

CURRICULUM GOALS FOR GRADE 1 GENERAL STUDIES

The first grade class is a year of transition to “real school” and an important milestone in the course of a child’s formal education. The establishment of basic reading, writing and math skills form the core of the general studies curriculum. An understanding of each child’s developmental readiness for the pursuit of formal learning opportunities is critical. The program also seeks to instill in the young child work, study and independent learning habits that will last a lifetime. Continued emphasis is placed on growth in interpersonal skills and the fostering of a positive self image.

Integrated Reading/Language Arts

Students in first grade should:

- ✓ Develop a love for books.
- ✓ Use illustrations to support comprehension.
- ✓ Read, understand, analyze and interpret text.
- ✓ Understand the difference between fiction and non-fiction.
- ✓ Understand elements of stories: main idea, character, setting, problem and solution.
- ✓ Develop fluency and expression in reading.
- ✓ Be exposed to various genres of literature and writing.
- ✓ Apply phonetic principles (knowledge of sound-symbol relationships) in reading and writing activities.
- ✓ Demonstrate comprehension through the use of graphic organizers, reading strategies and participating in group discussions.
- ✓ Be able to identify who, what, where and why.
- ✓ Sequence events in the order of beginning, middle and end.
- ✓ Expand sight vocabulary and use in written works.
- ✓ Introduction to the concept of book reports.
- ✓ Keep writing journals using a combination of drawing and text to convey ideas.
- ✓ Begin to use conventions of punctuation and grammar.
- ✓ Practice writing legibly and correct letter and number formation.
- ✓ Use the methodology of the Handwriting Without Tears program in order to legibly and correctly form letters and numbers.
- ✓ Use prior knowledge or experience to support new learning.

Mathematics

The first grader should be able to:

- ✓ Communicate math through a variety of written, visual and concrete forms.
- ✓ Apply a variety of strategies to perform addition and subtraction of numbers up to 18.
- ✓ Use a variety of math manipulatives such as base ten blocks, Unifix Cubes, counters, and Cuisinaire rods to explore mathematical concepts.
- ✓ Identify simple fractional parts using concrete or pictorial representations.
- ✓ Explore concepts of measurement using standard and nonstandard units.
- ✓ Identify various geometric shapes and lines of symmetry.
- ✓ Develop basic number sense by understanding place value of digits up to 100.
- ✓ Recognize numeric, geometric and visual patterns.
- ✓ Record and graph simple data.
- ✓ Interact daily with calendar and time concepts.

- ✓ Apply strategies for solving simple word problems.
- ✓ Identify and count coins.
- ✓ Identify coin equivalents at an introductory level.
- ✓ Tell time to the half-hour.

Science

Students should investigate the following concepts through hands-on experiences:

- ✓ Health and nutrition.
- ✓ The five senses.
- ✓ Weather, the water cycle and clouds.
- ✓ Arthropods.
- ✓ Life cycles and habitats of animals.
- ✓ Parts and life cycle of plants.
- ✓ Recycling.
- ✓ Rocks and magnets.

Social Studies/Civics

The first grader should:

- ✓ Investigate individual development and identity through self study and comparison to others.
- ✓ Understand the concepts of rules and consequences by being an active citizen.
- ✓ Recognize American symbols.
- ✓ Be exposed to concepts and history of American holidays.
- ✓ Study the lives of major American figures.
- ✓ Be introduced to the concepts of continents, oceans, directionality, and other elements of maps and globes.
- ✓ Explore different cultures and diversity.

Study Skills

As the first grader progresses through the year, he/she should learn to:

- ✓ Follow oral and written directions (up to 3 steps).
- ✓ Self monitor work (use proofreading strategies).
- ✓ Develop organizational habits for classroom materials, supplies and personal belongings.
- ✓ Develop appropriate listening and attentional skills. Sustain focus during instruction.
- ✓ Take responsibility for completion of in class and home assignments. **Seek assistance when appropriate.**
- ✓ Become increasingly more task oriented.
- ✓ Develop increasing independence in deciding what materials are needed for in class and home assignments.

Computer Education

Formal instruction in computer skills in first grade focuses on:

Art

Students will be working in different media: chalk, crayon, paint, ruler art, collage, clay and sculpture.

Physical Education

The program should provide opportunities for children to participate in:

- ✓ Fitness activities.
- ✓ Sports skills.
- ✓ Locomotor, manipulative and non-manipulative skills.
- ✓ Activities to develop space, levels, pathways, flow awareness.
- ✓ Sportsmanship/midot related to physical education.

Music

- ✓ First grade students will learn modern Jewish songs appropriate to the Jewish calendar.
- ✓ Students will have opportunities to explore the concepts of tempo and rhythm in listening and movement activities.
- ✓ Appreciation and enjoyment of music and participation in singing experiences will be encouraged in first grade.

Library Skills

Students should:

- ✓ Identify and locate fiction, non-fiction and biography books in the school library.
- ✓ Locate and identify the parts of a book: cover, jacket, title, author, illustrator, spine and illustrations.
- ✓ Explain illustrator's techniques.
- ✓ Select appropriate reading from the library. Take responsibility for the care and return of the borrowed material.
- ✓ Maintain good listening habits during story time.

Affective Skills

Students should be encouraged to:

- ✓ Be sensitive to peers' feelings.
- ✓ Respect adults and peers.
- ✓ Use conflict resolution techniques modeled by teachers to resolve differences.

Life Skills

Students should:

- ✓ Become more aware of healthy choices and self-care practices that support wellness (such as oral hygiene, dressing appropriately for the weather or sports, washing hands, etc.)
- ✓ Become more cognizant and respectful of individual differences and similarities.
- ✓ Practice ways to prevent injuries and become more aware of safety procedures in the street, playground, classroom and home. They will identify safe and appropriate behavior when interacting with strangers, acquaintances and trusted adults. They will also identify warning labels on medicines and household products.
- ✓ Understand the basic needs of all humans and recognize various emotions.
- ✓ Demonstrate empathy and sympathy.
- ✓ Recognizes causes for conflict; Discuss and practice appropriate ways to prevent and resolve conflicts.
- ✓ Demonstrate respect for varying ideas and opinions and work cooperatively and collaboratively in groups.
- ✓ Practice good sportsmanship.
- ✓ Identify kinds of medicines and their safe usage.