

NEW HYDE PARK-GARDEN CITY PARK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

This folder gives a brief overview of the First Grade curriculum, and what your child will be learning this year. Please refer to our 2007-2008 district calendar for additional information regarding assessments, services and support.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The goal of the English language arts program is to provide students with experiences which allow them to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. In an environment rich with literature, students will have ongoing opportunities to become effective communicators and lovers of reading. Each child will be encouraged to develop many English language arts skills.

READING SKILLS AND STRATEGIES:

Successful students will:

- § Develop phonics and other word recognition skills
- § Develop and extend sight vocabulary
- § Retell a story in sequence
- § Develop comprehension skills and strategies, such as determining main idea and details
- § Analyze the elements of a story, such as characterization
- § Explore different genres and read for different purposes

WRITING SKILLS AND STRATEGIES:

Successful students will:

- § Use words in sentences to express ideas in an organized manner
- § Identify and write “telling” and “asking” sentences, using capitalization and end punctuation
- § Use temporary and conventional spelling
- § Develop an understanding of the writing process: pre-writing, composing, conferencing and revising, editing, publishing and sharing
- § Write for a variety of purposes (creative stories, journals, poems, recording information, lists, surveys and notes, etc.)
- § Recognize naming words, action words and describing words

LISTENING:

Successful students will:

- § Recognize when it is appropriate to listen
- § Understand how to take turns and respond to the ideas expressed by others
- § Identify rhyming words
- § Listen to stories, poems, plays, myths, tales and songs
- § Paraphrase what has been said and begin to take notes
- § Follow multi-step oral directions
- § Derive word meaning after hearing a word used in context

SPEAKING:

Successful students will:

- § Recognize when it is appropriate to speak
- § Express thoughts in an organized manner
- § Speak in complete sentences using noun/verb agreement with proper use of pronouns

MATH

The goal of the math program is to give each child an opportunity to explore and discover various math concepts. With an emphasis on thinking skills, students will be provided with activities involving concrete objects to develop their numerical concepts and computational abilities.

The following topics and skills will be taught:

- § Number sense and numeration
- § Calendar activities
- § Patterns
- § Counting by 1, 2, 5 and 10
- § Addition and subtraction facts
- § Graphing
- § Time (to the hour)
- § Money (penny, nickel, dime and quarter)
- § Place value (tens and ones)
- § Shapes
- § Estimation
- § Problem solving strategies
- § Measurement - length

SCIENCE

The goal of the science program is to let children discover and appreciate the world around them through manipulation, exploration and discovery. The science program includes the areas of life science, physical science, earth science and the human body. The children will gain scientific knowledge as well as learn the scientific process.

The following skills will be incorporated: investigation, observation, prediction, classification, experimentation, analysis, and evaluation. Students will also develop oral and written communication skills.

These skills will be developed and reinforced through the study of:

- § Living things (plants and animals)
- § Non-living things
- § Properties (colors, shapes, sizes and textures)
- § States of matter
- § Growing and changing
- § Land, water, air make up the earth
- § Pollution awareness, prevention and recycling
- § Seasons and weather
- § Our bodies and our senses

SCIENCE LAB:

The science program combines two components of instruction: process skills (laboratory) and content (classroom). Our science lab program offers children opportunities to explore, manipulate, discover and appreciate the world around them. Pupils are exposed to science concepts in the areas of life science, physical science and earth science. They develop and utilize science process and inquiry skills: classifying, communicating, collecting and interpreting data, creating models, hypothesizing, generalizing, identifying variables, inferring, measuring, observing and predicting in a program specially designed to their developmental level.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The primary goal of the social studies curriculum in First Grade is to help the students understand:

- § History of my family
- § My community and local region
- § Challenges of meeting needs and wants
- § Economic decision making
- § Rights, responsibilities and roles of citizenship
- § People making and changing rules and laws

HEALTH

The goals of our health curriculum are directed toward teaching health and growth sciences concerned with the child's physical and mental health, nutrition, understanding one's own body and how it works and grows, and attitude toward oneself, family, friends, and community.

Teachers use a variety of resources and materials through a broad conceptual approach based on the physical, mental and emotional health of children at each successive maturity level. Many topics are integrated into subjects throughout the day.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The goal of the physical education program is to provide students with regular, planned, vigorous physical activities which promote physical fitness, improve self-esteem and develop interests and leisure-time activities.

MUSIC

General Music

The goal of the general music program is to provide all students with opportunities to experience the language of music through singing, movement, instruments, drama, listening and creating, and to teach the skills to facilitate these activities. Ultimately we want to instill within all of our students a deep and abiding love of music and a feeling of comfort with all musical styles.

The following concept instruction and activities are included in first grade:

- The concept of beat and simple music notation
- Fast and slow tempos
- Verse-chorus form
- Identifying tone color
- High and low pitch
- Playing non-pitched percussion instruments and body percussion
- Call and response singing
- Echoing short rhythmic and melodic patterns
- Sight reading melodies using scale tones, *so, mi, la* and *do*

ART

The goal of the art program is to enrich the lives of our students. We encourage creativity through the use of varied art materials and skills. Our children learn to appreciate art and the work of artists. They also learn to understand the heritage of many different cultures.

Students will:

- \$ Experiment using different kinds of lines
- \$ Repeat shapes to create patterns
- \$ Learn about primary colors
- \$ Learn to express imagination and draw from observation
- \$ Use glue carefully
- \$ Learn to use tempera and watercolor paint
- \$ Correctly use scissors

LIBRARY

Children are motivated and enthusiastic learners. During elementary school, children will be encouraged to become lifelong readers and users of information. In primary grades, students are introduced to basic library, literature, media and research skills. This foundation enables them to become independent and confident users of the library. Classes visit the Library Media Center each week. Students spend equal time in both the library and the computer lab. Parents are invited to share books with their children and make reading a part of their family tradition.

TECHNOLOGY

Our technology model places computers in the classroom from kindergarten to sixth grade. Technology is integrated into all curriculum areas to improve literacy, meet instructional standards, and to increase problem solving and communication skills. Appropriate software is used to achieve our goal. Projects are created using word processing, graphics design, desktop publishing, graphic organizers, research CDs, the Internet and presentation programs. Digital cameras and scanners are used to enhance multimedia projects. Teachers, librarians and computer aides work collaboratively to extend, enhance and correlate instruction in computer labs, classrooms and library media centers.

DISTRICT POLICY ON HOMEWORK

Homework is a learning activity which should increase in complexity with the maturity of the

pupil. All homework assignments should be explained carefully in order that they be accomplished on an independent working level at home.

It is important that assignments have meaning for the child, and the purpose should always be clearly understood by teacher and child. If an assignment is important enough to be given, it is also important enough to be corrected, and the child made aware of the results.

RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE FOR HOMEWORK

Grade 1 Homework assigned should not exceed approximately 15-20 minutes per night. Weekend and scheduled school recess assignments will be left to the discretion of the teacher. The above time is suggested as the maximum time, based on what the teacher judges the average student in the class can do. Some children will complete the assignment in less time, while other children may take a bit longer. It will be reasonable to expect that under certain circumstances the times suggested will be and can be extended.