

LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM FOR FIRST GRADE

Reading

Students entering first grade at Brandon Academy are emergent to fluent readers. We focus on building fluency through sight words, repeated readings, read alouds, and group reading. Students develop comprehension skills in a variety of ways. First grade focuses on sequencing and retelling events in a story; identifying story elements such as character, setting, problem and solution; vocabulary; and making connections to the text. Literature units are used to enhance fluency instruction and comprehension skills. Students utilize the Houghton-Mifflin Reading series for independent practice during reading. First grade also follows the Rooted in Reading curriculum which engages students through purposefully selected read alouds. Rooted in Reading exposes students to multiple genres and allows them to make deep and meaningful connections to the books all while targeting specific skills and standards.

Topics Covered	Skills Acquired
Reading Types of Books	Differentiate between fiction and nonfiction text; Develop a love and appreciation for reading.
Phonemic Awareness	Rhyming; Syllables; Onset and time; Identifying blending; Segmenting phonemes.
Fluency	Sight word development; Accuracy; Phrasing; Parody and rate.
Comprehension	Main idea and supporting details; Characterization; Plot, Setting; Cause and effect; Predicting; Inferences and drawing conclusions; Compare and contrast; Sequencing; Retelling; Asking questions; Make connections; Summarizing.
Vocabulary	Using words in context; Classifying words; Visual imaging.

Spelling

The spelling and vocabulary program utilized in the classroom is on a second grade level. This program enhances and challenges students' understanding of content and work knowledge. Students also practice spelling in a variety of ways, including magnetic letters, word sorts, and active spelling.

Topics Covered	Skills Acquired
Vowel Sounds Consonants R-Controlled Words Prefixes and Suffixes Other Patterns	Phonemic Awareness Skills- identifying short and long vowel sounds, word families, consonant clusters, endings (s/es/er/ed/ing) , prefixes, suffixes, homophones; Thesaurus Skills - identifying synonyms and antonyms; Dictionary skills - guide words, alphabetical order; Proofreading Skills - checking spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Writing

In first grade writing, students learn about the writing process. They plan their stories using a variety of graphic organizers. Students write their first draft, and are encouraged to revise and edit (with assistance). Students also complete a final draft for review. First graders write in a variety of styles, including Personal Narrative, Fictional Narrative, Expository and Informational, Poetry, Summaries, and Letter Writing. Writing skills are practiced in subject area activities, such as written responses to literature, journal writing, science lab reports and center activities. Handwriting incorporates the use of the Zaner-Bloser manuscript alphabet.

Topics Covered	Skills Acquired
Handwriting Getting started, Left; right; using guidelines, Four kinds of lines, Spacing, Writing numerals, Writing capital and lowercase letters	Forming and writing letters and numbers; Number words; Color words; Days of the week; Months of the year; Rhyming words; Contractions; Plurals; Writing sentences.
Writing Process Plan, Draft, Revise, Edit, Publish, Write for a variety of purposes	Understand and utilize the writing process; Plan for a variety of writing purposes; Draft complete writings; Revise by adding more descriptive details in writings; Edit for punctuation; Write a final copy for Publishing; Publish in a variety of manners; Write a letter using correct format; Write in a journal.
Sentence/Paragraph Writing	Use correct capital and lowercase letters; Use correct punctuation; Use correct sentence structure; Indent paragraphs.
Narrative Writing Fictional, Narrative, Personal Narrative	Write in the narrative style, with a complete beginning, middle and end; Develop story elements in writing, including character, problem and solution; Use transition words; Develop creative writing.
Expository/ Informational Writing	Write in expository style; Write “How-To” and give specific directions; Write to tell information about a topic using a topic sentence and details.
Letter Writing	Write a letter using the correct format.
Poetry	Complete a variety of poems using different forms including: Rhyming, Free verse, Shape poems, and Acrostic.
Summary	Complete guided summaries in class; Develop summaries independently.

Short Answer	Answer Questions using complete sentences.
Lab Reports	Complete lab report after science investigations.
Resource utilization, Test taking skills, Study techniques	Use resources for a variety of purposes: Word Walls; Dictionary; Text; Understand and implement test taking and study techniques.

English Grammar

First grade students identify nouns, verbs, and adjectives. These parts of speech are incorporated into the construction of proper sentences, along with capitalization and punctuation. Students also learn about the uses of commas and apostrophes in the written language.

