

# First Grade Curriculum Guide 2013-2014



Royal Oak Schools has a comprehensive curriculum for all first graders that includes academics, foreign language, physical education, health, music and art. Our curriculum also includes areas essential to the education of the total child. We pay close attention to the physical learning environment and the learning climate of our classrooms. We recognize the uniqueness of every child and are dedicated to providing the best educational experience possible. This guide describes Royal Oak's Curriculum for first grade students in the core academic areas of language arts, social studies, math and science.

## The First Grade

First Graders are on the threshold of becoming literate. The rich oral language they bring from kindergarten helps in the transition to reading and writing. They eagerly demonstrate their growing self-image as independent learners.

- Instruction is delivered in a variety of ways to maximize achievement.
- Our curriculum is under continuous review and revision by teachers and administrators from all buildings.
- Teachers carefully monitor the progress of all students in a variety of ways. Report cards are sent home quarterly.
- At every level students accomplish important milestones in each curricular area.
- The curriculum is developmentally appropriate and challenging at each grade assessed in reading using standardized measurements.

This brochure outlines what we expect first grade students to demonstrate throughout the year in each of the four core curricular areas.

## Language Arts

Royal Oak's K-12 English Language Arts curriculum provides a framework for students to develop reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking skills. In Language Arts, students will:

- demonstrate an understanding of phonemic awareness (letter sounds, word patterns, and word families) using guided reading lessons.
- use multiple strategies to construct meaning in their reading and writing.
- make inferences and draw conclusions from a variety of text.
- use visual organizers and literacy logs to show understanding of a variety of texts.
- discuss and record their ideas about how their readings relate to daily life and other texts.
- discuss and/or illustrate how authors, illustrators and speakers present ideas and different feelings and ideas.
- discuss characteristics of a variety of classic and contemporary literature types.
- read (or will be read to) a minimum of 75 minutes per week.
- retell, predict, generate questions and discuss with peers using effective listening and speaking behaviors.
- develop self-assessment skills relating to their oral and written communications.
- write regular journal and literacy log entries emphasizing capitals, spacing, upper and lower case letters and punctuation.
- spell appropriate high-frequency words in their daily writings consistently.

- begin to use the writing process in weekly assignments and formal papers (brainstorming, drafting, revisiting, conferencing, editing, publishing).
- complete pieces of writing for their K-12 Writing Portfolio. Each student will complete expository (non-fiction) narrative (story) and persuasive writings. At least one piece will be created using technology.

## **Social Studies**

Royal Oak's K-12 Social Studies Curriculum provides the framework for students to develop social understanding and civic responsibility by building four capacities in learners: disciplinary knowledge, thinking skills, commitment to democratic values, and citizen participation. First graders will study their community and neighborhood. Students will study geography locations and characteristics of an environment. They will begin to understand the basic democratic principles, studying how economic forces shape and affect an environment.

### **CIVIC PERSPECTIVE**

Students will:

- identify rules and consequences.

### **ECONOMICS**

Students will:

- identify how individuals and families interact with neighborhood businesses.

### **GEOGRAPHY**

Students will:

- describe how people use and improve the environment to meet human needs and wants.

### **HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

Students will:

- show the passage of time in a variety of ways.

## **Math**

Royal Oak's K-12 Mathematics Curriculum provides the framework for students to develop reasoning, communication, and problem solving skills. The six strands of the math curriculum include: patterns, relationships and functions; geometry and measurement; data analysis and statistics; number sense and numeration; numerical and algebraic operations and analytical thinking; and probability and discrete mathematics. In Math, students will:

- read, write and count using whole numbers.
- model and solve problems to show their understanding of the number system.
- investigate the way numbers are used for, counting, ordering, naming, locating and measuring.
- use tables, charts and hands-on models.
- describe how one thing changes in relation to another.
- identify two items that are related and explain the relationship.
- recognize, name and build familiar shapes in everyday applications.
- solve problems using appropriate geometric shapes.
- select and use standard tools of measurement for length, time, temperature and money.
- explore data through counting and measuring.
- organize data using concrete objects, pictures, tallies and graphs.
- read and explain data they have collected and organized.
- explore hypothesis and formulate conclusions based on the hypothesis.

- model addition and subtraction, explore commutative property and solve problems using manipulatives.
- explain symbols and numbers.
- conduct probability experiments, and record the outcomes.
- examine those outcomes to determine if they make sense.
- explore problems involving counting and arranging objects.
- explore, develop and invent procedures to solve numerical problems.
- collect data and construct line graphs and bar graphs to display their findings.
- explain their findings and discuss the difference between the data as represented in a bar graph and line graph.

## Science

The K-12 Science Curriculum provides the framework for students to develop scientific literacy by using, constructing, and reflecting on scientific knowledge, and coming to informed conclusions. Students will learn concepts and theories of the three main science areas: earth, life, and physical. In Science, students will:

- develop a curiosity about the world through hands-on investigations.
- identify and define key scientific content terms using science logs.
- record, organize, analyze, and reflect on data collected to answer questions created from and about the natural and physical world.
- explain their findings through written and oral reporting.
- identify, define and use key scientific terms in student logs.

Topics covered in First Grade Science include:

- Inquiry, reflection, and social implications
- Air and Weather
- Insects
- Solids and Liquids

## What Parents Can Do

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| ❖ Talk to your child about school daily.  | ❖ Acknowledge a good job when you see it with positive comments.  |
| ❖ Talk to and work with your child's teacher(s).  | ❖ Check and sign your child's planner daily.                      |
| ❖ Have your child read a variety of material daily.                                     | ❖ Look over and discuss your child's work.                        |
| ❖ Have your child practice writing at home (e.g., thank you notes, letters, and lists). | ❖ Ensure regular attendance at school.                            |
| ❖ Make math part of everyday life (e.g., money, time, fractions, and multiples).        | ❖ Promote community service and involvement in school activities. |

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