



## First Grade Curriculum

All material in the Triple R First Grade program meets and exceeds the Common Core State Standards for First Grade. Below is a short summary of our First Grade curriculum, including the resources we use to teach the material.

### Reading

Reading is taught using the *Scott Foresman Reading Street Common Core* program. It provides explicit, systematic, high-quality instruction focusing on the Common Core State Standards. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) expect students to gather evidence, knowledge, and insight from what they read. Students build a knowledge base across a wide range of subject areas that increases with the reading of each new text.

The Reading Street program is implemented in a variety of teaching structures including whole group, small group and one-on-one instruction. During whole group instruction, students will experience explicit instruction in the reading process. It includes read aloud, guided reading with teacher modeling of efficient reading strategies and shared reading where the students share the reading task with support from the teacher. In addition, students will receive small group instruction using reading materials at the instructional level of each student. During this time the specific reading strategies that are needed by this group are taught.

CCSS also emphasizes the need to read texts closely, in order for students to gain a broader, more coherent understanding of a subject. This is called *Close Reading*. Close reading involves focused, sustained and rereading of a text for the purpose of understanding key points, gathering evidence, and building knowledge. When students read closely, they give the time and attention needed to fully understand the information in a text and are able to cite specific evidence from it.

Reading is also taught using the *Reading Street Sleuth*, which helps readers unlock the mysteries of a text and develop ideas and opinions based on information provided in a text. It is designed to challenge students by providing engaging, complex reading selections to promote curiosity, and posing questions that develop thoughtful, inquisitive learners.

## Language Arts

First Grade Reading Street includes the identification and proper use of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, and pronouns.

## Spelling

Word lists and spelling strategies are presented weekly.

## Writing

Writing instruction focuses on teaching students the value of strong content, organization, and style. The goal of Common Core is to ensure college and career readiness. In order for students to achieve this, they must demonstrate command of three fundamental types of writing:

1. **Argument/Opinion Writing** - write arguments in support of claims made about substantive topics or texts, using sound reasoning and relevant evidence.
2. **Informative/Explanatory Writing** - write informative/explanatory texts that investigate and explain complex ideas and information through clear organization and style.
3. **Narrative Writing** - write narratives to convey real or imagined experiences, using effective storytelling techniques, vivid details, and precisely structured event sequences.

## Mathematics

Math is taught through a program called *enVisionMATH Common Core*, which is based on critical foundational research and proven classroom results. *enVisionMATH Common Core* was built from the ground up to meet the Common Core State standards, Mathematical Practices are deeply rooted in the curriculum. These practices promote student success in mathematics.

Unlike many state curriculum frameworks, the Common Core State Standards do not present a spiral curriculum in which students revisit numerous topics from one year to the next with progressively more complex study. Rather, the CCSS identify a limited number of topics at each grade level, allowing enough time for students to achieve mastery of these concepts. The subsequent year of study builds on the concepts of the previous year.

*enVisionMATH Common Core* organizes content by domain, and all topics for each domain are grouped together:

1. Operations and Algebraic Thinking
2. Number and Operations in Base Ten
3. Measurement and Data
4. Geometry

## Science

**Experience Science** (Houghton Mifflin) is a complete series of elementary science modules designed to cover major content areas in Life, Earth, and Physical Science. This research-based program provides classroom-tested, hands-on activities and is designed to require minimal implementation support. The activities encourage divergent thinking and inquiry skill development, while building understanding of scientific concepts and content. Each module includes students readers selected to cover and extend science content presented in the hands-on activities.

The five modules taught in **Experience Science** are:

- **Alive** (Life cycles and plant structures)
- **Earth** (Water, weather, and the earth's resources)
- **Magnet** (Magnet strength and what stick's to a magnet?)
- **Matter and Heat** (Properties of matter and floating and sinking)
- **Sound** (speaking and hearing and changing pitch)

## Social Studies

Scott Foresman Social Studies is designed to extend the reading curriculum. Citizen skills, Research skills and Geography skills are taught in each unit. Biographies are also included.

The six units are:

- Time for School
- In My Community
- Work! Work! Work!
- Our Earth, Our Resources
- This Is Our Country
- Our Country, Our World

## Handwriting

Handwriting is taught using traditional manuscript materials, including Zaner-Bloser handwriting workbooks.

## Art

Art classes are designed to increase student awareness of the different kinds of art. it gives students a wide range of experiences and helps them to appreciate the art around them. Most importantly, it lets them know that there is no wrong way to do art. Art is expressing and observing. Art is getting something that is inside you to the outside. The elements of art that are taught include: line, shape, color, value, texture, form and space.

## **Music**

Fundamental musical skills and knowledge is taught through singing, moving, listening, creating and playing instruments. Children will listen for patterns in music, demonstrate steady beat, and identify upward and downward movement.

## **Technology**

Through hands on interaction the students will demonstrate introductory proficiency in modern computer usage. These skills include keyboarding, understanding the use of the Windows OS, and well supervised internet research.

## **Physical Education**

Students will demonstrate control when performing fundamental locomotor, non-locomotor and manipulative skills. Students will also participate in rhythm activities and creative movement through dance. Parachute, jump ropes, hopscotch, bean bag games are some of the activities we have in P.E.

## **Library**

The First Grade visits the Triple R Library once a week. The students have the opportunity to pick out two books of their choice. This will give the students the chance to read books of interest, gain responsibility, and supplement the reading and language arts that they are taught on a daily basis.