Topics Covered	Skills Acquired
Sentence Structure Naming parts, Action parts, Punctuation, Capitalization	Use listening/speaking skills; Follow directions; Identify and analyze correct sentences; Identify naming parts and action parts of sentences; Identify telling sentences, questions, and exclamations; Use punctuation (periods, commas, exclamation marks, question marks, and apostrophes) correctly.
Nouns Common nouns, Special nouns, Pronouns, Naming yourself last	Identify nouns; Capitalize special nouns; Use “I” correctly in sentences; Use pronouns to replace a noun.
Verbs Past tense verbs, Is and are, Was and were, Contractions	Identify verbs; Use verbs correctly in sentences with nouns and pronouns; Use verbs in the past tense; Use is, are, was, and were as verbs; Identify contractions; Use contractions correctly.
Adjectives Adjectives, Adjectives with er and est	Identify adjectives; Use adjectives to help describe nouns; Use adjectives with er and est to compare.

MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM FOR FIRST GRADE

The Brandon Academy math curriculum in first grade uses the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - Go Math! Florida (2nd grade) student and teacher editions, workbooks, and online resources. This series also includes manipulatives, center books and games. Students participate in literacy centers in order to review and practice learned skills. Instructional strategies include teacher modeling and student practice, and utilizing manipulatives to aid in student comprehension. Technology is integrated into the curriculum through the Reflex application, and iPads to practice and review learned skills. Students are assessed through informal classroom assessments, daily practice, mid-chapter checkpoints, and teacher created tests.

Topics Covered	Skills Acquired
Numbers, Place Value, and Patterns	Identifying hundreds, tens and ones place value; Writing numbers in expanded form, numerical form, and written form; Comparing and ordering numbers; Identifying even and odd numbers; Skip counting by 2s, 5s and 10s; Skip counting by 3s and 4s using a hundreds chart; Drawing diagrams to solve problems; Understanding how to extend number patterns.
Addition and Subtraction	Developing quick recall of basic addition and subtraction facts; Adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers with regrouping; Adding and subtracting 3 digit numbers with regrouping.
Measurement and Geometry	Measuring in standard and nonstandard forms; Using a ruler in inches and centimeters; Using ounces, pounds, grams, and kilograms; Using cups, pints, quarts, gallons, milliliters and liters; Understanding volume; Solid and plane shapes; Patterns; Symmetry and Equal Parts; Money - Dimes, Nickels, Quarters, Pennies, Dollars; Time to the hour and half hour.
Data	Creating - Tally Charts, Bar Graphs, Pictographs; Reading a variety of graphs and answering questions related to the graphs

SCIENCE CURRICULUM FOR FIRST GRADE

The science program in first grade incorporates the use of the Houghton Mifflin Science series. Students study 6 main units through this series. Each unit is enhanced through hands-on experiences and seasonal activities. Students also keep science journals and complete lab reports to record their experiences. In addition to our classroom learning in first grade we also enjoy educational field trips such as Crystal Springs, MOSI, and High-Touch High-Tech science labs. The science program introduces the scientific process and encourages students to use it as they observe, ask questions, form ideas, experiment, and draw conclusions. Students also work to apply concepts and new vocabulary throughout the program. Technology is integrated into the curriculum through informational websites, and related videos.

Topics Covered	Skills Acquired
Plants, Animals and People Parts of a Plant, Life Cycles, Groups (Mammals, Fish,	Scientific Process - Observation, Asking Questions, Forming Ideas, Experimenting, Drawing conclusions; Applying concepts and new vocabulary; Sorting and classifying; Building models

Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds), How Animals and People use Body Parts, Senses, Staying Healthy, Body Systems	and diagrams; Keeping a journal; Using tools - Magnifying glass, Balance, Ruler.
Living/Non Living Things Habitats	Scientific Process - Observation, Asking Questions, Forming Ideas, Experimenting, Drawing conclusions; Applying concepts and new vocabulary; Sorting and classifying; Building models and diagrams; Keeping a journal; Using tools - Magnifying glass, Balance, Ruler.
Earth Science Layers of the Earth, Continents and Oceans, Rocks and Minerals, Volcanoes	Scientific Process - Observation, Asking Questions, Forming Ideas, Experimenting, Drawing conclusions; Applying concepts and new vocabulary; Sorting and classifying; Building models and diagrams; Keeping a journal; Using tools - Magnifying glass, Balance, Ruler.
Caring for our Earth Pollution: Reduce, Recuse, Recycle	Scientific Process - Observation, Asking Questions, Forming Ideas, Experimenting, Drawing conclusions; Applying concepts and new vocabulary; Sorting and classifying; Building models and diagrams; Keeping a journal; Using tools - Magnifying glass, Balance, Ruler.
Weather and the Sky Kinds of Weather, Measuring Weather, Water Cycle, Seasons, Day Sky and Night Sky, Sun and Moon, Solar System, Shadows.	Scientific Process - Observation, Asking Questions, Forming Ideas, Experimenting, Drawing conclusions; Applying concepts and new vocabulary; Sorting and classifying; Building models and diagrams; Keeping a journal; Using tools - Magnifying glass, Balance, Ruler.
Matter Observing and Describing Properties, Magnets, Sink and Float, Solid, Liquid, Gas, Mixtures	Scientific Process - Observation, Asking Questions, Forming Ideas, Experimenting, Drawing conclusions; Applying concepts and new vocabulary; Sorting and classifying; Building models and diagrams; Keeping a journal; Using tools - Magnifying glass, Balance, Ruler.
Energy Heat, Light, Sound, Force, Simple Machines, Speed, Motion	Scientific Process - Observation, Asking Questions, Forming Ideas, Experimenting, Drawing conclusions; Applying concepts and new vocabulary; Sorting and classifying; Building models and diagrams; Keeping a journal; Using tools - Magnifying glass, Balance, Ruler.

SOCIAL STUDIES FOR FIRST GRADE

The social studies curriculum incorporates the texts “How We Grow and Change” and “Geography: Learn and Explore” along with a variety of nonfiction texts to support our learning. Students study nine different units throughout the year. First graders also focus on a different country each year for our school’s International Day. Instructional strategies include direct instruction, cooperative

learning groups, and hands-on projects and activities. Technology is incorporated through informational websites, and videos.

Topics Covered	Skills Acquired
People Everywhere Neighborhoods and Communities	Identify features of a neighborhood and a community; Compare different types of communities; Identify jobs in a community; Explain the roles of leaders and rules in our community.
Where we Live Continents and Oceans, Maps, United States and its Neighbors	Identify land and water features; Describe local terrain and water bodies; Explain that Earth is a planet with many forms of life, communities, people, cultures, countries, and governments; Explain the difference between a state and a country; Identify Canada and Mexico to our North and South; Identify continents and oceans; Locate continents and oceans on a globe and a map.
Everything Changes Columbus, First Americans, Pilgrims, First Thanksgiving	Explain the concept of history, including past, present, and future; Recognize Native Americans as the first Americans; Locate Native American territories on a map; Explain Christopher Columbus's role in history; Describe Pilgrim life in America and their relationship with the Wampanoag tribe; The First Thanksgiving.
Holidays Around the World	Describe holidays - Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, Chinese New Year, Los Posadas.
Good Citizens Presidents, American Symbols, Government, Washington, DC	Identify American symbols (flag, eagle, etc.); Explain the one man one vote system; Locate US on a map; Recognize important monuments - Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial; Identify current president and some former presidents.
World of Work Needs and wants, Goods and services	Distinguish between needs and wants and demonstrate limitations; Explain the conflict between unlimited wants and limited resources; Distinguish between goods and services.
Ancient Egypt Location, Mythology, Pharaohs, Pyramids, Beliefs, Dress, Culture	Identify the location of Egypt and the Nile River on the continent of Africa; Students will learn about -Pyramids, Mythology, How the Ancient Egyptians lived and their impact on today's society.
Ancient Rome Location, Mythology, Beliefs, Dress, Culture, Pompeii, Mt. Vesuvius	Identify the location of Italy, Rome, Pompeii, Mt. Vesuvius, The Roman Empire; Learn about Roman and Greek Mythology; Discuss and view Roman Architecture; Learn about Roman culture and the impact that they had on today's society.
Ancient China Location, Architecture, Beliefs, Culture, Inventions	Identify the location of China on the map on the continent of Asia; Discuss inventions such as: Crossbow, Irrigation, Kites, Fireworks; Identify the 3 dynasties of Ancient China and their rulers.

