

Grade 1 Level Benchmarks *continued*

Library/Media Skills

In grade one, students will enhance their previously learned library skills and develop new skills that can assist them in the classroom work and in the public library setting.

Expectations for students:

- Identify various parts of books including title page, author, illustrator, table of contents
- Be introduced to basic reference materials including dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, World Almanac for Kids
- Learn how to locate materials in the media center collection using OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog)
- Use alphabetical order to locate materials in the media center
- Locate chapter fiction books, picture books, non-fiction books and magazines
- Participate in book discussions and interpret information
- Learn about other cultures by reading folktales and non-fiction from other countries
- Compare and contrast similar folktales and fairytales
- Become familiar with the basic arrangement of the non-fiction collection and exposure to selections in each Dewey Decimal class

Wellness

Our Physical Education and Health program is fully integrated and follows national and state standards. It provides sequential and progressive opportunities for the development of motor skills, physical fitness, team building and responsible decision-making. Students will recognize the benefits and see the value of physical activities and responsible decisions toward a healthful lifestyle.

The following concepts are reviewed and enhanced:

Health

- Social Skills
- Safety and accident prevention
- Growth and development
- Substance abuse prevention

Music

The study of music is a vital part of our total education. Instruction will provide opportunities for children to enjoy themselves while engaging in various musical experiences.

Music objectives focus on:

- **Singing** (pitch matching, vocal tone, rounds, canons, and simple ostinatos)
- **Movement** (action and dance movements to songs)
- **Playing Instruments** (variety of percussion)
- **Listening** (variety of styles and periods from classical to contemporary with emphasis on tempo, dynamics, instruments and rhythmic patterns)
- **Reading/Notation** (recognizing music symbols and rhythmic patterns)
- **Creating** (improvising and dramatizing to express music)
- **Composing** music within specific guidelines

Art

The children will be introduced to a wide variety of materials, techniques, and equipment. They will also be exposed to the vocabulary of art. They study famous artists, careers, historical significance and aesthetics through the use of books, art reproductions and visual aids.

The following concepts will be covered:

- the elements of art
 - texture, shape, self-awareness
 - color, space, self-awareness in their environment
 - line, pattern, repetition/nonpattern
- the subject matter of art
 - landscape, human figure, portrait
 - nonobjective, illustration, animals, 3 dimensional
- the skills of art
 - drawing, painting, printmaking
 - weaving, stitching, pasting/gluing

Physical

- Body and spatial awareness
- Jumping and landing
- Chasing, dodging and fleeing
- Rolling
- Balancing and weight transfer
- Dribbling with hands
- Kicking and punting

2010-2011 HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Grade 1 Level Benchmarks

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Dear Parents,

This document provides you with a preview of the skills, knowledge, and concepts that are at the core of learning for this grade level. It also gives you a snapshot of what school life is like in Grade 1. "Benchmark" is a word used to identify target skills we seek to focus on and to develop in a particular year.

Teachers seek an active partnership with parents. Your involvement is critical to your child's success in school. Each teacher combines individual creativity with district-wide goals. Different teaching strategies will be used in the instruction of these skills and concepts.

Please make opportunities to reinforce the skills developed in Grade 1 in your home. Each teacher sends home information about tasks you can do at home. We invite you to meet with your child's teachers so that you will understand how you can reinforce what is taught in your child's classroom.



Grade 1 Level Benchmarks

Typical Day The first grader's typical day is a busy one. During a routine day, children will spend 2 1/2 to 3 hours on language arts (reading, spelling, writing) and approximately one hour on math. Science and social studies and health are taught throughout the day and incorporated into language arts through themes. Additionally, students have physical education, music, art and library each week. Please contact the teacher for the specific times and routines of the week.



Language Arts Philosophy

Communication is essential to lifelong learning and successful participation in today's world. Since reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing are keys to thinking and learning, instruction in the language arts is integrated into all disciplines. Lessons build upon prior knowledge and skill development, progressing from mastery of simple concepts of print to understanding the structure and meaning of language.

In addition, students need to be immersed in language throughout their day. Therefore, teachers and – most importantly – parents, must provide opportunities for children to become literate. As students progress through the grades, these experiences with language help them reach the goal of becoming independent thinkers and learners.

Learning to read and write is a developmental process. Parents will observe their first grade students at different stages and rates of learning as they move from beginning to more advanced readers and writers. Reading and writing throughout the day fosters growth and enthusiasm. First graders also need parents and teachers to read to them daily and to see us read and write regularly too. In addition, conversations with first graders build their vocabulary and fluency with words, as well as sharpen their thinking skills.

