

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.

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Curriculum Guide for 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.

KEY FIRST GRADE 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.

For more information about our curriculum, please visit our website:

www.ellingtonpublicschools.org

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, word study, 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.

WORD STUDY

The purpose of word study is to help children become efficient problem-solvers of words by developing their knowledge of words. Typically, 15 to 20 minutes each day is devoted to explicit, direct phonics instruction.

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.

SCIENCE

Science instruction focuses on the development of wonder about the natural world and the ability to observe, describe and apply basic process skills. One of the questions students work to answer is "How does light help me see things and communicate with others?" Through projects and experiences that explore life cycles of animals, needs of living things, measurement, and the position and motion of objects students will begin to build their understanding of complex phenomena in the world around them.

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. As a final project, students will identify an area of need in a community and plan a fundraiser to help the people in this area.

HANDWRITING

The Zaner-Bloser manuscript handwriting program is used.

MUSIC

The music program fosters an understanding of music and the development of musical skills through singing, listening, playing instruments, and movement.

ART

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