understand the relationship between addition and subtraction
- Interpret words and phrases to solve addition and subtraction problems
- Interpret mathematical symbols (+, -, =) to solve equations
- Understand place value
- Use place value understanding to add and subtract
- Measure lengths using non-standard units
- Represent and interpret data
- Apply mathematical practices to real world situations



## **Science**

The District 30 elementary science curriculum engages students as scientists. Students investigate questions relevant to their lives by conducting investigations; collecting and analyzing data; developing and using models to explain phenomena, and engaging in argument from evidence. Students build understanding of core ideas in science as well as understanding and use of scientific practices in earth science, life science, physical science, and engineering design.

The first grade science curriculum includes the following units:

- Light and Sound: Students will learn how sound travels over distances and is heard by humans. Students will also explore the relationship between sound and vibration by analyzing a variety of ways to generate sound. They will engage in inquiry to investigate what happens when a variety of objects are in the path of a beam of light. As a culmination, students will utilize the design process to systematically solve a problem using what they have learned about light and sound.
- Sun, Moon, and Stars: Students will investigate their own shadows, explore the day and night sky and observe the apparent movement of the sun, moon, and stars across the sky. Finally, students explore the seasonal patterns of sunrise and sunset.
- Plants and Animals: Students will make observations to construct evidence that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents. They will use text and media to determine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive and design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs. Also, students will observe the life cycle of a caterpillar/ butterfly.

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