

Parent Guide to First Grade



English Language Arts

In first grade, your child will become a more independent reader and writer. They will extend their understanding of phonemic awareness, decoding, word recognition, comprehension, and conventions for written language. Important goals for the year include:

Reading:

- Use grade level phonics and word analysis skills to figure out unknown words.
- Retell important details from fiction and nonfiction text.
- Use details and illustrations from a story, poem or play to describe the characters, settings and major events.
- Compare and contrast the experiences of characters in stories.
- Find similarities and differences between two or more texts on the same topic.
- Make connections within a text.
- Use various strategies to determine the meaning of unknown words and phrases in a text.
- Explain the difference between books that tell stories and books that give information.

Writing:

- Write opinion, informational, and narrative pieces.
- Use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish their writing.
- Participate in shared research and writing projects with the class.
- Use grade-appropriate grammar and spelling, including capitals and end punctuation.

Speaking/Listening:

- Take part in conversations about topics and texts being studied by responding to the comments of others and asking questions to clear up any confusion.
- Use complete sentences when expressing ideas and feelings.

Mathematics

In first grade, your child will continue to strengthen math habits such as problem solving, persistence, precision, accuracy, modeling, constructing arguments, and checking to see if the answer makes sense.

Important goals for the year include:

- Represent and solve addition and subtraction word problems.
- Read, write, and model numbers through 120.
- Add and subtract within 20.
- Understand what the digits mean in two-digit numbers and represent numbers using tens and ones (place value).
- Compare numbers to determine which one is larger or smaller.
- Use understanding of place value to add and subtract (e.g., $38 + 5$, $29 + 20$, $80 - 50$, $64 + 10$).
- Measure and compare lengths of objects.
- Tell time to the hour and half-hour.
- Read, understand, and make graphs.
- Describe, compare, and model by building or drawing two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes.
- Make new shapes by joining shapes together.
- Divide circles and rectangles into halves or fourths.

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Science

As first grade students learn about the life, physical, and earth sciences, they will develop skills of observation, actively participate in simple investigations, have opportunities to use their senses and other tools to gather data, and time to talk about their observations with peers.

Important goals for the year include:

- Explain what happens to an object when it is pushed or pulled. Predict the effect of a force on the motion of an object.
- Recognize the different features of the day and night sky. Recognize patterns in the moon's appearance from day to day.
- Compare the physical properties of rocks, minerals, soil, and water and describe the different ways they are useful.
- Explain the basic needs of plants and animals. Describe how humans can protect and improve the environment.
- Summarize the basic needs of plants and animals for energy and growth.

Social Studies

First grade students focus on their neighborhood and community when learning about different social studies concepts.

Important goals for the year include:

- Understand how people and events change a neighborhood or community over time.
- Explain how people use natural resources.
- Explain how people can change the environment.
- Use geographic tools, terms and maps to identify places, landforms and bodies of water.
- Explain how people use and earn money for goods and services.
- Explain how supply and demand affects the choices a family makes.
- Understand the importance of rules in the home, school and community.
- Compare languages, traditions and holidays of various cultures in the community.

Resources for Parents

Randolph County School System

www.randolph.k12.nc.us

Parent Resources

www.ed.gov/

NBC Education Nation Parent Toolkit

www.parenttoolkit.com/

K-12 Standards in Science and Other Subjects

www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/

National PTA Parent Guides

www.pta.org