Reading and Reading Comprehension

Students will:

- Recognize and decode beginning, middle and ending sounds in grade level words
- Recognize and decode short vowel sounds and some long vowel sounds in words
- Read up to 100 first grade sight words
- Demonstrate an awareness of words with suffixes, compound words, rhyming words and syllables
- Read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts and distinguish between them
- Demonstrate comprehension of texts through drawing conclusions, predicting outcomes, comparing to self, and/or organizing information
- Use phonemic awareness, meaning (comprehension), fluency (expression), and syntax to accurately read text



Writing

Students will:

- Write data, facts and ideas from personal experiences
- Respond in writing to texts to demonstrate understanding
- Write up to four sentences on a single topic
- Use phonemic awareness to assist in correctly spelling words
- Demonstrate an awareness of the mechanics of writing—punctuation, capitalization, spacing, letter formation

Listening and Speaking

Students will:

- Listen in order to follow directions involving a few steps
- Speak in order to ask questions to clarify
- Respond appropriately to questions
- Listen to fiction and non-fiction texts
- Respond orally to texts read aloud, using vocabulary to show understanding

Math

In first grade, students will recognize, explore and enjoy mathematics in everyday situations. Students will solve problems in a variety of ways, apply skills and transfer knowledge. Mathematics is a language based process, therefore, students will interact and will use a variety of math tools to solve problems and participate in mathematical activities throughout the day.

Students will:

- Read, write and count numbers 1 to 100 by 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's
- Compare numbers using the terms greater, less, equal, before and after
- Understand place value—10 ones = 1 ten, 10 tens = 1 hundred
- Addition and subtraction facts up to and including 10 fluently
- Use a variety of strategies to solve addition and subtraction word problems
- Tell time to the hour
- Measure length using standard and nonstandard units
- Recognize coins and makes combinations up to 25 cents
- Sequence days of the week and months of the year, and connects months to a season
- Recognize, name, describe, create and sort two and three dimensional shapes
- Determine what comes next in repeating number or object patterns
- Collect, interpret and construct graphs

Social Studies

During first grade, students will develop a deeper understanding of their role as members of their family and their community. Through these studies, they develop an understanding of the difference between wants and needs and how families earn resources they use to obtain goods and services. Through studying their communities, they learn the importance of developing social interaction skills to work as members of their classroom, school, family and neighborhood communities. They begin to develop important understandings about the nature of citizenship and are introduced to basic map skills.

• **Families**

- Students will develop an understanding of ancestry, including immigration, traditions and cultures

• **Geography**

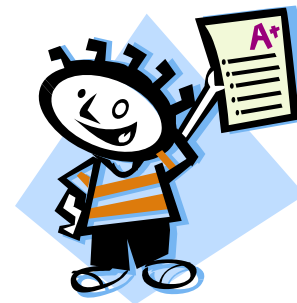
- Students will develop map skills, including use of vocabulary
- Students will identify important places in our community

• **Economics**

- Students will discuss the difference between wants and needs
- Students will identify community helpers and services

• **Government**

- Students will identify national holidays and the importance of them
- Students will develop an understanding of the rules and routines of the classroom, school, and community



Science

Young children are naturally curious and eager to investigate science ideas. They learn best when given opportunities to explore familiar materials, then share and compare their ideas with others. Students will use science, language arts and mathematics tools and skills to observe, predict, record, describe and compare natural phenomena.

• **Human Body**

- Students will identify internal organs and their functions
- Students will understand basic healthy habits, including exercise and hand washing
- Students will identify healthy options from different food groups

• **Animals**

- Students will classify animals according to similarities and differences
- Students will understand the basic life cycle of animals

• **Earth Science**

- Students will graph weather
- Students will demonstrate understanding of the water cycle
- Students will recognize three main states of matter—solid, liquid, gas

• **Scientific Method**

- Students will practice using the scientific method

Homework

Teachers assign homework for a variety of purposes to practice and reinforce skills, extend and apply previously learned skills, prepare for a lesson yet to be presented, integrate skills and establish responsibility.

Students are expected to spend 15-20 minutes, three times a week on homework, including routinely reading for pleasure and occasionally completing or correcting class work. It is also our goal for all students to get at least 60 minutes of physical activity daily.