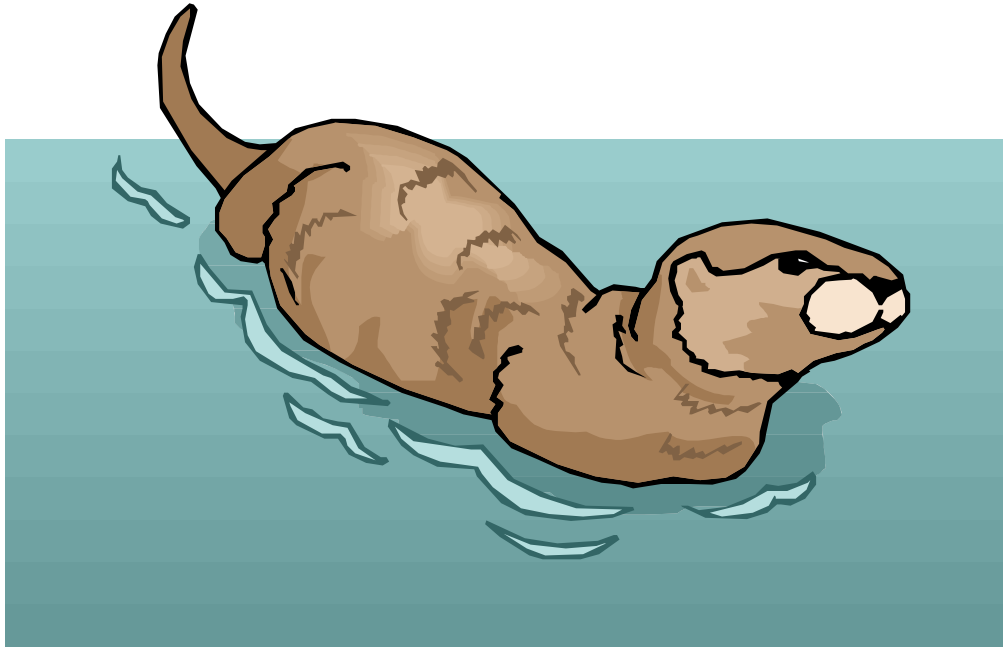


# First Grade Curriculum Packet



**Mrs. Vanderwerff**

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**Einstein Elementary**

**2011-2012**

# Daily Schedule

9:00-9:10	Attendance, Book bags, Silent Reading
9:10-10:30	Reading Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Small reading groups</b></li> <li>• Word work / phonics</li> <li>• Literacy activities</li> <li>• Poetry</li> <li>• Handwriting</li> </ul>
10:30-10:45	Recess
10:45-11:55	Writing Instruction (M,F) (Specialists T,W,Th)
11:55-12:45	Lunch & Recess
12:45-1:15	Writing Instruction (T,W,Th)
1:15-2:00	Science/Social Studies (M,F) Math Skills Groups (T,Th) Math Instruction (W)
2:00-2:15	Recess
2:15-3:20	Math Instruction
	***Choice Time- 2-3 times a week students will have time to explore legos, puzzles, learning games, computers, etc.
3:30	Dismissal (2:00 on Wednesdays)

## Special classes

**Tuesday/Thursday – PE and Music**

**Wednesday – Library**

# First Grade Curriculum

## READING

Einstein Elementary uses two reading programs: *Read Well* and *Scott Foresman*. I will be integrating both of these programs into our daily reading. As we begin the reading process, it is very important that parents are supportive and helpful at home. Your child will be bringing home reading sheets and book bags for homework. Please read these materials with them and sign their homework sheets. First graders should be reading at home each night for at least **10 minutes**. This can include their homework reading sheets, bedtime stories, and library books

## JUST-RIGHT BOOKS

During Readers' Workshop students will read "just-right books" which are at the student's reading level. Students will also bring a just-right book home to read as homework, Monday-Wednesday.

What is a just right book?	
Just Right	Too Hard or Too Easy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Books</li><li>• Books that they can understand &amp; enjoy</li><li>• Books that only have a few words they don't know</li><li>• As they read, it is mostly smooth, with a few spots that sound choppy.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Books they have seen many times before</li><li>• Reading without thinking or comprehending</li><li>• More than 5 words on a page that they don't know</li><li>• Not enjoying the book because of difficulty</li></ul>

## READERS' WORKSHOP

Along with the *Read Well* curriculum, students will also take part in Readers' Workshop. Readers' Workshop is a time for students to choose the books they want to read (just-right books), read for a long period of time, and then share responses to their reading with one another. Readers' Workshop begins with a reading lesson where I teach students a skill or strategy that readers use; which they then practice during their independent reading.

