



Mt. Lebanon School District

Elementary Curriculum

Grade 1 Curriculum

English Language Arts

First grade students in the Mt. Lebanon School district are provided with skills to become fluent readers. They learn to apply phonics rules and recall high frequency words as they read sentences and stories. Lessons are taught in both large and small group structures with independent practice and technology times integrated. Students are exposed to both informational and narrative texts. They learn to identify the main idea, understand characters traits, recall the sequence of events, use graphic features to aid comprehension, be aware of the author's purpose, and compare and contrast information within a story. The children write for a variety purposes including: to inform, to support an opinion, and to describe an experience. Mt. Lebanon first grade students are encouraged to read with expression, phrasing and natural pauses with steady rate and accuracy.

Mathematics

First grade students develop number sense through counting and comparing quantities, and through composing and decomposing numbers. Students form a clear understanding of the number sequence up to 120, and explore the operations of addition and subtraction. First grade students achieve fluency with two (2) addend and subtrahend combinations with sums and minuends up to 10. Students develop multiple strategies for combining quantities and they expand the understanding of planar shapes and geometric solids. First grade students explore measurement using nonstandard units of measure and learn about repeating and growing patterns.

Science

Our science program enhances students' attitudes toward science and encourages their natural curiosity. It provides students with a substantial knowledge base of facts, concepts, and principles. Students learn to use and apply science-related thinking and process skills: observation, questioning, data gathering, note taking, analysis, and hypothesizing. During each curriculum unit in science, students work cooperatively in small groups with an emphasis on learning essential content and developing science process skills. Our science curriculum provides lessons and curriculum units in life science, physical science, and engineering.

In the Life Science unit each student come to know the life cycles of a number of insects. They see the life cycles of insects unfold in real time and compare the stages exhibited by each species.

In the Physical Science unit each student are provided experiences that heighten their awareness, curiosity, and understanding of Earth's dynamic atmosphere and have opportunities to engage in scientific and engineering practices. They explore the natural world by using simple instruments to observe and monitor change.

In the Engineering unit each student discover and discuss wind and methods that engineers use to capture its energy. Students focus on activities related to understanding how the wind can do work and how to design mechanisms that utilize wind power.

Social Studies

In first grade, students learn about the structures of schools and families. Students learn how to get along with classmates, follow school rules, and identify people who work at a school. In addition, students learn and practice map and geography skills and learn about how to be a good citizen. Good citizenship is learned through stories and discussions about the attributes: Respect, Honesty, Love, Justice, Courage, Loyalty and Hope. Students may learn about school life long ago by visiting Clayton or Meadowcroft Village.

Art

In first grade, students will explore the works of many famous artists including Vincent Van Gogh and Piet Mondrian. Students will use a variety of materials to create art that explores the ideas and imagery of the masters. First grade students will have the opportunity to create drawings, paintings, ceramic pieces, sculptures, and printmaking, while focusing on line as an element of design.

Vocal Music

First grade students sing a variety of songs variety of songs from folk songs, patriotic songs, multicultural songs, and classical music while maintaining a steady beat. The Vocal Music curriculum gives students a strong foundation in the many different ways to use their voice. Through a series of vocal music classes, first grade students understand and experience music in a meter of 2, 3, and 4 beats. They practice different rhythm patterns through moving, singing, and playing instruments. Through the songs students sing they define and experience melodic patterns and perform these patterns in different tempos and with different dynamics.

Physical Education

The curriculum for physical education provides equal opportunity for students to create, learn, enjoy and participate in skill development through a variety of physical activities that have life-long value. These activities are designed to contribute to good physical, mental, social and emotional health. The activities are divided into five areas, team games, rhythmic, low

organization, lifetime sports and fitness. In team games, students demonstrate the fundamental skills and apply learned knowledge. Rhythmic activities use a variety of patterns and directions while low organization activities use fundamental movements and skills. Lifetime sports demonstrate the value of recreational activity and the fundamental skills of the game. Finally, fitness develops strength and endurance in all muscle groups.

Library

In first grade, students visit the library weekly for a book exchange and a lesson. Lessons focus on differentiating between non-fiction and fiction texts and choosing appropriate materials for independent reading. Library citizenship and literature appreciation are also themes in first grade. In addition, students begin learning about internet safety, security and etiquette through lessons found in Common Sense Media's digital citizenship curriculum.

Spanish

Get ready for your first grader to come home singing in Spanish! Students learn the basics through song, games, stories, centers, and interactive classroom tasks. The units of focus throughout the school year include basic Spanish introductions, the Spanish alphabet, counting up to 30, days of the week, classroom objects, colors, shapes, body parts, and family members. In addition to the different Spanish vocabulary units, students have a Hispanic cultural focus in each grade level. First graders begin with Mexico. Throughout the year, they will learn about different aspects of Mexican culture, including geography, the Mexican flag, and various holidays such as Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), Navidad (Christmas), Carnaval, (Carnival), and Cinco de Mayo (May 5th).

Technology Assured Experiences

Students in first grade continue to grow their word processing skills, including typing words, sentences and stories. They also learn how to insert clip art into documents. The internet is introduced to students and they also begin to use a variety of educational software programs.

Counseling

All first grade students participate in the school counseling program through regular classroom guidance lessons. This curriculum consists of structured lessons, delivered by the school counselor in the classroom, designed to help students attain the academic, career and social/emotional competencies and to provide all students with the knowledge, attitudes and skills appropriate for their developmental level. The first grade classroom lessons are designed to further develop school success skills such as accepting mistakes and setting goals, friendship and social problem solving skills, feeling identification, communication and self-management skills, diversity, inclusion and career awareness. Units are flexible and may vary in order based on student needs and schedules.