

Ms. Walter's  
First Grade Class



Curriculum Packet  
2011-2012

## Daily Schedule

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
9:00-10:30	Reading Instruction/Small reading groups
10:30-10:45	Recess
10:45-11:55	Reading and Writing Instruction Specialists on Tues/Wed/Thurs
11:55-12:45	Lunch and Recess
12:45-1:15	Writing Workshop Science
1:15-2:00	Math Skills Group Social Studies Math Instruction (Wednesdays)
2:00-2:15	Recess
2:15-3:15	Math Instruction- Whole group
3:15	Story and pack up
3:30	Dismissal

# First Grade Curriculum

## READING

Einstein Elementary uses Read Well as our small group reading curriculum. 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, just right books, and library books.

In addition to our small reading groups students will be assigned to a specific level of "just right books." On Mondays, the children go "**BOOK SHOPPING.**" They take their personal bookshelves (magazine containers) and select their "**JUST RIGHT BOOKS.**" The books are leveled (color coded) based on the levels developed by Gay Su Pinnell and Irene Fountas, (Guided Reading, 1997) and with guidance from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. (Columbia University) **I don't put an emphasis on the "levels", in fact I ask that the children don't talk about what "color dot" they're working on amongst each other. I don't like to draw attention and place pressure on our new readers!**

Students select 8 books, and they use these books throughout the week, reading independently, with partners and with the teacher. They also bring a book home each night (Monday – Thursday) and read with a parent. They record these books on a reading log and answer a book talk question each night. On Thursday, they can bring home a choice book (not just right). Choice books may be too difficult for their reading level. In this case, parents can read to the 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 over the years. Thank you! I encourage students to not have their book out of the bookbag (ziplock) unless they are reading the book.

## WRITING

Writing Workshop is a "process" approach to the teaching of writing. The children are encouraged to write in many different genres (poetry, personal narrative, non-fiction, etc) but the same process is used. Specific lessons on the "6+1 Traits of Writing" (qualities of good writing) are incorporated.

Most importantly, the children learn to see themselves as writers, with important stories to tell. We start the year off with an emphasis on "**STORYTELLING.**" We learn that we have many stories to tell about things that happen in our lives. We tell our stories to our writing partners first, by using our fingers to keep track of the events. We call this "telling a story across your hand." Storytelling helps children learn how to sequence and keep track of their thoughts, and most importantly, they get the feel of how stories should "sound."

As the year progresses, we move through different "units of study." With Storytelling as the foundation, we begin to transfer our oral stories into drawings and written words. We write about "small moments" in our lives, tiny snippets that are meaningful to us. We learn how to sequence our stories, using 3-5 paged booklets. We also discuss the difference between "dawn to dusk" stories, and ONE small moment. We call the dawn to dusk stories watermelon stories. We are trying to avoid these large, never ending stories. Instead, we choose one seed and focus on it in detail. This analogy has worked very well with the children.

**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	Friendly & Persuasive Letters
April	Poetry
May	All about books/ Non-fiction

**SPELLING**

You may notice a lot of invented spelling during first grade. I encourage students to do their personal best with spelling. We will begin a spelling program in October. Your child will have a spelling packet each week that we work on in class. Students will have 5-10 words per week to practice and we have spelling tests on Friday. I will grade and send home their spelling tests the day of the test. Students are not given a grade on the report card for how well they do on spelling tests. They are graded on applied spelling as part of their writing grade so I am looking for how students can apply what they learn through our spelling program to their everyday writing. We also do an interactive word making activity called making words on the ActivBoard. Students work on sorting words, blending sounds and creating words that I dictate.

## MATH

Schools in the Lake Washington School District use EnVision math curriculum. There are online resources, fantastic student materials and engaging math games. Students will be bringing home their completed magazines (math work) in their take home folder as we finish each lesson. There are at home tips and suggestions for extending our math focus at home.

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.

