

# 1st Grade Academics

*The Academy provides a venue in which all students can be educated and assessed in both traditional and non-traditional ways, thereby helping children to thrive in all learning environments. The first grade curriculum is fully aligned with state content expectations, is challenging, differentiated, project driven and real-world connected both in and through the arts and technology. At WMAAA, your child will become a confident and excited learner.*

## Language Arts:

Our first grade English Language Arts program focuses on supporting the needs of the beginner to the more experienced readers. We create a differentiated Language Arts environment that encompasses phonemic awareness, the alphabetic principle, phonics, vocabulary fluency, and comprehension. All these areas are developed and strengthened throughout first grade based on student need. Students learn multiple decoding strategies as well as higher level comprehension strategies. Comprehension eventually becomes a part of our student's everyday conversations. Writing strategies are introduced to help reinforce reading and spelling skills, organize thoughts, sequence ideas, and revise and edit. Our goal is to make sure every student ends the school year as a confident reader and writer. The first grade English Language Arts student will do the following:

- Develop phonics knowledge, phonemic awareness, fluency and vocabulary skills
- Use structural cues to decode words, recognize frequently encountered words, and make progress on the 220 Dolch basic sight word list
- Be introduced to strategies and organizational tools that will help students self-monitor their reading and comprehensions and apply "fix-it" strategies when necessary
- Increase their knowledge of style, voice, and organization patterns within different reading genres, ultimately applying this understanding in their own writing
- Use pre-planning, drafting, revising, and editing to write personal narratives and informational pieces
- Create writing samples (journals, poetry, fantasies, narratives, informational genre, and articles) that show well structured sentences, correct grammar and spelling, personal style and voice.

## Science:

First grade students combine open ended project learning and informational learning skills to study specific units within the earth, biological and physical science fields through the hands-on Battle Creek Science Kits. Science processes of inquiry, reflection, and constructing new knowledge that have been initiated in the kindergarten units are continued to be strengthened and broadened. Students are provided opportunities to apply significant knowledge through literacy and arts integration. Specific units of study are as follows:

- Sorting things out
- Weather watchers
- An Animals life

## Mathematics:

First grade students start their formal study of mathematics with numeration, counting and exploration of patterns. Addition and subtraction as operations and their connection to the real world are introduced. Various strategies of calculating sums and differences to twenty are explored as part of the process to build operation fluency. Hands on activities, model building, journaling, discussions and additional fluency practice provide opportunities for students to explore their own math thinking. Strands of study include the following:

- Counting to 120, number notation and place value
- Operation fluency with addition and subtraction facts to 20
- Tools for measuring length, time and temperature
- Plane and geometric shapes and their attributes
- Collecting and graphing data
- Problem solving
- Math communication and journaling.
- Organize and represent data using graphs

## Social Studies:

First grade students explore the social studies disciplines of history, geography, civics and government, and economics through an integrated approach using the context of school and families. Units of study include the following:

- Rules and responsibilities of school and families
- Families and schools of the past
- Family traditions
- Public issues through wellness
- Our nation's capital and patriotic symbols
- How people adapt to the environment
- Maps and globes
- Economics (choice, trade, goods, services, need, wants, consumer and producer.)



Every Child Successful, Everyday !

# 1st Grade Arts

*The Academy places an equal emphasis on the arts and academic subjects within our curriculum. To help achieve this, our arts program has two distinctive goals. The first goal is achieved through the arts and academics integration process, whereby academic concepts studied in the classroom are studied and reinforced through the arts. Secondly, specific arts skills, which have been aligned with the state and national standards for the arts, are studied with the intent to developing basic arts competencies. In grades 1 and 2, scheduled arts classroom time includes both of these components and all students receive instruction in all four arts forms on a weekly basis.*

## Dance:

Concepts introduced in first grade include mirroring, the use of space, musicality, loco-motor movements and body part isolations.

First grade dancers will do the following:

- Demonstrate the ability to define and maintain personal space
- Demonstrate body part awareness through movement
- Demonstrate basic loco-motor movements such as hop, gallop, jump, leap, and skip
- Demonstrate movements that stay in one place such as bend, stretch, and balance
- Demonstrate various shapes at low, middle and high levels
- Demonstrate moving to a musical beat and responding to changes in tempo
- Use dance to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines.

## Music:

Concepts introduced in first grade include the use of rhythm and beat, musical patterns and singing a melody.

First grade musicians will do the following:

- Follow the conductor (teacher)
- Keep a steady beat
- Create a rhythmic pattern
- Distinguish between long and short sounds
- Sing a simple melody with harmonic accompaniment
- Use music to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines.

## Drama:

Concepts introduced in first grade include demonstrating characterization, story elements, story lines and stage presentation.

First grade actors will do the following:

- Imitate variations in body and voice
- Describe characters from various sources
- Discuss various elements of dramatic play
- Compare and contrast their own experiences with that of a range of characters
- Use drama to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines.

## Visual Art:

Concepts introduced in first grade include the use and understand of the elements of art, colors, and personal themes in art and illustrating.

First grade artists will do the following:

- Describe basic sensory qualities in a variety of artwork
- Explore mixing primary colors to make secondary colors
- Create artwork to tell a real or imaginary story
- Explore proportion when drawing existing objects
- Prepare, present and sign works of art for display
- Use art to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines.

