

Integrated Curriculum

The First Grade curriculum is integrated around themes whenever possible. For example, if the theme is weather, we will read and write (fiction and nonfiction) about weather while learning about the science behind weather. The following is a list of topics that may be covered during the school year:

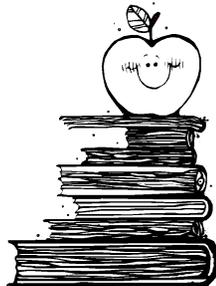
Colors	Pumpkins	Spiders
Weather	Seasons	Plants
Patriotic symbols	Famous Americans	Matter
Life cycles	Community	Apples
Holiday customs	Maps	Habitats

Homework Policy

I believe that homework improves the educational program in the following ways:

- Students develop responsibility and good study habits.
- Students practice skills learned in the classroom.
- Parents stay informed and involved in their child's education.

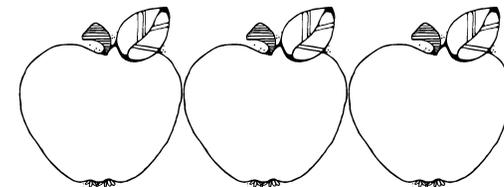
Homework in First Grade should take **approximately 25 minutes per day four days a week, including 10 minutes of packet and 15 minutes or more reading.** If homework is consistently requiring more time to complete, please let us know. Homework will be sent home on Mondays and returned on Fridays.



Math Curriculum

The core of the Math program comes from the district adopted Saxon Math program. In addition, I frequently utilize supplemental hands-on programs such as Math Their Way of Thinking and Marcy Cook. The curriculum is based on the California State adopted Standards. The following is a list of some of the skills that will be covered in first grade:

- Counting from 1 to 100
- Writing numerals from 1 to 100
- Place value (ones, tens, hundreds)
- Grouping by 10s
- Odd and even numbers
- Patterning
- Calendar concepts
- Solving simple word problems
- Basic addition and subtraction facts to 18
- Recognition of fact families
- Column addition and subtraction
- Naming fractions
- Counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s to 100
- Telling time to the hour and half hour
- Measurement
- 2-digit addition and subtraction
- Identification and counting of coins
- Identification of shapes
- Sorting



Reading

First Grade is a critical time to develop reading fluency and comprehension. We do this by immersing kids in language, both printed and oral. The development of reading skills is woven throughout the day in all academic areas. As with any developing skill, frequent practice is essential to success.

As in Kindergarten, book bags will be sent home daily with “just right” books for practice. Success in reading will best be achieved if you read with, read to and especially if you listen to your child read for 15 to 20 minutes each day. I ask that you record the books read (abbreviations are fine).

Just Right Books / Book Bags

Books that are too difficult for a child, lead to frustration with reading and can impede progress. Just right books allow your child to feel successful with reading while gaining fluency, comprehension, and decoding skills. Research has shown that when children are matched with decodable text they

- become engaged in reading
- use a wide range of reading strategies
- spend more time reading

I will place from 1 to 5 “just right” books in your child’s book bag. With these books your child will be able to

- read with 90-94% accuracy
- understand most of what is read
- read with some expression
- be able to retell the story in proper sequence with some descriptive language

Your child will be responsible for trading out books before school, during reading time, or when time permits.

In addition to the just right books, one book above your child’s reading level may also be included. This is a book that you may read aloud to your child.

Classroom Discipline

In order for all students to succeed, the classroom must have a structured, nurturing, accepting environment conducive to learning. We have established three rules which are posted in the classroom:

1. Be respectful
2. Be responsible
3. Do your best

The “golden rule” in Room 10 is:

I will be kind to all people at all times.

Positive Rewards

In addition to verbal affirmation, Students will receive tickets each day for attendance and positive participation in the classroom. Each Friday, there will be a raffle for the students to win treats.

Consequences

To keep track of student behavior, I utilize a card pull system in the classroom. After verbal warning, if a child continues to disrupt the classroom, he or she will pull a card. On Monday, a behavior report will be sent home letting you know how your child did the week prior.

No cards pulled – O – Outstanding

1 card pulled – S – Satisfactory

2 cards pulled – N – Needs Improvement

3 cards pulled – U – Unsatisfactory

If at any time behavior becomes a concern, I will call you to conference so that we may discuss resolving the problem together.

Birthdays

I am delighted to help your child celebrate a birthday. If you would like to provide treats, please keep it simple. Cookies, brownies, ice cream bars or doughnuts and boxed juice are easy to serve and not as messy as cupcakes. Please do not bring balloons. We will have a group celebration in June for students with summer birthdays.

Book Orders

The parent of a student will be sending home book order catalogs for you to use in ordering paperback books at discounted prices. The class earns bonus points for each order and this way we are able to get more high-quality reading material for our classroom. Please consider ordering out of this catalog for special occasions, holidays, and rewards.

Library

Our library day is Friday. Please help your child remember to return his/her book to the library book box in our classroom by that day. If a book is returned late, it should be returned directly to the library.

Communication

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns. My email address is ghauk@glendora.k12.ca.us, or you can reach me at school (852-4593). On the front of each homework packet, there will be a calendar with upcoming events. Also, if you go to the Cullen Elementary website, there is a list of school events as well. I will send home notes occasionally with special information. I like to utilize email to send home information as well. Sometimes a Saturday or Sunday reminder about an event on Monday comes in handy. If you have an email address, I would really appreciate you allowing me to send you information this way. I will send the messages "BCC" so no other recipients will see your address.

Daily Schedule

The following is a general outline of what our day might look like:

8:15-8:45	Attendance, lunch count, calendar, Math meeting, Math facts
8:45-9:00	Morning message, news, poems
9:00-9:20	Phonics, word work, Spelling
9:20-9:45	Journal/Writing
9:45-10:00	Recess
10:00-10:30	Book Bag Reading, explain seatwork
10:30-11:00	Guided Reading, seatwork, centers
11:00-11:30	Integrated Language Arts
11:30-12:15	Lunch
12:15-12:35	Read aloud
12:35-1:00	Math
1:00-1:30	Science/Social Studies
1:30-2:02	P.E./Music