Below are the first grade math concepts covered this year:

September	Comparing and Ordering Numbers Understanding Addition
October	Understanding Addition Five and Ten Relationships
November	Addition Facts to 12 Subtraction Facts to 12
December	Subtraction continued...
January	Geometry
February	Place Value Counting and number patterns until 100
March	Place Value Comparing and Ordering Numbers to 100
April	Addition facts to 18
May	Subtraction facts to 18 Data and Graphs
June	Time & Money

## 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.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Science Units:

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

## 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. I am trying to break bad habits with letter formation early. There is a model of the Manuscript alphabet included in this packet. Please help us at home by reinforcing correct pencil grip and correct letter formation.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Two years ago we got new social studies curriculum that focuses on activity based learning that is highly engaging. Students will get to participate in role-playing, creative simulations and writing activities. This program has great texts and reading support materials. All students have a social studies workbook that they will be working in all year.

Theme: My School and Family

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

## TECHNOLOGY

Students will be using our new netbooks this year in first grade! Our goal is to have each child learn basic key/mouse functions as well as use and care of all equipment. We want students learn the location of keys and are encouraged to use two hands for keyboarding. There are a few beginning keyboarding programs used to teach handwriting called Type to Learn and Dance Mat

Typing. First graders will also continue with the online Headsprout Reading Program that they began in Kindergarten.

## HOMWORK

First Graders are expected to read for at least 10 minutes nightly. Depending on what reading group they are in will either have a story on ½ sheet of paper and they will be responding to their “just right book” each night (you can write for them if that's easier). More detailed expectations will come home with your child once reading groups are up and running smoothly. First graders will all be responsible for reading their book bag story as homework on Monday-Thursday nights. Once spelling begins, they will need to practice their spelling words at home to be ready for the Friday tests.

## Nuts & Bolts

### TAKE HOME FOLDERS

Students will have a take home folder that goes between home and school each day. This is what they will transport their reading homework in daily. Please check your child's take home folder nightly. Lunch balances and other important information will always be sent home in their take home folder. On Friday they will bring home graded work and school information, etc. Please read over the information and return the empty folder with your child every Monday.

### SNACKS

We have a morning snack around 10:15 each day. I would appreciate if each family could donate one box of crackers a 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. 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.

## BOOK ORDERS

Scholastic book orders will be sent home once a month. I place an order one week after the book order goes home. This company has great prices on children's books compared to local bookstores. Please make checks out to Scholastic Book Club and I will place the order as a whole class. You can order from all 2-3 catalogs I send and just write one check to scholastic for the total amount.

## 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 **18 children** in our class this year. Summer birthdays will be given a special celebration towards the end of the year. Please do not send birthday invitations to be passed out at school, unless there is one for every child in our class.

## Tooth Fairy Box

When your child loses a tooth they can take home the special tooth fairy box full of great tooth tails and journal about how they lost their tooth. This should be returned the following day.

# Classroom Rules & Behavior Bears

## Class Rules

- Be Kind
- Be Safe
- Be Your Best

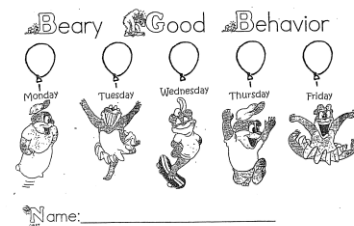
During the year I will use a behavior management tool to help keep our classroom a safe learning environment for each student. In our classroom we have a behavior poster with individual student pockets that help your child self-monitor his/her behavior. Your child will be asked to change his/her card color in the pocket chart from green to yellow when they are not making a good choice. Once they are in yellow they will be unable to go back to green. If they continue to struggle with their responsibilities they will be asked to change their color to orange and finally red. Listed below are the consequences associated with each color change. Each child in green all week will earn a reward. These behavior bears will be stapled to the inside of your child's take home folder so that you are able to see what color they ended on for the day.

Green- good choices

Yellow- warning

Orange- loose 5 minutes of recess

Red- No recess/ email or call home



Thank you so much for your interest in our classroom! I am looking forward to a wonderful year working with your children and you!

If you have any questions, please email me at [awalter@lwsd.org](mailto:awalter@lwsd.org)

Amy Walter