



Ellington Public Schools Curriculum Guide

Grade 1

The Ellington Public Schools elementary curriculum is designed to enhance children's intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development, while supporting students in acquiring the skills needed to become collaborative and independent learners.

This document provides you with an overview of the skills, topics, and concepts that form the core curriculum at this grade level. The curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and other state and national standards in each content area.



Each child is viewed as a unique person with an individual pattern and pace of growth. Different approaches to learning and skill levels are expected, accepted, and used to design curriculum and instruction.

MATHEMATICS

The mathematics program maintains a balance between the development of math concepts, basic skills and problem solving strategies. Students apply their knowledge of basic skills and concepts while working on meaningful and challenging tasks. During first grade, students will work to improve their speed and accuracy adding with a sum of 20 or less and subtracting from a number 20 or less. The Bridges in Mathematics program is used as a resource for mathematics instruction.



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KEY SECOND FIRST MATH SKILLS

- Develop an understanding of addition, subtraction, and strategies for addition and subtraction within 20;
- Develop an understanding of what digits mean in numbers as they begin adding with a sum of 100;
- Learn how to solve addition and subtraction word problems;
- Measure lengths of objects by using a shorter object as a unit of length;
- Make composite shapes by joining shapes together.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Our first grade language arts curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and builds upon the spiral curriculum begun in kindergarten. We approach the teaching of literacy through a balanced approach that supports students through reading workshop, writing workshop, phonics, and small-group instruction.

READING

In first grade students will continue to read with increasing fluency and understanding as they move up the levels of text complexity. Students grow as readers through lots of reading, developing strong reading behaviors, and instruction with texts on and just above students' just right reading levels. Our first graders are taught to transfer reading practices developed through that close study of shared texts to their own independent reading.

WRITING

Our writing curriculum is designed to improve student skills in the three types of writing spotlighted in the Common Core State Standards: narrative, opinion, and information writing. Using a writing process approach that includes direct instruction in the skills and strategies of proficient writing, students engage in frequent writing practice with regular assessment-based feedback and in close study of mentor texts.



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PHONICS

The purpose of phonics and word study is to help children become efficient problem-solvers of words by developing their knowledge of words. Typically, a part of each day is devoted to explicit, direct phonics instruction through the Foundations program.

KEY FIRST GRADE LITERACY SKILLS

- Think and talk in partnerships about the main ideas, settings, characters, and events in a story;
- Gather facts from different types of text, including non-fiction texts;
- Write about a topic using complete sentences, supplying some facts, and providing some sense of opening and closing to the writing;
- Learn and practice rules for recognizing the sounds in words in order to sound out more complex words as they read and write.

HANDWRITING

The Foundations manuscript handwriting program is used.

SCIENCE

Science instruction focuses on the development of wonder about the natural world and the ability to observe, describe and apply basic process skills. Some of the questions students work to answer are “How does light help me see things and communicate with others?”, “What happens when materials vibrate?” and “How do animals meet their needs so that they can survive and grow?”. Students will begin to build their understanding of complex phenomena in the world around them through demonstrations, models, and experiences.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students will use inquiry to expand their understanding of community. Topics include what makes Ellington special, how communities have changed over time, and how communities are different around the world.



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MUSIC

The music program fosters an understanding of music and the development of musical skills through singing, listening, and movement. Due to current Covid health restrictions, there will be limited playing of instruments.

ART

The art program develops an appreciation of art, introduces design elements, and gives opportunities to create art in a variety of media.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education lessons engage students in carefully planned and sequenced movement experiences that teach them about themselves and their world.

HEALTH

In health students are provided opportunities to acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills necessary for making health-promoting decisions. Students learn about personal wellness related to physical and emotional health to build skills which promote personal hygiene, infection prevention, and effective communication.

HOMEWORK

Reading and developing literacy skills is a priority in the elementary curriculum. Ideally, students should read outside of school on a daily basis. In first grade, the expected length of time at home for either independent reading or being read to is 10-20 minutes each day. To help establish the reading habit, families are encouraged to support this goal by setting aside time each day for reading, including reading to your child.

K-6 Digital Tools Log-in & User Support

[Click here for our family resource for logging into EPS Digital Tools and getting started using various tools](#)