**Here is a look at our year in Readers' Workshop:**

### Reading Workshop with Just Right Books

- Readers build good habits
- Readers use strategies to figure out words
- Readers think and talk about their books with reading partners
- Readers can become character experts
- Non-fiction reading & features of non-fiction texts



## WRITING

Writing Workshop is a "process" approach to the teaching of writing. The children are encouraged to write in many different genres (poetry, short-fiction, personal narrative, non-fiction, etc) but the same process is used. Students' writing will be graded according to the district's rubric focusing on ideas/content, organization, conventions, style, and applied spelling.

Most importantly, the children learn to see themselves as writers, with important stories to tell.

**Here is a look at our year in Writing Workshop:**

September	Launching the Writing Workshop
October/November	Small Moments
December	Writing for Readers
January	Revision
February	Revision/Authors as Mentors
March	Non-Fiction
April	Poetry
May	All about books/ Non-fiction

**SPELLING**

You may notice a lot of invented spelling during the first few months of school. I encourage students to do their **personal best** with spelling and do not hold them accountable for misspelled words at the beginning of the year; nor do I tell them how to spell words. I will however, teach students strategies for writing words independently!

We will begin a spelling program in October. Students will come home with 5-10 frequently used words that they should study at home. These words will belong to a word family or spelling pattern. For example, they may be words that begin with "th" or short-a words "cat, bat". *It is **MOST important to me that students learn the spelling pattern for the week, so they can correctly apply the sound pattern in their everyday writing.*** We will take a spelling quiz on Friday. This quiz is meant to hold students (and parents☺) accountable for studying spelling words at home. It is not meant to be a high stress or high rewards quiz. The number of correct words a student writes on a quiz is not as important as the student applying the spelling pattern in his/her everyday writing.

**MATH**

Spring of 2010 the district adopted a new elementary math curriculum; enVision Math, which will be used as the primary math curriculum. This program encourages students to think mathematically and become life-long problem solvers. There is a strong emphasis on building mathematical vocabulary and the use of language to talk about mathematical concepts.

First graders will also be in a math skill group based on ability level. This will begin in October and students will be learning math concepts at their level in addition to our regular math curriculum.

September	Comparing and Ordering Numbers
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	Understanding Addition
October	Understanding Subtraction Five and Ten Relationships
November	Addition Facts to 12 Subtraction Facts to 12
December	Geometry
January	Geometry
February	Place Value – Tens and Ones Counting and number patterns to 100
March	Comparing and Ordering Numbers to 100
April	Addition facts to 18 Measurement
May	Subtraction facts to 18 Data and Graphs
June	Data and Graphs

## SCIENCE

There are three different science kits we will be using this year. Our district uses FOSS science kits that give students opportunities for hands-on scientific investigations. Students will complete a science notebook throughout each unit this year. These notebooks will have their scientific observations as well as supplemental material to each investigation your child completes.

Science Units:

- Plants (Fall)
- Solids and Liquids (Winter)
- Air and Weather (Spring)

## HANDWRITING

Correct letter formation is important in this early stage of development. Students are learning upper and lowercase letters in the manuscript form of handwriting. We will be following the *Handwriting without Tears* program. I am trying to break bad habits with letter formation early. There is a model of the *Handwriting without Tears* alphabet included in this packet. You can access more information about the program at [www.hwtears.com](http://www.hwtears.com). Please help us at home by reinforcing correct pencil grip and correct letter formation.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Our social studies curriculum theme is My School and Family. Many of the lessons include experiential exercises which allow the students to make personal connections with the material presented. First graders will become familiar with the following topics:

Getting along in school	Learning from each other
Why schools have rules	Families are special
Family needs and wants	Family members care for each other
Family Traditions	Being a good neighbor

## TECHNOLOGY

Our goal is to have each child learn basic key/mouse functions and use and care of all equipment. Teachers will be modeling programs such as Microsoft Word and presentation applications for children to explore. First graders will also continue with the online Headsprout Reading Program that they began in Kindergarten. We will have approximately 45 minutes of computer time per week. We have a mini -lab between our classrooms with computers for our use and will have 7 Netbooks in our classroom for students to use as well.

## HOMEWORK

First Graders are expected to read for **at least 10 minutes nightly**. They will have a ½ sheet piece of paper or a fluency sheet from reading group, and will bring home a “just-right” book. Students will also be expected to study spelling words each night.

# Nuts & Bolts

## CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

I believe that life-long success depends on self-discipline. I have developed a Classroom Discipline Plan that gives every student the opportunity to manage his or her own behavior. Your child deserves the most positive educational environment possible for academic growth. Therefore, this plan will be in effect at all times.

### Class Rules

1. Be Kind and Respectful
2. Be Safe
3. Be Your Best!!!

As a way to keep track of students' behavior choices, I have a pocket chart with different colored cards. Each student will begin everyday on "Green." If a student demonstrates an inappropriate behavior he/she will receive a warning. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> reminder/warning the student will be asked to change his/her "card" to Yellow and will be asked to spend 5 minutes of recess inside to talk with me. If the behavior continues after the student is given more reminders, he/she will be asked to turn the card to "Red" and a note will be sent home to you. **A student WILL have the opportunity to turn his/her card back to Green after a card has been changed, as he/she demonstrates positive choices.**

### Individual Positive Reinforcement

\* Punch Cards – Every day your child will receive a hole-punch if he/she has ended the day making positive choices (ending on Green)! After earning 20 hole-punches, students will earn a prize from the prize box.

