

Grade 1 at Ellis School

Home-School Connection

First grade is a special year! Our students learn so many different things, but our focus is on creating effective readers and mathematicians. Your child will become a more fluent and independent reader and writer this year. First grade students learn to work with partners and in groups, learning to speak accurately and listen carefully. In mathematics, your child will be able to add or subtract numbers of 20 or less. They also develop a sense of place value (ex. $63 = 6 \text{ tens} + 3 \text{ ones}$) and work primarily with numbers of 100 or less.

Your child is learning to work and play cooperatively with all the children in the classroom. First graders are talkative, imaginative, and love adult interactions. At this stage, children are curious and inquisitive and continue to ask "Why?" They are developing longer attention spans, yet have an inherent need to move around. Creating a community of learners in a developmentally appropriate environment is a primary focus in first grade.

Learning does not end in the classroom. It takes place all the time, everywhere. Your child will need help at home. First graders are more confident when parents discuss school and learning together. No one knows your child better than you do. Please stay in communication with your child's first grade teacher so we can work together to meet your child's needs.

Social and Emotional Expectations

- Look ready to learn – looking, listening, quiet body
- Be responsible for learning independently and in a group
- Be aware of each learner's role in a group
- Listen to and follow directions
- Care for belongings and those of others
- Learn to solve small social issues independently
- Work well with others: share, take turns, be a good sport

Language Arts

- Use phonics and word analysis skills to figure out unfamiliar words when reading and writing
- Describe characters, setting and major events in a story, using key details
- Find facts and information in different passages
- Participate in conversations about texts, asking questions of others
- Read and comprehend grade level text
- Participate in shared research and writing projects such as "how to" books
- Read and spell high frequency words

Suggestion for home activities in language arts

- Create a family reading time where everyone reads and shares information - read to and with your child
- Act out stories together from books, TV, or your child's imagination
- Write a letter to grandparents or other family members so that your child receives mail
- Read the names of items as you cook or grocery shop
- Read road signs, billboards and environmental print as you travel together

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe people, places, things, and events with details, in complete sentences • Write complete sentences on a given topic for informational, narrative and opinion pieces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the library and have your child sign up for a library card or attend a story time at a local book store
<p>Mathematics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solve addition and subtraction word problems in situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, and taking apart numbers. These are called number bonds. • Add numbers with a sum of 20 or less and subtract from a number 20 or less by using strategies around the number 10 • Use addition and subtraction math facts to 10 quickly and accurately • Understand what the digits in a two-digit number mean, i.e. place value • Understand place value to add and subtract (ex. 36+5; 80-50) • Measure lengths of objects using shorter objects as a unit of measure • Divide circles and rectangles into halves or fourths 	<p>Suggestions for home activities in mathematics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for word problems in your daily life such as “How many eggs will remain in a dozen if I cook four of them?” or “How many miles under the speed limit are we traveling if we go 25 MPH in a 30 MPH zone?” • Play games such as “I’m thinking of a number when added to 8 equals 11. What is my number?” • Discuss the shapes of road signs as you travel • Use different objects to measure. For example, “How many book lengths does it take to measure the window sill?”
<p>Science Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather • Animals and their Habitats • Life Cycle of Butterflies and Birds • Sun and Moon • Hygiene, Exercise and Disease Prevention 	<p>Suggestions for home activities in science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As you rake the leaves in the fall, discuss the cycle of the seasons, the tree’s life, the changes in animals, etc. • Discuss the seasons, the weather patterns and various reasons for the cycles • Spend time exploring nature. Go for a nature walk. • Visit a science museum, the seacoast, or a zoo
<p>Social Studies Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship • Family Traditions • People, Places and Environment • Map Skills, the Globe and Continents • US Symbols and Holidays 	<p>Suggestions for home activities in social studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about different events of the day appropriate for a first grader (ex. take your child to vote with you to explain the responsibilities of freedom) • Discuss the various celebrations we have that result in “no school” days – Veterans

Day, MLK Day, etc.

- Review family rules and responsibilities; compare with school rules
- Have fun with Google Maps, Google World and other online resources