

Pelham Elementary School Curriculum Description

Grade1	Math	In first grade the emphasis is put upon the understanding of the number system through hands-on activities using varied learning tools as well as through traditional paper and pencil practice. Counting to 100 and addition and subtraction to ten are practiced for fluency.
	Science	The first grade science curriculum covers three main areas: life science, earth and space and physical science. Students explore the world around them through various hands-on activities. Their units of study include plants, oceans, dinosaurs, magnetism, healthy habits and the five senses. Science is integrated with other curricular areas.
	Reading Language Arts/Writing	<p>Children in first grade develop a love for reading through read alouds, shared reading and reading buddies. They develop oral language and good listening skills through phonemic awareness, word fluency and oral reading skills. These skills are tested 3 times a year. First grade students develop a high frequency sight word vocabulary and comprehension strategies using the reading series, guided reading and small group instruction. Our goal is to have all first graders become life-long readers.</p> <p>Writing activities used in first grade provide many opportunities to assess student understanding and growth through a variety of writing projects. Lessons are presented by using traditional and award-winning books that are readily available. Connections are made among reading, writing, speaking and creative artwork and support a thematic, integrated approach to writing activities.</p>
	Social Studies	The first grade social studies curriculum enables students to acquire the knowledge, concepts, skills and processes of civics and government, economics, geography and history. Current events, the patriotic and cultural holidays of our nation are focused upon through the use of multiple trade books. The students also develop an understanding of the economic structure as it relates to them using different available resources. Basic map skills are taught in relationship to the town of Pelham, the United States and the world by making connections to historical and current events.
	Art	Students will focus on lines, shapes, colors (primary/secondary), and art terminology will be incorporated along with the elements of design in the creative process. The foundation of art is very critical in this grade level. Students will enjoy their art experiences in the happy art room.
	Physical Education	First grade focuses on the basics of PE. We first talk about the basic movements (running, galloping, skipping, etc.) and terminology used in PE. We begin to explore movements of body parts and how to use them to stay healthy (gaining hand-

		eye coordination). There are many activities that allow students to practice these skills and learn new skills (throwing, kicking, striking). By the end of first grade students begin to apply the movements and concepts to games.
	Music	The first grade music program develops an appreciation of music for students. The students learn many folk songs and songs from around the world. They play basic accompaniments on percussion instruments. Students learn about the basic rhythms such as half notes, quarter notes and eighth notes.
	Enrichment	Students learn various thinking methods by meeting the characters from the Primary Educations Skills series. They meet Dudley the Detective who teaches them deductive reasoning and his friend, Isabel the Inventor, who teaches them how to be inventive thinkers. Children also meet Sybil the Scientist who teaches them how to think analytically, and Max the Magician who teaches them to look at things in different ways.
	Technology	In the new technology curriculum first graders will be introduced to basic computer skills. They will turn on the computer and log on using their username and password. They will open Microsoft Word and compose a short document. This will be their first entry in their digital portfolio which they will add to each year throughout grades one to twelve.
	Traditions	The first grade classrooms will travel to a local theatre during the spring where they will enjoy a play based upon a piece of literature which they have heard. The students have an opportunity to experience a live performance based upon prior knowledge. Once they return to the classroom the students will then compare and contrast the performance to the book.