\* SUPER STAR – Each week one student will be the Super Star Student! This student will be our class' special helper for the week. Along with other incentives, on Friday, the Super Star will be able to have lunch with me and 3 friends, in the classroom.

### Class Positive Reinforcement

\* Marble Jar - The class will work towards earning 100 marbles. Throughout the day and week as students work quietly, receive compliments for on-task behavior, and compliments from other teachers, the class will earn marbles. When the class has earned 100 marbles, the students will receive a special reward, such as an extra recess, Read-In, or popcorn party!

## TAKE HOME FOLDERS

Your child will have a Take Home folder that will come home each day. This will include graded work, homework, my newsletters, school information, etc. The Take Home folder is also a quick and easy way for me to see short notes and small pieces of information or questions. I will check the folder each morning, so please return the folder with your child **every day**.

## BOOK BAGS

Students select 8 books on Monday and they use these books throughout the week while reading independently, with partners and with the teacher. They also bring a book home each night (Monday – Thursday) in a “book-bag” (Ziplock) and read with a parent. Students record these books on a log, and answer a question designated for each night. **Monday through Wednesday, students will bring home a “Just Right” book at their reading level. On Thursday, students can bring home a choice book.** Choice books may be too difficult (or too easy) for a student’s reading level. If your child brings home a difficult book, you may read to your child and still complete the book talk question together.

Please take extra good care of these books. Many of them are my personal books that I have been collecting the past few years. I encourage students to not have their book out of the book bag unless they are reading the book. Thank you! ☺

## SNACKS

We have a morning snack around 10:20am each day. **I would appreciate if each family could donate one box of crackers at the beginning of every month.** This way I am able to pass out the same snack to children and they don’t have to worry about forgetting to bring one. 1 box of crackers usually lasts us 1 ½ days. Goldfish, pretzels, Ritz, and graham crackers are big favorites! If your child has a special diet or allergies please send a snack for them.

## SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

Please try to schedule medical/dental appointments and trips after school hours. We know this can be difficult, but our school year calendar does provide some early release days (Wednesdays) and time off during the year. It is difficult to make up missed work, as much of what we do requires direct instruction and the use of hands-on materials. If you will be taking your child on vacation during school time, read up on where you are traveling, keep a journal and do some mathematical thinking along the way. There will be no prepared homework for your child.

## BIRTHDAYS

I am happy to celebrate your child's birthday at school. These celebrations will take place at the end of the day. If you would like to send treats for a birthday, please let me know in advance, but do not feel obligated to send something. Simple treats like cookies, popcorn, or cupcakes work best. It would be appreciated if you would send napkins for the class when you send the treat. There are **16 children** in our class this year. Summer birthdays will be celebrated during your child's *Super Star* week. Please do not send birthday invitations to be passed out at school, *unless there is one for every child in our class.*

## SUPER STAR

Each student will have one week that he/she will get to be the star. This is a week to build the students' confidence levels along with improving their speaking skills. The Super Star will complete a poster about him/her self, will put something in our MYSTERY BOX and write clues for us to solve, and will also fill up our ESTIMATION JAR. More specific instructions will come home with your child prior to his/her special week! A Super-Star Schedule is attached.

## ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Children need to arrive between 8:40-8:55am. After 9:00am you must have your child go to the office for a tardy slip. If you need to contact me before school in person, please do so by going through the office as I am frequently in meetings or busy planning for the day.

Student dismissal is 3:30pm (2:00pm on Wednesdays). If you need to pick up your child sooner, please go to the office and they will call for your child. I am not allowed to dismiss any child directly from the room prior to 3:30pm. **\*\*If your child is going home a different way than usual, please send a note in his/her take home folder, call the office, or send me an e-mail. I can not allow a child to be dismissed a different way unless I have parent permission.\*\***

If you have in-depth questions or concerns please contact me to set up an appointment for us to meet. I am available between 8:00am and 8:50am, and 3:30pm-4:00pm. The take home folder is a quick and easy way for me to see short notes and small pieces of information or questions. The fastest way to reach me is through e-mail, as I try to check it several times a day. I will respond to you as promptly as possible. If your message is urgent please contact the office as sometimes I might be out of the class for the day or may not have a chance to look at my e-mail until lunch or after school. [kvanderwerff@lwsd.org](mailto:kvanderwerff@lwsd.org)

This year, we will be holding *Goal Setting Conferences*, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>. A specific time will be set up for you and I to collaborate and talk about your child's learning and discuss any questions or concerns you may have. More information will be sent home as these dates approach. I look forward to a wonderful year with you and your child! Thank you!