



## FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

**IN FIRST GRADE LITERACY ESSENTIALS** our students will:

- keep orthography and spelling notebooks as they continue to learn to write
- practice reading for at least 30 minutes each day
- complete Primary Phonics and begin the 100 books of “Uncontrolled Readers”
- read texts at increasing levels of difficulty

**IN FIRST GRADE LITERATURE** our students will read or listen to:

- listen to and discuss Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi
- read and recite short poems such as “Hope” by Langston Hughes
- hear classic stories such as “Rapunzel,” “Rumpelstiltskin,” “Tom Thumb,” and “Puss-in-Boots”
- learn basic literary terms such as characters, heroes, heroines, theater, stage, etc.

**IN FIRST GRADE HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY** our students will:

- identify the oceans, continents, the hemispheres, and the poles
- study an overview of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
- learn about Ancient Near Eastern civilizations including Mesopotamia and Egypt
- study early civilizations of the Americas such as the Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas

**IN FIRST GRADE MATH** our students will:

- add and subtract tens and ones, and count by tens and ones to 100
- identify the basic geometric shapes
- understand the basics of fractions, working with halves and fourths
- learn how to count money and make change

**IN FIRST GRADE SCIENCE** our students will:

- study the properties of matter: solid, liquid, gas
- understand the interdependence between living things and their environment
- study the various systems of the human body: skeletal, muscular, etc.
- learn the names of the heavenly bodies in our solar system

**IN FIRST GRADE ART** our students will:

- recognize famous portraits like the Mona Lisa, Whistlejacket, and Van Gogh’s self-portrait
- study and identify the major works of art and architecture in ancient Egypt
- draw, sketch, and paint simple still lifes and human faces

**IN FIRST GRADE MUSIC** our students will:

- become familiar with basic elements of music through participation
- be introduced to basic musical notation
- recognize that music can tell a story: opera, ballet, etc.

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**IN FIRST GRADE**  
our students read:

Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi  
Stories of Winnie-the-Pooh  
Aesop’s Fables  
“Sleeping Beauty”  
“The Frog Prince”  
“The Princess and the Pea”  
“Lon Po Po”

**IN FIRST GRADE**  
our students memorize:

“My Shadow” by Robert Louis  
Stevenson  
“The Owl and the Pussycat” by  
Edward Lear  
“Washington” by Nancy Byrd  
Turner  
The First Paragraph of the  
Declaration of Independence  
“Yankee Doodle”