



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview Grade 1

Course Description:

Fundamental skills provide the focus for learning in first grade with reading, writing and mathematics as priorities. First grade students will be immersed in a literature rich environment to develop and expand reading, writing and oral language skills. Mathematics instruction will emphasize problem solving, communicating, reasoning, making connections and using representations. Students also learn about their world through science and social studies, and receive instruction in physical education, health, art and music.

Essential Knowledge and Skills/Processes:

READING/ENGLISH: Reading instruction focuses on phonetic strategies, meaning clues and language structure. Students learn to integrate phonetic principles and expand their vocabularies as they learn to read. Comprehension and fluency become more focused as students begin to increase their ability to read unfamiliar words, stories and texts. Students are expected to write in complete sentences by the end of first grade, using age-appropriate capitalization and punctuation. Correct spelling for often used words is also an expectation. Additionally, oral language skills are developed as students are expected to speak in complete sentences and change their language to fit the situation.

- Orally identify, produce, and manipulate various units of speech sounds within words.
- Blend beginning, middle and ending sounds to decode unfamiliar words
- Apply phonetic principles to read and spell
- Read and spell high frequency sight words
- Use context clues (e.g. pictures, surrounding text) to determine the meaning of unknown words
- Set a purpose for reading and make predictions using background knowledge as a context for new learning
- Identify and use text features (e.g. pictures, titles, headings, charts, and captions) to make and confirm predictions
- Ask and answer explicit and implicit questions about a given text
- Retell stories and events from a given text
- Reread to self-correct errors
- Identify the main idea and story elements from fictional text
- Read and reread familiar stories, poems, and passages with fluency, accuracy, and meaningful expression
- Expand and use vocabulary from content areas
- Participate in the writing process (prewriting, writing, revising, editing, publishing) with teacher direction
- Use previous experiences to generate ideas and focus on one topic in a piece of writing
- Use descriptive details when writing
- Create complete sentences with appropriate capitalization, punctuation and correct spelling for

high frequency sight words when writing (usage / mechanics)

- Use phonetic principles and patterns to write unknown words
- Use simple reference materials (e.g. picture dictionary, table of contents)
- Use available technology for reading and writing

MATHEMATICS:

- Use efficient, flexible strategies to solve problems
- Communicate mathematical understanding
- Demonstrate an understanding of how numbers are organized into groups of tens
- Identify, count, write, group, and compare numbers through 100
- Identify parts of a set and/or region that represent fractions for halves, thirds, and fourths and write the fractions
- Create and solve one-step story problems using addition and subtraction facts through eighteen
- Recall basic addition and subtraction facts through ten
- Identify number of pennies equivalent to a nickel, a dime, and a quarter; and determine the value of a collection of pennies, nickels, and dimes whose total value is 100 cents or less
- Use objects or tools to measure and compare length, weight/mass, volume, time and coins
- Identify, trace, draw, describe and sort geometric figures (e.g. circle, rectangle, triangle) according to number of sides, vertices, and right angles
- Investigate, identify and describe various forms (e.g. counting, tally marks) of data collection
- Interpret information in a picture/object graph
- Sort and classify objects according to attributes
- Recognize, describe, extend, and create a wide variety of growing and repeating patterns
- Demonstrate an understanding of equality

SCIENCE: Emphasis is placed on classifying and recognizing relationships among living and non-living things. Students also learn to use their senses and simple tools to predict, observe and explain the results of simple experiments

- Conduct investigations requiring measurements of length, mass and volume.
- Communicate information with simple graphs and pictures.
- Observe kinds of motion and that vibrations can produce sounds.
- Investigate how different substances react with water such as dissolving and mixing and the influence of water temperature.
- Observe characteristics of plants such as their basic parts, their needs for life, and overall characteristics such as edible or nonedible, and deciduous or evergreen
- Observe that animals and humans have life needs, physical characteristics such as shapes, coverings, and methods of movement
- Investigate the relationship between the earth and the sun
- Observe the patterns of seasonal change and the effects on plants, animals, and people
- Identify natural resources, their limited nature, and factors affecting air and water quality

SOCIAL STUDIES: The development of historic concepts will provide students with opportunities to describe people, places, events and economic choices.

- Compare everyday life in different places and times
- Recognize connections among past, present, and future communities by studying leaders from the past and learning about people and events associated with major holidays
- Locate the following on a map: Stafford, Richmond, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and the United States
- Develop an awareness of the differences in cultures and geography around the world
- Explain or describe in simple terms various economic concepts, including, goods, services, producers, and consumers
- Describe direct and representative democracy
- Identify the bodies of elected representatives responsible for making local, Virginia, and United States laws and how citizens contribute to their communities
- Recognize symbols and traditions of Virginia and the United States
- Apply the traits of good citizens

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH: Health education will emphasize respect for self and others, the importance of exercise and unsafe behaviors. Physical education will develop fundamental movement skills such as body awareness, spatial awareness, and locomotor and ball skills

- Identify various ways of caring for the body, including eating nutritious foods, exercising, and getting plenty of rest
- Recognize and develop methods of coping with unsafe behaviors and situations in school, home, and community

- Recognize the consequences of appropriate and inappropriate ways of managing anger
- Define skills related to personal safety
- Recognize the importance of sharing as part of interacting with others
- Identify appropriate and inappropriate actions in expressing emotions
- Recognize harmful and helpful drugs and substances and identify reliable resources for help and advice
- Identify personal health practices that can protect the health of self and others
- Describe the main function of the heart
- Understand the main function of the circulatory system
- Perform effective and efficient movement skills
- Be assessed on the movement skills: static balance, rhythm pattern, hop, skip, leap, gallop, slide, and jump
- Demonstrate respect for others and good sportsmanship.

FINE ARTS: In art, students will identify primary colors and experiment with various art forms, textures and patterns, and lines.

- Cut multiple shapes both free form and folded.
- Recognize and construct 3D forms.
- Begin controlling paint.
- Identify and mix primary colors.
- Experiment and produce textures.
- Practice safety procedures.
- Perceive spatial relationships.
- Recognize differences and use a variety of lines.
- Create patterns by repeating.
- Understand the arts to be a personal expression.
- Recognize the arts of certain specific cultures.
- Contrast artwork from different period of cultures in the history of Virginia and United States.

MUSIC: Essential knowledge in music includes identifying rhythms, patterns and instruments

- Identify and perform rhythms using quarter notes and rests, half notes and eighth notes
- Play a simple bourdon on melodic rhythm instruments
- Demonstrate word rhythms
- Identify strong and weak beat patterns
- Echo and match pitch or pitch patterns using sol, mi and la
- Identify high/low, loud/soft, fast/slow, long/short sounds, pitch patterns moving up or down, and beat/no beat
- Differentiate between vocal music with or without an accompaniment, and vocal vs. instrumental music
- Identify simple musical forms, AB and ABA
- Identify the following instruments by sight and sound: snare drum, piano, violin, trumpet and flute

- Respond through movement to various musical styles/moods
- Participate in line and circle dances

Resources:

Resources concerning the Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools and more can be found at the Virginia Department of Education website: <http://www.doe.virginia.gov> Helpful resources at this site include subject and grade level Standards of Learning, Curriculum Frameworks, and Scope and Sequence documents.

Additional resources are listed below:

Reading

- <http://www.readaloudva.org/>
- <http://www.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/readingtips>
- <http://www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading/>

Math

- The Mathematics Leadership Team is made up of a Math Lead Teacher or a Math Specialist from each school, the Elementary Mathematics Coordinator, and the Mathematics Supervisor.