

Dear Upcoming First Grader,

First grade is a very exciting year! Science and social studies are packed full. In **science**, you will learn about seasons, weather, animals, plants, magnets and more. In **social studies**, you will learn about many historical figures and their importance. You will also learn about economics while focusing on goods and services as well as producers and consumers.

In first grade we continue to focus on **phonics**. We will build off of what they have learned in kindergarten by learning about suffixes and prefixes. We will learn about digraphs and blends. And we will focus on learning nouns, verbs, adjectives, and pronouns.

In **reading** and **language arts**, you will enjoy fiction and non-fiction passages and books. You will learn to search for evidence in passages and learn to answer questions in complete sentences. You will be reading books and logging them nightly to reach a monthly reading goal. Our goal in first grade is to read 20 books per month.

We also begin working with the Accelerated Reader (AR) program and set a goal there as well! First graders work to earn 20 points through AR for the year and will strive to maintain an 80% average or higher on the AR (comprehension) quizzes.

In **math**, we will work to become fluent in addition and subtraction problems with sums up to 18. We will work on telling time to the hour and half-hour. Counting coins is another first grade goal. Learning the value of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters and how to count the coins together. We will continue to build on knowledge of 2D shape attributes and learn about 3D shapes as well. We will work with number patterns using a hundreds chart. And we will also work on basic measurements and fractions.

You will be surprised at how your child's **writing skills** develop in first grade! We will start off with recognizing and developing our own sentences. Then we will move quickly into writing narrative, informative, and opinion pieces. We will work repetitively on sentence structure as well.

To help you prepare for first grade, please **continue reading every day** over the summer. In addition to reading every day, be sure to practice the **220 sight words** you mastered in kindergarten. And once you feel ready, challenge yourself to learn more! This will ensure you are on track for first grade reading.

Also, practice your addition and subtraction facts. You can enroll in Xtra Math ([xtramath.org](http://xtramath.org)) to help you learn those facts quickly. Also, begin drawing your child's attention to coins and clocks.

Please be sure you get the items on the supply list so that you will be prepared for First Grade! We are looking forward to meeting you.

Have a great summer!

First Grade Teachers