

# Grade 1

## Course Descriptions

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### ***Phonics***

The main goal of the first grade phonics program is to teach children how to read and write in English as well as develop love for both skills. Through the use of the Phonics by Pearson textbook and workbooks as well as various games students are taught short and long vowels, blends, diagraphs, diphthongs, contractions, suffixes and prefixes, synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms. Students are given time on a daily basis to practice the new sounds they learn through writing and reading assignments.

Resource – *Phonics, Pearson*

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### ***Spelling***

Beginning the third week of school, first grade students will be given weekly spelling assignments. Through the use of games and written assignment children will learn how to spell the words orally and in writing. The lists cover high frequency words, as well as words that use the special sounds taught in Phonics. An average list consists of 12 to 15 words. By the end of the month of May first grade students will be prepared to participate and be successful in our annual Spelling Bee contest.

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### ***Reading***

First grade students are organized in reading groups based on their level of reading and are given 15-20 minutes of in-class reading practice guided by the teacher. Their reading and comprehension skills are reinforced through the use of books that progress in difficulty. By the end of 1<sup>st</sup> grade they will have read about 10 books that cover all the special sounds taught through the school year and develop a good level of understanding of the text. In addition, 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are expected to read for 20 minutes each evening as a homework assignment

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### ***English***

In first grade students are introduced to basic grammar and language skills. Using English by Houghton Mifflin text and workbooks students learn about sentences, nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, capitalization, and punctuation. Students are also exposed to several forms of literature such as poetry, folklore, tales, fiction and non-fiction, and plays. They are taught and guided how to write a personal narrative, a story, a description, and instructions. Students are instructed on how to write a book report and expected to complete one on a weekly basis during the second semester.

Resource: English, *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Education*

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### ***Mathematics***

First graders begin to develop an understanding of basic math skills. Through the use of Go Math by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and various manipulatives students explore counting to 120, addition and subtraction to 20, two-digit addition and subtraction, comparing numbers, measurement, data representing, two-dimensional geometry, and three-dimensional geometry. AEA math program develops reasoning skills and critical thinking and it offers a great deal of review assignments of previously covered skills.

Resource – *Go Math, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company*

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### ***Social Studies***

In first grade students are introduced to basic concepts of world and government. Using Social Studies by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and additional hands-on activities, children will be exposed to basic knowledge of rules and laws. They will develop an appreciation of other cultures as well as American. Children will be exposed to geographical concepts of land, water and landscape, historical concepts of past and present, and the marketplace. Children will work in class on various projects related to the material taught.

Resource – *Social Studies, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company*

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### ***Science***

Science in first grade is designed to help children use their senses to explore the world around them as they enquire and predict, hypothesize and investigate, and make conclusions. Science Fusion by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt presents students with the basic concepts of modern technology, animals, plants, environments, Earth's resources, weather and seasons, astronomy, matter, forces, and energy. Many hands-on activities reinforce the subject matter. In addition children will be prepared to complete a detailed science project and participate in our annual Science Fair.

Resource – *Social Studies, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company*

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### ***Physical Education***

The Physical Education Program at first grade, develops motor skills and motor concepts that will enable the student to learn to enjoy physical activity and enhance future participation in recreational lifetime activities. PE places a strong emphasis upon physical fitness, cooperative teamwork, sportsmanship, individual development and social interaction.

## **Art**

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This course offers students an introduction to Visual Arts. Students will explore the creative process through studio projects (drawing, painting, composition, sculpture, fiber, graffiti, decoupage, collage, written work, art appreciation and art history). The elements and principles of art will be emphasized as they apply to each artist's style. Some art projects will be self-directed, fueled by the students' own interests with research in art history, cultures, modern and contemporary art.

Course objectives: The students will identify and create artwork based on the elements of art and principles of design, demonstrate through their artwork how to use the elements of art to show movement and express feelings, recognize, compare and use different media to create their artwork, develop a respect and appreciation for the artwork of artists, including classmates' art, recognize and compare differences in several art mediums, create representational and abstract art, learn to create depth in 2-dimensional artwork using one point perspective, communicate thoughts, feelings and experiences to others through art, develop creative problem solving and higher-level thinking skills, learn about modern and contemporary art, develop critical thinking and imagination, understand terms that are basic to art media, procedures and techniques, as well as appreciation, maintain a sketchbook for a variety of drawings assignments to perfect their hand-eye ability and drawing skills.

Course topics: Fundamentals of Drawing and Composition, Elements of Art, Principles of Design, Art History and Art Criticism, Drawing, Color theory, Sculpture, Painting, Fibers, Graffiti, Decoupage, Collage.

Resource: *"The Visual Arts: A History"*, by Hugh Honour and John Fleming; *"The Art Teacher's Survival Guide for Elementary and Middle School"*, by Helen D. Hume; *"Children and their Art"*, by Michael Day and Al Hurwitz.

## **Music**

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The music class contains simplified instruction on the basics of music, such as melody, harmony, rhythm. The students will be introduced to different in style songs as they take part in performing in the school's musicals.

### Course objectives:

Completing this course, students will develop:

- A. Self confidence in performing in front of audience.
- B. Better artistic expression and speaking skills.
- C. Intelligent listening and understanding of different musical forms.

Course requirements:

We understand that different students have different levels of artistic ability. The teacher will expect though that all students do their best and will grade each one not only according to their ability, but on their effort and participation in class as well.

Resource: *"Music Express ", Collins*